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for the
CONSERVATION of ATLANTIC TUNAS

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE 20th SPECIAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

(Vilamoura, Portugal, 14-21 November 2016)

1 Opening of the meeting

In the absence of the Commission Chair, First Vice Chair, Mr. Stefaan Depypere, in his role as Acting Commission Chair, opened the 20th Special Meeting of the Commission. He welcomed all the participants and introduced Mr. Eduardo Cabrita, Assistant Minister of the Portuguese Prime-Minister and Mr. Vitor Aleixo, Mayor of the Municipality of Loulé. Mr. Depypere wished the Commission Chair, Mr. Martin Tsamenyi, all the best for his quick recovery, and informed the Commission that Mr. Tsamenyi had contacted him prior to the meeting and had asked him to send his best wishes and hopes for a productive meeting to all the participants. The Acting Chair invited the participants to celebrate the 50th anniversary of ICCAT reminding them that better ocean governance should be a priority. Mr. Aleixo welcomed the participants to the municipality of Loulé and expressed his concern about the climate changes and impact on local tuna fisheries. Then Mr. Cabrita stated the importance that Portugal grants to the oceans and stressed the need to take political decisions based on science so as to preserve the ecosystem and fight for sustainability and equity in the use of the oceans and their resources. He also congratulated the Executive Secretary on his being elected Chair of the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network (RSN).

The Acting Chair thanked the Government of Portugal for its hospitality and the European Union for hosting the meeting. He then reiterated that science should remain the pillar for the Commission decisions as regards the implementation of conservation and management measures, and to reinforce the increasing relevance of ICCAT as a world reference in the field of fisheries sustainable management. He invited all delegates to participate in the discussions and, in particular, to progress on the Convention amendment and to discuss the findings of the second ICCAT performance review.

The Executive Secretary, Mr. Driss Meski, introduced a short video prepared by the Secretariat to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Commission.

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

2 Adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements

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

The Commission Chair informed the delegates that since Brazil would not be able to chair the Panel 4 it would be chaired by the Second-Vice Chair, Mr. Raúl Delgado (Panamá).

3 Introduction of Contracting Party delegations

The Executive Secretary introduced the following 46 Contracting Parties that attended the meeting: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Belize, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Curaçao, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (St. Pierre and Miquelon), Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea Republic, Honduras, Iceland, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Russian Federation, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States of America, Uruguay, and Venezuela. The Executive Secretary welcomed Guinea Bissau as a new Contracting Party. Guinea-Bissau had deposited its instrument of ratification at FAO in May 2016. The delegate of Guinea-Bissau thanked the Contracting Parties that had encouraged Guinea-Bissau to join ICCAT and expressed the willingness of his government to ensure the sustainability of the resources.

The opening statements by the Contracting Parties to the plenary session are attached as **ANNEX 3.2**. The List of Participants is attached as **ANNEX 2.**

Bolivia, Chinese Taipei and Suriname attended the meeting as Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities.

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), as well as the following inter-governmental organizations attended the meeting: *Conférence Ministérielle sur la Coopération Halieutique entre les États Africains Riverains de l'Océan Atlantique* (COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO) and Infopêche.

The following observers from non-Contracting Parties were present: Costa Rica and Fiji islands. The observers from the following non-governmental organisations were in attendance: *Asociación de Pesca, Comercio y Consumo Responsable del Atún Rojo (APCCR), Association euro-méditerranéenne des pêcheurs professionnels de thon (AEPPT), Confédération Internationale de la Pêche Sportive* (CIPS), Defenders of Wildlife, Ecology Action Centre (EAC), European Bureau For Conservation And Development (EBCD), Europêche, FEDERCOOPESCA, Federation of Maltese Aquaculture Producers (FMAP), Humane Society International (HSI), The International Pole & Line Foundation (IPNLF), International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), Medisamak, Oceana, Organisation for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries (OPRT), The Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew), Project Aware Foundation; The Ocean Foundation; The Shark Trust; The Varda Foundation and the World Wide Fund (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 **ANNEX 3.4**.

5 Review of the report ICCAT Performance Review Panel

The Chair introduced Mr. John Spencer, coordinator of the panel of independent experts who were selected by the Commission to carry out the second performance review of ICCAT, and invited him to present the outcome of the report. He explained that the panel based its review on the 2015 SCRS report and on each evaluation criteria of the terms of reference for which they examined the actions taken since the first performance review in 2008, as well as the actions taken by other t-RFMOs. They then assessed the current situation and made feasible and pragmatic recommendations in relation to four major themes, namely Science, Management, Finance and Administration and General. In summary, the panel found that ICCAT had made significant progress since the 2008 review and commended the Secretariat and CPCs for their efforts in this regard. The panel stated that ICCAT has adopted appropriate measures to meet the Convention objective, and recognised that ICCAT was a leading RFMO. Generally speaking, the report was well received by the Contracting Parties, although some concern was expressed about the lack of rationale provided for some of the panel's recommendations. Some Contracting Parties intervened to request the opinion of the panel on the voting system, on the objection process and on the external review of the SCRS work.

There was general agreement amongst the Contracting Parties that this document should be thoroughly reviewed and the recommendations made therein should be analysed and, where appropriate, addressed. To this end, the European Union proposed a *Resolution by ICCAT to Establish an ad-hoc Working Group to follow-up on the Second ICCAT Performance Review.* Norway considered that the panel had not taken into account some issues, in particular the issue of the quota allocation, and it was agreed that all relevant aspects of the issues identified should be considered during a meeting of the *ad-hoc* Working Group.

The Statement by Venezuela on the Performance Review is included in **ANNEX 3.3**.

In the light of discussion, the Commission decided to adopt the *Resolution by ICCAT to establish an ad hoc working group to follow up on the second ICCAT performance review* [Res. 16-20].

6 Review of the work of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)

The SCRS Chair, Dr. David Die, informed the Commission that the 2016 SCRS Plenary meeting had been held in Madrid, Spain, from 3 to 7 October 2016. He expressed his thanks for the work of the SCRS scientists and the ICCAT Secretariat. Dr. Die presented a summary of the Report of the SCRS, indicating that the specific recommendations for each species would be presented in the respective Panels.

In 2016 the stocks that were assessed included yellowfin, North and South Atlantic albacore, Mediterranean swordfish and eastern and western Atlantic sailfish. Dr Die provided a status report card for the stocks of interest to ICCAT, including the current assessed status, as well as the year of the last assessment. This study showed that some recent studies indicate improvements in many stocks but, not for all. For example, Mediterranean swordfish, eastern Atlantic sailfish and bigeye tuna are assessed as being in the red zone of the Kobe diagram. Dr Die also stressed that the number of stocks being assessed has multiplied fourfold since the 1970s, but the frequencies of assessment have decreased. The SCRS output has increased in terms of documents presented at meetings, as well as the number of multi-national research programs.

Dr. Die reminded the Commission of the SCRS Science Strategic Plan. He informed the Commission that tools have been developed to report on the progress of the plan using a traffic light approach (red – no progress, yellow – some progress, green – target achieved.) This progress will be reported to the Commission at the annual meeting in 2017. He also informed on the ongoing work by the SCRS regarding the development of Harvest Control Rules (HCRs), which are being assessed using Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) as well as a provisional timetable for their completion. He also elaborated developments regarding Ecosystems Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) and noted that the SCRS requested another meeting of the Standing Working Group on Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) in order to advance this approach.

Dr. Die presented the proposed assessments the SCRS intends to conduct in 2017. These include eastern and western bluefin tuna, northern and southern swordfish, shortfin mako shark, and Mediterranean albacore.

The Commission expressed its gratitude to the SCRS for the work conducted in 2016. Several Contracting Parties requested clarification on a number of issues. Dr. Die clarified, that although time series of Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) can be provided for stocks in which changes in selectivity may have occurred and where size/age structure information is available, the SCRS has not evaluated the potential impacts of future changes in selectivity. He also drew attention to the SCRS recommendation that observer coverage should be raised to 20% for vessels targeting tropical tunas in order to effectively monitor by-catch species. Additional work on discard mortality is also required in order for the SCRS to effectively account for this mortality in stock assessments.

It was also noted by the Commission, that the ambitious HCR schedule presented by the SCRS Chair would need substantial support and resources and that there are still few examples of these methods being adopted in tuna RFMOs. Although financial support currently exists for the albacore and bluefin tuna MSE work, there are no identified funds available for other species, which may hinder the development of HCRs for those species. It was acknowledged that substantial dialogue is necessary during the relevant panel meetings in order to advance this work, as was done during the 2016 Panel 2 intersessional meeting, where albacore HCRs were discussed.

In addition, the necessity for developing meaningful CPUE series for purse seine fisheries was stressed, as was the need to standardise CPUEs over various metiers. Although the SCRS has been looking at these issues, there are at current no easy solutions to these problems.

The Commission thanked Dr. Die, the SCRS scientists and the Secretariat for their work and adopted the 2016 SCRS report.

7 Review of the reports of Panel 2 inter-sessional meetings and consideration of any necessary actions

Mr. S. Ota, the Chair of the first intersessional Panel 2 meeting held in Madrid Spain, 2-3 March 2016, presented the results of the meeting. The main issue was the consideration of the fishing, inspection and capacity management plans for 2016, proposed by the CPCs with eastern bluefin tuna quotas. A total of 12 management plans were approved, some of which were adopted by correspondence.

The second Panel 2 intersessional meeting was held in Sapporo, Japan, in July to consider progress in the development and implementation of HCRs for northern albacore. The Chair of that meeting, Mr M. Miyahara (Japan), noted that although it had been raised the outcome of the northern Albacore assessment had not been discussed, as the results had not yet been reviewed by the SCRS. Similarly, the SCRS HCR/MSE work for northern albacore was still under development at the time of the Sapporo meeting; thus, it was premature to consider the application of an HCR to the northern albacore stock. Nevertheless, it was stressed that this meeting had done much to enhance the understanding of the HCR process amongst the panel members. A table of performance indicators was developed by the Panel, and it was hoped that these would be incorporated into future MSE scenarios.

The two reports of the intersessional meetings were transmitted to Panel 2 for its consideration and were adopted by the Commission, as presented in **ANNEXES 4.1** and **4.6**.

8 Review of the report of the intersessional meeting of the Compliance Committee and consideration of any necessary actions

The report was transmitted to the Compliance Committee for its consideration. The report was adopted by the Commission and is contained in **ANNEX 4.2.**

9 Review of the report of the 11th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures and consideration of any necessary actions

The Chair of PWG summarised the report of the 11th meeting of IMM held in Sapporo, Japan, 18-19 July 2016, by section and related appendices, as follows: 1) Section 4.1 presents the *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Transhipment* submitted by the European Union as given in Appendix 3; 2) Section 4.2 presents the *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to establish minimum standards for fishing vessel scientific observer Program* submitted by the European Union as given in Appendix 4; 3) Section 5 presents the *Draft [Recommendation] [Resolution] by ICCAT for a [model] of high seas boarding and joint international inspection scheme* proposed by the United States as given in Appendix 5; 4) Section 6.1 gives an update on progress and implementation of eBCD System; 5) Sections 6.2 and 6.3 summarise the discussions on a possible review of current statistical document programmes (SDPs) and the future extension of catch/trade tracking schemes, highlighting that no proposals were made in this regard; 6) Section 7.1 gives the review of outdated Recommendations/Resolutions requiring update/combination [Res. 94-09; Rec. 97-11] proposed by the Chair of PWG as shown in Appendix 6; 7) Section 7.2 was aimed at getting responses from CPCs to requests for clarification of provisions of ICCAT Recommendations; 8) Section 7.3 summarizes the discussions on the capacity building for Port Inspection based on the information document presented by the Secretariat on the implementation of Recommendations 12-07 and 14-08 adopted by ICCAT on Port Inspection Measures as given in Appendix 7; 9) Section 7.4 presents the discussions on the Consolidated List of Authorized Vessels (CLAV) following the updated information presented by the Secretariat. The IMM agreed that future support and funding for the CLAV, including commitment and cooperation with the other tuna RFMOs in the framework of Kobe Process, should be considered at the 2016 Annual meeting.

The Chair of PWG concluded that among the six proposals submitted to the PWG for consideration in 2016, five had previously been discussed at the IMM intersessional meeting. He noted that CPCs were continuing their consultations with a view to developing improved proposals for consideration by the Commission at its 2016 Annual meeting.

The IMM meeting report was transmitted to the PWG for its consideration. The report was adopted by the Commission and is contained in **ANNEX 4.5.**

10 Review of the report of the Working Group on FADs and consideration of any necessary actions

The Report was transmitted to Panel 1 for its consideration and was adopted by the Commission. The Report is contained in **ANNEX 4.4.**

11 Review of the report of the Fourth Meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment and consideration of any necessary actions

Ms. Deirdre Warner-Kramer, Chair of the Working Group (WG), presented the report of the meeting held in Madrid in March 2016 and informed the delegates that two issues were still open: dispute resolution and the participation of fishing entities, including the related issue of the change in Convention depositary. She also informed the Commission that a letter from the Director General of the FAO had been received, in response to the letters from the Chair of the Commission (**ANNEX 3.5**), stating that FAO confirmed its view that the members of ICCAT could decide to amend the Convention to transfer the depositary functions from the Director General of FAO, and, should that be the case, that FAO stood ready to hand over all instruments and documents in accordance with the new arrangements. The Director General further assured that such a transfer would not have any negative impact upon the collaborative relationship that exists between FAO and ICCAT. Ms. Warner-Kramer also provided a presentation setting out the outstanding procedural issues, including how the proposals for amendment will be formally adopted and enter into force, and whether the Commission will agree to provisional implementation of any of the amended articles. She invited the delegates to work to find a resolution to the outstanding issues during the Commission meeting.

Ms. Warner-Kramer reported back to the plenary that, particularly as the letter received from the Director General of FAO had only recently been distributed to the Commission, several CPCs had requested more time to consult with their governments, and, in particular, their foreign affairs departments, concerning the possible change of depositary. The Chair also noted that there had been additional constructive discussions among delegations on the dispute resolution issue, but there was not yet consensus on a final text. In light of the long process that had successfully yielded proposals for almost all of the issues under the WG's mandate, she explained that there were three options for next steps, which depended in part on whether CPCs agreed that the proposals for amendment could be adopted pursuant to a Commission decision or required the convening of a Conference of Plenipotentiaries. If the former, delegations could continue to consult informally during the intersessional period, and ICCAT could agree to consider the final proposals either at the next annual meeting or could call a special intersessional meeting of the Commission. Conversely, CPCs could call for a Conference of Plenipotentiaries empowered to finalize and adopt the proposals for amendment. Finally, the Commission could agree to extend the mandate of the Working Group to resolve the two remaining issues and provide the Commission with a complete package of proposals for amendment. She recommended that if the WG were to meet again, it would be important that the meeting occur no sooner than the middle of the year, to ensure that CPCs could undertake the necessary internal consultations on the remaining issues in order to be prepared to reach agreement. Many CPCs expressed their view that the final proposals for amendment should be adopted pursuant to a decision of the Commission, though some delegations noted their preference for a Conference of Plenipotentiaries. The Commission agreed that the mandate of the WG should be extended for one additional meeting in the middle of 2017 to resolve only the outstanding issues, after which CPCs could make the final determination whether a plenipotentiary meeting was needed.

The Report of the meeting is attached as **ANNEX 4.3**.

CPCs that had requested further time for consultation were urged to attend the 2017 meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment and also to ensure the participation of the appropriate representatives of their foreign affairs departments.

The Statements by Morocco and Venezuela regarding the Convention Amendment process are included in **ANNEX 3.3**.

12 Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein

The STACFAD Chair, Ms. Sylvie Lapointe (Canada), reported to the Commission that the Committee had reviewed and approved the *2016 Administrative Report*, the *2016 Financial Report* and the *Revised budget for 2017*. These documents were adopted by the Commission.

The STACFAD Chair addressed the two issues that were left pending by the Committee. The first issue concerned the draft vacancy announcement for the position of Executive Secretary. The pending items were discussed and a final text was agreed which is attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 8**.

The second issue concerned the financing through the Working Capital Fund of the requests of the SCRS and other activities, such as the additional cost for the implementation of the eBCD, the Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP) and the Meeting Participation Fund (MPF). The STACFAD Chair pointed out that the Working Capital Fund had been reduced considerably, taking into account that during the last four years a large number of extra budgetary activities, including those requested from the SCRS, had been financed through the fund, a practice that could not be maintained in 2017. She expressed concerns about the poor financial situation of the Commission, and the dangers of the difficulties the Commission could find itself in if the level of the Working Capital Fund were to be drawn too low.

Different options to reduce costs were discussed and the Secretariat was requested to prepare a document including alternatives, such as shifting funding for activities essential to the core functions of the Commission to the regular budget. For the requests of the SCRS, it was agreed to finance high priority activities approved in 2016 as laid down in the document. For the remaining activities, it was agreed to review the voluntary contributions of the new phases of the AOTTP respecting the commitments acquired and funding accordingly; designating a maximum of €100,000.00 from the Working Capital fund to cover the extra budgetary costs of the eBCD, and allocating €200,000.00 to the Meeting Participation Fund. Likewise, it was agreed to work towards the regularization of financial obligations to the Commission of CPCs with arrears. Costs for conducting intersessional meetings will be minimized and voluntary contributions will be sought to cover these activities.

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

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

Panel 1

The Chair of Panel 1, Mr. H. Shep (Côte d'Ivoire) presented the Report of Panel 1 to the plenary. The Panel had agreed on the following measure, which was put forward for adoption:

- The *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish an Ad hoc Working Group on Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)* [Rec. 16-02]

This Recommendation was adopted by the Commission and is attached in **ANNEX 5**.

There had been no consensus on the *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-Annual Conservation and Management Program for Tropical Tunas* [Rec. 16-01] by the Panel. The Commission acknowledged the request by El Salvador to fish in the Atlantic Ocean as indicated in its fishery management plan. The Commission agreed to include in the proposal that El Salvador may have up to four purse seine vessels operating in the bigeye tuna fishery but that they would not be allocated any additional bigeye tuna harvesting possibilities (beyond the current 1,575 t). The Commission also clarified that the limitation on the number of FADs applied to those with and without instrumental buoys. Finally, the Commission clarified text relating to SCRS review and advice on possible measures to reduce discards and mitigate on-board post-harvest losses and bycatch in tropical tuna fisheries. Following these amendments, the Recommendation was adopted by the Commission and is also included in **ANNEX 5**.

The Report of Panel 1 was adopted by correspondence and is contained in **ANNEX 9.**

Panel 2

The Chair of Panel 2, Mr. M. Miyahara (Japan), reported that a total of four proposals had been put before the Panel in 2016, but one of these had been withdrawn following amalgamation with another proposal, and, hence, there were three proposals being put forward for adoption by the Commission. The following two proposals had been adopted by consensus:

- The *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Program for North Atlantic Albacore* [Rec. 16-06]
- The *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program* [Rec. 16-08]

In addition, the Panel had adopted the following proposal by a vote, which had been requested by Algeria.

- *Recommendation by ICCAT to Supplement Recommendation 14-04 by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 13-07 by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 16-09]

The result of the vote by the 23 members of Panel 2 was 13 in favour, 2 opposing and 8 abstentions; thus, the Recommendation was passed by simple majority.

The Commission considered the three proposals in turn. With regard to the last concerning eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, Norway informed the Commission that although it agreed with Algeria's request that its historical allocation be restored, it disagreed with the procedure to address this request and, thus, reserved the right to lodge a formal objection to this Recommendation at a later stage.

The three Recommendations were adopted by the Commission and are attached in **ANNEX 5**.

The Panel had also adopted the Guidelines for preparing E-BFT inspection and capacity plans, presented by Japan. These guidelines were adopted by the Commission, and included in **ANNEX 7.1**.

The Report of Panel 2 was adopted by correspondence and is contained in **ANNEX 9**.

Panel 3

The Chair of Panel 3, Mr. A. Njobeni (South Africa) reported that one measure had been adopted by the Panel 3 and was presented to the Commission for approval:

- The *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Southern Albacore Catch Limits for the Period 2017 to 2020* [Rec. 16-07].

This Recommendation was adopted by the Commission and is attached in **ANNEX 5**.

It was noted that a request for an increase in quota was made by St. Vincent and the Grenadines. However, as they are not a member of Panel 3, their request was not accepted.

The Report of Panel 3 was adopted by correspondence and is contained in **ANNEX 9**.

Panel 4

The Acting Chair of Panel 4, Mr. R. Delgado (2nd Vice-Chair) presented the report of Panel 4 and informed the Commission that a total of eleven proposals had been put before the Panel in 2016, but four of these had been withdrawn following amalgamation with other proposals. Another measure aimed at prohibiting the intentional encirclement of cetaceans in ICCAT purse seine fisheries had not reached agreement in the Panel and was not being put forward to the Plenary for consideration. A measure prohibiting the removal of shark fins from carcasses at sea with respect to sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by

ICCAT had not reached agreement in the Panel and was referred to the Commission for further was discussion at Plenary. No consensus on this could be reached, however, and the measure was not adopted.

The five recommendations adopted by the Panel and presented to the Commission for approval were:

- The *Recommendation by ICCAT for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish* [Rec. 16-03]
- The *Recommendation by ICCAT for the Conservation of South Atlantic Swordfish* [Rec. 16-04]
- The *Recommendation by ICCAT on Management Measures for the Conservation of Atlantic Sailfish* [Rec. 16-11]
- The *Recommendation by ICCAT replacing the Recommendation [13-04] and Establishing a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Mediterranean Swordfish* [Rec. 16-05]
- The *Recommendation by ICCAT on Management Measures for the Conservation of Atlantic Blue Shark Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries* [Rec. 16-12]

In addition, the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation [15-05] by ICCAT to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Stocks* [Rec. 16-10] was proposed for consideration in Plenary by the EU. This measure proposed a transfer of 30t of blue marlin quota from Venezuela to the EU, in the framework of the EU quota overharvest pay-back plan for blue marlins and white marlins.

The Commission considered the various proposals one by one. With regard to the recommendation for the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish, Mauritania intervened to say that its fishing interests had not been taken into account and requested the measure be revised to provide it with a fishing possibility of 100 t. Concern was expressed at the late nature of this request as well as a lack of reporting on its swordfish fishery by Mauritania in the past. Ultimately, a solution was found whereby Brazil, Japan, Senegal, and the United States agreed to transfer 25 t each of their annual catch limits to Mauritania in 2017 on condition that Mauritania submit its fishery development plan in 2017. Failure to submit its fishery development plan will result in a nullification of the authorized quota transfers. The proposal was revised accordingly.

Regarding blue shark, Norway reiterated its position stated during the Panel meeting that it would not block consensus, but that it will consider the possibility of raising an objection to the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Management Measures for the Conservation of Atlantic Blue Shark Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries*. Norway stated that the Recommendation relates to a directed fishery which is outside the scope of the Convention and that the lack of effective control of this fishery is not consistent with the Precautionary Approach.

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

The Statement of the European Union on Mediterranean Swordfish is contained in **Appendix 9 to ANNEX 9**.

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

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

Mr. Derek Campbell (USA), Chair of the Compliance Committee, presented a summary report of the conclusions of the Compliance Committee and informed the Plenary that the Committee had approved the following:

- *Recommendation by ICCAT on improvement of Compliance review of Conservation and Management measures regarding Sharks caught in Association with ICCAT fisheries* [Rec. 16-13]
- *Recommendation by ICCAT to amend ICCAT Reporting Deadlines in order to Facilitate an Effective and Efficient Compliance Process* [Rec. 16-16]
- *Recommendation by ICCAT for the Development of an Online Reporting System* [Rec. 16-19]
- *Resolution by ICCAT Establishing and ICCAT Schedule of Actions to Improve Compliance and Cooperation with ICCAT Measures* [Res. 16-17]
- *Resolution by ICCAT to Facilitate an Effective and Efficient Compliance Process* [Res. 16-22]

These recommendations and resolutions were adopted by the Commission. Norway stated that, in relation to binding quota/catch limit overharvests in the *Resolution by ICCAT Establishing and ICCAT Schedule of Actions to Improve Compliance and Cooperation with ICCAT Measures*, Norway would apply 100% payback in cases of overfishing when the obligation of CPCs to report discards was fulfilled and when such discards were taken against their quotas. Iceland informed that its payback was of 800 kg from one year to another and that given the low quota of bluefin tuna in 2016, Iceland would payback.

The Compliance Committee also adopted the compliance tables for all species since the distribution of additional carry-over of underharvest was not discussed at Panel 3. In addition, the Committee approved the list of actions proposed by the Chair in consultation with the Friends of the Chair, and which would be incorporated into the compliance summary tables (**Appendix 5 to ANNEX 10**). In that list, four CPCs were identified under Recommendation 06-13 and twenty-nine CPCs will receive a letter concerning compliance issues.

The Chair reported that the Committee had agreed to recommend maintaining the status of Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity to Bolivia, Chinese Taipei, Guyana, and Suriname. Concerning Chinese Taipei, Japan requested Chinese Taipei to present data on landings and discards of sharks from their longliners. Chinese Taipei informed the Commission that it would present to Japan the data requested. Further to this intervention, the Commission agreed to renew cooperating status to these four countries. The Committee also recommended granting the status of Cooperating Party, non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity to Costa Rica, which was granted by the Commission.

The Committee noted that neither data nor a response to the Secretariat's letters had been received from Dominica and Grenada, despite their known interest in ICCAT fisheries. The Compliance Committee recommended these two non-members be identified under ICCAT's trade measures recommendation (Rec. 06-13) and that letters notifying them of this decision and requesting that they rectify the situation should be sent to both countries. Having received data from St. Kitts & Nevis and St. Lucia, the Committee recommended that the Commission Chair send letters to these two non-contracting Parties encouraging greater participation in ICCAT. The Commission agreed to proceed as recommended by the Compliance Committee.

Concerning the quota and the catches of bluefin tuna in Gibraltar, the Committee suggested that the Commission Chair send another letter to Gibraltar. The Commission agreed to send a letter to Gibraltar requesting cooperation with ICCAT, and, in particular, seeking information on its catches and on the management of its bluefin tuna fishery.

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

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

Mr. S. Depypere, Acting Chair of ICCAT spoke on behalf of the Chair of PWG, Mr. F. Donatella, who unfortunately had to leave early and could not present the report.

The PWG met four times and had the opportunity to address all the issues on its agenda, as well as all the proposals that were tabled by the Contracting Parties. Many discussions on these topics had already taken place during the IMM meeting that took place in Japan in July 2016. Delegations were able to continue to work after the IMM meeting and to fine tune many of the draft recommendations that had been already submitted in the past.

The PWG was able to adopt the following proposals, which were submitted for final adoption to the Commission:

- *Recommendation by ICCAT on Transhipment* [Rec. 16-15]
- *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Minimum Standards for Fishing Vessel Scientific Observer Program* [Rec. 16-14]
- *Recommendation by ICCAT to Clarify and Supplement the Process for Seeking Capacity Building Assistance Pursuant to ICCAT Recommendation 14-08* [Rec.16-18]

The above mentioned Recommendations were adopted and are contained in **ANNEX 5**.

The delegations could not reach a consensus on the following draft proposals:
- Draft Recommendation on Protecting the Health and Safety of Observers
- Draft Recommendation on Vessel Sightings
- Draft [Recommendation] [Resolution] for a [model] Joint International Inspection Scheme

Delegations, however, agreed that such discussions should remain open and should resume either inter-sessionally or during the 2017 Annual meeting. The Acting Chair noted, in addition, that many CPCs were inspired by the idea of establishing a pilot program for the exchange of inspectors, as presented by the USA in its concept note. This document will be annexed to the meeting report (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 11**).

The PWG also submitted a new IUU list of vessels (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 11**), for Commission approval. The Acting Chair noted that this list had been amended during the PWG meeting to take into account the outcome of discussions by the Compliance Committee. Bolivia indicated that the flag information for three Bolivian vessels was incorrect and should be changed. Chinese Taipei also pointed out an inconsistency between the proposed list and other documentation that had been presented. The Commission noted that documentation would be required to alter the list as proposed. The Commission adopted the IUU vessel list noting that factual corrections to the information could be made through correspondence, in consultation with the PWG Chair and Commission, as appropriate, upon the submission of the required documentation.

The PWG also examined the progress on the eBCD system and the work of the Technical Working Group (TWG) undertaken throughout 2016. The Chair of the group – Mr. Neil Ansell – made a detailed presentation informing that full implementation of the system had been carried out successfully with no significant problems reported by CPCs. The PWG discussed the possibility of transforming Addendum 1 of the report of the eBCD TWG (**Addendum 1 to Appendix 2 to ANNEX 11**), which relates to the use of paper BCDs in the case of technical problems with the eBCD system, into a stand-alone Resolution or Recommendation. While the TWG Chair reported that there had been interest from CPCs to further develop and improve the text, there had not been time to agree on a final text. It was agreed that the TWG should continue its work on this matter throughout 2017 in an effort to finalize proposed procedures relating to the use of paper. Regarding the financing, which was highlighted as a priority issue, it was proposed that the Group will continue to analyse, with the support of the Secretariat, possible options for financing the eBCD system in the long-term while acknowledging the need for close coordination with STACFAD, particularly if options considered could result in a need to amend ICCAT's financial rules. In the meantime, the Group proposed that the current contract with the implementing Consortium be extended throughout 2017, albeit with a reduced level of additional support, using funds appropriated for that purpose in the regular budget. If any additional funds are needed in 2017 for the development or improvement of system functionalities, this should be supported from the Working Capital Fund as in the past. In this regard, the TWG was asked to carefully prioritize system needs to ensure effective use of limited resources.

In addition to this extensive review of the eBCD programme, the Chair indicated that many other technical discussions had taken place and helped to guide the Secretariat in its task to manage the various reporting obligations by CPCs. This included the issues related to the management of the list of registered and authorised vessels and to the implementation of the various Regional observer programmes.

The Acting Chair thanked all the delegations for the excellent collaboration during the sessions, as well as the Rapporteur and the Secretariat for its excellent preparatory work and its continuous support to the PWG.

The Report of the PWG was adopted by correspondence and is attached in **ANNEX 11**.

16 Assistance to developing coastal States and capacity building

The Executive Secretary presented a document prepared the document by the Secretariat, the *Meeting Participation Fund (MPF)*. He invited the CPCs to inform the STACFAD and the Secretariat of the amounts which they could commit to the MPF through voluntary contributions for 2017 (**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 8**).

17 Report on actions taken under the Kobe process

The outgoing Chair of the Kobe steering committee, Mr. Russell Smith (USA), provided a summary on the current actions taken and developments under the Kobe process. It was noted that the Kobe Steering Committee had convened three times since the last ICCAT Commission meeting to discuss the ongoing initiatives under the Kobe process, such as the technical by-catch Working Group (supported by WCPFC), the joint tuna RFMO MSE Technical Working Group (chaired by ICCAT), as well as the Consolidated list of Authorised Vessels (CLAV).

The Commission thanked Mr Smith for the work he had done as Chair of the Kobe Steering Committee since 2011 and congratulated Mr. S. Depypere (EU) who had been elected as the next Chair of the Kobe Steering Committee. The Commission welcomed the ongoing work of the Kobe process and noted it had significantly contributed to better cooperation between the tuna RFMOs. Clarification was requested as to whether there was a need for another Kobe meeting, but it was generally acknowledged that the discussions and recommendations from the technical Working Groups should be disseminated to the various Commissions first, after which the need for an broader Kobe meeting could be evaluated.

18 Report on the implementation of the GEF project

The Executive Secretary reported on the status of ICCAT cooperation with GEF. The details of this cooperation were provided in document *Summary Note on the ABNJ/GEF Programme*. He noted that following the failure of negotiations on the eBCD financing, ICCAT felt marginalised in the project did not participate in the GEF Steering Committee meeting. It was noted that ICCAT has continued to cooperate where possible and has foreseen involvement in a number of smaller initiatives within the project, such as a (i) Feasibility study to develop a web data submission and validation system, (ii) harmonization of FAD data collection through t-RFMOs, (iii) Management Strategy Evaluation and (iv) Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management.

The representative from FAO stated that the project activities are still open, and that they will continue to consider all relevant proposals for activities that fit under the scope of the GEF project. The Commission thanked the FAO for this willingness to collaborate, although it was stressed that it hoped that GEF contributions to ICCAT could be increased in the future, especially to fund activities that are currently being financed by the ICCAT Working Capital Fund. Several CPCs expressed support for the ABNJ/GEF project, and a number of project components of direct benefit to ICCAT and individual CPCs were highlighted. The specific case of the AOTTP was raised, as this project has received little co-financing to complement the EU contribution. To date EU funds have been supplemented primarily by drawing down the Working Capital Fund. The Commission hoped that the GEF project may be able to provide financial support to this important project.

The Executive Secretary expressed his gratitude regarding the potential avenues of collaboration under the GEF project and noted that ICCAT will continue to strive to be more involved in the project should this be possible.

19 Inter-sessional meetings in 2017

The Commission agreed that the following intersessional meetings should be held in 2017:

- A meeting on Mediterranean swordfish allocation in February 2017 possibly hosted by the European Union;
- The 3rd Working Group on FADs, as well as a joint tuna RFMOs FADs Working Group meeting;
- A meeting of the Working Group on the Convention Amendment and/or a Conference of Plenipoteniaries;
- A meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group for Follow up on the Second Performance Review;
- The 3rd meeting of the Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue Between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM);
- A meeting of the Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity Building and Assistance; preferably together with another ICCAT intersessional meeting;

- In addition, an Online Reporting Technology Working Group for the development of online reporting system should start working in 2017. It was agreed that this Group should carry out it work electronically as much as possible although it was recognized that in person meetings would likely be necessary.

In order to reduce the number of meetings, it was agreed that efforts should be made to organise the meetings at the same venue and sequentially where possible. The Executive Secretary informed the participants that in 2017 ICCAT could not finance meetings outside Madrid unless the CPC hosting the meeting paid all costs, including the Secretariat staff travel, accommodation and per diem as per the Staff Regulations and Rules.

20 Other matters

The draft *Resolution by ICCAT on Ecosystems that are Important and Unique for ICCAT species* [Res. 16-23] was presented by one of the sponsors (UK-OT). It was noted that several changes had been made to the draft Resolution to incorporate comments made by other CPCs. The major revision included removing reference to the Sargasso Sea; however, the UK-OT requested that the revision of the contribution of the Sargasso Sea to ICCAT stocks should be continued. This revised version of the resolution was adopted by the Commission [Res. 16-23].

In order to advance the work being conducted on Management Strategy Evaluation, the *Resolution by ICCAT on the Third Meeting of the Standing Working Group for Enhancing the Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM)* [Res. 16-21] was adopted. This Resolution recognises the need for scientists and managers to meet in 2017 to discuss the further progress of the MSE process. To complement this work, the Commission also adopted a Road Map for the Development of Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) and Harvest Control Rules (HCR). These two agreements will guide the Commission's MSE efforts over the course of the coming years.

The *Resolution by ICCAT on the Third Meeting of the Standing Working Group for Enhancing the Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM)* is contained in **ANNEX 6**, and the Road Map for the Development of Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) and Harvest Control Rules (HCR) in **ANNEX 7.2**.

21 Date and place of the next meeting of the Commission

The delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco informed the Commission that Morocco would invite and host the 25th Regular meeting of the Commission in Marrakech. The tentative dates proposed were from 13 to 21 November 2017.

22 Adoption of the report and adjournment

Before closing the meeting, the delegates, headed by Canada, thanked Ms. Veronika Veits (EU) and Mr. Russell Smith (USA) for their contribution to the work of the Commission and wished them all the best in their new responsibilities.

The Executive Secretary and the Chair echoed these good wishes. They also thanked the Secretariat staff for their hard work, as well as the interpreters and the organising agency.

It was agreed to adopt the report by correspondence. The meeting was adjourned on 21 November 2016.

ANNEX 1

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
3. Introduction of Contracting Party Delegations
4. Introduction of Observers
5. Review of the report ICCAT Performance Review Panel
6. Review of the work of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
7. Review of the reports of the Panel 2 Intersessional meetings and consideration of any necessary actions
8. Review of the report of the intersessional meeting of the Compliance Committee and consideration of any necessary actions
9. Review of the Report of the Eleventh Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures and consideration of any necessary actions
10. Review of the report of the Working Group on FADs and consideration of any necessary actions
11. Review of the report of the Fourth Meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment and consideration of any necessary actions
12. Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
13. Reports of Panels 1 to 4 and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
14. Report of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
15. Report of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
16. Assistance to developing coastal states and capacity building
17. Report on actions taken under the Kobe process
18. Report on the implementation of the GEF project
19. Intersessional meetings in 2017
20. Other matters
21. Date and place of the next meeting of the Commission
22. Adoption of the report and adjournment

ANNEX 2

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ANNEX 3

OPENING ADDRESSES & STATEMENTS TO THE PLENARY SESSIONS

3.1 OPENING ADDDRESS

By Mr. Stefaan Depypere, ICCAT Acting Chairman

Dear Ministers, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues and friends,

Welcome to Vilamoura.

Here we meet again. This is the 20th Special Annual meeting of ICCAT. This is also the fiftieth anniversary of ICCAT. We have something to celebrate. We are now 51 members and we welcome Guinea Bissau as our newest member.

The world is increasingly convinced that improving the governance of the ocean has become an urgent challenge. Many important events have been organised to address this challenge. I refer inter alia to the so-called "Our oceans" conferences - most recently in Washington - and to the recent conference that was organised by the African Union in Lome. I may refer also to the recognition of the critical ocean dimension at climate summits such as the COP 22 in Marrakesh. I refer also to declarations and communication such as the communication on ocean governance that was made last week by the European Commission and the European Unions High Representative. Leaders at top level agree that better ocean o governance should be a priority.

Well, with ICCAT we can proudly report that we deliver ocean governance in practice and arguably with quite some success.

We actually study and manage the tuna and tuna-like stocks in a verifiable and sufficiently dynamic manner, adapting to the evolution of the stock. Following scientific advice has been a pillar for our decisions.

We are precautionary but also sufficiently courageous to allow operators to make the best use of the resource when the stock situation allows it. The objective of ICCAT is to make the quality source of proteins. Precautionary, yes, but not paranoid. We have shown that we can take tough, even draconian decisions again. We will, if needed.

ICCAT has been a self-critical organisation. A learning organisation. It has been willing to adjust decisions when needed and I thank Parties for having cooperated constructively in such cases. It has carried out a first performance review – the outcome of which was very critical and it has worked constructively to remedy the criticism. This led inter alia to the Convention amendment which we should conclude this week. I encourage all Parties to make this happen. The permanent quality improvement process in the SCRS-formulated as another performance improvement and the efforts to achieve inclusive participation by all Contracting Parties in the preparation and decision processes is yet another one. You have decided to carry a second performance review and we will have the pleasure of discussing it during the session.

The RFMO are rather unique – when looking at the spectrum of international organisations that deal with ocean matters – in submitting themselves to such regular performance evaluation. And within the group of RFMO. Arguably ICCAT is one of the better performers. I am glad to report to you that on two occasions, the international community has indirectly shown its confidence in ICCAT. It did so in the FAO when selecting Driss Meski as president of the regional secretariat network of all RFMO and it did so again when asking myself to continue the great work of my good friend Russel Smith in charing the Kobe process. We will discuss the Kobe process during our plenary session.

We regret that Martin could not be with us. He sends his best regards and the best moral support we can offer him during his recovery in making the annual meeting a success. I count on all of you. We have a busy schedule ahead of us. As you have seen on the programme, Sunday 20/11 is not allocated yet to any particular panel. I hope that we can maintain this Sunday free. It depends largely on how efficient we will work during the week.

I would finally thank the Secretariat for its excellent preparation, and I would thank the Government of Portugal and the European Union for hosting and financing the present meeting.

By Mr. Eduardo Cabrita, Assistant Minister to the Portuguese Prime Minister

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates and Observers: In my name and in the name of the Portuguese Government, I am pleased to welcome you all to Portugal for the 20th Special Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

Let me first greet ICCAT when it completes 50 years of existence as the regional fishery management body that has carried out its mandate, guaranteeing the fishing activities of tuna and tuna-like species in a sustainable manner throughout the Atlantic.

Secondly I salute all sector representatives and observers, International and intergovernmental bodies, scientists, ONG's which support the objectives of ICCAT.

ICCAT is a really global organization with 51 Contracting Parties worldwide and your decisions have global implications not only for the Atlantic tuna and tuna like species, but also for the fishermen of several Continents who depend on them for their livelihood. I'm proud to say that Portugal was an ICCAT Contracting Party since the very beginning. Actually, tuna and tuna-like species have a huge relevance in the Portuguese fishing, both in mainland and in our Outermost Regions of Azores and Madeira.

A dynamic and sustainable ocean economy is a critical feature to assure a balanced prosperity of humankind.

In fact, the vast ocean that makes the most part of our planet is a key source of food, energy, minerals, health, leisure and transport upon which hundreds of millions of people depend.

Thus, this emergent new strategic importance of the ocean economy is deeply connected with the globalization process we live in, which resides in a civilizational challenge driven by a combination of population growth, rising incomes, rising inequality, intensifying geopolitical competition, dwindling natural resources, responses to climate change and disruptive technologies.

This is why the new Portuguese government (since November 2015) defined the Ocean as one of its priorities and decided to take the Ocean Governance to the next level dedicating a specific minister, after more than 20 years, to the definition of specific policies for the sustainable management of that resource. We want both to maximise the economic return of that vast resource and to protect it, especially because the Ocean is part of the cultural heritage of Portugal, and we want to ensure it remains well preserved for the future generations.

At the moment the Ocean represents three major challenges for the Portuguese government: Economic, Sovereignty and Knowledge.

1. Economically speaking, the ocean economy represents around 2.5% of our GDP a figure that we consider too small for a country with the geostrategic positioning of Portugal with access to several of the Ocean ecosystems services. To overcome this picture we want to insist in three axis as the "engine" for a change: strengthening the traditional ocean economic activities; empower the emerging economic activities and reinforcing the Portuguese euro-Atlantic uniqueness in terms of ports and logistics.

2. In terms of sovereignty, and taking into to account that Portugal is expected to extend its continental shelf (after 2017), creating a territory with around four millions square kilometres, mainly of deep and ultra-deep ocean, with resources (biological, genetic, mineral, energetic, ...) that need to be protected but that can also be exploited sustainably opening an opportunity to new activities and industries, that can transform the economic paradigm of the country, we will bet in measures like: effective presence at sea; ocean literacy; maritime spatial planning to enrich the economic, environmental and social dimensions of the Ocean; protection of the natural capital and ecosystems services.

3. The third challenge, the knowledge, is crucial to change the social, economic and environmental relation of our country with the ocean. The knowledge of the ocean is the only way to ensure and maximise the sustainable use of the ocean resources (biological, minerals, biotech or renewable energy) and that challenge demands a strategic investment in ocean sciences and training of highly skilled human resources. We need and we want more and more science based policies and decisions.

However, this enormous potential does not come without risks, which are very complex and diverse. Ocean health is the most critical of all. Unhealthy oceans are caused by overexploitation of marine resources, pollution, rising sea temperatures and levels, ocean acidification and loss of biodiversity.

Unsustainable use of the ocean and its resources destroys the very basis on which much of world prospers and depends.

In this sense, we have, we must realise that the full potential of the ocean economy will only come to life with a sustainable strategy underlying the economic development.

And reminding that all this only makes sense if we preserve the different ecosystems that compose the global resource that is the Ocean, and at the same time fight for sustainability and equity among human race, we've recently communicated to Commissioner Karmenu Vella the problem that we are facing in Azores due to the proliferation of "Fish Aggregation Devices" (FADs) for tuna fisheries in other regions of the globe, especially on the African coast, and the need to use positive discrimination measures (ensuring equity) towards defending the specificities of traditional fleets of the Outermost Regions and to recognize the selectivity and the sustainability of those fisheries. It's the case of the Portuguese region of Azores where we have highly selective pole and line tuna fishery, duly certified and recognized as "Friend of the sea" and as "Dolphin Safe".

We are sure that the Commission and Delegates are committed to take decisions that ensure a balance between a sustainable management of the referred species and an adequate income for our fishermen. The stocks must have a sustainable future because without them our fishermen themselves have no future too.

Portugal is honoured to host the 20th Special Meeting of the Commission and I hope that in the middle of your very heavy work schedule and wise decisions you may find some time to enjoy your stay in Algarve and that in your luggage when you go back to your countries you take with you a bit of the Portuguese sunshine and a warm greeting from the Portuguese people.

I wish you an excellent meeting and an excellent stay!

3.2 OPENING STATEMENTS BY CONTRACTING PARTIES

Algeria

The delegation of Algeria expresses its appreciation to the European Union and the Government of Portugal for hosting the 20th Special meeting of the Commission in this wonderful town of Vilamoura.

Thanks to the efforts and understanding of all the ICCAT CPCs which as a result translated into the encouraging provisions of paragraph 5 of ICCAT Recommendation 14-04, Algeria has made the necessary efforts for a smooth exploitation of tuna fisheries, despite the fact that the historical allocation in the amount of 5.073% of the East bluefin tuna TAC was unjustly reduced in 2010 by a four fifth.

This wise decision, which was taken at the 2012 meeting, and reiterated in 2014, providing a partial and temporary solution to the problem caused to Algeria, not only encouraged the Algerian fisheries administration to strengthen the contribution of managers and Algerian scientists in the work of our Organization, but also allowed the Algerian tuna fleet to improve its operational capability and efficiency as regards bluefin tuna fishing.

However, according to a similar situation in 2015 to that of Algeria's and given the Commission's different reaction, Algeria denounced the arbitrariness with which ICCAT treated its legitimate claim to reinstate its historical bluefin tuna quota.

As such, Algeria calls upon a sense of fairness and responsibility of all Parties to fully compensate for the harm caused in 2010 through the compliance of the provisions of paragraph 5 of ICCAT Recommendation 14-04, which will allow our Organization to finally turn this unpleasant page and consider its important tasks and future work in a more serene way.

Algeria wishes all the delegations a pleasant and fruitful stay in this town of Vilamoura and indicates its full availability to work with all the Parties in a spirit of cooperation and responsibility in order for this ICCAT meeting to be a success.

European Union

The European Union is honoured to host the 20th Special meeting of ICCAT in this enchanting corner of Portugal. We would like to express our deep appreciation to the Portuguese authorities for their hospitality and acknowledge the relentless work of the Secretariat for the excellent organisation of this meeting in Vilamoura.

There is certainly no more appropriate place to celebrate the 50th anniversary of ICCAT than here, in a country with such a strong maritime and fisheries tradition, which gave birth to sea explorers that changed our history, like Ferdinand Magellan.

As in previous years, ICCAT and its CPCs have delivered efficiently on an increasing range of issues and have therefore contributed in raising high expectations from the civil society and the fishing industry on its capacity to manage fish stocks under its purview. There is no doubt that ICCAT has become today a model of best practice in the tuna-RFMO world. This is also reflected in the outcomes of the second performance review, which acknowledged the considerable progress made since the 2008 performance review. There are however a number of areas where further improvement is sought and the European Union stands ready to work with all CPCs to follow up on the performance review recommendation and to further strengthen ICCAT's governance through better science-based decisions, stronger control and enforcement measures and higher compliance by its members. In this vein, the EU hopes very much that consensus on the Convention Amendment can be reached after many years of discussion to turn ICCAT into an even more modern organisation.

The European Union firmly believes that ICCAT should also continue promoting ambitious measures for the sustainable management of resources under its purview, notably for those with new stock assessments. This year it will be particularly important to address the worrying situation of Mediterranean Swordfish, without forgetting the need to ensure sustainable exploitation of tropical tuna. The continuation of the Working Group on FADs will be essential in this respect, including the exchange of good practices in the framework of a joint tuna-RFMOs FAD Working Group to take place in 2017 under the auspices of ICCAT. As in previous years, the European Union will continue to promote the responsible and precautionary management of shark stocks that are caught in association with ICCAT fisheries In view of the sharp increases of catches of blue sharks, we should not further postpone decisive action. The European Union will also continue promoting the introduction of a fins naturally-attached policy, for which we welcome the increasing support by many Contracting Parties. The adoption of these proposals would further contribute in positioning ICCAT as the lead RFMO in the management of sharks.

The European Union is pleased with the developments towards better science, including the dialogue between scientists and fisheries managers, which this year took place in Panel 2. Better science comes however at a cost. The European Union has recognised this by providing a substantial contribution to the GBYP research programme (8 million € over the last 6 years) and we expect to see the results of this large project to be used in the new BFT stock assessment that will take place in 2017. In addition, more recently, the important programme for the tagging of Atlantic Tropical Tunas (13.7 million € over five years) started to yield promising results. The European Union calls on all CPCs active in ICCAT tropical tuna fisheries, as well as stakeholders, to actively contribute to this project and to provide the necessary co-financing of 10% over the period covered by the programme.

As in the past, the European Union continues to attach the utmost importance to the compliance process. Only full compliance by everybody guarantees a level playing field across the entire Convention Area and among all ICCAT CPCs and ensures the desired effect of conservation measures. We are committed to ensure that ICCAT maintains a high level of commitment for the compliance review and assessment and we are confident that this process will continue to be guided by a solution-oriented and pragmatic approach in order to further enable ICCAT to stand by its global mission.

The European Union delegation would like to express its wholehearted wish for full recovery to the ICCAT Chairman Martin Tsamenyi, who will be certainly missed by all of us during the forthcoming days.

The European Union is looking forward to working constructively with all CPCs in order to achieve these ambitious goals at the 20th Special Meeting of ICCAT.

Japan

On behalf of the Government of Japan, our delegation would like to express our deepest appreciation to the Government of Portugal and the European Union for hosting this important meeting in this beautiful city, Vilamoura. We also thank Mr. Driss Meski, the Executive Secretary, and the other ICCAT Secretariat staff for the excellent preparation and arrangements.

At this Commission meeting, ICCAT needs to agree on Recommendations on several species since current Recommendations for those species will be expired this year. Some of the Recommendations on such as Yellowfin, Albacore, Mediterranean Swordfish and Sailfish can be reviewed based on the SCRS stock assessment, whereas no stock assessment was conducted on North and South Sword fish and West Atlantic Bluefin tuna. Japan proposes that these Recommendations without new stock assessment should be rolled over until new stock assessment is conducted by the SCRS.

In recent years, ICCAT has been paying much attention to conservation of sharks. At the last year's annual meeting, a proposal prohibiting separation of shark fins from bodies was put on the table again. Japan does not believe that such a prohibition will contribute to shark conservation. Rather, the information on the implementation of shark conservation measures submitted by CPCs based on Rec. 12-05 clearly demonstrated that what ICCAT really needs to do is to ensure that all the CPCs fully implement the existing management measures, including full utilization of sharks. Towards this goal, Japan submitted a proposal on improvement of compliance review of shark conservation and management measures. This proposal shows Japan's strong commitment to conservation of sharks. Japan hopes that other CPCs will support this proposal.

Japan welcomes the full implementation of eBCD in accordance with the [Rec. 15-10] starting from this July and would like to express appreciation to Chair of Technical Working Group (TWG) for his hard work. Basic functionalities of eBCD system have already been developed, however, further work is still necessary. The TWG for eBCD must be continued possibly with less frequency to further improve the system.

Japan is ready to work closely and cooperatively with other delegations to find good solutions and sincerely hopes that this annual meeting will be successfully and fruitfully concluded.

Last but not least, the Japanese delegation sincerely hopes Dr. Martin Tsamenyi, the Commission Chairman, will recover and come back to the ICCAT meetings as soon as possible.

Namibia

Namibia would like to express her gratitude and appreciation to the government of Portugal and the European Union for hosting this 20th Special Meeting of ICCAT and for the warm welcome they have received us in this beautiful city of Vilamoura. For many in my delegation, this is our first visit to this wonderful city and we are deeply delighted to be here with the rest of other delegations. We would also like to welcome Guinea Bissau as a new contracting party to this Organization and we are convinced that as more fishing nations join this Organization, this will positively contribute to the attainment of the aims and objectives of this Organization.

Mr Chairman, this Commission has a huge task to complete the agenda of this 20th Special Meeting. Amongst these, the Commission will have to allocate the TACs for the next three year rolling fishing seasons and we thank the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) for their valuable effort to come up with scientifically based recommendations to guide the work of this Commission. We sincerely hope that the Commission will discharge its responsibility fairly and equitably when allocating quotas to different fishing nations, as all nations have the right to benefit from the fish resources managed by this Commission.

We are also cognizant of the fact that this Commission will have to deliberate on the outstanding issues of the Working Group on Convention Amendment. Again we are thankful to this Working Group for the excellent work they have done during the past few years and we look forward to fruitful discussions on this matter. Namibia fully agrees with many delegations here that the ICCAT Convention need to be amended, in order to cater for the changing dynamics in the fishing environment. We are particularly grateful that ICCAT sees the need to extend the scope of the Convention to cater for other species, such as Sharks, which are believed to be biologically threatened with extinction in many parts of the world. Additionally, we hope that this Commission will find an amicable solution to some outstanding issues, such as Dispute Settlement and Non-party Participation.

Finally, Mr Chairman, Namibia is looking forward to fruitful deliberations of this Commission and given the beautiful atmosphere in which we are operating, we are hopeful that such deliberations would lead to decisions which will have a meaningful impact on the work of this Commission.

United Kingdom (Overseas Territories)

The UK Overseas Territories would like to extend their sincere thanks and appreciation to Portugal for hosting the 20th Special Meeting for the ICCAT Commission.

The UK Overseas Territories represents four different United Kingdom Overseas Territories – Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands and the Territory of St. Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha. These are small coastal states in varying stages of development. During the year we have worked hard to meet all our ICCAT obligations and hope that we have managed to do so to the satisfaction of the Commission. The UK Government and its Overseas Territories are committed to ensuring that marine resources are managed to a high standard, a strategy which was highlighted in the UK Government's most recent White Paper on the UK OTs. The UK Overseas Territories also recognise that scientific information is necessary to underpin sound decision-making at ICCAT and are working with the UK Government to improve understanding of marine resources in the Territories.

The UK OTs are interested in the outcome of species specific discussions in Panel 4 again this year; however, we also hope that Contracting Parties can work together in order to safeguard the future sustainability of all species under ICCAT's remit. Measures taken to protect sharks at previous annual meetings have been very welcome, although we would like to see further precautionary management measures to protect vulnerable shark species and support the strengthening of the prohibition on shark-finning. We look forward to these discussions and are confident that ICCAT will once again demonstrate to the world that it can manage the marine resources for which it is responsible in a sustainable and efficient manner.

The UK OTs welcomed the results of the second performance review, which outlined the significant progress ICCAT had made since its performance review in 2008. We welcome further discussions on the recommendations provided in this review to further improve ICCAT's performance in the future.

The UK OTs would also like ICCAT to consider the draft resolution on 'Areas that are Important and Unique for ICCAT Species including the Sargasso Sea', which we are tabling in conjunction with other contracting parties. This resolution seeks to allow continuation by the SCRS of the good work already done under the Sargasso Sea resolution, 12-12, as well as allow for work on other important and unique areas in the ICCAT Convention Area.

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 and all others involved in the meeting our best wishes for a constructive and successful meeting, and we wish the ICCAT Chair, Dr. Martin Tsamenyi, a speedy recovery.

Venezuela

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela compliments the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) for complying with 50 years of management, through which it has made great efforts to ensure the conservation and management of marine resources that live in such a small maritime area such as the Atlantic Ocean. It would also like to compliment it on the increasing number of Contracting Parties which commit to this objective.

Likewise, Venezuela is honoured with the invitation transmitted by the Secretariat to participate in this important meeting. This has been an important opportunity for Venezuela to be present once again in these type of international environments, where the necessary measures for the conservation of different stocks, are negotiated, discussed and implemented.

In 2016, the Official Gazette of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela announced the creation of the new Ministry of People's Power for Fisheries and Aquaculture, seeking greater support towards those policies which are and have been developed concerning economic activities derived from fisheries, aquaculture and related activities, assisting in strengthening the new economic model which is being advanced in Venezuela. This Governing Body has been proposed as a priority objective to relaunch fisheries and aquaculture in a sustainable way and as an alternative to food for the future.

Among the policies which are being developed by the Ministry of People's Power for Fisheries and Aquaculture is to ensure the supply of fishery products and sub-products in the national market in a timely, stable and sustainable way to consolidate food security. In this regard, the Resolution to Prohibit Discards in the High Seas has been drafted by this Ministry, and will be enforced soon.

As regards the proposal for the Convention Amendment, Venezuela applauds the initiative and the efforts carried out to date to update the framework Convention which governs this organization. However, and given its important nature, we consider that this meeting is not the most appropriate for its approval. We believe and therefore state that this Group's work must continue as it is essential that a more detailed review is conducted of each proposal drafted, taking into account that the actual text includes legal loopholes and could lead to misinterpretations by each of its Contracting Parties.

Since its adhesion to ICCAT in 1983, Venezuela has attempted each year to comply with the Tasks required by the Management and Conservation Compliance Committee as part of its obligations as Contracting Party. An example to illustrate this was that in the last meeting of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) the data sent by Venezuela was adopted after having overcome the assessment parameters. Likewise, it should be underlined that according to the revision of Task II data carried out in the last five years, as well as the scientific documents provided by our country, these have significantly contributed to the assessments of the different stocks.

Contributions has been made throughout 25 years to control and follow-up tuna fisheries that catch billfish incidentally as well as by-catch This has allowed the fishery administration to contribute with the ICCAT conservation and management measures. Venezuela acknowledges that currently there exist certain weaknesses as regards the correct follow-up in some fisheries that catch billfish. We therefore encourage the measures required to remedy this situation. Among these are the necessary formalities to comply with the administrative procedures to once again access the financing of the Billfish Research Programme conducted in Venezuela.

We equally consider it important to underline the efforts which have been carried out and need to be carried out on behalf of the Commission to establish appropriate and effective measures to regulate the Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs). Venezuela is fully supportive of these actions.

We take this opportunity to express that after revising the report on the state of the stocks of North albacore, we consider it convenient to assess the possibility for increasing the annual TAC for North albacore for all Contracting Parties. In this regard, Venezuela expresses its interest in increasing its TAC for 2017. It should be noted that North albacore is part of the incidental catch of our fisheries targeting tropical tunas, however, a series of measures have been taken since 2014 in an effort to comply with the ICCAT Recommendations.

3.3 OTHER CPC STATEMENTS TO THE PLENARY

Statement of the Kingdom of Morocco on Proposed Amendments to the ICCAT Convention

References

- Document PLE_107/16: Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment
- Document PLE_122/16: ICCAT Convention Amendment Process
- Document PLE_123/16: Letter from the ICCAT Chair to the FAO on amendments proposed to the Convention
- Document PLE_128/16: Response from the Director General of FAO

The Kingdom of Morocco would like to express its position concerning proposed amendments to the Convention of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and which focuses particularly on two important issues, *i.e.* the change of Depository and the Dispute settlement.

The Depositary

As regards the change of Depositary, the Kingdom of Morocco would like to express to the Commission its continuous commitment to prioritise the procedures and uses of the United Nations system.

Moreover, the Moroccan delegation would like FAO to continue to be the Depository of the ICCAT Convention and rejects all proposed changes of Depository.

The system of the United Nations in which we frame our actions and which sponsors our Organisation, offers us a guarantee to function harmoniously as regards international law.

Indeed, to date, the United Nations regime has allowed to function normally, guaranteeing the rights of different ICCAT members and, in particular, African States and other developing countries.

The Dispute Settlement

Concerning the dispute settlement, foreseen in Article 8 bis and Annex 1 of document PLE_107/16, the Kingdom of Morocco does not object to point 1 regarding the amicable negotiation as a first step. Indeed the amicable negotiation allows an internal arrangement for ICCAT and saves time and financial resources. It allows to preserve the good relationships among Parties and develop internal expertise in ICCAT.

In this regard, the Kingdom of Morocco encourages to develop, within ICCAT, a process of amicable negotiation dedicated to this issue. Point 2 of the draft Article 8 bis does not raise any observations.

As regards point 3 of the same Article, it would be desirable to add, after the possibility to appeal to an International Court in accordance with the provisions of another international convention, the following expression "in which the Parties to the dispute are members".

Concerning point 4 of the same Article, the Kingdom of Morocco recommends prioritizing the choice to appeal to an International Arbitration Court *at the request of the two Parties to the dispute and not at the request of one of the Parties*.

Further to the review of the Annex relating to the dispute settlement, the following is recommended:

Concerning point 2 relating to the place of arbitration, add the following expression:
2..... with the agreement of the Parties to the dispute; that the arbitrators choose.
3.....
4.....
5. The provision that would allow a third Party to the dispute to intervene in the proceedings subject to the consent of the arbitral body *is not recommended*. Indeed, States must remain in control of the situation and not be the arbitrators.

Moreover, such a proposal risks privileging some Parties who have the necessary means and expertise to intervene in conflicts between Parties.

This intervention can only take place if the Parties to the dispute reach an agreement in advance. Besides, this intervention should be limited to providing advice and not covering the procedures.

Likewise, this paragraph 5 must be redrafted as follows:

5. The Parties to the dispute having had resort to arbitration may request, where appropriate, the advice of a Member State not party to the dispute.

Statement of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on Proposed Amendments to the ICCAT Convention

The Republic of Venezuela welcomes the initiative that the Commission has put forward to review the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, adapting it to twenty-first century good governance and management. Likewise, we applaud the commendable effort that the Working Group has made, to achieve in tangible facts, a consolidated document including the proposals of Contracting Parties.

However, we consider that it is not the right moment to approve the text including the consolidated proposals. We believe and therefore express, that the work of this Group should be continued. It is essential that a more in-depth review of each proposal is carried out, in particular, those relating to the change in Depositary and the Article on the "Settlement of disputes", which leaves many legal loopholes in the actual text and could lead to misinterpretations on behalf of Contracting Parties. Moreover, in accordance with the domestic procedures of the Republic of Venezuela, a new document of the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas should be submitted to revision by the pertinent Government bodies to decide on its approval.

It is necessary that the amendment of Articles include explicit details in a way that they do not raise doubts or questions and instead make the text fully understandable.

In this respect, as regards the proposals for amendments, the Republic of Venezuela reiterates that in order to reach a consensus among Contracting Parties, more work should be carried out taking into account that it will be Convention that will govern the Commission for the following years and it should be considered of paramount importance.

Statement of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on the ICCAT Performance Review

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela considers a laudable and worthy initiative the interest shown by ICCAT in undergoing a second review to evaluate its performance as a Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO).

In this regard, and according to the review of the Panel Report and its recommendations, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela concludes that ICCAT's mandate has been in line with the primary objectives as regards conservation and management of the different fisheries in the Atlantic Ocean. However, it considers that this is an opportunity to continue evaluating the recommendations made by this panel and to submit them for consideration to all Contracting Parties and to define which should be considered to achieve best performance.

It is important that Contracting Parties are given the necessary time to examine the Panel Report so that decisions are not taken lightly on such an important issue. In this regard, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela supports the proposal of the European Union to establish an *ad hoc* working group to follow-up on the Second Performance Review of ICCAT.

3.4 OPENING STATEMENTS BY OBSERVERS FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Ecology Action Centre (EAC)

The Ecology Action Centre (EAC) is pleased to be participating once again as the only Canadian civil society group to attend ICCAT. The EAC has worked proactively at Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and the United Nations General Assembly for many years lending expertise in fisheries science and experience working with sustainable fishing industries. At ICCAT, we work to support sustainable fisheries and continued progress towards ecosystem-based and precautionary management measures.

The EAC calls on ICCAT parties to take the following actions at the 20th Special Meeting:

- Roll over the existing western Atlantic bluefin tuna measure, including the 2016 quota, for one year;
- Maintain the total allowable catch (TAC) for eastern bluefin tuna to the level agreed in Rec. 14-04;
- Advance the process for developing harvest strategies for priority species, including Atlantic bluefin tuna, to ensure the long-term sustainability of ICCAT stocks;
- Reduce the TAC for bigeye tuna to stop overfishing, and continue the Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) Working Group to address juvenile bigeye mortality;
- Establish science-based catch limits for shortfin mako and blue sharks;
- Improve the existing finning ban by moving to a 'fins naturally attached' rule;
- Amend the ICCAT Convention text to include current best practices.

Maintain the current quotas for Atlantic bluefin tuna

Western Atlantic Bluefin tuna

In 2014, ICCAT Parties raised the quota for Western Atlantic bluefin tuna (WABFT) from 1,750 metric tonnes to 2,000 tonnes for the 2015 and 2016 fishing years. The updated stock assessment has also been postponed until 2017. With no new stock assessment, there were no significant changes to the Management Recommendation of the SCRS this year, stating that "new information received this year did not warrant any change to the advice given in 2014." However, some of the new and updated indices point to a worrying trend in the stock. Several of the indices, including the updated US Gulf of Mexico longline, Japanese longline, and two of the three US rod and reel indices showed decreases in abundance, with the rod and reel index for medium fish declining to "near a historic low in recent years". A new fisheries-independent index for Canada's Gulf of St. Lawrence (GSL) shows "less annual variation and smaller recent increases in recent abundance" as compared to the GSL rod and reel index. With less than three years left to meet ICCAT's rebuilding deadline for Western Atlantic bluefin tuna, it does not seem likely that the rebuilding objectives will be met. The Ecology Action Centre urges ICCAT to extend the current quota for WABFT to the 2017 fishing year by rolling over Recommendation 14-05 to allow the stock to continue to rebuild.

Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin tuna

The case of the Eastern stock is similar to that of the western stock. There has been no new stock assessment, and the management advice for the East has not substantively changed from the previous advice. The most prudent course of action for the Eastern stock would be to stick to the TAC decision laid out in Rec. 14-04, which already includes a 20% increase for 2017.

Advance the process for developing harvest strategies for priority species, including Atlantic bluefin tuna, to ensure the long-term sustainability of ICCAT stocks.

ICCAT continues to move forward on fulfilling the commitments laid out in Recommendations 15-04 and 15-07. However, more work is needed in a timely fashion to ensure that robust harvest strategies can be adopted for priority stocks. Establishing harvest control rules for priority species informed by Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) can offer particular advantages over the traditional approach to fisheries management. Under the MSE approach, management objectives are determined at the outset, when the priority can be placed on objectives such as stability, abundance and yield. Scientists, managers and stakeholders work together throughout the process.

Albacore tuna

Much work has been done in developing an MSE for albacore in accordance with Recommendations 15-07 and 15-04 that set a 5- year deadline for Harvest Control Rule (HCR) development. With albacore serving as the pilot, the work on this species needs to be completed so that bluefin and other priority stocks can follow in a timely manner.

At this Commission meeting, ICCAT Parties should formally adopt the 2017 deadline for albacore HCR adoption proposed in the 2016 SCRS report, and at the same time, adopt a detailed timeline for decision making to ensure the Commission is in the position to meet this deadline. Further, the Commission should adopt the performance indicators for albacore that came out of the Panel 2 intersessional meeting.

Bluefin tuna

The Atlantic-wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (ICCAT GBYP) Core Modelling group for bluefin tuna has also made progress on advancing the development of harvest control rules for bluefin tuna, in accordance with Recommendation 15-07. At this meeting, the Commission should adopt a 2018 deadline for HCR adoption for both bluefin stocks, consistent with the timeline envisioned by the Core Modeling Group and the 2016 SCRS Report. The Commission should also agree to a detailed timeline for MSE and HCR completion in order to ensure that the 2018 deadline can be met.

As a way to ensure that scientists and managers have ample time to discuss management objectives and candidate HCRs, the Commission should schedule a scientist-manager intersessional dialogue in early 2017. This will enable additional stakeholder input from industry and NGOs in line with the timeline for adoption.

Reduce the total allowable catch (TAC) for bigeye tuna to stop overfishing and continue the FAD Working Group to address juvenile bigeye mortality

The 2015 assessment for bigeye tuna indicated that the stock was overfished with overfishing occurring. The Commission adopted Recommendation 15-01 last year in response; however, the measure does not do enough to end overfishing, let alone rebuild the stock, with the current TAC having less than a 49% chance of recovering the stock in the next 13 years. Furthermore, the current measure does not go far enough to address the increased take of juvenile tunas, which is undermining recovery and potential productivity of the stock. At this meeting, the Commission should re-open Rec. 15-01 to reduce the quota to a level that has a high probability (i.e., at least 70%) of achieving recovery by 2024 and to improve existing FAD management measures.

The FAD Working Group is an important gathering to address FAD management concerns. However, the Working Group has not yet addressed the already high and growing level of juvenile bigeye mortality, a driver of both continued overfishing of the stock and continuing declines in maximum sustainable yield, according to the SCRS. FAD fishing in the Gulf of Guinea is the primary source of juvenile bigeye mortality. The Commission should commit to ensuring that the FAD Working Group continues to meet on a regular basis and that its mandate is extended to ensure it can provide critical management recommendations on reducing juvenile bigeye mortality moving forward.

Establish science-based catch limits for shortfin mako and blue sharks

The SCRS continues to recommend that fishing mortality should not increase for shortfin mako. Specifically, the "Committee reiterates, as a precautionary approach, that catches of shortfin mako sharks should not be increased with respect to the 2006-2010 levels until more reliable stock assessment results are available for both the Northern and Southern stocks."

The SCRS Ecological Risk Assessment has also identified blue sharks as vulnerable and recommends measures to ensure catches stay within the convention objective. This year, the SCRS recommends that "methods for mitigating shark by-catch by these fisheries also need to be investigated and applied." Further, the Committee recommends that recent catch levels (2009-2013) should not be increased for the South Atlantic stock of blue sharks. While the Committee could not reach a consensus on a specific management recommendation for the North Atlantic stock, the Commission needs to act with precaution to ensure a sustainable harvest of blue shark is maintained before this shark becomes as depleted as other shark species in the Convention Area.

New research published in 2016[1] found that there is a very high overlap between pelagic longliner activity and hotspots for pelagic shark species like blue shark and shortfin mako in the North Atlantic, and that fishing activity effectively "tracks" the movement of sharks seasonally. The study raised questions about the future sustainability of the North Atlantic pelagic longline fleet given the proclivity of the fishery to operate on important or preferred oceanic shark habitats, and suggested that the implementation of international catch limits would be the simplest option to regulate pelagic shark catches in international waters.

We urge the Commission to establish precautionary catch limits for both shortfin mako and blue sharks, based on the SCRS recommendations and recent scientific findings so that recent catch levels are not increased.

Improve the existing finning ban by moving to a 'fins naturally attached' rule

ICCAT was the first RFMO to ban shark finning, but loopholes exist within the current 5% ratio rule, which means illegal shark fins are still being landed and there remains uncertainty in the landings data. Fin-to-body ratios have been widely criticized as being difficult to enforce and as creating significant issues for accurate data collection. Ratio policies allow room for high grading, and species identification is often heavily reliant on a sharks' fins—if they are removed from the body there can be less confidence that the species is being identified and recorded properly. In addition, the 5% rule can be interpreted differently from place to place, and not all sharks' proportions fit perfectly within the 5%, meaning that additional, illegal fins can be landed and still be within the allotted ratio.

Requiring sharks to be landed with fins attached at the first point of landing is the most straightforward and simplest way of enforcing the finning ban and will greatly improve species-specific data collection for sharks. The North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) and Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) have already adopted such a rule. At ICCAT, support for a fins naturally attached rule has been growing each year, with an increasing number of co-sponsors.

The EAC urges the Commission to support a proposed 'fins naturally attached' regulation this year to strengthen the safeguard for sharks.

Amend the ICCAT Convention text to include current best practices

The EAC applauds the efforts so far to modernize the ICCAT Convention text. We urge ICCAT to adopt the recommendations from the Working Group at this year's meeting. As part of this process, we urge members to expand the list of species covered explicitly by the Convention. Specifically, all shark species listed in Article 64 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Annex 1) should be officially managed by ICCAT.

[1] Queiroz, N., Humphries, N. E., Mucientes, G., Hammerschlag, N., Lima, F. P., Scales, K. L., Miller, P. I., Sousa, L. L., Seabra, R., & Sims, D. W. (2016). Ocean-wide tracking of pelagic sharks reveals extent of overlap with longline fishing hotspots. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *113*(6), 1582-1587.

In addition, the EAC requests that the Commission integrate the precautionary approach and ecosystem-based management, as outlined by the Food and Agriculture Organization Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, when amending the Convention text. Furthermore, the amended Commission Convention should provide the Commission with the authority to make recommendations aimed at maintaining or restoring the abundance of ICCAT species above levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield.

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 150 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 continues to have great concern about how highly migratory species are being managed on a global level. 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 and obtaining more and better data on them, IGFA has deployed 254 pop-up satellite archival tags in billfish around the world in the last five years, many of which have been in waters under this organization's purview. The information gained from this exercise is open access and available to your scientific committee and others who wish to utilize it for management purposes.

Billfish

The most recent stock assessments for blue marlin (2011), white marlin (2012), and western and eastern Atlantic sailfish (2016) indicate that all stocks are currently still overfished with overfishing occurring in blue marlin and eastern Atlantic sailfish. ICCAT Recommendation 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 the SCRS advise, designed to result in a high probability of ending overfishing in as short a time as possible."* Yet, all three of these stocks have been in alternating states of being overfished and/or experiencing overfishing for three decades. While positive steps rolled forward during the 2016 commission meeting, IGFA does not feel that the TAC structure implemented in blue and white marlin/spearfish is sufficient to rebuild these stocks in a timely manner, especially given their protracted history of overfishing. According to the SCRS, the established TAC of 2,000 t for blue marlin only gives a 32% chance that the stock will not be overfished with overfishing not occurring by 2026. The established TAC for white marlin is worse, giving it a 0% chance of being rebuilt with overfishing not occurring by 2022. No ICCAT regulations for sailfish are in effect. The SCRS further warns that due to poor data, that both eastern and western sailfish stocks may have been reduced to levels below B_{MSY}. There are current no management measures in place for sailfish. As such, the IGFA recommends the Commission take the following actions:

- Reduce the harvest of blue marlin, white marlin/spearfish, and eastern and western Atlantic sailfish.
- Institute harvest control rules for sailfish that will allow rebuilding of both eastern and western stocks
- Implement a prohibition on Atlantic billfish entering into international trade. Similar legislation has recently been passed in the United States, at the request of IGFA, which bans importation of all marlin, sailfish and spearfish into the continental United States.
- Require all countries be required to use non-offset circle hooks in their longline fisheries.
- Improve the quality and quantity of biological and catch data, particularly in developing countries/artisanal fisheries.

Bluefin Tuna

The 2014 stock assessment update of eastern and western populations of Atlantic bluefin tuna suggest that current management rules are allowing both populations to grow, but the extent of recovery remains highly uncertain. However, both populations are experiencing increased fishing pressure. Therefore, IGFA recommends that the Commission:

- Take a precautionary approach in quota increase and heed the recommendations of the SCRS.
- Oppose any increase in the eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna quota until the 2017 stock assessment is released.

Bigeye Tuna

The 2015 bigeye assessment found the stock both overfished and experiencing overfishing. Yet, at last year's meeting, the Commission approved a TAC of 65,000 t that gives the stock only a 50% chance of rebuilding by 2028. There is also little evidence that Recommendation 15-01 will end overfishing and lead to a timely recovery of the stock. IGFA recommends that the Commission:

- Adopt a TAC of 50,000 t, which will give the bigeye at least a 75% of rebuilding by 2028.

IUU Fishing

- Increase efforts to reduce IUU fishing by improving VMS requirements across all managed species.
- Ban transhipment at sea until the Commission can verify that it is not facilitating IUU fishing.
- Strengthen the IUU vessel list by allowing vessels to be added at an intersessional basis.

Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) in tropical tuna fisheries

- Establish annual meetings of the FAD working group.
- Enact regulatory actions that minimize the ecosystem impact of FAD fisheries, especially unsustainable catch of juvenile tunas.

Sharks

IGFA has significant concerns over ICCAT's management of blue and mako sharks and recommends that the commission:

- Ensure sustainable fishing for shark species through adequate scientific data and, in the absence of such, prohibit the use of wire leaders, with sharks being released alive whenever possible.
- Establish definitive, precautionary catch limits for blue and shortfin mako shark species.
- Prohibit the at-sea removal of shark fins.

Recreational Fishing

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.

Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing and Cooperation Services for Fishery Products in Africa (INFOPECHE)

INFOPECHE carefully noted the Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) (Madrid, Spain, 3-7 October 2016), in particular regarding the recommendations of the Sub-committee on Statistics concerning the review of national fisheries and national research programmes.

To this effect, INFOPECHE would like to participate in the collection of information on tunas through its Member States such as Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire and Angola.

To date, it is important that information on tuna species is provided as quickly as possible through an Organisation such as ours for the purposes of good management of statistical data of these fisheries.

We are ready and operative to collaborate with ICCAT for a better understanding of the real impact of this fishery.

The International Pole & Line Foundation (IPNLF)

The International Pole & Line Foundation (IPNLF) is an international charity working to develop and demonstrate the value of one-by-one tuna fisheries. Its role is two-fold: to promote the benefits of one-by-one tuna fisheries; and to develop these fisheries – to support and improve their viability and sustainability. We work across science, policy and the seafood sector to improve the wellbeing of coastal communities who are committed to environmentally and socially responsible tuna fishing methods, such as pole-and-line, troll, and handline.

As this is the IPNLF's first time attending an ICCAT Meeting, we would like to thank all Members and the Secretariat for the opportunity to participate as an observer. We recognise that managing the fisheries for highly migratory species across the Atlantic Ocean is a complex undertaking, and we appreciate the opportunity to contribute.

An important part of our work involves connecting people and organisations that want to support sustainable and socially responsible one-by-one fisheries. Our membership – which currently stands at 39 includes a broad range of organisations and businesses involved in the one-by-one tuna supply chain. They have proven to be active collaborators, and together we have accomplished several meaningful improvements in data collection, traceability, and fisheries management in many ocean areas.

The ICCAT Convention Area is home to a number of one-by-one fisheries, including many baitboat fisheries for temperate and tropical tunas the Eastern and Western Atlantic. IPNLF works to improve several aspects of one-by-one fisheries with our partners across the Convention Area with the aim of seeing the associated fishing communities thrive. The success and future of these fishing communities relies heavily on responsible management by ICCAT as the stocks are highly migratory.

At this year's Special Meeting, IPNLF encourages ICCAT Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs collectively) to adopt management measures that, together, will strengthen the framework for sustainable tuna fisheries in the Atlantic Ocean. Specifically, we urge progress in the following areas:

- Establishment of reference points and harvest control rules for all major tuna species that aim to avoid adverse impacts on stocks and recognizing the interests of coastal communities that rely on the fisheries for food security and livelihoods
- End overfishing and adoption of rebuilding plans for overfished tuna stocks
- Improved data collection and regulation of supply vessels and fishing gears that negatively impact coastal fishing communities, including drifting fish aggregating devices (dFADs), through the continuation of the Working Group on FADs
- Adoption of measures that will effectively reduce bycatch and protect endangered, threatened, or protected species, including sharks, seabirds, cetaceans, and turtles

The Commission is progressing work on harvest strategies, which we commend. This year, the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) Report put forward a timeline for the adoption of harvest strategies for the major tuna stocks, which IPNLF fully supports for adoption. If adopted, more sustainable management frameworks will benefit every CPC, bring positive long-term returns to fishing communities, and minimise the risk of future fisheries collapse.

Measures should also be adopted to end overfishing and minimise ecosystem impacts of the fisheries. This includes the impacts of supply vessels and dFADs on fish populations, marine ecosystems, and coastal habitats from abandoned and lost dFADs. One key action ICCAT can take is to extend the work of the FAD Working Group to specifically address these issues.

The Atlantic Ocean is home to an array of one-by-one fisheries and fishing communities. IPNLF would like to see management measures adopted that safeguard tuna stocks and ecosystems so that one-by-one fisheries, and the social benefits they provide to the communities that depend on them, can flourish. We will continue to work with our members to strive for the highest environmental and social standards, which will reinforce the good work of the Commission.

We look forward to working with all delegations at the 2016 Special Meeting in Vilamoura, and we are hopeful that the CPCs will find common ground in supporting management improvements.

International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF)

Tropical Tunas

The SCRS reassessed the status of Atlantic yellowfin in 2016. The results of the new assessment indicate that stock status has improved since the last (2011) assessment: Overfishing is not occurring and stock abundance has been increasing, although the stock is slightly overfished. *ISSF supports the recommendation of the SCRS that the Commission maintain the current TAC level of 110,000 t so as to allow the stock to continue to rebuild.*

Temperate Tunas

The SCRS reassessed the status of North Atlantic and South Atlantic albacore stocks and found that they are no longer being overfished or overfished. ISSF congratulates ICCAT for demonstrating once again that overfished tuna stocks can be recovered with sound management. *ISSF supports the recommendation of the SCRS that the Commission maintain the current TAC levels for these two stocks in order to maintain them at a healthy level.*

Serious data deficiencies for the Mediterranean albacore stock have been highlighted by the SCRS for several years, but have not been addressed by CPCs. *ISSF welcomes the SCRS decision to update the stock assessment in 2017 and urges the CPCs identified by SCRS to review their historical data for Mediterranean albacore and submit revisions to SCRS.*

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. 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. ISSF applauds the successful meetings of the Standing Working Group for Enhancing the Dialogue Between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) in 2014 and 2015. ISSF also applauds the adoption in 2015 of Recommendation 15-04 to establish HCRs for the North Atlantic Albacore Stock and Recommendation 15-07 on the Development of HCRs and of Management Strategy Evaluation.

- *ISSF urges the Commission to continue to advance the essential processes outlined in these Recommendations, and in accordance with the agreed timelines.*

Full Retention of Tuna 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 favor of higher value catch distorts our understanding of the actual impact on the tuna stocks by fishing operations.

- *ISSF urges ICCAT to follow the recommendation of the FAD Working Group to develop a total retention policy for tropical tunas to better manage by-catch and reduce discards in tropical tuna fisheries.*

MCS: Observers, VMS, IUU Vessel Lists and Port State Measures. Effective monitoring, control and surveillance measures that meet global standards are essential to data collection, promoting compliance with conservation measures, and combatting IUU fishing activities on the water and in port. In particular, comprehensive observer coverage on vessels is a critical component of sustainable fisheries management for tropical tunas. ICCAT has 100% observer coverage on tropical tuna purse seiners, but only during the FAD moratorium. Since 2013 ISSF has required that processors, traders, importers, transporters, marketers and others involved in the seafood industry conduct transactions only with those large-scale purse seine vessels that have 100% observer coverage (human or electronic if proven to be effective) on every fishing trip and observing every fishing operation. And, as a result, now most large-scale purse seine vessels operating in the Atlantic have such observer coverage.

ISSF urges ICCAT:

- To implement the FAD Working Group recommendation to *extend the 100% observer coverage on large-scale purse seine vessels* to cover the entire year as the IATTC and WCPFC have done. This would be facilitated if it included a regional mechanism that provides that an observer from a coastal State national program (registered with the Secretariat) will be valid in other countries' EEZs.

- To adopt further amendments to *modernize its VMS measure* and bring it in line with global best practices, such as providing for the availability and use of VMS data to the Secretariat, SCRS scientists and the Compliance Committee.

- ISSF urges ICCAT to *strengthen its IUU Vessel List process* in line with best practices, such as clarifying the listing and delisting processes, harmonizing listing criteria and expanding the scope of admissible information.

- ISSF also urges all CPCs that have not yet done so to *ratify the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures* to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.

Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) Management. Setting on FADs accounts for nearly 40% of global tuna catches and 50% of global skipjack catches. *ISSF notes the creation in 2014 of a Working Group on FADs that involves all stakeholders. ISSF commends ICCAT for holding the second meeting of the Working Group this year. ISSF endorses the recommendations in the 2016 Report of the FAD Working Group and encourages the Commission and SCRS to implement them.*

Supply Vessels. Supply vessel activities related to drifting FADs increases the efficiency of the purse seiner by reducing the time needed by the purse seiner to search for or maintain FADs. Greater data collection is needed regarding supply vessels, as well as regulation and monitoring.

ISSF urges ICCAT to:

- Collect data on the number and use of supply vessels, including identifying which particular purse seine vessels each support, and the number of FADs being deployed and serviced by such vessels.
- Identify on the Record of Vessel what activities supply vessels are engaged in, whether they are working as bait boats, servicing FADs, or engaging in fishing.
- Ensure observer coverage and VMS requirements apply to supply vessels so data from these fishing activities are collected and reported.

Longline Fisheries, Observer Coverage and Transshipment. ISSF is concerned that the SCRS has highlighted that the current 5% observer coverage requirement is inappropriate to provide reasonable estimates of total bycatch. ISSF also notes that often the paucity of data on catches and interactions with non-target species prevents assessments and adoption of conservation measures. ISSF is equally concerned with the failure of some CPCs to provide the required transshipment reports or advance notifications. ISSF also recognizes that electronic monitoring systems and e-reporting are being tested and developed which could potentially be used to address some of these problems. ISSF urges the Commission to:

- Implement the SCRS recommendation to increase the minimum level of observer coverage to 20% and at the same time strengthen CPC compliance by identifying and sanctioning non-compliance through the Compliance Committee.

- To progress the development of standards for E-monitoring and E-reporting standards, as soon as possible.
- Amend the ICCAT Transshipment Recommendation so that it covers longline vessels of 20m or greater LOA.

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. ISSF continues to be concerned with the global growth of fishing capacity in ICCAT. ICCAT urges ICCAT:

- To establish limited entry through closed vessel registries and to develop a common currency to measure fishing capacity, such as cubic meters of well volume.
- Supports the Kobe III call for creating mechanisms to transfer capacity to developing countries.

Compliance. ICCAT has one of the best designed and most transparent compliance assessment process of the five tuna RFMOs. The one area where it can improve, however, is regarding its scheme of responses to non-compliance. The Compliance Committee is currently using such a scheme only on a pilot basis. *ISSF urges the Commission to finalize the development of a scheme of responses to non-compliance and codify it in a permanent Recommendation, as soon as possible.*

More Information and Technical Resources: For more information on RFMO best practices, ISSF has produced and published technical papers and workshop reports in the following areas: RFMO compliance processes, purse seine observer programs, IUU Vessel Lists, transshipment, supply vessels, VMS, bycatch, stock status and stock assessment methods, and tuna management and vessel capacity. These resources are all available at: http://iss-foundation.org/knowledge-tools/technical-and-meeting-reports/

Oceana

Oceana would like to express its appreciation to Portugal for hosting the 20th Special Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

This year ICCAT celebrates its 50th anniversary since it committed to the overall objective of recovering highly migratory stocks (HMS) to sustainable levels and rebuilding such stocks on the basis of the best scientific advice available. And since 1966, substantial progress has been made in the sustainable management of these stocks.

But along that journey there have been unprecedented fisheries management challenges faced by the Commission that have sometimes called into question the mission and the credibility of this regional fisheries management organization (RFMO). Such is the case of the Eastern Bluefin tuna. In those dark days, the stock was on the verge of collapse as a consequence of ICCAT mismanagement. We must learn from those mistakes made then.

Today, at the 20th Special Meeting of the Commission we find ourselves at an impasse in the road to stock recovery yet again: the critical state and fate of another species.

This time it is the Mediterranean swordfish. This stock has the lowest biomass levels ever reported in ICCAT. It is overfished and has subjected to overfishing for over 30 years now. ICCAT has blatantly ignored scientific advice from the SCRS, which has been calling for a plan to rebuild this stock at Maximum Sustainable Yield since 2007. And so has Oceana. This year's 2016 stock assessment is a clear, red warning on a need for a recovery plan with a substantial reduction in catches.

ICCAT Contracting Parties cannot keep turning a blind eye to this important and iconic Mediterranean stock whose productivity is the same as the North Atlantic and South Atlantic stocks. Inaction is really not an option anymore.

Oceana once again encourages ICCAT and Contracting Parties to take the right direction – steered by scientific advice - to put Mediterranean swordfish on the road to being rebuilt by adopting a multi-annual recovery plan without any further delay.

The Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew)

The Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew) looks forward to working with ICCAT members this year to advance fisheries management of tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention Area and increase efforts to combat IUU fishing and ensure full transparency and accountability of all members. We have developed overarching recommendations for the Commission, as well as prepared opening statements for consideration by members of Panels 1, 2, and 4, in addition to Plenary, for advancing the Commission's work on temperate and tropical tunas, as well as sharks.

In October 2016, ICCAT received important guidance in its second independent performance review, as follow up to a heavily critical first review in 2008. While the new analysis suggests that ICCAT management has improved, particularly for eastern bluefin tuna, it highlights several areas that need immediate attention, including management of Atlantic bigeye tuna and sharks. The review also stresses the need for incorporation of the precautionary approach into decision making and for adoption of harvest strategies for priority stocks to ensure that stocks not only recover, but are profitable and sustainable in the long run.

With respect to our objectives specific to the Plenary session, Pew encourages the Commission to take critical steps at this meeting in line with the review's recommendations in order to:

1. Advance harvest strategies, including through adoption of a timeline for selection of harvest control rules (HCRs) for priority stocks.

As concluded by the performance review, ICCAT is "ideally placed to be the pioneer in the rapid introduction of long term management strategies to ensure the sustainability of individual stocks and consistency of management approach across the range of stocks." The adoption of Recommendation 15-07 last year represented an important step toward development of harvest strategies by the Commission. In its 2016 report, the SCRS proposed a 2017 deadline for the evaluation of candidate HCRs for North Atlantic albacore, 2018 for Atlantic bluefin, 2019 for North Atlantic swordfish, and 2020 for tropical tunas. Pew urges the Commission to adopt a Recommendation this year that requires selection of HCRs in line with the aforementioned deadlines. The Recommendation should include detailed, stock-specific work plans with timelines for harvest strategy development to ensure that ICCAT can meet these deadlines.

2. Amend the ICCAT Convention text

In line with advice from the performance review, Pew urges the Commission to resolve all outstanding issues related to amended Convention text and agree to a process for adoption and entry into force of amendments at this year's meeting. Delays in adopting important aspects of already agreed upon text will continue to impede progress by the Commission on key fisheries management and conservation issues.

3.5 RESPONSE FROM THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONVENTION

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

The Director-General

LEG-DG/16/1090

14. XI. 2016

Dear Mr Tsamenyi,

I refer to your letters of 27 September 2016 and 9 February 2016 concerning proposed amendments to the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas ("the Convention").

We have carefully considered your letter and welcome the detailed elaboration of the issues at hand.

At the outset, I confirm that it is our view that, should they wish to do so, the members of ICCAT may decide to amend the Convention to transfer the Depositary functions so that they are no longer discharged by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations ("FAO").

I assure you that, in the event that such an amendment to the Convention is adopted, FAO stands ready to hand over original instruments and related documents currently held by the Depositary in accordance with any arrangements that may be reached with a new Depositary.

You also raised the question of whether the transfer of Depositary functions would have any impact upon the relationship between ICCAT and its members with FAO in other areas. I am pleased to reassure you and the members of ICCAT that a change in the Depositary would not have any negative impact upon the collaborative relationship that exists between FAO and ICCAT.

Yours Sincerely,

José Graziano da Silva

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ANNEX 4

REPORTS OF INTER-SESSIONAL MEETINGS

4.1 REPORT OF THE INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 2 (Madrid, Spain, 2-3 March 2016)

1 Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chair of Panel 2, Mr. Shingo Ota (Japan).

2 Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements

The Agenda was adopted and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.1**. The Executive Secretary introduced the participants and observers for this intersessional meeting (see List of Participants attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.1**).

3 Appointment of the Rapporteur

Mrs. Staci Rijal (United States) was designated as the Rapporteur.

4 Consideration of fishing, inspection, and capacity management plans for 2016 presented by CPCs with E-BFT quota

The fishing plans that were considered at the meeting are attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.1**.

Albania

Albania was not present at the meeting, but submitted a plan by the required deadline. The CPCs present reviewed Albania's plan. A letter will be sent to Albania requesting clarification on: whether the purse seine vessel will land or transfer catch for farming purposes, language indicating there may be more than one vessel, the use of stereoscopic cameras, their handling of by-catch, the use of the Regional Observer Program (ROP), and its relationship to the 20% observer coverage level mentioned in the report, and their intentions to implement the electronic bluefin catch document (eBCD). It was requested that not only should Albania respond in a letter, but their plan should be accordingly updated to reflect any clarifications. A response will be requested by 11 March 2016 so that the additional information can be presented to Parties for review to determine whether to endorse the plan prior to 31 March 2016, in accordance with paragraph 8 of Rec. 14-04.

Algeria

Algeria presented their 2016 fishing plan, highlighting their continued commitment to vessel management. Some clarifications were sought regarding references to Algeria's historical quota and historical capacity in their plan, which were resolved in the final text to the satisfaction of the Panel. The final text also reflected clarifications regarding eBCD implementation, allocation set aside for by-catch, and engagement in the joint inspection scheme.

China

China presented its 2016 plan, noting that it plan was similar to past years but that they planned to have two longline vessels operate this year instead of one in the area west of 10 W and north of 42 N. Observer coverage will be 100% instead of 20% because of the long-distance nature of the deployment. Other CPCs asked for clarifications regarding daily logbooks, China's planned eBCD implementation, vessel monitoring system (VMS) polling rate and vessel size. China reaffirmed their commitment to collect daily logbooks and implement eBCD according to the recommendation. They updated their fishing plan with the requested information.

Egypt

Egypt presented its plan, remarking that it was similar to its 2015 plan. They confirmed that they would fully implement eBCD unless there was a technical problem. CPCs asked questions of Egypt about the meaning of "full inspection coverage" and what sampling they were referring to in their plan. Egypt clarified that inspections will be conducted by the national observer in ports and on board for the fishing activity. The sampling referred to in the plan was regarding the stereoscopic camera. Egypt submitted several requested edits to their plan.

European Union

The European Union highlighted several aspects of its 2016 plan, emphasizing reinforced inspection plans, cooperation platforms to control transfer in caging operations, and their commitment to implementing the eBCD. Although the allocation was only available by sector, they noted that the European Union allocation amongst member states is in an official journal published in late January. This journal will be shared with the Secretariat for all CPCs to access. One CPC asked for clarification regarding the use of the word "superior" to describe their individual vessel quotas in relation to the ICCAT Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) catch rate, which the EU confirmed meant that the allocation was above the SCRS catch rate. Another CPC asked for clarification regarding the coverage of stereoscopic cameras for caging operations. The European Union confirmed that every caging operation would have at least 20% of the fish controlled by stereoscopic cameras in accordance with *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 13-07 by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* (Rec. 14-04).

Iceland

Iceland began their presentation noting that they have not had active capacity management in place for many years, but instead have chosen to focus on controlling catch through comprehensive inspection and electronic catch recording systems. One CPC asked for clarification on the vessel size as a means to calculate the potential capacity and also asked for the specific VMS polling rate. The VMS information was added to the plan.

Japan

Japan presented its 2016 plan, highlighting monitoring of eastern bluefin tuna landings via daily catch reports, inspection, and tagging. Japanese fishing vessels already began using the eBCD system in 2015 and it was affirmed that this practice would continue in 2016. Although Japan stressed that the individual vessel allocation would be more than the SCRS catch rate, the number of proposed vessels sharing the allocation in 2016 was not presented because the internal process had not started yet. Some CPCs expressed concern that not having this information was potentially unfair because other plans were required to be explicit about their fishing capacity. Others expressed sympathy for Japan's situation, noting that they faced a similar situation due to their internal processes. Japan noted that they could not put an actual or provisional number in the report this year due to the late start of their fishing season and internal processes. Japan reaffirmed that they planned to submit the vessel list at the latest 15 days prior to the start of the fishing season, in accordance with Recommendation 14-04 and resubmit its fishing plan. The Chair noted that if clarity was needed on the requirements of this measure that CPCs should propose changes to Rec. 14-04 at the Annual Meeting.

Korea

Korea presented its plan, highlighting their intention to have 100% observer coverage and their intention to limit the number of vessels to four or less to match their allocated quota. One CPC asked for clarification as to whether or not Korea would be implementing the eBCD on a voluntary or mandatory basis. Korea confirmed that eBCD would be mandatory. Questioning their lack of a portion of their quota for by-catch, one CPC asked for clarification on how by-catch would be managed. Korea responded that any by-catch would be deducted from its quota, but that by-catch is not likely to occur because of the location and gear of their other fisheries. Updates to the plan to reflect the clarifications were provided.

Libya

Libya gave an overview of their 2016 plan, covering their anticipated allocation, intentions for observer coverage, and monitoring and control efforts. Regarding eBCD implementation, Libya stressed continued problems regarding visas for officials to receive training, but that they already had all of their operators apply for eBCD identities and hoped to be able to fully implement by the deadline. CPCs asked questions regarding the VMS polling rate, a reference to sampling in their draft plan and how by-catch is handled. Libya provided the requested information in an updated plan and confirmed that any by-catch would be deducted from the quota of the vessel.

Morocco

Morocco presented its plan, noting that it was similar to their 2015 plan, but with the addition of one trap. It was requested that Morocco make some minor edits to their plan, including the completion of a fishery capacity table, which Morocco completed prior to endorsement.

Norway

Norway presented its plan on their exploratory fishery with one purse seiner and one long liner. One CPC asked about the observer coverage level for longliners, as that CPC understood the Recommendation to be for 20% of the fleet rather than 20% of fishing time. Norway responded that given they only had one longliner and per past practice they would have an observer for at least 20% of fishing days. The Chair pointed out that 20% means 20% of the fleet in case of long-distant longliners which normally make a single trip to consume the allocated quota, but it could mean 20% of fishing days in case of coastal fishing vessels which make multiple trips. The Chair suggested that if more clarity is required, CPCs should propose changes to Rec. 14-04 at this year's Annual Meeting. No changes were sought to Norway's plan.

Syria

Syria was not present at the meeting, but submitted a plan by the required deadline. The CPCs present reviewed Syria's plan. A letter will be sent to Syria requesting clarification on the calculations in their capacity table, further detail on how inspections are completed, confirmation of the frequency of VMS transmissions and whether or not daily catch reports are collected. A response will be requested by 11 March 2016 so that the additional information can be presented to Parties for review to determine whether to endorse the plan prior to 31 March 2016, in accordance with paragraph 8 of Rec. 14-04.

One CPC sought an update to a situation last year regarding potential difficulties deploying a regional observer to Syria. The Secretariat reported that an observer was deployed in 2015, but boarded in Turkey as they could not board in Syria.

Tunisia

Tunisia presented its plan, highlighting its capacity plans, including that of its farms, and inspection plans. Tunisia was asked to confirm their plans for implementing the eBCD program, confirm their VMS polling rate and correct an error regarding the number of vessels in their capacity table. Tunisia provided a document with these edits. The European Union commended Tunisia on their plan and expressed their willingness to cooperate with Tunisia on at-sea inspections.

Turkey

Discussion on Turkey's plan began with the Chair noting Turkey's objection and reminding the Panel that Turkey was not seeking endorsement of their conservation and management plan, but rather than Turkey was presenting it for informational purposes and to answer any questions on the plan outside of their objection. Turkey then presented their plan, giving an overview of their planned allocation by sector, sampling, eBCD implementation, and intentions to participate in the ICCAT Joint Scheme of International Inspection. One CPC expressed concerns regarding the potential legal framework for Turkey to participate in the international inspection scheme, given their objection to Recommendation 14-04. The Chair noted that Turkey was not legally obligated to participate in the scheme and that CPCs could refuse to let Turkish inspectors board their vessels. Another CPC suggested that in addition, bilateral agreements could be signed to provide legal coverage. Although one CPC sought a full legal and political analysis of the status

of Turkey's engagement in the international inspection scheme, the Chair noted that the fishing season was set to start in three months and suggested proceeding with Turkey and other CPCs working together voluntarily on inspections and, if CPCs deemed it necessary, through the establishment of bilateral agreements.

Several CPCs expressed their continued disappointment with Turkey's intention to set an autonomous quota, while acknowledging their right to lodge an objection. Japan said that they would continue to request that importers, on a voluntary basis, not import catch from Turkey beyond the quota agreed in Recommendation 14-04.

Chinese Taipei

Chinese Taipei was not present at the meeting, but submitted a plan by the required deadline. The CPCs present reviewed Chinese Taipei's plan, which indicated no fishing would occur in 2016. No questions or concerns on Chinese Taipei's plan were raised by the Panel.

By-catch

The issue of by-catch handling was discussed regarding specific CPC plans, as well as a general question to the Panel. A few CPCs expressed that by-catch was inevitable, even if it is unacceptable, and encouraged CPCs to implement a reserve to account for by-catch, either as a separate category or within the individual quota for each vessel. Several CPCs also stressed that dead discards should be deducted from quotas regardless of the situation. The Chair noted that the common understanding of Panel 2 was that dead fish should be counted against the allocation whether it is retained or discarded while live release is not. The Chair further noted that this had not been necessarily the case for other species and the question of how to handle by-catch, especially regarding alive and released by-catch, would require further discussion at the Annual Meeting, taking into account the current practices for other species groups.

Stereoscopic camera algorithms

During the review of the plans, the European Union sought confirmation from those CPCs engaged in farming that they intended to use the most recent length/weight relationship table from the SCRS, or "algorithm", to calculate weights from measured lengths, as required in Recommendation 14-04. Morocco, Libya, and Turkey confirmed their intention to use the most recent algorithm. Tunisia requested that the Secretariat send them the algorithm so that they could implement it.

5 Determination of actions to be taken with respect to the plans presented under item 4

Fishing, capacity, and inspection plans for the following CPCs were endorsed: Algeria, China, Egypt, the European Union, Iceland, Japan, Korea, Libya, Morocco, Norway and Tunisia. Chinese Taipei's plan was also endorsed.

It was decided to send a letter seeking clarifications to Syria and Albania. Responses to these letters will be requested by 11 March 2016 and distributed to Parties for review and response via correspondence. It was requested that not only should Albania and Syria respond in a letter, but their plans should be accordingly updated to reflect any clarifications. If prior to 31 March a member finds serious fault with the plans as clarified by the additional information in any response received by 31 March 2016, then a mail vote may be triggered pursuant to paragraph 8 of Rec. 14-04 to decide on the suspension of bluefin tuna fishing in 2016 by that CPC. If on the other hand no member finds serious fault by 31 March, the plan will be deemed endorsed.

Past practice from the 2011 Compliance Committee meeting in Barcelona and the 2015 Panel 2 intersessional was followed regarding Turkey's plan and it was deemed that action by Panel 2 was "not applicable" in light of Turkey's legal objection.

6 Consideration of E-BFT quota allocation by CPC

The table showing the adjusted quotas for 2016 is attached as **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.1**.

Algeria began the discussion by noting the difficult situation faced by Algeria, which they believe is caused by loopholes in operating rules and lack of transparency in decision-making on allocations. They expressed their continued desire to return to their historical quota allocation share, which is much higher than the current one. They suggested that an appeal process be considered by the Panel because errors are bound to occur.

The European Union expressed sympathy for the situation facing Algeria. They praised Algeria for the decision to follow the Recommendation, and hoped that Algeria would continue along the same path. They stressed that while the Convention provides for the possibility to object, objections should only be used as a last resort as they deeply undermine the credibility of ICCAT and ultimately of its CPCs. They also reminded the Panel that the Recommendation contains a clear review clause for the Algeria's quota and assured that the European Union would be open to engage in those discussions in a transparent fashion and at the right time.

Japan also acknowledged Algeria´s difficult situation and the need to resolve it fairly. Japan, while appreciating no objection exercised by Algeria, stressed that if everyone objected to the agreed quota then ICCAT would be undermined.

Turkey thanked the attendees for their understanding of its situation and sought to finalize the discussion on the issue at the Annual Meeting. Turkey stated that they would like to emphasize their formal objection to Rec. 14-04 based on Article VIII, paragraph 3a of the ICCAT Convention text and establishment of its autonomous quota allocation as 1461.82 t and 1775.09 t for 2016 and 2017 respectively.

Algeria asked that a statement shared at the meeting be attached to the report. It can be found in **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.1**.

7 Other matters

European Union document on farming capacity

The European Union submitted for the Panel´s information a document describing its intention to add one farm in Portugal. They affirmed that this farm would be operating in compliance with Rec. 14 04 regarding the use of appropriate cameras and observers and the increase would be consistent with paragraphs 46-50 of Rec. 14-04. After confirming that the additional farm would not put the European Union above their 2008 capacity, the European Union agreed to include their intention to increase their farming capacity in their fishing plan. Details of the farm will also be included in a separate farming capacity plan to be sent to the Secretariat on May 1.

Catch by Gibraltar

At the Annual Meeting, the Commission decided to send a letter from the Commission Chair to Gibraltar regarding the possible bluefin tuna catches by Gibraltar that are outside of the ICCAT management regime. The Executive Secretary reported that letters were sent to Gibraltar and the United Kingdom which both acknowledged receipt of the letter, but no substantive responses have been received to date. The EU reaffirmed that they did not represent Gibraltar.

Standardized plan format

Japan observed during their review of the plans that each plan was different both in terms of formatting and level of detail and suggested a standardized format for the plans to increase ease of review. The European Union and United States agreed with this idea. The Panel welcomed this idea. Japan and the European Union agreed to work together to present a draft format to the Panel.

Marketing of catches exceeding allocated quotas

Algeria wanted to discuss the problem of the marketing of catches exceeding allocated quotas over the past several years, noting that it was likely to happen again in 2016. A lack of a centralized mechanism to cross-check information across different markets was significantly contributing to this problem, according to Algeria. They asked the ICCAT Secretariat to take stock of the situation regarding amounts sold above the official quota allocated to see where those fish go and potentially identify gaps in the current systems so that the Commission could fill that gap. The Secretariat noted that would be difficult because the information would come from the BCD scheme which does not cover all catches because of some exemptions. Libya also raised the issue of illegal catch in the market place. The Chair noted that illegal catch that is marketed is always a difficult problem and asked Panel members to think of concrete ways to address the issue of marketing of catches exceeding allocated quotas at the Annual Meeting. The Panel noted that eBCD could be a useful tool to address this issue.

Requests for clarifications

The Panel reviewed several requests for clarification from ROP-BFT consortium (observer program) and CPCs. All questions and the clarifications are contained in the revised document, attached as **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.1**.

While clarifications were provided on the items requested, it was clear that further discussion and rule making is required regarding trade of bluefin tuna stemming from closed-cycle aquaculture. The Chair noted that this should be discussed at the 2016 Annual Meeting. The Panel advised that any CPC intending to export such fish shall notify the Secretariat pursuant to para 6 (c) of Rec. 15 10 and use a paper-based BCD as a provisional measure.

8 Adoption of Report and adjournment

The report was adopted and the meeting was adjourned.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.1

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda and meeting arrangements
3. Nomination of Rapporteur
4. Consideration of fishing, inspection and capacity management plans for 2016 presented by CPCs with E-BFT quota
5. Determination of actions to be taken with respect to the plans presented under item 4.
6. Consideration of E-BFT quota allocation by CPC
7. Other matters
8. Adoption of Report and adjournment.

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.1

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Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.1

Bluefin fishing, inspection and capacity management plans

ALBANIA[*]

Based on the recommendation 14-04 which amends the ICCAT Recommendation 13-07, the Atlantic bluefin tuna fishing quota, allocated to Albania for 2016 is 47.40 tons, and for 2017 is 56.91 tons (paragraph 5 of the Recommendation).

The Fishing Vessel "ROZAFA 15" owned by Gjergj LUCA, with NIPT number: K 48130547V, registered to Port Authority by Nr. P-446, with NFR: ALB22REG0649, provided with Fishing License Nr. LC-4153-03-2014, of date 07.04.2014, with ICCAT Nr.: AT000ALB00008, is authorized to perform the blue-fin tuna fishery in the amount of 47.40 tons (2016) and 56.91 tons (2017), in Mediterranean Sea area, fishing form: Pelagic, fishing gears: Purse Seiners and production landing at Shëngjini Fishing Port, every day, around 18.00 o'clock, if the production is not aimed to be further treated in the aquaculture farm.

Vessel characteristics:

Fishing Vessel:	"ROZAFA 15"
Gross tonnage:	160 Ton
Length:	34.8 m
Width:	6.4 m
Immersion:	3 m
Engine:	977.Hp
Crew:	5
IRCS:	ZADP9

According to paragraph 10 of the recommendation, each state must develop the Fisheries Annual Plan of the Allocated Quota by authorized vessel in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, identifying quota's for each fishing form, fishing gears group, the method used for quota allocation and management, the measures taken to ensure compliance with the quota and by-catches, reflected, also in Inspection Plan (attached to this Plan).

The obligations for the Authorized Vessel:

Fishing vessel "ROZAFA-15" will develop fishing with Purse Seiners of the amount of 47.40 tons (2016) and 56.91 tons (2017), in the period from 26 May to 24 June of each year, is obliged to:

- Fish only the amount for which it is quoted;
- Proceed immediately to Shengjini port once estimated that the quota is exhausted;
- Not to use aircrafts for blue-fin tuna detecting at sea;
- Not to fish, keep on board, transship, transfer, landing, transport, store, sell or offer for sale the quantities of tuna that weighs less than 30 kg, or length up to bifurcation, under 115 cm, if not intended for cultivation;
- The captain of the fishing vessel should keep on board the electronic log book, to fill and communicate fishing data every day, even when the result is zero (annex 2 of the Recommendation);
- 4 hours prior entry into port, to announce the port authorities the following information:

    a) The estimated time to enter to the Port;
    b) The estimated amount of tuna retained on board;
    c) Information on the geographical area where the catch was taken.

- If the fishing zone is nearly than 4 hours from the port, the announcement should be done immediately;

[*] Not endorsed by Panel 2, submission of a revised version has been requested.

- After each trip and within 48 hours the master of fishing vessel should submit the landing declaration to the competent authorities of Shengjini fishing harbor and Fishery Inspectorate of the Port, with a tolerance of 48 hours from the landings;
- Not to undertake the transshipment action of fished blue-fin tunas;
- Keep active the VMS system communication which should start 15 days before the fishing season until 15 days after its completion, without interruption, even when in port; The VMS messages have to be transmitted at least every four hours.
- Provide, through direct communication with ICCAT of the presence of the regional ICCAT observers on board (observer/local fishery inspector, based on ICCAT Regional Program on observation).

The obligations of Fishery Authority in Ministry

- To take the appropriate measures to ensure the allocated fishing quotas;
- To require to the authorized fishing vessel to proceed immediately to the designed fishery port (Shëngjin) when the allocated quota is exhausted;
- Do not allow the chartering actions of fished blue-fin tuna;
- To transmit to the ICCAT Secretariat the data's on the authorization vessel for fishing of tuna quota allocated, at least 10 days before starting of fishing operations;
- To provide for ICCAT Secretariat all the required forms according the list of Reporting Requirements from ICCAT;
- Not to allow the authorized entities to use aircrafts for blue-fin tuna detecting over the sea;
- To take action to avoid fishing, keeping on board, the transshipment, transferring, landing, transporting, storing, selling or offering for sale the quantities of tuna that weighs less than 30 kg, or length, up to bifurcation, under 115 cm, if not intended for cultivation; Only an amount up to 5% of the quantity may be allowed to be in the above parameters;
- Do not allow more than 5% by-catches of tuna fish from tuna's inactive vessels. However, the amount of tuna that comes from by-catches should be considered part of the annual blue-fin tuna fishing quotas;
- To send to the ICCAT Secretariat, at least 15 days before starting the fishing season, the list of authorized vessels, according to ICCAT format;
- To inform by 1April the ICCAT Secretariat on the tuna fisheries for the past year, information which should include:

  a) The name and number of ICCAT for each fishing vessel;
  b) The authorized period for each fishing vessel;
  c) The catches in total to each fishing vessel including the zero results on entire authorized period;
  d) The number of fishing days per authorized vessel and authorized period;
  e) Catches in total as by-catch outside the authorized period of authorized fishing vessels;
  f) The name, the number of national registry vessels that are not authorized to active fishing tuna but have catch blue-fin tuna as by-catch;
  g) The catches in total as by-catch from unauthorized vessels.

- To ensure that active fishing blue-fin tuna's vessels, that are authorized, are communicating every day, in electronic way or by other information, the log book data's regarding their fishing activity to the Port Authorities and Fisheries Inspectorate of Shengjini Port;
- On the bases of the above information to take proper measures to transmit to the ICCAT Secretariat the weekly data for all vessels authorized;
- To report to the Secretariat of ICCAT the monthly data's on fisheries for blue-fin tuna caught from active fishing vessels (authorized by it) and the by-catches by inactive fishing vessels for blue-fin tunas;
- To report immediately to the ICCAT Secretariat of the closure of the blue-fin tuna fishing when finds that the quotas is exhausted;

- To verify the VMS system functionality and its using by the authorized fishing vessel, especially 15 days before and 15 days after the tuna fishing season;
- To prohibit trading, marketing, landing, importation, exportation, placing in cages for farming, re-exports and transshipments of blue-fin tuna species of Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean which are not accompanied by proper documentation, accurate, completed, validated, fished within the season and conform allocated quota by authorized and non-authorized fishing vessels, as required by ICCAT recommendation 14-04;
- To report to the ICCAT Secretariat on the implementation of Recommendation 14-04, until 15 October of this year;
- To ensure the presence of 20% of the period of fishing season of the observers or fishing inspectors on board of the authorized fishing vessel;
- To prepare a program with measures to be applied by Fisheries Inspectorate of Shëngjini Port, the measures in case of violations and reporting as required by 14-04 ICCAT recommendation.

Measures Programme to be applied by Fishery Inspectorate of Shengjini (Mr. Stilian Leka)

Based on:

- ICCAT Convention and 14-04 Recommendation;

- Annual Fishing Plan of Blue-fin tuna's quota for 2016 and 2017;

- The Minister's Order Nr. 1240, date 02.02.2016 and Minister's Authorization, Nr.1240/1, date 12.02.2016

The Fishing Vessel "Rozafa 15" is authorized to fish the blue-fin tuna's quotas, as allocated from ICCAT to Albania, the amount of 47.40 ton for 2016 and 56.91 ton for 2017.

The Fishing form: pelagic, by Purse Seiners.

The Authorized period is 26 May to 24 June 2016 and 2017.

The landings of blue-fin tuna fished will be every day about 18 o'clock in the Fishing Port of Shëngjini if the production is not aimed to be further treated in the aquaculture farm.

During this period, in addition to other duties that are listed in the *Bi-Annual Fishing Plan and the Minister's Order*, Fishery Inspector based on fishing port of Shengjini will priority to the implementation and make possible as follow:

- The Authorized Fishing Vessel should land the fished blue-fin tuna only in the designated place and in due time;
- The master of Authorized Fishing Vessel notify the port authority (including fisheries inspector) four hours before entering the port, about the time when evaluates its entry into the port, the amount of tuna caught having on board, the geographical area where fished.

For this, Fishery Inspector takes measures to be present at the fishing port on arrival and landing time and provide from the master the landing declaration which reflect the above data already specified (by weighting them) and not at random way.

This action should be daily for the Authorized period.

- Fishery Inspector also keeps a record of all notifications made by fishing vessel authorized and communicated data's as above, of the landing declarations in the fishing harbor, as well as other details that sees the reasonable. These data, fishery inspector shall communicate to the Fishery Resources Division, within 48 hours from landing fish products by authorized fishing vessel;

- Ensure his assistance, through vessel boarding at least 20% of the authorized fishing vessel operations and fishing days;
- To prohibit the transshipment at sea of tuna products caught;
- To ensure that the master of fishing vessel fill correctly the logbooks and after each arrival (landing) to take delivery of them;
- To not allow the blue-fin tuna fisheries under 30 kg or under 115 cm (measurement made from the mouth to the bifurcation of the tail). The inspector makes measurements of each fish tuna caught, just landed and verify the implementation of the foregoing obligation to weight/minimum size of fish caught;
- To check the functionality of the vessel into the VMS system and with non-stop signal, not interrupted even when in port. The VMS system signal should start 15 days before of starting the season, (according Authorization) and to terminate 15 days after its completion;
- To send to the Fishery Authorities in Ministry any document dealing with catches and transfers of tuna fish products;
- To observe and identify and monitor any quantity of blue-fin tuna caught by other fishing vessels (as by-catch), also from the Authorized Fishing Vessel (out of authorized fishing season).

ALGERIA

Pursuant to the relevant ICCAT Recommendations, Algeria sets out below its bluefin tuna fishing, inspection and capacity management plan for the 2016 fishing season.

In addition to the relevant ICCAT provisions, Algeria's 2016 fishing plan is also based on provisions contained in the national regulation, in particular those of the ministerial order of 25 March 2015 which establishes bluefin fishing quotas for national flag vessels and sets out the methods for quota allocation and implementation.

Moreover, Algeria's bluefin fishing activities in 2016 will be carried out in accordance with the same conditions and methods as those of previous campaigns, including the use of the eBCD system.

1 Fishing plan

1.1 Quotas and the method used to allocate and manage quotas

Considering paragraph 5 of Rec. 14-04 which stipulates that in addition to the quotas set, Algeria may catch up to 200 t, 250 t and 300 t in 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively and this adjustment shall continue until the Algeria combined quota amount reaches 5% of the TAC, Algeria will implement a fishing plan to catch 450 t of its quota in 2016. The 450 t will be distributed among the tuna vessel owners selected to participate in the 2016 fishing campaign from the list of vessels in the attached fishing capacity table.

Individual quotas for each of the vessels authorised to take part in the campaign will be established in accordance with national distribution criteria, based on the size of the vessels employed. The list of vessels and their individual quotas will be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat by the required deadline (15 days before the campaign).

Algeria does not have any bluefin tuna recreational and sport fisheries.

1.2 Measures aimed at ensuring compliance with quotas

The 2016 bluefin tuna fishing plan will be implemented so as to ensure compliance with the limit of Algeria’s quota.

1.2.1 Trade and joint fishing agreements

No private trade agreement and/or quota transfer/catch limits with other CPCs are authorised.

Joint fishing operations (in groups) among Algerian vessels may be authorised. Information on these operations, in particular individual quotas and allocation keys adopted for the 2016 campaign, will be notified to the Commission by the required deadlines.

1.2.2 Fishing permits

In accordance with the Algerian regulation in force, individual fishing permits will be granted to purse seine vessels authorised to participate in the 2016 fishing campaign by the Fisheries Administration.

1.2.3 Fishing period

The fishing period for purse seine tuna vessels authorised to participate in the 2016 fishing campaign will be that established by ICCAT provisions and fixed by the provisions of the national regulation, i.e. from 26 May to 24 June 2016.

In addition, and in the case where the authorised quota is exhausted during the authorised period, Algeria's Fisheries Administration will announce the closure of the fishing season.

1.2.4 Minimum size

The minimum size of bluefin tuna will be 30 kg, in accordance with the national regulation and the provisions of the ICCAT recommendations.

1.2.5 Incidental catches

A 5% tolerance of incidental catches of individuals weighing less than 30 kg or measuring less than 115 cm will be allowed, in accordance with the relevant ICCAT provisions.

1.2.6 By-catch

Vessels that do not have a specific bluefin tuna fishing permit, issued in accordance with the Algerian regulation in force are not authorised to catch nor retain on board bluefin tuna. Any dead discards will be deducted from the remaining 2.98 t or the Algerian quota.

1.2.7 Use of aircrafts

The use of aircrafts or helicopters for detecting bluefin tuna schools is prohibited.

1.2.8 Transhipment

The transhipment of bluefin tuna is prohibited under national legislation, in particular Article 58 of Law 01-11, modified and supplemented, on fisheries and aquaculture.

1.2.9 Transfer operations

Transfer operations will be carried out in accordance with the provisions of ICCAT Recommendation 14-04.

1.2.10 Trade measures

Algeria participated in the work of the eBCD Working Group and the different international implementation tests, and will implement this system.

2 Inspection Plan

2.1 National inspection

A national inspection programme for all bluefin tuna fishing operations will be implemented for the 2016 campaign. This programme consists of carrying out in port inspections of tuna vessels authorised to take part in the 2016 campaign, before and after the campaign, and deploying two national controllers/observers onboard each vessel during the fishing season.

The task, among others, of these controllers is to monitor all fishing and transfer operations, and to verify the information and data related to the fishing campaign recorded in the onboard documents and furthermore to ensure compliance with ICCAT recommendations on bluefin tuna fishing. Each controller will be required to submit campaign report at the end of the campaign.

The controllers will remain in permanent contact with the Fisheries Administration and will transmit all the information related to fishing and transfer operations.

In addition, and in the context of continuity of the training programme implemented by Algeria for controllers in 2014, a training session is also scheduled this year prior to the campaign during which training will be given on the national regulation and ICCAT recommendations on bluefin tuna fishing.

2.1.1 Vessel Monitoring System

The tuna vessels authorized to take part in the fishing campaign will be equipped with a beacon, which will be operational throughout the campaign. The transmission of VMS data is mandatory for all the tuna vessels and must commence 15 days before the authorisation period and continue 15 days after the fishing campaign. The reporting rate is every four hours in accordance with the latest relevant ICCAT recommendation.

A monitoring centre of vessel VMS signals will be implemented by the Fisheries Administration throughout the fishing season.

2.1.2 Landing ports

The ports designated by the competent authorities for landing bluefin tuna caught by vessels flying the Algerian flag and where an inspection of the products to be landed and all onboard documents will be carried out by the relevant States institutions are: port of Algiers, port of Annaba, port of Béjaïa, port of Cherchell, port of Oran and port of Ténès.

2.2 Regional observers program

The owners of the tuna purse seine vessels authorized to fish bluefin tuna in 2016 will be required to deploy an ICCAT observer on board, in accordance with the provisions of Commission recommendations.

In addition, and in the context of continuous improvement of the execution of bluefin fishing campaigns and as stated above, the relevant observations made by ICCAT observers in 2015 will be taken into account in the 2016 campaign, in particular those related to logbook information.

2.3 Joint international inspection plan

As Algeria does not have more than 15 bluefin tuna fishing vessels, Algeria will not dispatch any inspection vessel.

3 Fishing capacity management plan

The fishing capacity, represented by a fleet of 15 tuna vessels, is adapted to Algeria's historical catch limit, i.e. 5.073% of the TAC, as represented in the table below. Accordingly, Algeria does not have overcapacity in the bluefin tuna fishery. For 2016, the fishing capacity will be adapted to the limit of 450 t.

Fishing capacity

TUNA VESSEL FLEET		Fleet (vessels)									Fishing capacity								
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Purse seiner over 40 m	70.70	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seiner between 24 and 40 m	49.78	8	14	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	398.24	696.92	547.58	547.58	547.58	547.58	547.58	547.58	547.58
Purse seiner less than 24 m	33.68	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	0	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	67.36	67.36
Total purse seine fleet		**8**	**15**	**12**	**12**	**12**	**12**	**12**	**13**	**13**	**398.24**	**730.6**	**581.26**	**581.26**	**581.26**	**581.26**	**581.26**	**614.94**	**614.94**
Longliner over 40 m	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner between 24 and 40 m	5.68	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	5.68	5.68	5.68	5.68	5.68	11.36	11.36	5.68	5.68
Longliner less than 24 m	5	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	5	10	10	10	10	5	5	5	5
Total longline fleet		**2**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**2**	**2**	**10.68**	**15.68**	**15.68**	**15.68**	**15.68**	**16.36**	**16.36**	**10.68**	**10.68**
Baitboat	19.8	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Handline	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trawler	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trap	130	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Other (please specify)	5	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Total fleet/fishing capacity		**10**	**18**	**15**	**15**	**15**	**15**	**15**	**15**	**15**	**408.92**	**746.28**	**596.94**	**596.94**	**596.94**	**597.62**	**597.62**	**625.62**	**625.62**
TAC											**28500**	**22000**	**13500**	**12900**	**12900**	**13400**	**13400**	**16142**	19296
Algerian historical quota share*											1460.04	1117.42	684.90	654.42	654.42	679.78	679.78	818.88	978.89
Algerian allocated quota																			452.98
Difference (historical quota-capacity)											**1051.12**	**371.14**	**87.96**	**57.48**	**57.48**	**82.16**	**82.16**	193.26	353.27

*These calculations are based on the overall TAC for each year before adjustment for any special allocations made in those years.

CHINA

1. BFT Fishing, Inspection and Capacity Reduction Plans for 2016

1.1 Fishing Plan

Fishing Vessel: China will dispatch two longline fishing vessels in 2016, namely Jin Feng No.1 and Jin Feng No.3, to conduct bluefin tuna fishing activity seasonally in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.

Fishing period: These two vessels will shift to BFT fishing grounds to conduct BFT fishing at the end of September or at the beginning of October until the catch quota is exhausted and the landing or transshipment of the catch in the designated port shall be arranged as early as possible. Hopefully the BFT fishing activities could be over in November, because bad weather like typhoons at high latitude will be very frequent from November, which will heavily affect the safety of the crew and the vessel itself. Therefore we wish to finish the catch quota as soon as possible to avoid the bad weather. That is also why we dispatch two fishing vessels this year to catch BFT; they can help each other when they encounter bad weather at sea. We will advise the Secretariat once the catch quota is exhausted.

Fishing quota: China was allocated 53.90 metric tons of BFT in the 2016 fishing season according to Rec. 14-04.

The method used to allocate and manage quotas: Two fishing vessels will conduct BFT fishing activity in 2016, Jin Feng No.1 will be allocated 26 tons and Jin Feng No.3 will be allocated 27.9 tons, basically each vessel hold one half of the catch quota.

Measures to ensure the respect of the individual quotas and by-catch: It is relatively simple to respect the quota since only two fishing vessels share the limited quota, and through observer deployment, catch report (for BFT, we have daily/weekly/monthly catch report), logbook, landing/transshipment report, VMS monitoring and catch documentation to ensure the quotas are respected by these two fishing vessels. BFT by-catch is not allowed for any other fishing vessels which are not authorized to catch BFT.

1.2 Enforcement Plan

Observers: We plan to implement 100% observer coverage during the 2016 BFT fishing season; the coverage rate is higher than the ICCAT requirement for longline vessels. They will record the required data and discards as well as by-catch and incidental catch like seabirds, sea turtles and sharks, monitor the catch and ensure compliance with the minimum size, ensure the strict compliance of ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions, as well as carry out other scientific work.

Data record and catch report: The logbook shall be filled in every day. Daily bluefin tuna catch (including zero catch report) is required to record and report, which has to contain the date, catch positions by latitude and longitude, fork length, number of catch, weight and tag numbers. Please kindly note that China has implemented a new version logbook from 2015 which covers almost all the by-catch species.

VMS requirement: Vessels shall be equipped with a full-time operational vessel monitoring system onboard, and can be tracked and reported normally to the ICCAT Secretariat according to the requirement of Rec. 14-04. It is a mandatory requirement for vessels to report every four hours to our VMS platform.

Transhipment: Bluefin tuna fishing vessels shall only transship and/or land bluefin tuna catches in the designated ports. Mindelo of Cabo Verde and Dakar of Senegal are the ports which BFT caught by China-flagged vessels will enter for transshipment and/or landing, and before the transshipment and/or landing, the transshipment application/pre-notification as well as the authorization letter to tranship must be reported to the Secretariat.

Cross-checks and BCDs/eBCDs: Cross-checks of data from catch reports, VMS, requests for authorization to transhipment, transhipment declarations, and national observer program as well as inspection reports shall be made. In case any of the aforementioned records do not match the content in BCD/eBCD, the BCD/eBCD shall be rejected by the Government. Regarding the e-BCD, we will implement e-BCD from the 2016 fishing season according to 2015-10.

In addition to the above measures, Rec. 14-04 was translated into Chinese and distributed to the fishing vessels to make the fishing captain understand the recommendation more clearly; it was highlighted for the important parts like VMS, catch limit, weekly/monthly report and minimum size, etc.

1.3 Capacity Management Plan

There is nearly a 20% increase of BFT catch in 2016 (53.9 t) compared to 2015 (45.09 t). In order to ensure the allocated catch quota is commensurate with the fishing capacity, and finish the catch quota as soon as possible before the bad weather starts for the safety of the crew and fishing vessel, we have increased the BFT fishing vessels from one in 2015 to two in 2016 in order to exhaust the catch quota in a very short period of time.

Capacity management plan

TUNA VESSEL FLEET		Fleet (vessels)									Fishing capacity								
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Purse seiner over 40m	70.70																		
Purse seiner between 24 and 40	49.78																		
Purse seiners less than 24m	33.68																		
Total Purse Seine Fleet																			
Longliner over 40m	25	4	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	100	50	50	50	50	50	25	25	50
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68																		
Longliner less than 24m	5																		
Total Longline Fleet		4	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	100	50	50	50	50	50	25	25	50
Baitboat	19.8																		
Handline	5																		
Trawler	10																		
Trap	130																		
Other (please specify)	5																		
Total fleet/fishing capacity		4	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	100	50	50	50	50	50	25	25	50
Quota											63.55	61.3	38.5	36.77	36.8	38.2	38.2	45.1	53.9
Adjusted quota (if applicable)																			
Allowance for sport/recreational (if applicable)																			
Under/overcapacity											-36.5	11.3	-11.5	-13.2	-13	-12	13.2	20.1	3.9

EGYPT

Allocation of bluefin tuna catch quota

Fishing activities for eastern bluefin tuna will be conducted in compliance with applicable ICCAT Recommendations. In accordance with the ICCAT Rec. 14-04 and according to the bluefin tuna allocation scheme that was adopted in the special meetings of ICAAT (Genoa November 2014, paragraph 5), the quota allocated for Egypt for the 2016 fishing season is 94.67 t, in addition to 20 t and 10 t transferred to Egypt from Chinese Taipei and 25 t transferred from Egypt to Korea, i.e. the total amount of tuna that can be fished in the 2016 fishing season as a total is 99.67 t.

This total amount will be divided for the two authorized fishing vessels. These vessels are *Seven Seas* which is listed on the ICCAT list (No. AT000EG00003) and vessel *Khaled* that listed on the ICCAT list (No. AT000EG00005) according to the following scheme.

Vessel	Allocated Quota (t)
Seven Seas	50
Khaled	49.67

The General Authority for Fish Resources Development (GAFRD) announced the above-mentioned decision to all sector stakeholders in accordance with the General Authority for Fish Resources Development resolutions regarding bluefin tuna.

Potential fishing grounds

The potential fishing ground for the E-BFT fishery will be off the fishing area along the Egyptian territorial and EZZ water, Mediterranean Sea (26-32E).

List of authorized BFT catching vessels

The General Authority for Fish Resources Development of Egypt (GAFRD) issued a special fishing permit to only two bluefin catching vessels for 2016. These vessels shall be equipped and monitored with a vessel monitoring system (VMS).

Licensing

A special fishing permit, which will be issued by the provincial directorates of GAFRD for the eligible purse seiners to conduct the bluefin tuna fishery, is mandatory for bluefin tuna catching vessels to operate in the 2016 season. No towing licenses will be issued, and transshipment operations are not allowed.

Coastal recreational, sport fisheries

No coastal recreational, sport fisheries will be allowed.

Fishing capacity of Egypt

		No. of vessel									*Fishing capacity t*								
Type	*Catch Rate (t)*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*
PS >40m	70.7																		
PS (24-40m)	49.78																		
PS (<24m)	33.7	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	33.7	33.7	67.4	67.4	67.4	67.4
Total PS Vessel		0	0	0	1	1	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	33.7	33.7	67.4	67.4	67.4	67.4
LL >40m	25																		
LL (24-40m)	5.68																		
LL (<24m)	5																		
Total LL Vessel																			
Total fleet					1	1	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	33.7	33.7	67.4	67.4	67.4	67.4
Quota											0	50	33	64.58	64.58	77.08	77.08	79.2	99.67
Undercapacity														30.88	30.88	9.68	9.68	11.8	32.27

Inspections

For the national vessels, full inspection coverage shall be ensured during the 2016 bluefin tuna fishing season by GAFRD's inspectors. The inspection will include all the activities that will be conducted during the fishing season, i.e. fishing, transfer, caging, and landing if any.

According to the national law No. 124/1983, foreign fishing vessels are not allowed to enter any Egyptian fishing port except in cases of emergency.

Regulations for the 2016 bluefin tuna fishing season

Fishing period

The authorized period for fishing is from 26 May to 24 June 2016. Bluefin tuna fishing activities are prohibited during the period from 25 June to 25 May of the next year. Moreover, the closed season for bluefin tuna fisheries will be announced by the Fisheries Agency once the allowed quota is caught even during the authorized fishing period.

Joint Fishing Operations (JFO)

A joint fishing operation will be allowed between these two Egyptian vessels, also joint fishing operations with other CPC vessels will be allowed if a JFO is requested by our fishing companies.

BFT landing/transhipment ports

Bluefin tuna fishing vessels shall only transship/land bluefin tuna catch in the ports designated for that purpose.

The following ports have been designated by the relevant Fisheries Authority for the purpose of landing bluefin tuna:

1. El Meadia fishing port for bluefin tuna landing during the fishing season only.
2. Alexandria commercial port for export and import tuna.

Vessel Monitoring System requirements

The authorized fishing vessels requesting a bluefin fishing and transport permit for 2016 shall be equipped with a full-time operational satellite tracking device (vessel monitoring system, VMS) onboard, as required by GAFRD, on the basis of a transmission every 4 hours.

Recording and reporting

Recording and reporting obligations laid down by relevant ICCAT Recommendations shall be fully implemented.

Towing operations

No towing operations will be allowed for the Egyptian vessels. Live tuna transfer to other CPC towing vessel for the purpose of caging will be authorized. The prior transfer request shall be implemented.

Caging operations

There are no caging operations in the Egyptian waters yet.

Transfer operations

In case of transfer of a live fish caught by the Egyptian authorized purse seiners to a towing cage for farming purposes in other CPCs, sampling programs at time of caging in a JFO with another CPC will be done jointly between Egyptian vessels and the other CPC vessels.

BCD Scheme requirements will be fully implemented, in 2016 the eBCD will be used.

Transshipment

Transshipment at sea is completely prohibited as required in Recommendation 14-04.

Cross check

The relevant information recorded in the logbooks of the fishing vessel, in the transfer documents and in the catch documents shall be verified by GAFRD - using available inspection reports, regional and national observers' reports and VMS data-onboard vessels and at ports. GAFRD shall carry out cross checks on all landings, between the quantities by species recorded in the fishing vessel logbook or quantities by species recorded in the landing declaration, and any other relevant document, such as invoice and/or sales notes. As will document cross checking with the other CPCs be carried out by GAFRD in the case of transfer of live fish for farming purpose in this CPC.

Enforcement

Egypt has issued a number of resolutions, governmental decrees for the conservation of bluefin tuna:

Decree Number (827) for the year 2011

Article (1) the prohibition of bluefin tuna fishing with any fishing craft during the period from 25 June to 25 May as from the next year. This resolution will be amended yearly, if necessary, according to the closed season adopted by ICCAT.

Article (2) the prohibition of the transfer of any bluefin tuna fishing at sea unless for the purposes of farming and development.

Decree Number (828) for the year 2011

Article (1) the prohibition of fishing of bluefin tuna that is less than 30 kilograms.

Article (2) all the fishing operations shall be documented through videos documentaries for all fishing operations and transfer to cages and shall be delivered to observers of fishing operations without any restrictions.

Resolution Number (829) for the year 2011

Article (1) the prohibition of using any ports for landing or exportation of bluefin tuna except in the port of ELMeAdia for bluefin tuna landing and Alexandria commercial port for exportation.

Article (2) prohibition of vessels licensed to fish bluefin tuna to go fishing unless there are observers who are assigned by the GAFRD onboard.

In the case of non compliance with the Egyptian resolutions or any of ICCAT Recommendations by the fishing vessel, the penal code will be applied, and the vessel will not be allowed to work in the bluefin tuna fishing for the next season, and in case of repetition of non compliance, this vessel will be prohibited from bluefin tuna fisheries.

Market measures

Foreign and domestic trade, transport, landing, imports, exports, placing in cages for farming, re-exports and transshipments of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna and its products as well as keeping them onboard without validated documentation from the relevant authority shall be prohibited.

Observer requirements

Two of national observers of fisheries specialists will inspect the fishing operations on board during the fishing operations for monitoring the catch, recording the required data and insuring the compliance of the fishing vessel with the ICCAT Recommendations and GAFRD resolutions. The permanent observers in ports to follow up the landed catch and reviewing the on board observers reports.

Concerning the "ICCAT regional observers" Egypt will send a request to the ICCAT Secretariat to have an Arabic speaker observer for the two authorized vessels (100%).

Use of aircraft

No aircrafts are used.

Minimum size

Provisions regulating minimum size laid down by relevant ICCAT Recommendations shall be strictly implemented.

Sampling requirements

In transfer process during a JFO with another CPC the sampling process at the time of caging will be done jointly between Egyptian vessels and the other CPC vessels.

Owners/operators of the fishing vessels, managers /operators of farming facilities and exporters shall be responsible for the proper implementation of all provisions mentioned above, as well as other applicable rules and recommendations imposed by ICCAT.

Summary: Framework of MCS for bluefin tuna fishery, transfer and trading

Catch

- Individual Quota (IQ) allocation
- BFT catching /two vessel to be registered in ICCAT record
- Legal fishing season
- Joint Fishing Operation (JFO) will be allowed with other CPCs, JFO can be allowed between the two authorized Egyptian vessels
- eBCD scheme requirements
- Logbook requirements
- 100% ICCAT ROP-BFT coverage
- Video footage
- Cross-checks for verifications

Transfer

- Prior transfer notification & authorized
- Video footage
- Cross-checks for verifications
- 100% ICCAT Regional Observer coverage (for all catching vessels)
- 100% National Observer Coverage (for all towing vessels)
- eBCD Scheme requirements
- ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD) requirements

Export

- 100% GAFRD with the Egyptian Veterinary Services organization
- Representatives coverage
- BCD Scheme, eBCD will be used

Inspections

- Full inspection coverage shall be ensured during the 2016 BFT fishing season by GAFRD inspector and regional observer programme

EUROPEAN UNION

FISHING PLAN

Background

The European Union (EU) adopted Council Regulation (EC) No. 302/2009[1] on 6 April 2009 transposing into Community Law the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean* [Rec. 08-05]. Following ICCAT Recommendation 10-04 amending ICCAT Recommendation 08-05 adopted at the 2010 ICCAT Annual meeting in Paris, the EU has amended Council Regulation (EC) 302/2009 transposing ICCAT Recommendation 10-04 into EU law. In 2014, the EU transposed the amendments of the recovery plan which took place under ICCAT Recommendation 13-07. These additional measures were transposed into EU Regulation 544/2014. Finally, the EU is currently finalising the transposition of ICCAT Recommendation 14-04 into EU law.

As in 2015, the EU will follow the Recommendation [14-04] in 2016. In addition, the EU is also committed to implement Recommendation [15-10], before its date of entry into force, and following confirmation by the eBCD TWG that the eBCD system is ready for implementation.

In accordance with the current Total Allowable Catch (TAC) provided under Recommendation [14-04], the quota for the EU in 2016 is 11203.54 t.

Details

- In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation [14-04] the EU is drawing up an annual fishing plan identifying catching vessels over 24 metres and their associated individual quotas. The allocation of individual quotas is still currently being finalised by EU Member States authorities.

- All purse seine vessels over 24 metres will be allocated an individual vessel quota superior to the SRCS catch rates as adopted by the Commission for estimating fleet capacity.

In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation [14-04] the EU has allocated quotas to the following sectors:

Purse seiners	[6390.2 t]
Longliners	[1035.6 t]
Bait boats and trolling boats and line vessels	[1683.13 t]
Atlantic trawlers	[274 t]
Traps	[1468.7 t]
By-catches, sport and recreational, reserve	[340 t]

- The EU will authorise 'catching vessels' and 'other vessels' in accordance with paragraph 52 of ICCAT Recommendation [14-04],

- The EU submitted a complementary inspection plan covering all bluefin tuna fisheries capable of addressing the control requirements of the fishery.

The EU undertakes a real-time monitoring of the bluefin tuna fishery and is committed to take the necessary measures to ensure full respect of ICCAT Recommendation [14-04] and other Recommendations concerning the management of E-BFT fisheries including Recommendation [06-07], [11-20] and [15-10].

[1] OJ L 96,15.04.2009, p.1

The EU will submit the lists of authorised vessels that will participate in the fishery in 2016 in accordance with the reporting deadlines laid down under paragraph 52 of Recommendation [14-04].

In accordance with the provisions of Recommendation 14-04, starting in 2016 EU-Portugal will operate a bluefin tuna farm with a capacity of 500 t. The EU will provide a revised farm management plan to the ICCAT Secretariat before 1 May 2016.

INSPECTION PLAN

1. Introduction

The European Union actively fishes eastern bluefin tuna (E-BFT) with a range of fishing gears with the majority of the quotas being attributed to the purse seine and trap sectors.

The EU contains 8 Member States which actively fish bluefin tuna across a number of sectors. The authorities for control and inspection fall on different actors across Member States and in many cases involve a combination of various competent authorities.

ICCAT introduced a comprehensive set of conservation and management measures for E-BFT under the 2006 multi-annual recovery plan. Amendments in 2008, 2010 and more recently in 2012 and 2014 have significantly reinforced the recovery plan which operates in parallel with an extensive catch documentation programme introduced in 2007 and subsequently amended in 2009 and 2011. The full implementation of the new electronic BCD programme (eBCD) throughout 2016 will further strengthen this suite of management and conservation measures.

The European Commission coordinates with the Member States to ensure that the provisions laid down by ICCAT are reflected in EU and Member State law and fully enforced.

2. Overview of inspection measures adopted in 2016 by the EU

Specific Control and Inspection Programme

Working under the framework of the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection and building on experiences from recent years, the EU has currently in place a Specific Control and Inspection Programme (SCIP) covering the period 16 March 2014 to 15 March 2018 to monitor and enforce the implementation of the bluefin tuna recovery plan. This programme is a joint initiative bringing together the resources of the European Commission, the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) and the Member States involved in the fishery.

Joint Deployment Plan (JDP) for Bluefin tuna

The resources of the European Commission are complemented by the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) who will adopt their 2016 Joint Deployment Plan for bluefin tuna (JDP-BFT) in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bringing the Specific Control and Inspection Programme into effect. It covers all stages of the market chain as well as controls at sea, on land and traps and farms.

Operationally the EU will coordinate joint inspection and control activities in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean involving a number of fishery patrol vessels and aircraft. Whilst the operational strategies and precise areas of operation remain confidential, the general areas covered by the 2016 JDP-BFT will be the Eastern Atlantic (ICES Areas VII, VIII, IX X and COPACE 34.1.1, 34.1.2 and 34.2.0) and the Mediterranean (Western, Central and Eastern). These patrols particularly focus on, but are not restricted to, the fishing seasons for Purse Seiners. In 2016, the EU will conduct around 243 days of Sea patrols and additional 45 days of air surveillance in the context of the joint deployment plan.

The Steering Group, composed by representatives of the EFCA, the European Commission and the European Member States, provides advice on the overall strategy of inspection activities and supervises the JDP implementation.

The joint control, inspection and surveillance activities carried out under the JDP are coordinated by the Technical Joint Deployment Group (TJDG) whose headquarters are based in the EFCA in Vigo, Spain. The TJDG is composed of national coordinators designated by the Member States and supported by the EFCA's own coordinators.

All cases of potential non-compliance will be forwarded to the flag state of the vessel / operator concerned and to the ICCAT Secretariat where required under Recommendation [14-04].

In order to enhance the monitoring and control strategy used in the JDP the EFCA is also cooperating with other EU agencies including EMSA (European Maritime Safety Agency) through the Marsurv-3 project. Marsurv-3 is an application that provides an integrated maritime picture based on the real-time fusion of VMS, AIS and other maritime related data, such as sightings. It is proving to be a useful tool that greatly contributes to the operational risk assessment.

Control of caging operations

The EU has been at the forefront of focusing towards controls of the caging stage and using modern technologies to implement these controls in an effective way. The specific measures recently adopted, including Annex 9 of Rec. 14-04, are to a large extent a reflection of the experience of EU control authorities in implementing the stereoscopical program in EU farms. In 2016, 100% of caging operations will be controlled using stereoscopical cameras.

Member States National Control Action Programmes

Under the Specific Control and Inspection Programme, EU Member States have each developed and submitted a National Control Action Program for 2016. These are extensive programmes containing the resources and inspection strategy they intend to implement within their jurisdiction. These programmes, as required under the Specific Control and Inspection Programme (Commission Decision No.17172014), include a series of inspection 'benchmarks', which include in particular:

a) the full monitoring of caging operations taking place in EU waters;

b) the full monitoring of transfer operations;

c) the full monitoring of joint fishing operations;

d) the control of all documents required by the legislation applicable to bluefin tuna, in particular verifying the reliability of the information recorded.

These Specific Control and Inspection Programmes and are in full accordance with the conservation and management measures adopted in Recommendation [14-04].

European Commission inspections

Under the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), the primary responsibility for control and enforcement lays with the Member State Authorities and specifically their fisheries inspectors. Whilst different in their powers and mandate, the European Commission also has its own permanent team of inspectors whose role is to monitor and evaluate Member States fulfillment of their duties and obligations, including those under the bluefin tuna recovery plan and associated ICCAT recommendations concerning bluefin tuna.

Although the inspection plan is still subject to change in response to the particularities of the 2016 fishing seasons, European Commission Inspectors will once again be very active in 2016.

Vessel monitoring system and Operations team

The team responsible within the European Commission for catch reporting and satellite Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) will monitor submissions on an hourly basis and undertake extensive cross-checks to avoid any potential quota overshoot.

All vessels will be continually monitored by VMS and any interruption in the transmission of VMS data will be immediately followed up with the Member State concerned.

3. Cooperation with other CPCs

As in previous years, in 2016 the EU will once again seek to establish and further promote cooperation and coordination with other Contracting Parties (CPCs) in the Mediterranean concerning the exchange of monitoring, control and surveillance methods and information.

CAPACITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

TUNA VESSEL FLEET		Fleet (vessels)									Fishing capacity (t)								
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Purse seiner over 40m	70.70	38	35	23	20	20	20	18	18	21	2685.00	2473.10	1625.18	1413.20	1413.20	1413.20	1272.00	1272.00	1484.70
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78	91	44	28	18	18	18	25	26	24	4530.00	2190.32	1393.84	896.04	896.04	896.04	1245.00	1294.00	1194.72
Purse seiners less than 24m	33.68	112	8	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	3772.00	269.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	67.00	34.00	67.36
Total Purse Seine Fleet		241	87	51	38	38	38	45	45	47	10987.00	4932.86	3019.02	2309.24	2309.24	2309.24	2584.00	2600.00	2746.78
Longliner over 40m	25									0									0.00
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68	7	13	15	10	8	6	6	5	5	40.00	73.84	85.20	56.80	45.44	34.08	34.00	28.00	28.40
Longliner less than 24m	5	329	194	191	168	90	89	104	136	142	1645.00	970.00	955.00	840.00	450.00	445.00	520.00	680.00	710.00
Total Longline Fleet		336	207	206	178	98	95	110	141	147	1685.00	1043.84	1040.20	896.80	495.44	479.08	554.00	708.00	738.40
Baitboat	19.8	68	69	69	68	68	68	22	23	75	1343.00	1362.75	1362.75	1343.00	1343.00	1343.00	435.00	454.00	1485.00
Handline	5	101	38	31	31	31	31	101	42	40	505.00	190.00	155.00	155.00	155.00	155.00	505.00	210.00	200.00
Trawler	10	160	72	78	60	60	57	57	57	51	1600.00	720.00	780.00	600.00	600.00	570.00	570.00	570.00	510.00
Trap	130	15	15	13	13	12	14	12	14	14	1950.00	1950.00	1690.00	1690.00	1560.00	1820.00	1560.00	1820.00	1820.00
Other	5	253	382	376	222	154	135	253	398	317	1265.00	1910.00	1880.00	1110.00	770.00	675.00	1265.00	1990.00	1585.00
Total fleet/fishing capacity		1174	870	824	610	461	438	600	720	691	19335.00	12109.45	9926.97	8104.04	7232.68	7351.32	7473.00	8352.00	9085.18
Quota		17044	16523	7981	7642	7642	7939	7939	9373	11204	17043.76	16523.10	7981.37	7642.40	7642.40	7938.63	7938.63	9372.92	11203.54
Adjusted quota (if applicable)		16211	12548	7481	6132	6132	7939	7939	9373	11204	16210.75	12547.62	7481.37	6132.41	6132.41	7938.63	7938.63	9372.92	11203.54
Undercapacity (t)											-3124.25	438.17	-2445.60	-1971.63	-1100.27	587.31	465.63	1020.92	2118.36

ICELAND

1 Fishing Plan

There is no designated bluefin tuna fishing fleet in Iceland. In 2016 the Icelandic fisheries authorities will issue a fishing licence for directed bluefin tuna to one Icelandic longline fishing vessel. The vessel cannot be regarded as a designated tuna vessel, as it has a quota for other fish species in Icelandic waters and only engages in bluefin tuna fisheries for a few weeks every year.

In 2016 the Icelandic bluefin tuna quota will be allocated as follows:

- One long line vessel will be allocated 38 tonnes of blue fin tuna.
- 5.71 tonnes of bluefin tuna will be reserved for incidental bycatches by the Icelandic fishing fleet.

The longliner will be allocated an individual, non-transferable quota.

2 Inspection Plan

All catches shall be landed in Icelandic designated ports, with an observer from the Directorate of Fisheries present. No transhipments are allowed. Inspectors from the Directorate of Fisheries in Iceland shall be present on board for at least 20% of the fishing operations. The vessel needs written permission from the Directorate before leaving port without an inspector.

The Marine Research Institute in Iceland will advise the Directorate on the relevant training and sampling methods for the inspectors to collect biological data. Biological data will also be collected at landing by the Directorate and MRI.

The longline fishing season starts on 1 August and ends on 31 December 2016. The fishing area is south of Iceland. The vessel is required to have a general fishing licence and sufficient quota for other species within the Icelandic EEZ to allow for incidental bycatches of other species. When the vessel intends to utilize the bluefin tuna quota it shall notify the Directorate of Fisheries in Iceland and thereby undergo the management regime of ICCAT. As soon as the individual quota is fished the bluefin tuna fishing licence expires. The Icelandic authorities will close the fisheries when the quota is reached or the vessel notifies of an end to fishing operations in 2016.

All Icelandic vessels are equipped with a VMS system and required to transmit on an hourly basis, VMS notifications by the longline vessel will be transmitted to ICCAT every 4 hours.

In 2015 the Directorate of Fisheries in Iceland implemented the eBCD system and intends to issue all certificates 2016 electronically.

All landings of bluefin tuna will be monitored by an inspector from the Directorate. All Icelandic catches are weighed at landing and registered into the Directorate's online database.

Discards of commercial species are banned by the Icelandic fleet and all commercial catches must be landed. All catches of commercial and non-commercial species must be registered in logbooks. The longliner will be equipped with an electronic logbook. The Marine Research Institute compiles data from logbooks.

Bycatches of shark-species by the tuna longliner have been submitted in Task I and Task II data to ICCAT.

The provisions of Recommendation 15-06 on Porbeagle caught in association with ICCAT Fisheries will be incorporated into the bluefin tuna regulation 2016 by the Icelandic authorities. This will require that porbeagle shark caught as bycatch in ICCAT fisheries shall be released alive, if practicable; all catches shall be recorded in logbooks.

Should the bluefin tuna longline vessel catch other shark species that are under special provisions by ICCAT, stipulating that retaining, storing, landing and selling are prohibited, these catches must be submitted to the Icelandic Marine Research Institute for scientific research, as discards are banned. The Marine Research Institute will then report relevant information to the ICCAT Scientific Committee.

In 2016 5.71 t of BFT quota will be reserved to account for incidental bycatches by the Icelandic fleet.

No recreational or any other directed fisheries for EA-BFT will be allowed in 2016.

JAPAN

1 Fishing Plan

a) Fishing vessel type

All Japanese fishing vessels catching bluefin tuna (BFT) in the Eastern Atlantic are large scale tuna longline fishing vessels (LSTLVs).

b) Management period

The Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) will continue to manage its allocation based on the Japanese fishing season, which is, in the case of the 2016 allocated quota, from 1 August 2016 to 31 July 2017.

c) Quota

Japan's quota for the 2016 fishing season is 1583.21 t (after transferring 25 t to Korea). The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, having been entrusted competence by the Fisheries Law, has amended the Ministerial Ordinance to introduce a legally binding individual quota system for 2016.

d) Number of authorized fishing vessels

The Minister will license LSTLVs to catch BFT for 2016 fishing year as soon as those vessels are selected. The FAJ will, upon Minister's licensing, inform the vessel names, quantities of individual quotas and other necessary information to the ICCAT Secretariat at the latest 15 days before the Japanese fishing season begins (paragraph 52 of Rec. 14-04).

e) Catch report

The Minister will continue to require fishing operators to report a daily BFT catch (including zero catch report) by the end of following day in accordance with the Ordinance. Such report has to contain relevant information/data including the date, time, location (latitude and longitude), the number of catch, the type of product, individual BFT weights and tag numbers (paragraph 66 of Rec. 14-04). The FAJ has developed a database in order to monitor up-to-date status of catch against individual quota for each vessel based on their daily reports.

f) Tagging program

The Minister will also continue to require fishing operators to affix a valid plastic tag to each BFT brought on board a fishing vessel. The tag must be identifiable by the particular fishing year, the vessel's call sign, and a serial number in the order of catch throughout the fishing season.

g) Transshipment

The Minister will continue to prohibit transshipment of BFT at sea. The Ordinance allows transshipment to take place only at ports registered to ICCAT with prior authorization (paragraph 58 of Rec. 14-04).

h) Port landing

The Minister will continue to prohibit overseas landing of BFT, and allow landing only in eight domestic ports which the Minister has designated by the Ordinance for enforcement purpose. At the eight ports, landing of BFT will be inspected 100% by government official inspectors who will check the actual total weight and individual tags, count the number of BFT and compare them with the previously reported data including daily reports.

i) Closed fishing season

The Minister will continue to prohibit the operators from BFT fishing in the area delimited by West of 10°W and North of 42°N during the period from 1 February to 31 July, and in other areas during the period from 1 June to 31 December by the Ordinance (paragraph 18 of Rec. 14-04). The FAJ will continue to ensure the compliance of these closed seasons by monitoring VMS data (paragraph 87 of Rec. 14-04).

j) Observers

The FAJ will ensure the observers coverage onboard at 20% or more of its LSTLVs which are allocated BFT quotas (paragraph 88 of Rec. 14-04).

2 Inspection Plan

a) National inspection

The FAJ, as the authorized government agency, will dispatch one inspection vessel to the Atlantic Ocean in 2016 (paragraph 99 of Rec. 14-04). The FAJ will also continue to have its enforcement officers inspect all BFT landings at the designated ports (paragraph 63 of Rec. 14-04). In the case that violation is discovered, the Minister will impose a penalty on the fishing operator, which could include both port confinement and five years' suspension to allocate BFT individual quota.

b) Scheme of Joint International Inspection

Japan, as a CPC having more than 15 BFT fishing vessels, will have its own inspection vessel in the Convention area when its BFT fishing vessels are operating in the Convention area.

3 Fishing Capacity Plan

The Minister will allocate to each LSTLV an individual quota more than the recommended catch amount (i.e. 25 t per one LSTLV over 40m) estimated by SCRS. Thus, Japan, having accomplished the obligation on capacity adjustment provided in Rec. 14-04, will ensure that its fishing capacity be commensurate with its allocated quota.

4 eBCD

All of Japanese fishing vessels catching BFT have already started to use the eBCD system in the 2015 fishing season, and will continue to use it in 2016.

TUNA VESSEL FLEET		Fleet (number of fishing vessels)									Fishing capacity (calculated by multiplying the number of fishing vessels by catch rate defined by the SCRS)								
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Purse seiner over 40m	70.70																		
Purse seiner between 24 and 40	49.78																		
Purse seiners less than 24m	33.68																		
Total Purse Seine Fleet																			
Longliner over 40m	25	49	33	22	22	20	22	22	28		1,225	825	550	550	500	550	550	700	
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68																		
Longliner less than 24m	5																		
Total Longline Fleet		49	33	22	22	20	22	22	28		1,225	825	550	550	500	550	550	700	
Baitboat	19.8																		
Handline	5																		
Trawler	10																		
Trap	130																		
Other (please specify)	5																		
Total fleet/fishing capacity		49	33	22	22	20	22	22	28		1,225	825	550	550	500	550	550	700	
Quota											2430.54	1871.44	1148.05	1097.03	1097.03	1139.55	1139.55	1345.44	1608.21
Adjusted quota (if applicable)											2430.54	1871.44	1148.05	1097.03	1097.03	1139.55	1139.55	1390.44	1583.21
Allowance for sport/recreational (if applicable)																			
Under/overcapacity											1,206	1,046	598	547	597	590	590	690	

KOREA

Allocation of bluefin tuna quota

At the 19th Special Meeting of ICCAT (Genova, November 2014) it was decided to allocate 113.66t of bluefin tuna quota to the Republic of Korea for 2016. However, in accordance with the paragraph 5*bis* of the Recommendation 14-04, Korea transferred 50 t of its quota to Egypt in 2015, and Egypt transfers 25t and 25t of its quotas to Korea in 2016 and 2017 respectively. Likewise, Korea transferred 45 t of its quota to Japan in 2015, and Japan transfers 25t and 20t of its quotas to Korea in 2016 and 2017 respectively. Taking into account of abovementioned transfer, Korea has 163.66t of quota for 2016. Please refer to the following Korea's BFT quota in 2015, 2016 and 2017.

Year	2015	2016	2017
Original quota	95.08 t	113.66 t	136.46 t
Adjusted quota	0 t	163.66 t (113.66 + 50)	181.46 t (136.46 + 45)

Number of Authorized Fishing Vessels and Fishing Season

The authorized fishing vessels catching BFT in the Eastern Atlantic will be tentatively two to four large-scale tuna longline vessels (LSTLV). The fishing season is scheduled to be from 1 October 30 November 2016. The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF) will authorize longliners to catch BFT for 2016 fishing year with individual quotas as soon as those vessels are selected. MOF will inform the ICCAT Secretariat of the name of vessels, the amount of individual quotas and other necessary information at the latest 15 days before the beginning of the fishing season.

Communication and Reporting of Catches

Authorized fishing vessels are required to report their daily catch (including zero catch report) to MOF by the end of the next day of their catch. Such report has to contain relevant information/data including the date, time, location (latitude and longitude), number of catch, individual bluefin tuna weight and etc. Korea will submit weekly and monthly catch reports to the Secretariat. MOF monitors up-to-date status of catch against individual quota on a vessel-by-vessel basis based on their daily reports.

VMS, Transshipment, Observer and Tagging Program

Vessels shall be equipped with a full-time operational VMS onboard, and shall be tracked and reported to the Secretariat in accordance with the requirements set out in Rec.14-04 as well as Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC) of the Republic of Korea in real time. BFT fishing vessels shall only transship bluefin tuna catches in ICCAT-registered ports with the prior authorization. MOF will deploy 100% observer coverage for Korean-flagged vessels to which BFT quotas will be allocated during their fishing season. BFT catching vessels will affix a valid plastic tag to each BFT brought on board.

By-catch Management

With regard to by-catch management, Korean fishing vessels should release bluefin tuna caught as by-catch. Any Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (BCD) made by the Korean fishing vessels should not be validated by the Korean authority. The amount of by-catch discarded indicating alive or dead status should be reported to the authority immediately, and these data will be reported to ICCAT. At the same time, all by-catch will be deducted from the quota of Korea.

Inspection Plan

Korea has no scheme of Joint International Inspection plan.

eBCD

Korea has been preparing to use the eBCD system and will implement it from the beginning of the 2016 fishing season on a mandatory basis.

Fishing Capacity Management Plan

Taking into account the catch rate by the SCRS and allocated quota in 2016, Korea may be authorized with six longline vessels (over 40m) which are commensurate with its fishing capacity. However, Korea will limit the number of authorized BFT fishing vessels to four or less this year.

Tuna Vessel Fleet		*Fleet (No. of fishing vessels)*	*Fishing capacity*
Type	Catch rate by the SCRS	Year of 2016	Year of 2016
Longliner over 40m	25	4 (maximum)	100.00
Quota(t)	-	-	113.66
Adjusted quota (t)	-	-	163.66
Over/under capacity(t)	-	-	-63.66

LIBYA

Libya's legislation, management and control measures are in line with ICCAT Rec. 14-04 amending ICCAT Rec. 13.07 adopted at the 2014 ICCAT Annual meeting in Genoa.

Although facing several difficulties because of the present political situation in the country the operators from both the West and East side of the country adhered to parameters laid out by ICCAT recommendations as transposed into the local legislation and the tuna season for 2015 was conducted with success and it is the intention of this Authority to ensure that the 2016 season will bear the same positive results.

Fishing fleet

The number of fishing vessels which will participate in catching E- BFT for the 2016 season in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea are 14 catching vessels (14 purse seiners (PS), 20-40 m and no longliner (LL)), no vessels less than 20m, no traps and no sport/recreational fishing will participate in 2016 fishing season.

The total number of other vessels that will participate in the 2016 BFT fishing season is a maximum of 8 (eight) vessels with no fishing gear on board, to provide services of towing cages or services supplies.

The total allocated quota assigned to Libya for 2016 in Rec. 14-04 para 5 amounts to 1323.28 t plus 50 t carry over and the individual quota for Libyan vessels authorized to participate in season 2016 will be as follows:

14 purse seiners over 20 m, authorized to fish for BFT in 2016, have been allocated an individual vessel quota taking into consideration SCRS best catch rate, where 1320 t plus 50 t carry over will be allocated between 14 PS (20 – 40m) with 3.28 t to be kept as a reserve for any incidental or by-catch that might occur in the artisanal fleet. The list of authorized vessels and their individual quota is indicated in **Table 1**, and any changes to this allocation or to the vessels list will be transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat immediately and in accordance with recommendations adopted by ICCAT.

The authorized vessels are expected to carry out fishing activities during the 2016 season in working groups and the details of these groups and their relative allocation key will be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat within the required time frame.

Respecting individual quota limit shall be monitored by fishery authorities and cross checked with the ROPs assigned to the catching fishing vessels.

When a vessel fishing on its own is deemed to have caught its individual quota it shall be ordered back to port immediately.

As also when a JFO is deemed to have exhausted its aggregated quota the member vessels of that JFO shall be ordered back to port

Joint Fishing Operations

No other CPC has so far presented a request for JFO operation with any of the Libyan vessels.

Fishing season

In line with ICCAT Rec. 14-04 the fishing season for purse seiners shall start on 26 May 2016 and end on 24 June 2016.

Farming (caging activities)

Libya will have no farming activity in 2016.

Enforcement of Fishing Plan

Regulations

- Ministerial Decree (Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Marine Wealth) # 205/2013 amending Decree No. 61/2010, transposing Recommendation 13-07 which was amended by Rec. 14-04 to establish a Multiannual Recovery Plan for BFT in the Eastern Atlantic.

- Law # 14/1989 which organizes the Fishery and Aquaculture in Libya.

- Other Acts organize and manage BFT licenses.

Licensing

Individual fishing permits shall be issued by this Authority based upon Decree 205/2013 (Articles 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) for each vessel authorized to fish BFT in 2016 specifying the conditions as laid out in Rec. 14-04.

- Area of fishing (East Atlantic and Med Sea, Article 3/Decree #205/2013).

- Individual Quota Acc. (Art. 11/Decree #205/2013).

- Log Book on board Acc. (Art. 28/Decree #205/2013).

Vessels Monitoring System (VMS)

Following ICCAT Rec. 14-04 (para 87) and by Decree #205/2013/Art. 18), all fishing vessels and other vessels active in BFT fishing shall not be authorized unless equipped with a full active VMS which shall send vessel position every four hours.

This authority will regularly monitor the status of VMS transmission and any interruption of transmission will be followed up immediately to investigate and solve the problem. A vessel with defective VMS transmission will be requested to withdraw from fishing activity.

Observers

ICCAT regional observers (ROPs) shall be placed on board all PS authorized to fish BFT in 2016 (Art. 14/Decree, #205/2013).

All authorized PS vessels shall have full deployment (100%) of ROP observers; all tugs / towing vessels shall have a national observer onboard.

Reporting of catch

The catching vessel Master shall communicate by electronic or other means to the competent authorities on a daily and weekly basis by way of catch reports, with information on location of catch, date, number of fish, total weight, (Art. 20/Decree#205/2013).

Daily ,weekly and monthly catch reports (including zero catch report) of all authorized Libyan vessels active in catching BFT shall be transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat in accordance with the format set for this purpose.

Transfer

The catch vessel Master shall request from the competent authorities an authorization to transfer BFT catch by email or fax, specifying, date, area and position of catch, number of fish and estimated weight and expected date, time of transfer, towing vessel information, number of cages and their final destination conformed and signed by Regional Observer and National Observer.

A Numbered Transfer Authorization shall be sent to the catching vessels after checking that all requirements under Para. 72, 73, 74, 75, 76 and 77 of Rec. 14-04 are met.

In case there are indications of differences in estimated weight of fish including the number that died during the transfer operation between ROP onboard the catching vessel and vessel Master of more than 10%, or 5% in the case of the number of fish less than 30 kg an investigation will take place according to the procedure stated in Para 81 of Recommendation 14-04.

All BFT transfers to tugs shall be documented by video camera and a copy shall be on board of the tug boat and another copy shall be handed to ROP and the vessel Master (Art. 24/Decree#205/2013).

The vessel Master shall complete the transfer declaration and BCD forms and transmit these forms to the fishery authority after confirming the data from ROP (Art. 25/Decree#205/2013).

The Master of the tug boat shall not leave the transfer site before he has received the original documents which prove the legality of the catch (Transfer Declarations, BCDs and Catch vessels logbook (Art. 23/Decree#205/2013).

The Master of the fishing vessel or his representative shall inform the flag State competent authorities of the name, location and flag State of the farm to which the fish is marketed (Art. 21/Decree#205/2013).

The Master of the catching vessel shall keep on board a logbook of their operation and all vessel activities information must be completed by midnight every day and shall declare the number and weight of dead fish retained on board and to be landed in ports (Art. 25/Decree #205/2013).

Sampling requirements

All catch transfers will be documented by video footage.

At the time of transfer of live fish to towing cages, certain percentages of fish transferred could be randomly sampled and killed.

Libya shall require all operators of PS to transfer their catches only to farming units that can guarantee the utilization of stereoscopic systems for assessments of live fish on arrival of towing cages to their farms.

eBCD

Libyan authority personnel are always facing difficulty in obtaining visas to attend training sessions in this regard. This Authority is committed to implement the eBCD system in 2016.

Landing /transshipments ports

Transshipment at sea is prohibited.

BFT Fishing vessels shall only land/transship BFT catches in ports designated by the Fishery Authorities (Al-khums , Tripoli , Misurata and Tobruk) ports.

All vessels entering any of these ports for landing or transshipping shall seek a pre-entry permission from the port authorities (Art. 22/Decree#205/2013).

All landings or transshipments shall be inspected by Port and Fishery Authorities and inform the fishing vessel flag State with a report (as stated in Para. 71 of Rec. 14-04).

Use of aircraft

Use of airplanes or helicopters to search for BFT is prohibited (Art. 10/Decree#205/2013).

Minimum size

Catching, retaining, landing, transshipping, transferring, selling, displaying for sale BFT weighing less than 30 kg is prohibited (Art. 15/Decree 205/2013).

Catching vessels fishing actively for BFT, an incidental catch of max. 5% weighing between 10-30 kg is permitted and shall be counted in the Libyan quota.

Market measures

Foreign and domestic trade, landing, imports, exports, placing in cages and transshipments of BFT and its products which are not accompanied by an accurate, complete and validated BCD is prohibited (Art. 21 & 24/Decree 205/2013).

Imposing of sanctions

Any non compliance with the regulations regarding BFT fishing operations shall lead to penalties stated in Decree 205/2013/Art. 17 (confiscation of fishing gear, releasing catches, suspending or withdrawal of license, decrease or withdrawal of quota).

Fishery Inspection Plan

Controlling and monitoring of fisheries activities in Libya are governed by the Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, #14/1989, Decree #205/2013, transposing Rec. 14-04/para 97/Annex 7 and by The Coast Guard and Port Security Act #229/2005 which constitute the core legal documents which define activities and actions which are to be infringements of fishery policy.

Human resources

Fishing inspection will be implemented by fishing inspectors from the Fisheries Authority and Coast Guard personals and in coordination with the Port Authority.

The Coast Guard shall cooperate in surveillance and control at sea of all activities linked with fisheries inspection planned and coordinated with consent of the Fishery Authority.

Central Control Room will be established during the 2016 BFT fishing season to supervise the monitoring of fishing activities.

Specific fisheries inspection tasks shall be planned including a list of relevant provisions of national and international regulations covering management of fishery resources which also contain a description of inspector tasks as per Rec. 14-04.

Capacity Management Plan

Libya reduced its fishing capacity in accordance with ICCAT measures requirements till its fishing capacity is commensurate with its allocated quota (**Table 2**). Considering Rec. 14-04 – Article 5 here the new TACs are set as 16142 t for 2015, 19296 t for 2016 and 23155 t for 2017. Allocation for Libya is 1323.28 t, and 1588.77 t in seasons 2016 and 2017 respectively. In addition Libya will carry over 50 t of its 2011 unused quota in each year up to 2017. Hence the total allocated quota for Libya in 2016 is 1373.28 t.

Moreover the capacity plan shows a planned reduction of fishing capacity in 2016 by 249% comparing to 2008 fishing capacity.

Table 1. Catching vessel actually engaged in BFT fishing 201**6** season.

NO.	*VESSEL NAME*	*ICCAT NO.*	*VESSEL TYPE*	*INDIVIDUAL QUOTA*
1	DEELA	AT000LBY00024	PS, 24-40m	98.091 t
2	OZU II	AT000LBY00009	PS, 24-40m	98.091 t
3	CYRENE	AT000LBY00010	PS, 24-40m	98.091 t
4	TRIPOLITANIA	AT000LBY00013	PS, 24-40m	98.091 t
5	MORINA	AT000LBY00028	PS, 24-40m	98.091 t
6	ELHADER 2	AT000LBY00037	PS, 24-40m	98.091 t
7	ALMAHARI I	AT000LBY00046	PS, 24-40m	98.091 t
8	ALSSAFA IV	AT000LBY00060	PS, 24-40m	98.091 t
9	AL HARES 2	AT000LBY00074	PS, 24-40m	98.091 t
10	TELEL	AT000LBY00076	PS, 24-40m	98.091 t
11	ALBAHR ELHADER	AT000LBY00077	PS, 24-40m	98.091 t
12	Tayma	AT000LBY00083	PS, 20-40m	98.091 t
13	KHANDEEL II	AT000LBY00038	PS, 24-40m	98.091 t
14	HANIBAL	AT000LBY00047	PS, 24-40m	98.091 t
TOTAL				**1373.274**

Table 2. Fishing Capacity Management Plan for Libya – 2016.

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TUNA VESSEL FLEET		Fleet (vessels)									Fishing capacity								
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Purse seiner over 40m	71	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	71	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PS(24-40)m	49.78	31	30	29	21	18	17	17	14	14	1543	1493	1444	1045	896	846	846	697	697
PS < 24m	33.68	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	34	34	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total PS fleet		**33**	**31**	**30**	**21**	**18**	**17**	**17**	**14**	**14**	**1577**	**1527**	**1478**	**1045**	**896**	**846**	**846**	**697**	**697**
Longliner **>**40m	25	5	4	2	2	2	1	1	0	0	125	100	50	50	50	25	25	0	0
LL(24-40)m	5.68		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner **<**24m		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total LL fleet		**5**	**4**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**125**	**100**	**50**	**50**	**50**	**25**	**25**	**0**	**0**
Total fleet capacity		**38**	**35**	**32**	**23**	**20**	**18**	**18**	**14**	**14**	**1702**	**1627**	**1528**	**1095**	**946**	**871**	**871**	**697**	**697**
Quota											1237	947	581	903	903	938	938	1107	1323
Adjusted quota											1237	1092	726	903*	903	938	938	1157	1373
Sport/recreation											0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Under/over capacity											465	535	947	192	43	-67	-67	-460	-676

Reduction

* Libya did not use its quota of 2011.

MOROCCO

Introduction

In accordance with the provisions in force on the recovery of the bluefin tuna fishery in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, in particular Recommendation 14-04 amending Recommendation 13-07, the objective of this document is to submit to the Commission for its consideration the Kingdom of Morocco's bluefin tuna fishing, inspection and capacity management plans for the 2016 season.

In general terms, these plans are identical to the plans submitted and adopted by the Commission for the 2015 fishing campaign.

1 Quota allocation plan/operational sectors

In accordance with the fishing allocations adopted by ICCAT at its annual meeting held in Genoa in November 2014, the national quota for 2016 which is fixed at 1792.98 t will be distributed among the following operational sectors: a) traps, b) artisanal vessels and costal vessels fishing bluefin tuna as by-catch and c) two offshore purse seiners.

The Administration will establish the relevant quota levels for each of the sectors, in accordance with ICCAT provisions on individual quotas and these will be notified by the strict deadlines set by the Commission.

2 Fishing conditions

The fishing conditions will be established within the framework of the annual bluefin tuna fishery management plan updated to take account of the new provisions of the East bluefin tuna recovery plan adopted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

The Kingdom of Morocco undertakes to comply with all the provisions of Recommendation 14-04 amending Recommendation 13-07 during the 2016 fishing campaign, which will start in April for the trap sector.

3 Fishing capacity

In accordance with the provisions of the national fishing capacity management plan, as established in Article 46 of ICCAT Recommendation 08-05, the maximum fishing capacity authorized to directly target bluefin tuna is distributed as follows:

- 12 traps
- 2 purse seine vessels LOA > 40 m

Coastal fishing vessels and artisanal fishing vessels authorized by the Moroccan Administration catch bluefin tuna as by-catch during their migration period and as in the past, their catches will be counted against the limit of the quota allocated to their segment.

Therefore, the national management/reduction of fishing capacity plan for the 2016 fishing season is as follows: (See **Table 1** Capacity management plan.)

4 Fishing periods and areas where fishing is prohibited

In accordance with the provisions of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the fishing periods authorized by the Commission for the different gear will be applied.

Bluefin tuna fishing is authorised in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean by large pelagic longliners over 24 m during the period from 1 January to 31 May, with the exception of the area delimited by West of 10º West and North of 42º N, where this fishing shall be authorised from 1 August to 31 January.

Purse seine bluefin tuna fishing is authorised in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean during the period from 26 May to 24 June.

Baitboat and handline bluefin tuna fishing is authorised in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean during the period from 1 July to 31 October.

5 Stereoscopical cameras

For the vessels and traps targeting live bluefin tuna destined for farming facilities, stereoscopical camera systems will continue to be used for this fishing season, in accordance with the conditions stipulated in ICCAT Recommendation 14-04.

6 Implementation of the eBCD system in 2016

At national level, the operability of the eBCD electronic certification system will depend on the integrated development required of the application program, on its stabilisation and the command of its effective implementation by all parties concerned.

The Kingdom of Morocco which has taken all appropriate measures to use this system can only operate it if the required technical conditions of development and functioning are fulfilled and if the importing CPCs with which the Kingdom of Morocco engages in trade transactions are ready to use the eBCD system.

As a reminder, the Kingdom of Morocco has made all the arrangements to implement the electronic bluefin tuna catch documentation/eBCD program for the 2015 fishing season, but it encountered technical problems when the first eBCD was being issued, due to an absence from the system of certain data for which the Kingdom of Morocco is not responsible. Therefore, resource had to be had to paper-based BCDs so as not to disadvantage national operators.

7 Control and compliance

Fishery monitoring, control and observation procedures will be implemented in accordance with the national and international regulations in force, which form the basis of the 2016 method of operation whose objective is the following:

- Monitoring and control of fishing activities;
- Monitoring and control of transfer and caging operations, in particular the use of stereoscopical camera systems in accordance with the conditions stipulated in ICCAT Recommendation 13-08;
- Reporting scheme and recording of fishing, transfer and caging information;
- VMS monitoring of fishing and support vessels (auxiliary vessels);
- Documentary procedures for trading bluefin tuna;
- Application of international provisions established within the framework of the recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean; and
- Compliance with international obligations by the Kingdom of Morocco in relation to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

8 Other information

The bluefin tuna farming facility “Blue Farm” will be authorised this year in accordance with the specific conditions and methods which will be determined by the administration in accordance with the regulatory provisions in force.

Table 1. Capacity management plan.

Tuna vessel fleet		**Fleet (vessels)**									**Fishing capacity (t)**								
	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	70.7	70.7	70.7	70.7	70.7	70.7	70.7	70.7	141.4
Purse seiner between 24 and 40 m	49.8	3	3	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	149.4	149.4	0	49.8	0	49.8	49.8	49.8	0
Purse seiner less than 24m	33.7	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33.7	33.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total purse seine fleet	-	**5**	**5**	**1**	**3**	**1**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**2**	**253.5**	**253.5**	**70.7**	**120.5**	**70.7**	**120.5**	**120.5**	**120.5**	**141.4**
Longliner over 40 m	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner between 24 and 40 m	5.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner less than 24m	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total longline fleet		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baitboat	19.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Handline	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trawler	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Others /Artisanal**	5	tbr*	tbr*	tbr*	tbr*	tbr*	tbr*	tbr*	tbr*	tbr*	20.7	20.7	30	33	130	140	26.97	109.19	150
Trap	112.3	15	17	13	9	9	10	10	11	12	1684.5	1909.1	1459.9	1010.7	1010.7	1123	1123	1235.3	1347.6
Total capacity of fishing fleet		20	22	14	11	10	12	12	13	14	20	22	14	9	10	12	12	13	14
Quota		2729	2400	1607	1238	1223.07	1270.47	1270.47	1500.01	1792.98	2729	2400	1607	1238	1223.07	1270.47	1270.47	1500.01	1792.98
Adjusted quota (if applicable)		2729	2400	1607	1238	1223.07	1270.47	1270.47	1500.01	1792.98	2729	2400	1607	1238	1223.07	1270.47	1270.47	1500.01	1792.98
Undercapacity (t)		0	0	0	0	-13.07	-20.47	-35.47	-35.01	-153.98	0	0	0	0	-13.07	-20.47	-35.47	-35.01	-153.98

*tbr: to be reported.

NORWAY

1 Background

Norway became member of ICCAT in 2004. In light of the stock situation for bluefin tuna, Norway adopted 3 May 2007 a prohibition for that year for Norwegian vessels to fish and land bluefin tuna in Norway's territorial waters, in the Norwegian Economic Zone and in international waters. A new regulation adopted 19 December 2007 provided for the same prohibition. This regulation, which entered into force 1 January 2008, remained in force until 2014.

In accordance with the Norwegian Fishing and Inspection Plan for 2014 approved by ICCAT, a limited exploratory fishery for bluefin tuna by one purse seiner was opened up in the Norwegian Economic Zone from 25 June to 31 October. In line with the approved Plan for 2015, Norway opened up for an exploratory fishery by one purse seiner during the same fishing period as in 2014, and by one longline vessel from 1 August to 31 December 2015.

Norway will also in 2016 open up for an exploratory fishery for bluefin tuna to be conducted by one purse seiner and one longliner. The Norwegian fishing and inspection plans are presented below. As Norway prohibited targeted fisheries for bluefin tuna for conservation and rebuilding purposes for a number of years, and is only envisaging a limited exploratory fishery in 2016 as in 2014 and 2015, no capacity management plan is presented.

The exploratory fishery conducted in 2014 and 2015 indicated a change in the distribution of bluefin tuna in the Norwegian Economic Zone compared to the previous period when Norwegian vessels conducted targeted fisheries for this species. Bluefin tuna was observed simultaneously in the south and far north, from 60° - 68°N, and in coastal as well as offshore waters in July-September in both 2014 and 2015. As the fishery was conducted by a single vessel in 2014 and only by two vessels in 2015, it proved challenging for these vessels to locate the bluefin tuna. This is due to the large extension of the Norwegian Economic Zone (968 700km^2) and the highly migratory nature of the bluefin tuna during the main feeding season.

Hence, the lessons drawn from the 2014 and 2015 seasons are that one vessel is insufficient to conduct exploratory fisheries for bluefin tuna in the Norwegian Economic Zone and that even with two vessels this is a highly demanding task. Moreover, as Norwegian fishermen have not conducted targeted fisheries for bluefin tuna since 1986, more knowledge about the changes in distribution and feeding migration is required. At the same time, we need to explore which fishing methods would be the most convenient in our waters today. To facilitate and enhance a successful exploratory fishery, Norway plans to authorize two vessels in 2016. One of these vessels will be a purse seiner and the other a longline vessel.

The Norwegian fishery for bluefin tuna will be regulated through a Regulation on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2016, which will be adopted when the Norwegian fishing and inspection plan has been approved by ICCAT. In addition to national requirements, this Regulation will cover the requirements specified in ICCAT Recommendation 14-04.

Furthermore, Bluefin Tuna Catch Documents will be issued in accordance with Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 09-11 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program (Rec. 11-20), Recommendation by ICCAT to Clarify and Amend Aspects of ICCAT's Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program to Facilitate the Application of the eBCD System (Rec. 15-10), as well as other relevant recommendations. Norway issued electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Documents in the eBCD system to the extent possible in 2015 and intends to continue this practice in 2016.

2 Annual Fishing Plan 2016

In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation 14-04 paragraph 5, the bluefin tuna quota allocated to Norway in 2016 is 43,71 t.

Norway has established the following fishing plan for bluefin tuna in 2016:

- A targeted fishery for bluefin tuna will be authorized in the Norwegian Economic Zone from 25 June to 31 October for one purse seine vessel and from 1 August 2016 to 31 December for one longline vessel.

- Each vessel will be given an individual vessel quota, and the total allocation for the two vessels will be 32 t. At the outset, the purse seiner will be given an individual vessel quota of 20 t and the longliner an individual vessel quota of 12 t. 11.71 t of bluefin tuna will be set aside to cover incidental by-catch in fisheries not targeting bluefin tuna. Any subsequent modification of these quotas will, in accordance with Recommendation 14-04 paragraph 12, be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat.

- Vessels not targeting bluefin tuna shall release incidental by-catch of bluefin tuna if alive. Dead or dying bluefin tuna shall be landed.

- Transhipment of bluefin tuna will be prohibited.

- The vessels authorized to target bluefin tuna and vessels getting incidental by-catch of dead or dying bluefin tuna can be instructed to collect biological samples for the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research.

- The vessels authorized to fish for bluefin tuna can be instructed to have observers from the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research on board.

- Recreational and sport fisheries for bluefin tuna will be prohibited.

- In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation 14-04 paragraph 25, searching for bluefin tuna with airplanes, helicopters or any types of unmanned aerial vehicles will be prohibited.

- In accordance with Recommendation 14-04 paragraph 89, the purse seine vessel authorized to fish for bluefin tuna must have an ICCAT regional observer onboard and all fees must be paid before the fishery starts.

- In accordance with Recommendation 14-04 paragraph 88, the longline vessel authorized to fish for bluefin tuna must have a national observer onboard during 20% of the time the vessel is targeting bluefin tuna.

- In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation 14-04 paragraph 14 no carry-over of any under-harvest will be allowed.

3 Annual Inspection Plan 2016

In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation 14-04 paragraph 52 Norway will submit information concerning the vessels authorized to conduct the exploratory fishery for bluefin tuna to the ICCAT Executive Secretary at the latest 15 days before the beginning of the fishing season.

Norway has established a system of real-time monitoring of all its fisheries and is committed to take the necessary measures to ensure full compliance with ICCAT Recommendation 14-04. The Norwegian Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) at the Directorate of Fisheries will monitor the bluefin tuna fishery.

The vessels authorized to target bluefin tuna will be required to send position reports (VMS) every hour and electronic logbook on a daily basis. Both position reports and electronic logbooks will be received by the FMC at the Directorate of Fisheries. The FMC is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and any interruption in the transmission of either VMS signals or electronic logbooks will immediately be followed up by the FMC.

The Norwegian Coastguard will have access to both VMS signals and electronic logbooks in real time.

VMS signals will be forwarded to the ICCAT Secretariat in accordance with Recommendation 14-04 paragraph 87 and Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 03-14 by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System in the ICCAT Convention Area (Rec. 14-09).

As the exploratory fishery will be limited to two vessels only authorized to fish bluefin tuna within the Norwegian Economic Zone, participation in the Joint ICCAT Scheme of Inspection is not foreseen in 2016.

Landing notes and sales notes will be issued when the fish is landed. These notes will be forwarded to the Directorate of Fisheries in real time, and the reported catches will be deducted from the vessel's quota. Officers at the Directorate of Fisheries will also cross-check information obtained from VMS, electronic logbooks and landing/sales notes.

SYRIA*

In accordance with the conclusions and recommendations of the 19th Special meeting and 24th Regular meeting of ICCAT, and until the Commission considers Syrian request of allowing Syria to carry over unused quotas of BFT (2012, 2013 and 2014), we have the honour to present a bluefin tuna fishing plan of the national quota for this season 2016.

1. BFT fishing vessel and operations

According to the ICCAT quota allocation scheme for 2016, Syria has an annual quota of 47.40 tons of bluefin tuna from the Mediterranean Sea catch during the 2016 season. Syria adopted the following plan:

- The quota of 47.40 tons will be caught by one fishing vessel (Syria will submit name and specification of licensed vessel as soon as the vessel is selected).
- Special fishing license shall be issued by the fishery authority (General Commission for Fisheries Resources) for the vessel authorized to fish Bluefin tuna in 2016.
- The fishing gear that will be used is purse seine.
- The authorized period for fishing is from May 26 to June 24, 2016 (if there is no other recommendation adopted by ICCAT).
- No joint fishing operations will be allowed (Any joint fishing operations will be transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat immediately).
- Use of airplanes or helicopters to search for BFT is prohibited.
- No activities for recreational or sport fishery in Syria
- There is no facility for farming BFT in the Syrian water yet.
- Longliner, Baitboat, hand boat, trawler and trap are not operating in Syria.
- The fishing operations of the Syrian purse seiner shall be conducted in compliance with ICCAT recommendations.
- Fishing in Syria is traditional in territorial water with no commercial fishing operations, and bluefin tuna are not actively targeted by the national fishermen.
- All catch shall be inspected by fishery authorities (General Commission for Fisheries Resources).
- ICCAT Secretariat will be informed about the marketing ways of BFT catch at the time.

2. Control Measures

Minimum size and Incidental catch / by-catch

- Catching, retaining, landing, transshipping, transferring, selling, displaying for sale BFT weighing less than 30kg is prohibited.

- An incidental catch of Max. 5% weighing between 10-30 kg is permitted for the vessel fishing actively for BFT.

VMS

- The vessel will be equipped with VMS and transmission of the VMS messages to the ICCAT Secretariat shall be provided as required in ICCAT recommendations.

- Fishery authority will monitor the status of VMS transmission and any interruption of transmission will be followed immediately to investigate and solve the problem.

* Not endorsed by Panel 2, submission of a revised version has been requested.

National Observers Program

- The fishing operations will be monitored throughout the fishing season by one controller observer (General Commission For Fisheries Resources) who will be embarked on board of tuna vessel.

- The controller observer will be in charge of monitoring the fishing operations and insuring the compliance of the fishing vessel with ICCAT recommendations.

  (Syria will submit name of national observer as soon as possible.)

Regional Observers Program

- According to the recommendation concerning the regional observer programme for purse seine vessel, Syria is ready to receive regional observer appointed by ICCAT.

- It is kindly requested that the observer transmits his personal information and copy of his passport in appropriate time to be able to take the necessary arrangement with the relevant agencies.

Reporting of Catch

- The catch vessel master shall by electronic or other means communicate to competent authorities a weekly catch report, with information on location of catch, date, number of fish, total weight.

- Weekly and monthly catch reports of vessel active in the BFT catch shall be transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat in accordance with the format set for this purpose.

Imposing of Sanction

- Controlling and monitoring of fisheries activities in Syria are governed by General Commission For Fisheries Resources, and General Directorate of ports.

- In case of non compliance with this plan or any of ICCAT recommendations by the fishing vessel regarding BFT fishing operations shall lead to penalties (confiscation of fishing gear, confiscation of catches, suspending or withdrawal of license).

3. Capacity Management Plan

- Due to the small quota allocated to Syria, only one fishing vessel will conduct BFT fishing activity in 2016 to catch Syrian allocated quota (Syria will submit name and specification of licensed vessel as soon as possible)

Fishing Capacity

Tuna vessel fleet		*Fleet (vessels)*								*Fishing capacity*							
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Purse seiner over 40 m	70	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seiner between 24 and 40 m	49.78	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	39.65	47.40
Purse seiner less 24 m	33.68	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	33.58	33.58	0	0	0	0	0
Total purse seine fleet		0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	33.58	33.58	0	0	0	39.65	47.40
Total fleet/fishing capacity		0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	33.58	33.58	0	0	0	39.65	47.40
Quota										33.58	33.58	33.58	33.58	33.58	33.58	39.65	47.40

TUNISIA

1 Fishing capacity management plan

In preparation for the 2016 bluefin tuna fishing campaign, Tunisia has adjusted its fishing capacity in accordance with the methodology adopted by ICCAT (paragraph 41, Rec. 14-04).

On the basis of this methodology, Tunisia has established a fishing plan and has allocated individual quotas to 27 vessels to fish bluefin tuna in 2016, including the re-commissioning of 2 purse seiners which had been inactive since 2011 (**Table 1**).

2 Fishing plan

During the 2016 bluefin tuna fishing campaign (26 May - 24 June), the competent Tunisian authority envisages granting bluefin fishing permits for 27 purse seine vessels: 23 vessels with a length greater than 24 m, 1 vessel measuring 24 m and 3 vessels less than 24 m.

The management of fishing activity will be governed by the provisions of ICCAT Recommendation 14-04 and the national regulation (Law No. 94-13 of 31 January 1994 on fishing and its implementing texts in particular the Order of 21 May 2008 as amended by the Order of 10 June 2013 on the organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery).

Tunisia's TAC is fixed at 1491.71 t for 2016 and will be distributed as follows:

- 1461.88 t (i.e. 98%) among the 27 bluefin tuna catching vessels taking into account the methodology established by ICCAT (catch level and length ranges).

A list of catching vessels and the corresponding individual quotas are attached to this report (**Table 2**).

Within the context of their joint fishing operations, the purse seine vessels will share their common catches according to the allocation key pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 17 of Rec. 14-04.

- 29.83 t (i.e. 2%) for by-catch in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 29 of Rec. 14-04.

2.1 Data recording and reporting

Prior to entry into any port, the vessel masters or their representatives will report to the relevant port authorities no later than four hours before the estimated time of arrival the following:

- Estimated time of arrival
- Estimated volume of bluefin tuna caught
- Information on the geographic position where the catch was taken

The daily information of the fishing logbooks including zero catch data which will be notified to the competent authority throughout the fishing period via the representatives of the fishing masters.

Nevertheless, real time monitoring of transfer operations of products that are performed and their destinations will be ensured by the U3C Terminal (Control and Communication Unit in conjunction with the Fishing Information Administration and Management Centre (CAGIP)).

2.2 Vessel monitoring by VMS

All bluefin tuna vessels with a length greater than 15 m will be equipped with VMS. Transmittal to ICCAT of VMS data by vessels authorised to participate in the 2016 bluefin fishing season which will be carried out every four hours will commence 15 days before the authorisation period and will continue 15 days after the end of the authorisation in accordance with the instructions contained in paragraph 87 of Rec. 14-04.

2.3 Implementation of observation programmes

In 2016, the Administration will maintain implementation of the regional observers programmes (onboard catching vessels) and deployment of national observers (onboard towing vessels) in accordance with the provisions of Rec. 14-04.

3 Inspection plans

3.1 National inspection

In compliance with the national regulation in force, at-sea inspection missions in fishing areas during the campaign will be ensured by permanent fisheries and coast surveillance officers. They are responsible for monitoring and assessing compliance with ICCAT management measures.

Authorisations for entry of foreign flag vessels to designated Tunisian ports are granted by the competent port authorities.

In-port inspections are ensured by certified officers of the fishery services responsible for control of bluefin tuna landings, fishing gears and onboard documents.

3.2 Scheme of Joint International Inspection

In compliance with the provisions of Annex 7 of Rec. 14-04, the vessel AMILCAR MA 878 is expected to participate in the Scheme of Joint International Inspection. Three onboard inspectors will ensure the carrying out of the inspection and boarding activities for Tunisian and foreign vessels during the 2016 bluefin tuna fishing season.

Inspection activities will cover in particular:

- onboard documents
- catching activities and transfer activities to towing cages
- the video recordings of catch transfer operations
- possible infringements of management measures in Rec. 14-04

Detailed inspection programmes as well as measures to the taken in relation to vessels inspected will be decided jointly with the Fisheries Administration.

3.3 eBCD

Having participated in the work of the eBCD Working Group, Tunisia will take this year all the steps to implement the electronic catch documentation (eBCD) program.

4 Farming capacity management plan

In accordance with paragraphs 46 and 47 of Rec. 14-04, the farming capacity for 2016 will be maintained at 2,134 t, which is the same caging capacity as in 2015 (**Table 3**).

Six (6) companies plan to carry on their activities in 2016. If there is a change in the farming plan, it will be notified to ICCAT by the required deadlines.

Table 1. Adjustment of Tunisia's fishing capacity – 2016.

TUNA VESSEL FLEET		Fleet (vessels)									Fishing capacity								
Type	**Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)**	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**
Purse seiner over 40 m	70.7	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	70.7	70.7	70.7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seiner between 24 and 40 m	49.78	24	24	24	19	20	20	20	24	24	1194.72	1194.72	1194.72	945.82	995.6	995.6	995.6	1194.72	1144.94
Purse seiners less than 24 m	33.68	16	16	16	4	1	1	1	1	3	538.88	538.88	538.88	134.72	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	134.72
Total purse seine fleet		**41**	**41**	**41**	**23**	**21**	**21**	**21**	**25**	**27**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner over 40 m	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner between 24 and 40 m	5.68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner less than 24 m	5	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total longline fleet		**1**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baitboat	19.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Handline	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trawler	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trap	130	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other (specify)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total capacity of fishing fleet		**41**	**41**	**41**	**23**	**21**	**21**	**21**	**25**	**27**	**1809.3**	**1809.3**	**1809.3**	**1080.54**	**1029.28**	**1029.28**	**1029.28**	**1228.4**	**1295.76**
Vessel quota **By-catch** **TAC**		2254.48 0 2254.48	1735.87 0 1735.87	1064.89 0 1064.89	1017.56 0 1017.56	1017.56 0 1017.56	1057 0 1057	1057 0 1057	1247.97 0 1247.97	1491.71 0 1491.71	2254.48 0 2254.48	1735.87 0 1735.87	1735.87 0 1735.87	1017,56 0 1017,56	1017,56 0 1017,56	1057 0 1057	1057 0 1057	1247.97 0 1247.97	1461.88 29.83 1491,71
Adjusted quota (if applicable)		2364.48	1937.87	1109.51	860.18	1017.56	1057	1057	1247.97	1491.71	2364.48	1937.87	1109.51	860.18	1017.56	1057	1057	1247.97	1491.71
Undercapacity														76.78%	98.51%	103.68%	103.68%	103.48%	

Table 2. List of tuna vessels and individual quotas - Tunisia (2016).

	Vessel name	*ICCAT registration*	*Length (m)*	*Vessel owner*	*Quota (t)*
1	Futuro 1	AT000TUN00065	36.7	Ridha Sallem	108.98
2	Ghedir El Gholla	AT000TUN00030	35.05	Ridha Sallem	108.98
3	Mohamed Sadok	AT000TUN00051	37	Meridien pêche	66.04
4	Hassen	AT000TUN00008	26.84	Meridien pêche	41.18
5	Mabrouk	AT000TUN00015	25.4	Meridien pêche	41.18
6	Yosri	AT000TUN00040	22.36	Meridien pêche	28.10
7	Jaouhar	AT000TUN00046	32.3	Sté ben Hmida et cie	41.18
8	Saifallah	AT000TUN00043	23.28	Sté ben hmida et fils	28.10
9	Tapsus	AT000TUN00024	29.25	Sté ben hmida et fils	41.18
10	Tijani	AT000TUN00026	27.2	Sté ben hmida et fils	41.18
11	EL Horchani	AT000TUN00009	32.65	Sté Horchani de pêche	120.77
12	El Khalij	AT000TUN00014	25.4	Sté Horchani de pêche	41.18
13	El Houssaine	AT000TUN00049	35	Jomaachaari	41.18
14	Hadj Mokhtar	AT000TUN00025	31.85	Jomaachaari	41.18
15	HajHedi	AT000TUN00007	28	Sté chaari et fils	41.18
16	Hadj Ahmed	AT000TUN00070	34.9	Spacservices	66.04
17	Mohamed Yassine	AT000TUN00045	25.25	Spacservices	41.18
18	Sallem	AT000TUN00023	38.13	Hamed Sallem (fish tunisie)	41.18
19	Ibn Rachiq	AT000TUN00037	34.39	Hamed Sallem (fish tunisie)	41.18
20	Imen	AT000TUN00010	29.1	Sami Neifer	79.12
21	Abderrahmen	AT000TUN00047	25.3	Mohamed chiha	78.47
22	AbouChamma	AT000TUN00002	25.42	Héritiers Moncer	53.61
23	Denphir 1	AT000TUN00479	37.05	Sté dauphin	41.18
24	Ghali	AT000TUN00036	21.94	Néjibchiha	28.10
25	Essaidajannet	AT000TUN00050	37	Etat	90.90
26	Jamel	AT000TUN00011	26.29	Héritiers raouine	41.18
27	Med Adem	AT000TUN00012	24	Sté radhouène de pêche	28.10
Total				**1461.88 t**	

Table 3. Adjustment of farming capacity - Tunisia (2016).

ICCAT No.	*Facility / Facility Owner*	*Maximum caging planned in 2016 (t)*
AT001TUN00001	VMT (Sahbi sallem)	356
AT001TUN00002	TT (Abdelwaheb Ben Romdhane)	444
AT001TUN00003	SMT (substitute facility)	444
AT001TUN00004	TFT (Ridha Sallem)	356
AT001TUN00005	SNB (Jaouher ben Hmida et Sami Neifer)	267
AT001TUN00006	THC (Taher Hajji et mohamed Chiha)	267

TURKEY[*]

Turkey's Provisional Inspection Plan within the framework of ICCAT Joint Scheme of International Inspection 2016

Introduction

Turkish Coast Guard Command (TCGC) plans to participate in the ICCAT Joint Scheme of International Inspection of 2016 with 58 Coast Guard boats and 203 inspector staff.

Since the potential patrolling coverage of the TCGC inspection boats is relatively limited, participation of high seas inspection vessels from the Turkish Naval Forces Command (TNFC) in the inspection scheme is deemed necessary in order to reach the possibility of conducting high-sea inspections at all regions of the Mediterranean.

To this end, Turkish Naval Forces Command plans to assign 309 inspector staff and 63 vessels for participation to the ICCAT's Joint Scheme of International Inspection of 2016.

Furthermore, an additional inspection vessel assigned by Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock (MoFAL)'s (ARAMA 1) will conduct ICCAT inspections in the region.

Due to logistical reasons, envisaged numbers of inspection boats and inspector staff may be subject to some changes subsequently. The provisional list of active inspection vessels are given in **Annex 1**[**].

Details of the planned at-sea inspection plan are given in the following sections.

Planning of inspection activities

Based on a risk analysis approach, the locations where the fishing vessels were mostly concentrated during previous seasons are planned to be focused on for the year 2016. It is estimated that these will be the locations where fishing and towing vessels carry out bluefin tuna fishing and transferring activities.

The records of the VMS signals will be regularly monitored at the premises of the Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock and at the Coast Guard Main Operation Center in Ankara, as well as, at regional operation centers of TCGC.

CGC shall take into account the probable position data of the fishing vessels which will be obtained from the VMS during the ICCAT inspections.

Inspection time and area by regions

The inspections shall be conducted in the territorial waters of Turkey, high seas of Mediterranean and high seas of the Aegean Sea. ICCAT inspections by the TCGC assets shall be carried out during the whole period of bluefin tuna (BFT) fishing season.

Means of at-sea inspections

The means of at-sea inspections shall be deployed mainly at BFT fishing grounds which are determined based on 2015's risk assessment data.

As for the TNFC, the inspections are being planned to be conducted during the whole period of fishing season with the NFC Flagged Frigates and Corvettes. However, in accordance with the planned missions, the inspections may be conducted in the other areas within the international waters by the TNFC, as far as possible.

[*] Turkey lodged an objection to Rec. 14-04. Endorsement of this plan was not sought.

[**] Available electronically.

Planned number of ICCAT inspection assets to be deployed

Number of Coastal Patrol Vessels: 58

Number of High Seas Patrol Vessels/Inspection Vessels: 63

Where needed or required, additional vessels and/or inspector staff shall be authorized. Within the bounds of possibility, aerial inspections are also planned to be performed by Maritime Patrol Aircrafts by the TCGC during the whole BFT fishing period for 2016.

Permanently 5 personnel will be working in shifts on a 24 hour basis at the Coast Guard Main Operational Center in Ankara. In addition to the Main Operation Center in Ankara Headquarters, 3-4 personnel will be working in shifts at each operation centers of Turkish Coast Guard Regional Commands which are located in Izmir and Mersin and operation centers of Turkish Coast Guard Group Commands which are located in Iskenderun, Antalya, Marmaris and Çanakkale.

Alternative management and conservation measures for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna

Through the instrument of ICCAT Circular # 00649/15, Turkey has lodged a formal objection to *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 13-07 by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec.14-04]. Correspondingly, this document, comprising of the alternative management and conservation measures set by Turkey for the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin tuna, has been prepared and herewith presented to the attention of PANEL 2 to take place on 2 – 3 March 2016. Turkey has presented this alternative management plan, not requiring endorsement from Panel 2 in line with the precedence from the 2011 Compliance Committee meeting, as an indication on how Turkey will voluntarily put into practice the current conservation and management measures set by ICCAT.

1 Fishing Plan

Through the *Note Verbale* dated 12 February 2015 (as announced by ICCAT Circular # 00649/15), Turkey has declared an "autonomous quota" of 7.73% of the TAC adopted by the Commission in its 19th Special Meeting.

In this context, Turkey will implement a total of 1,461.82 t catch limit for bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean for 2016.

Fishing, transferring and farming activities for Eastern bluefin tuna (E-BFT) will be conducted by individual quota allocation system for each E-BFT catching vessel.

The Turkish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MoFAL) shall announce the above-mentioned decision to all sector stakeholders in accordance with the Ministerial Communiqué and Notifications regarding E-BFT fishing, farming and trading.

1.1 Potential fishing grounds

The potential fishing ground for E-BFT fishery will be off the western and southern coasts of Turkey and the Eastern Mediterranean region. Sparse fishing activities may occur in the southern parts of the Aegean Sea.

1.2 List of authorized E-BFT fishing vessels

MoFAL shall issue fishing permits for all E-BFT fishing vessels to be authorized for 2016. All fishing vessels authorized by MoFAL shall be reported to ICCAT in a timely manner. All vessels shall be equipped and monitored with an operational Vessel Monitoring System.

1.3 Licensing

Fishing permits issued by MoFAL shall be mandatory for E-BFT fishing vessels to operate for the 2016 fishing season. Leaving a margin for a potential change in total number and length distribution of vessels to be authorized until the reporting deadline of May 12, fishing permits are planned to be granted to 23 purse seine vessels as BFT catching vessels by MoFAL.

Similarly, a total of 55 BFT other vessels including towing, support and auxiliary vessels are planned to be authorized by MoFAL.

1.4 Allocation of E-BFT catch quota

In accordance with the formal objection lodged and the declaration made by Turkey on 12 February 2015, Turkey shall implement the catch limit for 2016 as 1,416.82 t. In this regard, a viable amount of quota shall be allocated to 23 E-BFT catching vessels (if no conceivable changes happen until May 12 deadline) acquiring valid fishing permits for the 2016 E-BFT fishing season.

1.5 Methodology used for quota allocation

MoFAL plans to allocate 90% of the total Turkish allocated quota for each vessel based on a national criteria based on activity and track records of the fishing vessels.

For the fishing vessels having allocated an individual quota but not intending to operate for the 2016 E-BFT fishing season, the right to transfer its individual quota to another fishing vessel shall be given. Should any E-BFT catching vessel not exhaust its assigned individual quota (IQ) at the end of the fishing season, carryover shall not be allowed.

1.6 Coastal, recreational, sport fisheries

A specific quota level shall be allocated for the purposes of coastal, recreational and sport fisheries, as well as incidental and by-catches, which is 10% of the total. The marketing of bluefin tuna caught in recreational and sport fishing is prohibited.

1.7 Regulations for 2016 E-BFT fishing season

1.7.1 Fishing period and open season

Open fishing season for E-BFT shall be from 26 May 2016 to 24 June 2016.

1.7.2 Joint fishing operations

No joint fishing operation (JFO) with any other CPC is allowed unless the concerned CPC has less than 5 authorized (maximum 4) purse seiners.

A JFO for E-BFT shall only be authorized with the consent of MoFAL and of the other CPC authority concerned, if the vessels to be involved are equipped to fish bluefin tuna and have sufficient individual quotas.

Fishing vessels to conduct any JFO with the vessels of any other CPC shall present the required certificates and letter of consent to MoFAL at least 15 days before the start of the operation (departure from port) to be transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat within the specified deadline.

1.7.3 E-BFT landing/transshipment ports

E-BFT fishing vessels shall only transship/land bluefin tuna catches in the ports designated for that purpose.

In case of dead bluefin tunas derived from fishing, the whole amount shall only be landed to the designated ports by catching or auxiliary vessels.

The following ports have been designated by MoFAL for the purpose of E-BFT landing/transshipment:

	Province	*Designated Landing/ Transshipment Port*
1	ADANA	Karataş fishing port
2	ANTALYA	Antalya fishing port Gazipaşa fishing port
3	MERSIN	Karaduvar fishing port
4	HATAY	Iskenderun fishing port
5	ÇANAKKALE	Kabatepe fishing port Gülpınar fishing port
6	ISTANBUL	Kumkapı fishing port Tuzla fishing port
7	IZMIR	Karaburun fishing port

1.7.4 Vessel Monitoring System requirements

Fishing vessels requesting any of the E-BFT fishing vessel permits for the 2016 fishing season shall be equipped with a full-time operational satellite based vessel monitoring system (VMS) onboard, as required by MoFAL. Position reporting every two hours will be required from the authorized fishing vessels.

1.7.5 Recording and reporting

Recording and reporting shall be made in parallel with ICCAT management and conservation measures.

1.7.6 Transfer, towing and caging operations

Transfer, towing and caging operations shall be conducted in parallel with ICCAT management and conservation measures.

1.7.7 Cross check

As a part of measures to ensure the respect of the individual quotas and by-catch, the relevant information recorded in fishing logbooks / daily logs, transfer declaration, and in the catch documents shall be verified by MoFAL by using available inspection reports, observer reports and VMS data as well as through a National Fisheries Information System called SUBIS.

MoFAL shall carry out cross checks on all landings, all transshipment 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.

1.7.8 Enforcement

Any noncompliance to the regulations regarding E-BFT fishing and transfer shall lead to nullification of the fishing permit or the towing permit issued by MoFAL. Noncompliant fishing vessels shall not get any of the above mentioned permits for future operations.

1.7.9 Market measures

Foreign and domestic trade, transport, landing, imports, exports, placing in cages for farming, re-exports and transshipments of E-BFT products (with the exception of fish parts other than the meat i.e., heads, eyes, roes, guts and tails) as well as their keeping onboard, at storage or inside the towing cages attached to a catching/towing vessel which are not accompanied by accurate, complete, and validated documentation shall be prohibited.

1.7.10 Observer requirements

Presence of "ICCAT Regional Observers" on E-BFT Catching Vessels and at E-BFT Farming Facilities (at the time of caging and harvest operations); and presence of "CPC Observers" on E-BFT Towing Vessels shall be required during the whole E-BFT catching, transferring and caging operations at sea and at farm sites in 2016.

1.7.11 Use of aerial means

Any use of airplanes, helicopters or any types of unmanned aerial vehicles for searching for E-BFT shall be prohibited.

1.7.12 Minimum size

Catching, retaining on board, transshipping, transferring, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale E-BFT weighing less than 30 kg or with fork length less than 115 cm shall be prohibited.

1.7.13 Sampling requirements

E-BFT samplings shall be made in parallel with the procedures set by ICCAT management and conservation measures. In 2016, 100% of caging operations shall be covered by a programme using stereoscopical cameras systems in order to refine the number and weight of the fish. This program shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures set out by ICCAT. The results obtained will be reported to the ICCAT Secretariat, as required by the SCRS. On the other hand, sampling of dead E-BFT derived from fishing shall be treated in accordance with the Turkish National Sampling Program.

Owners/operators of the fishing vessels, managers /operators of farming facilities and exporters shall be responsible from the proper implementation of all provisions mentioned in this plan and in domestic legislation.

1.8 Implementation of e-BCD system for 2016 E-BFT fishing season

Turkey plans to put into place the eBCD system effectively from the beginning of the fishing season in a way to fully implement the relevant provisions of Rec. 15-10.

2 Inspection Plan

2.1 National inspection

In collaboration with Turkish Coast Guard Command (TCGC), comprehensive at-sea inspection coverage shall be ensured by MoFAL during 2016 E-BFT fishing season. To that end, an autodyne research vessel – namely ARAMA 1 – will be commissioned by MoFAL to carry out inspections at sea.

A continuous monitoring, control and inspection shall be ensured at potentially active landing ports through the assignment of MoFAL inspectors. Additionally, random inspections by MoFAL shall continue even before/after the fishing season at the landing ports to check and record any landing of dead E-BFT.

As for E-BFT caging operations, MoFAL inspectors shall control proper implementation of caging programmes at farming facilities on a regular basis. Modern technologies will be utilized to implement the aforementioned controls in an effective way.

2.2 Scheme of Joint International Inspections

Turkish Coast Guard Command (TCGC) plans to participate in the ICCAT Joint Scheme of International Inspection of 2016 with 58 Coast Guard boats and 203 inspector staff.

Since the potential patrolling coverage of the TCGC inspection boats is relatively limited, participation of high seas inspection vessels from Turkish Naval Forces Command (TNFC) in the inspection scheme is deemed necessary in order to reach the possibility of conducting high-sea inspections at all regions of the Mediterranean.

To this end, Turkish Naval Forces Command plans to assign 309 inspector staff and 63 vessels for participation in the ICCAT's Joint Scheme of International Inspection of 2016.

Furthermore, an additional inspection vessel – namely ARAMA 1 – that has been assigned by the Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock will also contribute to the activities under ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspections in the region.

The provisional list of inspection vessels has been communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat on 12 February 2016.

2.3 Framework of MCS

2.3.1 E-BFT fishery, transfer, farming and trading of Turkish allocated quota

Catch
- Individual Quota (IQ) allocation
- E-BFT catching/other vessels to be registered in ICCAT record
- Legal fishing season
- E-BFT Joint Fishing Operation (JFO) rules
- BCD / e-BCD Scheme requirements
- Log Book requirements
- 100% ICCAT ROP-BFT coverage
- Video footage
- Cross checks for verification

Transfer
- Prior Transfer Notification & Authorization
- Video footage
- Cross checks for verification
- 100% ICCAT Regional Observer coverage (for all catching vessels)
- 100% National Observer coverage (for all towing vessels)
- BCD / e-BCD Scheme requirements
- ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD) requirements

Towing

- 100% National (CPC) Observer coverage
- BCD / e-BCD Scheme requirements
- ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD) requirements

Import (for live E-BFT)

- 100% MoFAL Representative coverage
- 100% ROP-BFT coverage (at farm site/caging)

Caging

- 100% video footage
- 100 % MOFAL Representative coverage
- 100% ICCAT Observer coverage (farming)
- BCD / e-BCD Scheme requirements
- Caging Declaration

Farming

- Random MOFAL Inspections
- 100% MOFAL Representative coverage
- 100% video footage

Transport

- 100% National (CPC) Observer coverage
- 100% dead fish
- BCD / e-BCD Scheme requirements
- ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD) and Transport Declaration requirements

Landing Ports

- Random MOFAL Inspections at 7 authorized landing ports for dead E-BFT
- Random MOFAL Inspections at landing ports used for by-catch dead E-BFT

Harvest

- 100% ICCAT ROP-BFT coverage
- 100% MoFAL Representative coverage
- BCD / e-BCD Scheme requirements

Export

- 100% MoFAL Representative coverage
- BCD / e-BCD Scheme requirements

Inspections

- Full inspection coverage shall be ensured during 2016 E-BFT fishing season (by Turkish Navy, CGC, MOFAL),
- Random inspections by MOFAL shall continue even before/after the fishing season.

3 Capacity Plan

TUNA VESSEL FLEET		Fleet (vessels)									Fishing capacity								
Type	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	**2016 (*)**	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	**2016**
Purse seiner over 40m	70.70	41	32	12	13	0	3	0	16	***16***	2899	2262	848.4	919.1	0	212.1	0	1131	***1131***
Purse seiner between 24 and 40	49.78	49	34	11	4	11	7	13	0	***3***	2439	1693	547.58	199.12	547.58	348.46	647.14	0	***149.3***
Purse seiners less than 24m	33.68	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	***4***	101	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	***134.7***
Total Purse Seine Fleet																			
Longliner over 40m	25																		
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68																		
Longliner less than 24m	5																		
Total Longline Fleet																			
Baitboat	19.8																		
Handline	5																		
Trawler	10																		
Trap	130																		
Other (please specify)	5																		
Total fleet/fishing capacity											5439	3955	1395.98	1118.22	547.58	560.56	647.14	1131	***1415***
Quota											887.2	683.1	419.18	535.89	535.89	556.66	556.66	1223	***1417***
Adjusted quota (if applicable)																			
Allowance for sport/recreational (if applicable)																			
Under/overcapacity											4552	3272	976.8	582.33	11.69	3.9	90.48	-92	***-1.54***

(*) Number of vessels to be authorized and their length distributions are provisional figures based on presumptions. Definite number and breakdown of vessels will add up by May 12.

CHINESE TAIPEI

In accordance with *ICCAT Rec. 14-04,* each CPC shall submit fishing, inspection and capacity management plans to the ICCAT Secretariat by 15 February each year. I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that we are continue to implement the temporary regulation established domestically to prohibit our fishing vessels from fishing bluefin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean in 2016. The aforementioned Atlantic Ocean means the ICCAT Convention area, including the Mediterranean Sea.

As for the by-catch of Bluefin tuna, it shall be released or discarded, recorded on the logbook or e-logbook, and reported to this Agency in accordance with pertinent provisions of our domestic regulations. Up to date, there is no by-catch of bluefin tuna reported to this Agency. We are sure that if we get any by-catch report of Bluefin tuna in the future, we will report to ICCAT through formal channels and deducted from the Chinese Taipei quota.

Furthermore, with reference to the paragraph 5bis of the *ICCAT Rec. 14-04,* I would like to confirm that Chinese Taipei transfers 10 tons of Atlantic bluefin tuna within its catch limit to Egypt in 2016.

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.1

E-BFT quotas for 2016

Rec. 14-04, paragraph 5, sets initial quotas for 2015-2017 for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, and stipulates that, in addition to the initial quotas:

– Algeria may catch up to 200 t, 250 t and 300 t in 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively. This adjustment shall continue until the Algeria combined quota amount reaches 5% of the TAC.

– Turkey and Egypt may catch up to the following adjustment amounts.

CPC	2015 (t)	2016 (t)	2017 (t)
Turkey *	50	60	70
Egypt *	16	20	25

* Adjustment shall be re-established at the 2017 Commission meeting.

– Mauritania may catch up to 5 t for research in each year until the end of 2017.**

** Under this quota Mauritania will conduct research activities that will be reviewed by the SCRS by the end of 2017. Such activities will be conducted in cooperation with an ICCAT CPC of its choice and will be subject to the presentation of a specific programme to the SCRS. The result will be made available to the Commission.

– Libya may carry over up to 50 t of its 2011 unused quota in each year until the end of 2017.

These TACs shall be reviewed annually on the advice of the SCRS.

5bis. Depending on availability, Chinese Taipei may transfer up to 10 t of its quota to Egypt in each year until the end of 2017.

Depending on availability, Korea may transfer up to 50 t of its quota to Egypt in 2015, and Egypt may transfer up to 25 t and 25 t of its quotas to Korea in 2016 and 2017 respectively.

Depending on availability, Korea may transfer up to 45 t of its quota to Japan in 2015, and Japan may transfer up to 25 t and 20 t of its quotas to Korea in 2016 and 2017 respectively.

In accordance with the above, the Secretariat has calculated the adjusted quotas for 2016 as shown below. Confirmation from Panel 2 members is requested.

E-BFT quotas for 2016

CPC	Quota 2016 (t)	Adjusted quota (t)
Albania	47.4	47.4
Algeria	202.98	452.98
China	53.9	53.9
Egypt	94.67	99.67
European Union	11203.54	11203.54
Iceland	43.71	43.71
Japan	1608.21	1583.21
Korea	113.66	163.66
Libya	1323.28	1373.28
Morocco	1792.98	1792.98
Norway	43.71	43.71
Syria	47.4	47.4
Tunisia	1491.71	1491.71
Turkey	785.59	845.59
Chinese Taipei	58.28	48.28
Mauritania	(research quota) 5	

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.1

STATEMENT BY ALGERIA

Algeria reiterates its claim regarding re-establishment of its historical quota by denouncing the unfair treatment by ICCAT in relation to this issue which only leaves Algeria with a single choice, that of lodging an objection to any later recommendation on bluefin tuna which does not refer to the full re-establishment of its historical quota.

Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.1

Requests to Panel 2 for clarification of ICCAT conservation and management measures

1 Requests from ROP-BFT consortium (observer programme)

Clause Reference/Topic	*Point of Clarification*	*Clarification/Response*
Control Transfers	Given that 2015 was the first year of sanctioned control transfers, we would like to confirm that the recording procedure for these operations by the observer programme was appropriate.	Confirmed, appropriate. The presence of a Regional Observer is not a requirement for control transfers to take place. If a regional observer is requested, wherever possible, the observer deployed for the control transfer should be the same as the observer present at the original deployment, but this is not strictly necessary. A different observer may observe the control transfer.
Intra Farm Transfers	There have been some incidents where intra farm transfers have occurred outside of period of observer coverage and the cage numbers recorded on the BCDs have not been updated and validated. In these situations it is our understanding that BCDs cannot be signed until national authorisation documents have been shown explaining the difference in cage numbers on the BCDs.	Correct. National authorization documents are not specifically required to be provided to observers; however, verification that intra-farm transfers of bluefin tuna between cages were authorized by the concerned CPC and occurred in the presence of farm State control authorities, as required per Para 84 of Rec 14-04, must be provided. With such verification, the observer may sign the BCD.

Clause Reference/Topic	*Point of Clarification*	*Clarification/Response*
Harvests	On an individual farm it was attempted to compensate fish across BCDs and across cages, when following completion of the harvest of the number of fish listed on the BCDs there were still fish remaining in the cage. These were subsequently harvested and allocated to a BCD from another cage from which less than the number of fish listed on that BCD were harvested. It is our understanding that such compensation is not allowed and that those BCDs will not be signed by the observer as the BCD and cage numbers will not be consistent with their observations.	If it so happens that after the completion of harvest of a cage it results that there was a lower number of fish than that listed on the BCD, then the farm can compensate the said deficiency with any BCD from any other cage on the farm so long as the catches originate from the same CPC quota or JFO quota of the same year. Such compensations have to take place with the explicit consent and authorisation of the farming CPC.
Rec. 14-04, para 83	When revised transfer results are distributed following analysis of stereoscopic footage it is not clear what procedure should be followed, particularly when these results are distributed after completion of a deployment.	No action is required of the consortium if the results are received after the end of deployment. The procedures for 2016 will continue as in 2015until such time that the Recommendation can be amended to take into account the chronology of events.

2 Request received from CPCs

Clause Reference/Topic	*Point of Clarification*	*Clarification/Response*
Rec. 11-20, paras 3 and 10	Each consignment of bluefin tuna domestically traded, imported into, exported or re-exported from the territory of a CPC shall be accompanied by a validated BCD. However, there is an exemption from this requirement in paragraph 10 for fish parts other than the meat, i.e. heads, eyes, roes, guts and tail. Questions: 1. Does this exemption cover fertilized roes from farmed bluefin tuna. 2. Do the requirements in this Recommendation apply to bluefin tuna stemming from eggs from a farmed bluefin tuna (rearing of bluefin tuna in captivity for the entire lifecycle). 3. Are there any other ICCAT requirements applying to such bluefin tuna?	1. Yes, they are exempt. 2. Yes, they need a BCD, but this would not be counted against the quota as long as the CPC demonstrates that the fish is a product of rearing of bluefin tuna in captivity for the entire lifecycle. Those CPCs intending to export such fish shall notify the Secretariat pursuant to para 6 (c) of Rec. 15-10 and use a paper-based BCD as a provisional measure. 3. No other requirements were identified but the Panel recommended that the Commission consider the development of rules, particularly within the context of the BCD program and eBCD system, covering bluefin tuna produced through closed cycle aquaculture operations.
Rec. 14-04, para 9	While it is accepted by all CPCs that the ICCAT catch rates per gear are to be applied for the preparation of the capacity plans, there seems to be less clarity regarding whether or not the catch rates in question should also be applied to determine the maximum number of fishing units per gear in the fishing plan. On the basis of paragraph 9 of Rec 14-04, it is our understanding that this should be the case and we would like to receive confirmation from the Panel 2.	Yes, confirmed. This is addressed in the capacity plans.

4.2 REPORT OF THE INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE (COC)(Madrid, 4-5 March 2016)

1 Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chair of the Compliance Committee, Mr. Derek Campbell (United States).

2 Adoption of the agenda and meeting arrangements

At the beginning of the session, the Chair proposed some minor changes to the revised agenda. The delegation of the European Union proposed that issues relating to implementation of International Maritime Organization number requirements of Rec. 13-13 be discussed under item 8 (Other matters). The revised agenda was adopted and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.2**. The annotated agenda is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.2**.

After welcoming the delegations and outlining the meeting arrangements, the ICCAT Executive Secretary presented the list of delegations present or having expressed their intention to participate. The List of Participants is contained in **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.2**.

3 Nomination of Rapporteur

The ICCAT Secretariat was requested to serve as Rapporteur.

4 Introductory discussion and presentation of documents

The Chair opened discussion on issues of a general nature. The Contracting Parties that took the floor highlighted improvements in recent years of the ability of the Compliance Committee to complete its work, thanks to improved reporting by CPCs of the data and information required by ICCAT. However, taking into account the recurring problems of lack of compliance by some CPCs, a number of CPCs called on the Committee to initiate the development of concrete proposals to address compliance with ICCAT requirements. Some CPCs also recommended against a significant COC focus on what some considered largely administrative matters such as fulfilment of certain reporting deadlines so that the time available to the COC could be spent on more significant non-compliance. A number of CPCs also noted the constraints faced by the Secretariat given the huge quantities of information to be managed on one hand, and the difficulties of CPCs in completing a multitude of forms on the other. The difficulty in verifying the accuracy of the masses of information reported was also raised. It was suggested by some CPCs that progress in addressing these issues would be facilitated by the implementation of online reporting.

The Chair drew attention to two meeting documents that addressed multiple issues under the meeting's agenda items: a submission by Japan entitled "Suggestions to Improve the Operation of the Compliance Committee", attached as **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.2** and a letter from the ICCAT Chairman on Compliance Issues, attached as **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.2**. The Chair recommended that, to the extent possible, the substantive recommendations of these papers should be discussed individually under the respective agenda items that they address.

5 Review of procedures of the Compliance Committee

5a) Identification of priority subject matter areas for COC review in a given year

There was a general consensus that prioritization of issues was important in order to enable the COC to effectively and efficiently carry out its work in reviewing compliance on a CPC-by-CPC basis while also undertaking broader review of compliance with requirements within a given subject matter area. A variety of ways to prioritize were discussed. The Committee discussed alternative options presented in Japan's paper. Of all of the options presented, a number of CPCs expressed support in principle for Option 1, under which the COC would focus on specific species, fisheries, or topics each year. However, for

some CPCs it was important that such an approach was not in lieu of a cross-cutting CPC by CPC review nor would it prevent CPCs from raising time sensitive issues on topics not the focus of that year, if the situation required immediate action or review. One CPC suggested the importance of having criteria to identify priority areas for COC review. The Chair noted that to some extent, the COC has already been conducting a hybrid approach with general review of CPC implementation of ICCAT measures along with a more detailed review of specific measures or requirements related to a particular species, identified by the Commission or COC for priority review. This hybrid approach was seen in recent years by the focused review on implementation of shark measures, undertaken along with CPC-by-CPC review of implementation of all ICCAT requirements. The Chair suggested that this approach could continue and be expanded, using Japan's proposed shark reporting format (attached as **Addendum 1 to Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2**) as a model that could be considered for application to other measures identified by the Commission for more detailed COC review.

The COC also discussed ways to prioritize specific compliance issues that may be identified through the review of reports provided to the Commission to aid its review of compliance, such as CPC Annual Reports. A number of CPCs noted the importance of identifying key compliance issues arising from these reports as early as possible in advance of the annual meeting in order to ensure that CPCs are prepared to fully discuss them at the annual meeting rather than defer discussion. Some CPCs and the Chair noted that identification of these types of priority issues was already happening to some extent through the Secretariat's preparation of the Compliance Summary Tables and CPC input during early meetings of the COC at the annual meeting, but that availability of COC documents earlier and advance meetings of COC participants could help to identify priority issues in a more timely manner.

5b) Process for individual CPC reviews at the annual meeting

ICCAT Chair Dr Martin Tsamenyi, referring to his letter to the Commission that addressed compliance issues (attached as **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.2**), recalled that an effective compliance review system is critical for this organization. Challenges to effectively reviewing CPC compliance include the large number of conservation and management measures and the vast amount of information presented to the COC as a basis for its review. He believed that the two day meeting being held was critical, as it was necessary to take stock of how the COC carries out its work in order to improve the overall functioning of the Commission and on the basis of this to implement concrete changes in terms of practice. He called for concrete and constructive proposals on ways to improve compliance with implementation of ICCAT recommendations, and also recommended that work to this end should continue between now and the annual meeting of the Commission (November 2016) to further develop recommendations for improving the work of the COC.

There was general agreement among participants that from a practical point of view, CPC review on the basis of the Compliance Summary Tables should take place earlier in the annual meeting, with some CPCs recommending that such initial COC review even take place before the ICCAT annual meeting. There was also broad recognition that the submission of Annual Reports by the deadline was critical to enable the COC's effective review, and a number of CPCs supported consideration of making the Annual Report deadline earlier in order to facilitate earlier compilation of the Compliance Summary Tables and review of Annual Reports by the Commission. There was a general view that if sufficient preparatory work was done, a single CPC-by-CPC reading would be sufficient to clarify the facts so as to move on to consideration of the measures to be taken to address non-compliance without further CPC-by-CPC review later in the meeting. Some CPCs felt that recommendations on actions to be taken could be developed by the Chair (in consultation with the Friends of the Chair) and presented to the COC, which would adopt them without discussion unless there was an objection or other specific reason for a CPC to request the floor.

5c) Friends of Chair process, e.g. scope of work, transparency, allotted meeting time

In conjunction with its discussion of the CPC-by-CPC review reflected above, the COC also discussed various aspects of the Friends of the Chair process. While the COC appeared to generally support this mechanism, a number of improvements were recommended. It was also noted that the Friends of the Chair does not have a formal mandate. The ICCAT Chair stressed the importance of steps to ensure transparency and consistency in this process, including through appointment of a rapporteur to develop a record of the group's work in order to illustrate how the group developed its recommendations, which would help to ensure transparency and maintain coherence over time. The ICCAT Chair and a number of

CPCs also recommended that the Friends of the Chair group, or in the view of some CPCs the COC itself, be constituted in advance of the annual meeting, with a number of CPCs supporting that such a meeting take place the day prior to the commencement of the annual meeting. Some CPCs expressed support for allowing any CPC to take part in such process, not just the regional representatives constituting the Friends of the Chair.

5d) Allocation of time to COC at the annual meeting and in intersessional period

While a number of CPCs considered that the time allocated to the COC to carry out its tasks during the annual meeting has been reduced over recent years and is insufficient, it was also recognised that the workload of the Commission poses a challenge to allocating additional time. The ICCAT Chair indicated a willingness to explore the possibility of additional time for the COC as needed, but made it clear that this could only be done if the COC took concrete steps to improve its efficient operation.

The possibility of intersessional meetings of the COC was discussed, but it was recognised that this may not be feasible as an annual event, but could be considered in certain years to discuss specific issues. There was a general consensus, however, that a meeting of the Friends of the Chair or other representative COC group just in advance of the annual meeting would be useful, and some were of the view that this should be extended to include the Chairs of the Panels. One CPC suggested that a full review of all CPCs could be held every two years instead of annually, however this was not supported by some other CPCs that expressed a concern that this approach might prevent important issues from being addressed in a timely manner

5e) Actions to address non-compliance – criteria and potential actions

The Chair presented and asked for CPC views on the draft "Guidelines for an ICCAT Schedule of Actions to Improve Compliance and Cooperation with ICCAT Measures", which had been proposed some years ago by the former COC Chair. The guidelines were intended to provide the COC with a consistent method for considering appropriate actions to improve compliance and cooperation with ICCAT measures. The draft guidelines were circulated in advance of subsequent annual COC meetings to serve as provisional guidance to the COC as it developed recommended actions to address compliance issues; however no further action on the guidelines themselves, such as formal endorsement by the COC or adoption by the Commission, had been taken. With a view towards contributing to transparent, fair, and consistent actions by the COC, the Chair encouraged CPCs to express their views both on the substance of the guidelines and whether the COC would benefit from formal endorsement of them, which would facilitate their future application. The Chair also presented a brief summary of previous actions taken presented in the document "History of Actions Taken by the Commission Following Review by the Compliance Committee since 2009" to facilitate discussion on the way in which the COC assesses and addresses recurring issues of non-compliance.

There was general support for the development of criteria for various COC responsive actions, but some CPCs noted that it is important to maintain discretion and questioned some other CPCs' assertions that strictly following a set of criteria would be the fairest approach for determining consequences. One CPC noted that some of the consequences proposed in the guidelines' schedule of actions are actually not actions that the COC can require of a CPC as they relate to requirements that fall under a specific recommendation or Panel. CPCs were requested to reflect further on this document and to provide feedback in advance of or at the annual meeting.

5f) COC review of compliance with shark conservation and management measures

The Chair noted that in pursuit of the objectives of Rec. 12-05, the COC attempted to carry out a targeted review, in 2014 and 2015, of implementation by CPCs of the ICCAT measures on sharks. However, this review was limited by the absence of reporting by some CPCs and incomplete reporting by others, specifically the use of "not applicable" in the Annual Report to refer to certain obligations without the CPC stating the precise reason for non-applicability. A document entitled "Suggestion to improve compliance review of shark conservation and management measures", presented by Japan, attached as **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2,** proposed ways to improve review by the COC of compliance with recommendations on sharks.

In total, there are ten ICCAT recommendations on sharks, but a number of CPCs have not reported fully on their implementation. Japan therefore proposed a reporting form (attached as **Addendum 1 to Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2**) to streamline and make consistent the reporting process followed by CPCs. To address the issue of N/A, the form would ask CPCs to explain why a particular measure is not applicable, and the form would also prompt CPCs to provide details of implementation of certain requirements where appropriate.

Under this approach, the Secretariat would then translate the responses into the three official languages so that they serve as a reference for CPCs during COC meetings. The following scheduling was suggested for implementation:

November 2016: Finalisation of reporting form; and,
November 2017: Review of implementation of measures on sharks through the review of the submitted reporting forms.

Given the status of shark species under the ICCAT Convention, one CPC questioned whether reporting requirements for sharks should be increased before the Commission had been given the formal mandate to regulate these species. Another CPC, while not questioning that for some areas within the ICCAT Convention area sharks could be an important issue, recalled that the last annual meeting discussed that reporting requirements should be simplified and the reporting burden minimized. Therefore it came as a disappointment to this CPC that the new form tabled for reporting on sharks actually increased the reporting burden. The CPC also mentioned that requiring CPCs to report extensively each year on species that do not occur anywhere remotely near the geographical area of their fishing activities hardly provides any additional information of use to ICCAT and questioned the appropriateness of requiring such CPCs to report the same information every year (e.g. N/A), even if they had already reported on the implementation of shark measures as required by Rec. 12-05. The Chair noted that this might be addressed by designing the form in a way to allow a CPC to indicate no change from previous years in a particular form field.

CPCs were invited to provide any additional input to Japan over the intersessional period and Japan was invited to revise the check sheet based on CPC input and present it to the COC for consideration at its 2016 meeting. The Chair also suggested that the COC might consider extending this approach in the future to other recommendations, as appropriate, and that this approach might also be considered for integration into the online annual report system discussed under agenda item 7a. Japan noted that once the reporting form had been completed for the first time, it would become easier in subsequent years to report any changes.

6 Compliance Tables – process for review and approval, formatting and other issues

The Chair presented a document that he had tabled on Compliance Tables and other issues, attached as **Appendix 7 to ANNEX 4.2**, and noted the recurring difficulties encountered on examination of the Compliance Tables, despite the improvement generally noted in responses to requirements within the framework of Rec. 11-11. Late submissions of Compliance Tables, often after the 15 September deadline, continue to cause serious problems, both for the Secretariat, when summarising them, and for the Compliance Committee, when reviewing them. Lack of necessary resources is often cited by CPCs as a justification for non-compliance in relation to reporting, both generally and with respect to the Compliance Tables.

The Chair recalled the scope of Rec. 11-11, as set out in paragraph 1, and then asked for views on three issues:

1. If a CPC does not have vessels fishing for ICCAT species and does not catch ICCAT species, is submission of a Compliance Table required, or is it sufficient to respond to the Secretariat that this requirement is not applicable for the above reasons?

   There was general agreement that in these cases, Compliance Tables would not be required. The Secretariat confirmed that, where CPCs had confirmed no fisheries/no catch, failure to submit a Compliance Table would not be flagged as an issue of potential non-compliance on the Compliance Summary Tables.

2. If a CPC does not have a quota, catch limit, or landing limit in the relevant recommendation, but harvests the species (e.g. under minor harvester provisions), should this considered to be an "applicable fishery" within the meaning of paragraph 1 such that a compliance reporting table is required for that CPC?

   There was general agreement that only CPCs with allocations of (e.g., quotas; catch/landings limits; fishery caps, including those based on reference years) that could be quantified needed to submit Compliance Tables.

3. If catches taken under minor harvester provisions are not included on the CPC's compliance reporting table or the resulting consolidated compliance table prepared by the Secretariat, could the incomplete picture of catches reflected on the Compliance Tables impede the COC or relevant Panel from effectively carrying out its work?

   The Committee was of the view that the aim of the Compliance Tables is not to know the amounts but rather, as stipulated in paragraph 1 of Rec. 11-11, to demonstrate the way in which the individual quotas or adjusted catch limits were being met, taking into account the ICCAT rules on underage and overage. One CPC suggested that another column be added to the right of each of the nine tables for reporting the adjusted quotas for future years.

CPCs also sought to find ways to render the submission of Compliance Tables more rigorous. The deadline, the current format of the tables, the difficulties in completing the forms, and the need to synchronize the Compliance Tables with other reporting obligations were cited as areas where solutions should be found.

Regarding deadlines, it was suggested that Compliance Tables and Tasks I and II be submitted at the same time, i.e. 31 July. Although this would facilitate reporting for some CPCs, others indicated that they may have difficulty meeting a 31 July deadline. It was agreed that, for the time being, the 15 September deadline for submission of Compliance Tables should be maintained but that the Secretariat could send an initial request for voluntary submission in July if this would facilitate reporting.

With regard to format, CPCs considered it useful to simplify the Compliance Tables, which often contain errors that are likely to be due in part to the table format. The United States presented a proposed new form for the Compliance Tables, using white and blue marlin species as examples. Unlike the current formats, the proposed new tables limited presentation of information to a single year instead of several years; they would relate to: landing limits, transfers/adjustments, adjusted landing limits, current landings, balances, payback date(s), and finally, landings reported to the SCRS. CPCs with white marlin and/or blue marlin quotas, under Rec. 12-04, either in weight or in number (specific case of the United States), would be listed on the Table.

In light of the discussions that followed this proposal, it became apparent that the new format proposed by the United States could be useful but concerns remained. One issue identified was the inability to see historic information or to present anticipated future adjusted limits. Additionally, some CPCs pointed out that the concept of "landing limit" reflected in the table would be inconsistent with domestic law providing for a landing obligation. Another CPC noted that "landing limit" was taken from the pre-existing billfish recommendation. The Chair invited delegations to continue the discussions on this subject with the United States intersessionally by submitting comments to the United States, so that a revised format covering all species could be proposed for consideration at the annual meeting.

One CPC requested that the tables include an automatic calculation system, and that the submission of Compliance Tables be given consideration in the context of any future web-reporting system. The Secretariat noted that multiple options for which year a quota may be adjusted make it difficult to use automatic Excel calculation formulae. Some CPCs encouraged further consideration of this innovation.

The Chair enquired whether there would be any merit in having the Compliance Tables first reviewed by the Panels for consistency with existing rules, but CPCs agreed that the COC is the only body authorised to approve the Compliance Tables. Some CPCs suggested it may be difficult for the relevant Panels to be required to perform a prior review, in view of the workload of their respective agendas. In recognition of these limitations, it was suggested that the Panels could be provided the COC tables for review, and that the Panels at their discretion could identify and address issues in the Compliance Tables and refer any issues that they identify to the COC.

7 Consideration of reporting formats and deadlines

7a) Annual Reports

Many CPCs agreed that an earlier submission date of the Annual Reports would afford a more thorough review and also allow more time for the Secretariat to compile information for the Committee. It was recalled that the deadlines in this case are decided by the Commission, but that this could be changed by the Commission if required. The Chair submitted a "List of ICCAT reporting deadlines within one month prior to Annual Report deadline (16 October) that would be affected or may need to be changed if Annual Report deadline is moved up to 1 month earlier (16 September)". While an eventual unification of deadlines to 15 September was supported by many CPCs, it was noted that implications for other reporting obligations should be taken into account, as well as possible difficulties for some CPCs in meeting a deadline earlier than one week before the SCRS meeting. It was agreed that this would be further discussed at the annual meeting, and CPCs were requested to consider this issue over the intersessional period including the implications it may have for their domestic processes. It was also noted by the Secretariat that CPCs may provide required materials prior to the deadlines whenever possible.

The Chair noted that, as illustrated in the Secretariat's 2015 Report to the Compliance Committee at the annual meeting, there are a number of ICCAT recommendations or requirements that do not specifically require reporting on implementation in the Annual Report and for which information on CPC implementation is not readily available in other reports submitted to ICCAT. A few CPCs report on measures to implement these requirements in Part 4 of the Annual Report, however there is not a consistent practice or format in this regard. CPCs considered that it was important to reach a common understanding what should be reported in Section 4 and that additional guidelines could be useful for this purpose.

The COC resumed discussions that took place at the 2015 annual meeting that resulted in the COC's decision to further consider the development of an online reporting system for the submission of Annual Reports, which is intended to streamline this task and also make the information in reports more usable by because it would be available in a relational database. The Secretariat presented a document on "Information received to date on Online Reporting Systems from other Tuna RFMOs", summarising the information received from other tuna RFMOs (CCSBT, IATTAC, IOTC and WCPFC). The most relevant of the four models of interest to ICCAT appeared to be that of the WCPFC, which already has an online reporting system for annual reports. For information purpose, the annual budget allocated by the WCPFC to its system is in the order of US$100,000. In the case of ICCAT, the Secretariat indicated that work to develop such a system would need to be outsourced should it be decided to be done because the Secretariat does not have the human resources available for this task, given the current workload. One CPC suggested that the Compliance Tables, initially, then the Annual Reports at a later date could be the first to be reported through the online system, but that the parameters for this would need to be very clearly defined beforehand. It was noted that such a system should also be sufficiently interactive so as to facilitate prior guidance on reporting; e.g. an entry of "not applicable" by a CPC could be followed automatically by the request for justification. It was agreed that further reflection on this should continue intersessionally for further discussion at the annual meeting.

*7b) Translation of COC-related document*s

A number of CPCs were strongly of the view that all sections of the Annual Reports, not just the short summary in Section 1, should be translated into all Commission languages in order to better enable the full and transparent review by the COC. While such translation would be very useful in contributing to transparency, this entails additional work for the Secretariat. Therefore, CPCs endorsed the Secretariat's suggestion that the Secretariat solicit input from CPCs on which other COC-related documents are important for its work and should be translated. On the basis of CPC input in response to this request, the COC will develop recommendations at the annual meeting regarding which documents are of less priority and either are no longer needed (which in some cases may require a change to an ICCAT recommendation in order to eliminate them) or no longer need to be fully translated. The Secretariat also confirmed the possibility of outsourcing more translation work, which could be done through the Working Capital Fund, but noted the difficulty and expense in finding translators with the appropriate subject matter expertise.

8 Other matters

Proposed resolution for guidelines on ICCAT's compliance review process

The COC reviewed the proposal by the United States entitled "Draft Resolution by ICCAT on guidelines to facilitate an efficient and effective compliance review process", attached as **Appendix 8 to ANNEX 4.2**, which sets forth a process for the COC to conduct its compliance review and was prepared taking into account discussions under previous agenda items. The participants thanked the United States for bringing forward the proposal and were generally supportive of advancing a document of this type in order to improve the COC's work. Some CPCs regarded it as largely formalising the current practice of the COC, and felt that additional elements to improve current functioning should be added to reflect other ideas expressed during this intersessional meeting of the COC. Others suggested that this proposal be merged with the draft Schedule of Actions discussed under 5 e). CPCs were invited to submit any additional views to the United States over the intersessional period and the United States was invited to revise its proposal to take into account CPC input and present it for consideration by the COC at the 2016 annual meeting.

Format and content of reports and other COC documents considered at the annual meeting

A question was raised regarding the format for reporting data from national observers (by-catch) reports. A CPC considered some of the data to be overly burdensome and unnecessary. The Secretariat responded that these documents had been developed by the Statistics Department in accordance with the guidance of the Sub-committee on Statistics. The Secretariat undertook to investigate whether any simplification could be made, or if fields could be automatically filled through the linking of existing information in other databases, e.g. vessel information.

Information on the implementation of measures requiring the reporting of IMO numbers

Within the framework of implementation of Rec. 13-13, paras 5bis and 5tris, some CPCs expressed their difficulty in obtaining International Maritime Organization numbers or numbers following the seven-digit numbering sequence, allocated by IHS-Maritime (referred to in Rec. 13-13 as "LR number" following historic practice), for their vessels measuring 20 meters or over but under 100 gross tonnage.

The Secretariat reported that the proportion of "+20 m" vessels active on the ICCAT Record of Vessels with an International Registry Number (IMO or LRN, according to para. 5bis; or WOD for wooden, according to para. 5tris), exceeded 50%, following the additional information provided in recent months by the Secretariat.

The delegation of the United States stated that they had not encountered any problem in obtaining these numbers from the IMO for their "+20 m" vessels that are under 100 GT, and suggested that others continue to seek to obtain such numbers, although it was recognised that the possibility of failure to obtain IMO/LR numbers had been addressed in Recommendation 13-13. The United States noted that they had obtained these numbers for these small vessels through direct contact with IHS-Maritime, and suggested that CPCs could consider such an approach in an effort to have greater success than through individual vessel owners requesting the numbers.

The Secretariat informed that the new "CP01-VessLsts" form (version 2016a) has been developed to allow CPCs to include codes to indicate that the lack of IRN Number was justified in the case of inability to obtain an IMO/LR number, in accordance with paragraph 5tris of Rec. 13-13. The new version of the form "CP01-VessLsts" for submission of vessel lists can be downloaded from the ICCAT web site, along with the guidelines for transmission of data and information required by ICCAT.

The Executive Secretary urged ICCAT CPCs that are also members of the IMO to make efforts through the IMO to facilitate the issuance of IMO/LR numbers for all "+20 m" vessels, as it is beneficial for the integrity of the ICCAT Record of Vessels, as stipulated in Rec. 13-13.

Closing remarks

CPCs welcomed this opportunity to hold discussions of this level of detail and quality, which would not have been possible in the annual meeting.

9 Adoption of report and adjournment

It was agreed to adopt the Report by correspondence.

The meeting of the Compliance Committee was adjourned.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.2

Agenda

1 Opening of the meeting

2 Adoption of the agenda and meeting arrangements

3 Nomination of Rapporteur

4 Review of procedures of the Compliance Committee

   a. Identification of priority subject matter areas for COC review in a given year

   b. Process for individual CPC reviews at the annual meeting

   c. Friends of Chair process – e.g. scope of work, transparency, allotted meeting time

   d. Allocation of time to COC at the annual meeting and in intersessional period

   e. Actions to address non-compliance – criteria and potential actions

   f. COC review of compliance with shark conservation and management measures

5 Compliance Tables – process for review and approval, formatting, and other issues

6 Consideration of reporting formats and deadlines

   a. Annual Reports

      i. Deadline

      ii. Recommendations not specifically addressed in Annual Report format

      iii. Online reporting system for Annual Reports

   b. Translation of COC-related documents

   c. Other reporting format and deadline issues

7 Other matters

   a. Format and content of reports and other COC documents considered at annual meeting

   b. Information on implementation of measures requiring the reporting of IMO numbers

8 Adoption of Report and adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.2

Annotated Revised Agenda

1 Opening of the meeting

2 Adoption of the agenda and meeting arrangements
Preliminary views sought on whether the COC should seek to approve the meeting report during the intersessional meeting or by correspondence.

3 Nomination of Rapporteur

4 Review of procedures of the Compliance Committee

a. Identification of priority subject matter areas for COC review in a given year
Japan has proposed consideration of such an approach in COC-003.

b. Process for individual CPC reviews at the annual meeting
Japan and the ICCAT Chair have addressed this in COC-003 and COC-005 respectively.

c. Allocation of time to the COC at the annual meeting and in intersessional period
Japan and the COC Chair have addressed this respectively in COC-003 and COC Chair letter dated October 22, 2015 (ICCAT Circular #07480/2015, excerpted in pertinent part in COC-003).

d. Actions to address non-compliance – criteria and potential actions
Views are requested on substance and status of guidelines developed by former COC Chair in COC-009; see also thoughts of ICCAT Chair on transparency, consistency, and consequences in COC-005, and a brief summary of COC actions since 2009 in COC-007 that is intended to aid discussion how the COC assesses and addresses recurring issues of non-compliance.

e. Friends of Chair process – e.g. scope of work, transparency, allotted meeting time
Suggestions of the ICCAT Chair for this process are contained in COC-005; see also provisional record of 2015 ICCAT proceedings, which reflects COC recommendation that the COC Chair, Secretariat, and Friends of the Chair group collaborate during the intersessional period to refer compliance-related issues for discussion by other subsidiary bodies under a dedicated compliance agenda item at the 2016 annual meeting.

f. COC review of compliance with shark conservation and management measures
In furtherance of the objectives of Rec. 12-05, the COC has attempted to undertake a focused review of CPC implementation of shark measures in 2014 and 2015. However, this review has been limited by lack of reporting by some CPCs, CPC use in Annual Report of "not applicable or "NA" without further information as to the reason for non-applicability, and other issues. Japan's submission COC-004 proposes ways to improve the COC's review of compliance with shark recommendations.

5 Compliance tables – process for review and approval, formatting, and other issues
Views are requested on issues raised in COC Chair document COC-011; see also Recommendation by ICCAT to Clarify the Application of Compliance Recommendations and for Developing the Compliance Annex [11-11].

6 Consideration of reporting formats and deadlines

a. Annual Reports

i. Deadline

Views are requested on moving the deadline of the Annual Report earlier in order to allow for more thorough review of Annual Reports in advance of the annual meeting and the earlier circulation of compliance summary tables that form the basis of the COC's individual CPC review. See COC-010, which list reporting requirements with deadline within one month of Annual Reports in order to illustrate what reporting obligations may be affected by an earlier Annual Report deadline. See also discussion of deadline in Japan's submission COC-003, as well as ICCAT Chair Letter COC-005 section entitled "Review process", for which an earlier deadline may be relevant to the review process envisaged by the Chair.

ii. Recommendations not specifically addressed in Annual Report format

As illustrated in the Secretariat's 2015 Report to the Compliance Committee at the annual meeting, there are a number of ICCAT recommendations that do not specifically require reporting on implementation in the Annual Report and for which information on CPC implementation is not readily available in other reports submitted to ICCAT. Some CPCs report on measures to implement these recommendations in Part 4 of the Annual Report, however there is not a consistent practice or format in this regard.

iii. Online reporting system for Annual Reports

This item will include an overview from the Secretariat of COC-002, which contains information the Secretariat has obtained from other tuna RFMOs on their online reporting activities. See also COC-006 from the United States, which requests views on how an online reporting tool would be developed and implemented in the ICCAT context.

b. Translation of COC-related documents

Views are requested on COC documents that should be prioritized for translation. See also Japan's suggestions on translation in COC-003.

c. Other reporting format and deadline issues

Views are requested on other reporting format or deadline issues that the COC should consider in order to improve the function of the COC. A list of 2016 reporting requirements can be accessed at: http://www.iccat.int/en/submitCOMPreq.htm.

7 Other matters

a) Format and content of reports and other COC documents considered at annual meeting

See COC-005, in which the ICCAT Chair notes: "Receipt of information in advance is key to reviewing compliance performance. In addition, the structure of the information received from the Secretariat is important to enable delegates to have a clear and comprehensive picture of performance. I would encourage CPCs to discuss the presentation of information by the Secretariat at the forthcoming intersessional meeting." Views are requested on how information is presented to the COC for its review prior to and at the annual meeting. For reference, 2015 COC meetings documents can be accessed at: https://www.iccat.int/com2015/index.htm#COC.

8 Adoption of Report and adjournment

Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.2

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Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.2

Suggestions to improve the operation of the Compliance Committee
(Submitted by Japan)

1 Introduction

Compliance is one of the fundamental elements for the operation of the Commission. Securing compliance is essential to maintain fairness among CPCs and ensure that conservation and management measures are as effective as possible. In the last several years ICCAT has greatly improved compliance (of CPCs) with conservation and management measures, however, there is still room for improvement. Japan would like to hereby make suggestions to facilitate discussions at the Intersessional Meeting of the Compliance Committee (hereinafter referred to as COC).

2 Possible areas for improvement

(1) Fisheries subject to compliance review

The COC has been working well, particularly in assessing and improving compliance for the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fisheries. On the other hand, not so much attention has been given to the compliance with conservation and management measures for other fisheries. Although the conservation and management measures for other fisheries are not as complex as those for the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fisheries, these fisheries are also important and the COC should pay more attention to them.

(2) CPC-by-CPC review

Current time limitations hinder the COC from reviewing the compliance of each CPC thoroughly since there are many CPCs as well as numerous conservation and management measures in ICCAT. Allocating more time for the COC may solve this problem, however it would be an extra burden. Therefore, better usage of time should be considered and in any event, time allocated to the COC should not be further reduced.

(3) Compliance report

In our understanding, currently the Secretariat reviews reports and data concerning each CPC and compiles possible cases of non-compliance into the "Draft Compliance Summary Tables" (e.g. COC-308/2015), with some input from the COC Chairman where possible. Based on this document and review by the Friends of the Chair Group, COC produces the "List of compliance actions recommended by Compliance Committee Chair Friends Group for approval by COC" (e.g. COC-308, Appendix 2/2015). However, the Draft Compliance Summary Tables do not necessarily cover all possible issues of non-compliance for various reasons, which makes it difficult for the COC to make comprehensive CPC-by-CPC reviews. In order to implement more in-depth and inclusive review, to provide additional information as well as to set an earlier deadline for submission of certain parts of the Annual Report should be means for improvement.

3 Chairman's suggestions

(1) The Chairman suggested several ways to improve the operation of the COC in his letter dated October 22, 2015 (ICCAT Circular #07480/2015). These are:

   (a) modifying the Annual Report format to add specific fields for reporting on implementation of requirements not otherwise reflected specifically in the current report format;

(b) holding intersessional meetings of the COC in association with IMM or another appropriate subsidiary body where there are important technical matters in need of advancement by the COC; and

(c) a return to holding a special session of the Compliance Committee in advance of the annual meeting on a biennial or triennial basis.

(2) While we support the principle of (1)(a) mentioned above, what is more necessary is that every CPC completes and submits the Annual Report format (Section 3 of Annual Report) within deadline and the Section should be translated into the three official languages of the Commission. Regarding (1)(b), the decision should be made on a case-by-case basis, and we have no particular comment at this point. Regarding (1)(c), it could be certainly an option, however, it may prolong the total duration of the annual meeting every two or three years.

4. Japan's suggestions

Taking these circumstances into consideration, we would like to make the following suggestions:

(1) Section 3 of the Annual Report of each CPC should be translated into the three official languages and distributed at least one week in advance of the annual meeting.

(2) The process of COC could be improved in the following way:

(a) The Secretariat and the Chairman should continue the current practice, i.e., preparation of the Draft Compliance Summary Tables.
(b) The CPC-by-CPC review based on the Summary Tables should be implemented during the early stage of the annual meeting so that the Chairman and the Friends Group is able to have enough time to review each CPC's compliance situation.
(c) During the CPC-by-CPC review, the Chairman will not read all potential non-compliances for each CPC as he does currently. Instead, the Chairman will simply call the name of CPCs one by one to see if he should take time. If any CPC does not understand the information presented concerning its compliance or the compliance of other CPCs or the CPC has additional information to provide, the COC should discuss the issue.
(d) After the initial CPC-by-CPC review, which is expected to take a relatively short time, the Chairman and the Friends Group will produce a List of compliance actions for all the CPCs and present it to the Compliance Committee for comments. If any CPC does not agree with the recommended action, the COC should discuss the issue and decide on what kind of action to be recommended to the Commission. If there is no comment on the compliance information presented by the Chairman, including the recommended action, the recommended action should be agreed by the COC and presented to the Commission for adoption.

(3) As an alternative to (2) above, the following options could be considered in order to conduct more in-depth review:

Option 1: CPC-by-CPC reviews will be conducted, with focusing on a specific species, fishery or topic each year.

Example 1 (Species basis):

2016	Sharks
2017	Bluefin tuna
2018	Tropical tunas
2019	Swordfish and albacore
2020	Marlins and bycatch species (seabirds and turtles)

or

2016	Shark and bycatch species
2017	Bluefin tuna
2018	Tropical tunas
2019	Swordfish, marlins and albacore

Example 2 (Fishery basis)

2016 Longline
2017 Purse seine
2018 Other gears

Example 3 (Topic basis)

2016 Observer programs
2017 Port State measures
2018 Trade measures
2019 Other measures such as VMS, vessel listing, chartering

Option 2: The COC will review a group of CPCs instead of all CPCs each year. CPCs will be divided into 4 groups in alphabetical order and the COC will review compliance of a group, that is, about 10 CPCs will be reviewed each year.

Example

2016 Group 1
2017 Group 2
2018 Group 3
2019 Group 4

Option 3: The COC will allocate a fixed time for comprehensive CPC-by-CPC reviews, e.g., three sessions. The review will be conducted for as many CPCs as possible. For example, if 20 CPCs are reviewed in 2016, the remaining CPCs will be reviewed in 2017.

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.2

Letter from ICCAT Chairman on compliance issues

19 February 2016

Dear ICCAT Colleagues,

I would like to thank you all again for the confidence you have placed in me by electing me as ICCAT Chairperson at the 24th Regular meeting of the Commission. I wish to assure you that I will make every effort to work to make our Commission even more effective and to maintain the prestige which it has regained, thanks to the efforts of my predecessors and all of you.

As you are all aware, we do have a lot to accomplish in 2016. We have agreed to carry out a second Performance Review in 2016, a process which I believe will help us identify priority issues for the future. My sincere hope is that in this 50th Anniversary year of ICCAT, we can conclude discussions on amendments to the ICCAT Convention, finalise our electronic catch document scheme for bluefin tuna, and make good progress on the use of harvest control rules to improve the management of the stocks for which ICCAT is responsible.

Compliance with our various Recommendations is another area I believe improvements can be made. From discussions at past Commission meetings and my consultation with the Secretariat and the Chairperson of the Compliance Committee, it is clear that many CPCs face several reporting challenges, which I believe should be discussed during the forthcoming intersessional meeting of the Compliance Committee. I have identified some of these issues in the Attachment and wish to encourage active participation in the meeting.

During the year, I hope to establish closer contact with all of you individually and at the regional level in order to gain better understanding of specific issues of significance to you.

I look forward to working with you all during the coming biennial period.

Martin Tsamenyi
ICCAT Chairman

Addendum 1 to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.2

Some issues for consideration in compliance reviews

Formats

To ensure the completeness of information and assist the Committee in its work, the Commission has approved standard forms designed by the Secretariat. Where difficulties are being encountered or where no standard forms exist, I would encourage discussion of improvement of formats and content of reports at the forthcoming intersessional.

Deadlines

I have noticed in recent years that, while overall submission of information is improving, many CPCs are not able to meet the deadlines established by the Commission. Respecting the deadlines agreed is of the utmost importance in order for the information to be compiled in time for review by the Compliance Committee. In the past, the submission of reports during the Annual meeting significantly delayed the work of the Compliance Committee and also made it difficult for all Commissioners to keep abreast of updates. I would urge all CPCs to respect the deadlines, particularly for basic reports such as statistics, compliance tables and Annual Reports. Review by the Compliance Committee should be based only on the information submitted in advance of the Commission meetings and compiled and distributed to delegates by the Secretariat in its reports. Any challenges being faced with deadlines should be fully discussed and addressed at forthcoming intersessional meeting of the Compliance Committee.

Information dissemination

Receipt of information in advance is key to reviewing compliance performance. In addition, the structure of the information received from the Secretariat is important to enable delegates to have a clear and comprehensive picture of performance. I would encourage CPCs to discuss the presentation of information by the Secretariat at the forthcoming intersessional meeting.

Transparency and consistency

The large amount of information required to be submitted makes it impossible for such information to be reviewed in depth by the Compliance Committee as a whole. Given the volume of information to be reviewed, I do not think the task should fall on the Chairperson of the Compliance Committee alone. I therefore agree with the recent use of a small "Friends of the Chair" group to assist in this task and make recommendations to the Committee for actions. However, lack of time in recent years has resulted in there being only a record of the decisions, but no record of the discussions which led to such decisions. I would suggest that in future, the "Friends of the Chair" nominate a rapporteur to keep a record and produce a brief report of the findings of the group, and the criteria used for assigning categories (for example: no action, letter requesting information letter expressing concern, identification, sanctions). This would ensure transparency in the process and also help to maintain coherence over time.

Review process

With the increasing number of issues to discuss each year at the Commission meeting, it is true that insufficient time can be allocated to the Compliance Committee to carry out a thorough review and to have full discussion of all cases. For this reason, and in line with my comments on deadlines above, I believe that the "Friends of the Chair" group should be constituted in advance, and the information reviewed by this group be circulated to CPCs as soon as it becomes available, where possible in advance of the meeting. The group could be elected each year, with one representative per region, as in the past. In addition, CPCs with compliance deficiencies such as missing information and late reporting, should explain, ***in writing***, the reason for non-submission and actions proposed for improvement in the future. This could then be reviewed by the group the following year to see if the undertakings by each CPC have been fulfilled.

Consequences

A small number of Recommendations allow for certain sanctions in the case of non-compliance. These are: Rec. 11-15, which allows for the prohibition on catching of non-reported species, Rec. 06-13, which allows for the imposition of trade sanctions in cases of IUU activities and Rec. 96-14, which allows for a reduction of 125% as well as trade restrictive measures for these species for over-harvest of BFT/SWO in two consecutive years. I consider trade restrictions to be a last resort for serious cases and hope that our compliance can be improved by encouragement and good-will of CPCs. The Compliance Committee may wish to consider in the future other types of actions/penalties to be applied in cases of continued non-compliance.

Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2

Suggestion to improve compliance review of shark conservation and management measures
(Submitted by Japan)

1 Background

(1) ICCAT has adopted several recommendations for sharks, either in a general or species-specific manner, in accordance with an ecosystem approach. They are:

- Rec. 04-10 (Submission of data and prohibition of finning)
- Rec. 07-06 (Submission of data and reduction of fishing mortality in fisheries targeting porbeagle and shortfin mako sharks)
- Rec. 09-07 (Prohibition of retention of bigeye thresher shark and submission of data on another two thresher shark species)
- Rec. 10-06 (Report of actions to implement past Recommendations and prohibition of retention of shortfin mako if data are not submitted)
- Rec. 10-07 (Prohibition of retention of oceanic whitetip shark and record of discards through observers)
- Rec. 10-08 (Prohibition of retention of three hammerhead shark species with an exemption for developing CPCs under certain conditions and record of discards)
- Rec. 11-08 (Prohibition of retention of silky shark with an exemption for developing coastal CPCs under certain conditions, record of discards through observers)
- Rec. 11-15 (Prohibition of retention of sharks if the data are not submitted)
- Rec. 12-05 (Report of implementation of existing shark conservation measures)
- Rec. 14-06 (Submission of data on shortfin mako)

(2) Particular attention should be given to Rec. 12-05. This recommendation was adopted based on the concern that not all CPCs implement these shark-related recommendations for various reasons, such as lack of capacity and misunderstanding of recommendations.

(3) In order to check the compliance of CPCs with the shark conservation measures, CPCs, in accordance with Rec. 12-05, submitted information on their implementation, which was compiled into COC-303/2015 Appendix 4. The COC meeting during the 2015 annual meeting should have reviewed this paper thoroughly. However, only brief discussion was held in the meeting about thematic issues due to time constraints and the CPC-by-CPC review was postponed to the COC meeting during the 2016 annual meeting.

(4) Nevertheless, COC-303/2015 Appendix 4 not only provided useful information but also revealed several problems. Japan is concerned that any future COC review on shark measures will be much less useful unless the problems are rectified.

2 Identified problems

(1) No report

Several CPCs did not report anything.

(2) Use of "Not applicable"

Several CPCs describe "Not applicable" in their report without explaining any reason, but in most cases, the reason is not clear. There could be several reasons for answering "Not applicable", such as: (i) no shark is found in its waters or there are no shark interactions in the particular fishery; (ii) catch of shark is totally prohibited; and (iii) no shark is utilized. In case of (i), it can be written as a reason for "Not applicable", however there was some discussion concerning whether the absence of sharks in

a CPC's waters or no shark interaction with a particular fishery can be an appropriate response in most fisheries for tuna and tuna-like species. In this case, it may be appropriate to have further guidance from the SCRS concerning whether "Not applicable" is an acceptable response for a particular fishery/gear type. In case of (ii) and (iii), the CPCs still owe reporting requirement. Therefore, "Not applicable" alone cannot be used and CPCs are supposed to specify why they consider a requirement "Not applicable".

(3) Implementation issues

Some developing CPCs may have difficulties in thoroughly implementing all the conservation measures. It would be helpful if CPCs could provide more details on their difficulties, so that the Commission could possibly consider targeted capacity building programs.

(4) Ambiguity on legal status of domestic regulations

It is sometimes unclear whether CPCs have transposed ICCAT regulations into their domestic regulations in a legally-binding manner. One example is the use of "instruct". This word may sound like the government simply asks fishermen to implement ICCAT measures in a non-legally binding manner. If a CPC implements a measure in a non-legally binding manner, it could be non-compliance or otherwise insufficient to ensure that the measure's requirements are fulfilled.

(5) Partial response

Some CPCs explain only data collection programs or limited species. The report should cover implementation of all the shark conservation measures, including those for specific species and those for conservation of sharks in general.

(6) Lack of monitoring

Implementation of conservation measures in a legally-binding manner is not enough. Equally important is monitoring of actual implementation. The monitoring could include, inter alia, at-sea inspection, placement of observers on board, landing inspection and examination of transaction documents. CPCs should specify what kind of monitoring measures are in place to check the implementation of shark measures.

(7) Misunderstanding of recommendations

Some CPCs apparently misunderstand recommendations. Examples of typical misunderstandings are: (i) recommendations are applicable only to large-scale fishing vessels; (ii) recommendations are applicable only to longline fishing vessels; (iii) recommendations are not applicable to artisanal fisheries; (iv) data reporting is not required if catch of shark is prohibited.

(8) Reference to other documents

Some CPCs simply refer to other documents and this practice is useful in saving time and paper. However, a problem may arise if such a document is written only in one of the three official languages. Therefore, all referred documents should be written in three official languages (or at least in English).

3 Suggestions to improve the process

Taking the above problems into account, the easiest solution would be to introduce a check sheet for the implementation of each important requirement and each CPC fulfills and submits it to the Secretariat. The Secretariat then translates them into the three official languages among CPCs for reference at COC meetings. The attached paper is an example of Check Sheet for further consideration (**Addendum 1 to Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2**).

4 Suggested timeline

November 2016	Finalization of the Check Sheet
November 2017	Review of implementation of shark measures using the Check Sheet

Addendum 1 to Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2

Check Sheet

(Name of CPC)

Note: Each ICCAT requirement must be transposed into the CPC's domestic legally binding framework. Just requesting fishermen to implement measures should not be regarded as implementation.

Rec. #	Para #	Requirement	Status of implementation	Note
04-10	1	Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) shall annually report Task I and Task II data for catches of sharks, in accordance with ICCAT data reporting procedures, including available historical data	Yes or No or N/A (Not applicable)	If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
	2	CPCs shall take the necessary measures to require that their fishermen fully utilize their entire catches of sharks. Full utilization is defined as retention by the fishing vessel of all parts of the shark except head, guts and skins, to the point of first landing	Yes or No or N/A	If "Yes", explain the details of the measures, including ways to monitor the compliance. If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
	3	(1) CPCs shall require their vessels to not have onboard fins that total more than 5% of the weight of sharks onboard, up to the first point of landing	Yes or No or N/A	If "Yes", explain ways to monitor the compliance. If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.

		(2) CPCs that currently do not require fins and carcasses to be offloaded together at the point of first landing shall take the necessary measures to ensure compliance with the 5% ratio through certification, monitoring by an observer, or other appropriate measures	Yes or No or N/A	If "Yes", explain the details of the measures, including ways to monitor the compliance. If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
	5	Fishing vessels are prohibited from retaining on board, transshipping or landing any fins harvested in contravention of this Recommendation	Yes or No or N/A	If "Yes", explain ways to monitor the compliance. If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
07-06	1	Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as CPCs), especially those directing fishing activities for sharks, shall submit Task I and II data for sharks, as required by ICCAT data reporting procedures (including estimates of dead discards and size frequencies) in advance of the next SCRS assessment	Yes or No or N/A	If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
	2	Until such time as sustainable levels of harvest can be determined through peer reviewed stock assessments by SCRS or other organizations, CPCs shall take appropriate measures to reduce fishing mortality in fisheries targeting porbeagle *(Lamna nasus*) and North Atlantic shortfin mako sharks (*Isurus oxyrinchus*)	Yes or No or N/A	If "Yes", explain the details of the measures, including ways to monitor the compliance. If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.

09-07	1	Contracting Parties, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall prohibit, retaining onboard, transshipping, landing, storing, selling, or offering for sale any part or whole carcass of bigeye thresher sharks (*Alopias superciliosus*) in any fishery with exception of a Mexican small-scale coastal fishery with a catch of less than 110 fish	Yes or No or N/A	If "Yes", explain ways to monitor the compliance. If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
	2	CPCs shall require vessels flying their flag to promptly release unharmed, to the extent practicable, bigeye thresher sharks when brought along side for taking on board the vessel	Yes or No or N/A	If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
	4	CPCs shall require the collection and submission of Task I and Task II data for Alopias spp other than *A. superciliosus* in accordance with ICCAT data reporting requirements. The number of discards and releases of *A. superciliosus* must be recorded with indication of status (dead or alive) and reported to ICCAT in accordance with ICCAT data reporting requirements	Yes or No or N/A	If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
10-06	1	CPCs shall include information in their 2012 Annual Reports on actions taken to implement Recommendations 04-10, 05-05, and 07-06, in particular the steps taken to improve their Task I and Task II data collection for direct and incidental catches	Yes or No or N/A	If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.

10-07	1	Contracting Parties, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall prohibit retaining onboard, transshipping, landing, storing, selling, or offering for sale any part or whole carcass of oceanic whitetip sharks in any fishery	Yes or No or N/A	If "Yes", explain ways to monitor the compliance. If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
	2	CPCs shall record through their observer programs the number of discards and releases of oceanic whitetip sharks with indication of status (dead or alive) and report it to ICCAT	Yes or No or N/A	If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
10-08	1	Contracting Parties, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall prohibit retaining onboard, transshipping, landing, storing, selling, or offering for sale any part or whole carcass of hammerhead sharks of the family Sphyrnidae (except for the Sphyrna tiburo), taken in the Convention area in association with ICCAT fisheries	Yes or No or N/A	If "Yes", explain ways to monitor the compliance. If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
	2	CPCs shall require vessels flying their flag, to promptly release unharmed, to the extent practicable, hammerhead sharks when brought alongside the vessel	Yes or No or N/A	If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.

	3	(1) Hammerhead sharks that are caught by developing coastal CPCs for local consumption are exempted from the measures established in paragraphs 1 and 2, provided these CPCs submit Task I and, if possible, Task II data according to the reporting procedures established by the SCRS. If it is not possible to provide catch data by species, they shall be provided at least by genus Sphryna	Yes or No or N/A	If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
		(2) Developing coastal CPCs exempted from this prohibition pursuant to this paragraph should endeavor not to increase their catches of hammerhead sharks. Such CPCs shall take necessary measures to ensure that hammerhead sharks of the family Sphyrnidae (except of Sphyrna tiburo) will not enter international trade and shall notify the Commission of such measures	Yes or No or N/A	If "Yes", explain the details of the measures, including ways to monitor the compliance. If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
	4	CPCs shall require that the number of discards and releases of hammerhead sharks are recorded with indication of status (dead or alive) and reported to ICCAT in accordance with ICCAT data reporting requirements	Yes or No or N/A	If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
11-08	1	Contracting Parties, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall require fishing vessels flying their flag and operating in ICCAT managed fisheries to release all silky sharks whether dead or alive, and prohibit retaining on board, transshipping, or landing any part or whole carcass of silky shark	Yes or No or N/A	If "Yes", explain ways to monitor the compliance. If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.

	2	CPCs shall require vessels flying their flag to promptly release silky sharks unharmed, at the latest before putting the catch into the fish holds, giving due consideration to the safety of crew members. Purse seine vessels engaged in ICCAT fisheries shall endeavor to take additional measures to increase the survival rate of silky sharks incidentally caught	Yes or No or N/A	If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
	3	CPCs shall record through their observer programs the number of discards and releases of silky sharks with indication of status (dead or alive) and report it to ICCAT	Yes or No or N/A	If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
	4	(1) Silky sharks that are caught by developing coastal CPCs for local consumption are exempted from the measures established in paragraphs 1 and 2, provided these CPCs submit Task I and, if possible, Task II data according to the reporting procedures established by the SCRS. CPCs that have not reported species-specific shark data shall provide a plan by July 1, 2012, for improving their data collection for sharks on a species specific level for review by the SCRS and Commission	Yes or No or N/A	If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
		(2) Developing coastal CPCs exempted from the prohibition pursuant to this paragraph shall not increase their catches of silky sharks. Such CPCs shall take necessary measures to ensure that silky sharks will not enter international trade and shall notify the Commission of such measures	Yes or No or N/A	If "Yes", explain the details of the measures, including ways to monitor the compliance. If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.

	6	The prohibition on retention in paragraph 1 does not apply to CPCs whose domestic law requires that all dead fish be landed, that the fishermen cannot draw any commercial profit from such fish and that includes a prohibition against silky shark fisheries	Applicable or N/A	
11-15	1	CPCs shall 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, in particular the steps taken to improve their Task I and Task II data collection for direct and incidental catches	Yes or No or N/A	If "Yes", explain the details of the actions. If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
14-06	1	CPCs shall improve their catch reporting systems to ensure the reporting of shortfin mako catch and effort data to ICCAT in full accordance with the ICCAT requirements for provision of Task I and Task II catch, effort and size data	Yes or No or N/A	If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
	2	CPCs shall include in their Annual Reports to ICCAT information on the actions they have taken domestically to monitor catches and to conserve and manage shortfin mako sharks	Yes or No or N/A	If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.

Appendix 7 to ANNEX 4.2

Compliance Tables – Process for review and approval, formatting, and other issues
(Submission of the Compliance Committee Chair)

1 Scope of application

Rec. 11-11, para. 1, provides:

By 15 September of each year, Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities (CPCs) shall complete and submit the following to ICCAT using Commission-approved tables and forms provided by the Secretariat:

- *an "ICCAT Compliance Reporting Table" covering each of its applicable fisheries, and*

- *a form for each stock or species, as appropriate, showing how adjusted quotas or catch limits were calculated taking into account ICCAT's rules on under and overharvests.*

Questions for clarification:

- If a CPC does not have vessels fishing for ICCAT species and does not catch ICCAT species, is submission of a compliance table required, or is it sufficient to respond to the Secretariat that this requirement is not applicable for the above reasons?

- If a CPC does not have a quota, catch limit, or landing limit in the relevant recommendation, but harvests the species (e.g., under minor harvester provisions), should this considered to be an "applicable fishery" within the meaning of para. 1 such that a compliance reporting table is required for that CPC?

- If such catches under minor harvester provisions are not included on the CPC's compliance reporting table and the resulting consolidated compliance table prepared by the Secretariat, could the incomplete picture of catches reflected on the compliance tables impede the COC or relevant panel from effectively carrying out its work?

2 Late submissions

Despite the requirement under Rec. 11-11 to submit compliance tables (**Addendum 1 to Appendix 7 to ANNEX 4.2**) by September 15, every year a large number of CPCs miss this deadline and submissions of tables or corrections during the annual meeting is very common. Communicating with CPCs regarding missing, incomplete, or corrected compliance tables after the September 15 deadline, particularly during the annual meeting, takes a significant amount of time of the Secretariat staff and COC Chair that could be more effectively used to advance the COC's agenda in the face of already limited meeting time.

- Why are late submission and corrections after the deadline such a chronic issue? How can this be improved?

- How should the COC respond to late submissions of required compliance tables?

- Should the COC continue to accept late submissions, particularly after the commencement of the annual meeting? If the COC refuses to accept such submissions, how can the compliance tables be reviewed and adopted?

- Would an earlier deadline for CPC submission of compliance tables help to ensure that correctly completed compliance tables are available for review by the Commission at the start of the annual meeting, by providing more time for the CPC to work with the Secretariat to correct any errors prior to the annual meeting?

3 Process for review

In the past, when the COC was allocated more meeting time during both the annual meeting and intersessional period, the COC spent up to an entire day of meeting time to review COC tables in detail to ensure they accurately reflected catches and correctly applied ICCAT rules on carry forward and underharvest. However, such a detailed review has not been undertaken in more recent years in which the COC has been allocated less meeting time. The difficulty of carrying out a meaningful review is compounded by rules on carry forward and underharvest that differ by fishery, and late, incomplete, or missing CPC tables.

- In light of challenges the COC faces in reviewing all compliance tables effectively and efficiently, and given that primary expertise on ICCAT rules for a particular fishery resides in the panel, would it be appropriate and useful for the panels and panel chairs to play a role in the initial review of the compliance tables for their respective species to determine conformity with the rules on carry forward, overharvest, etc. developed by the panel? Under this approach, the COC could still play a role in developing recommendations to address non-compliance, such as overharvests reflected in the compliance table or failure of CPCs to submit tables for applicable fisheries.

4 Compliance table formatting

With a view to improving the timely and accurate completion of the compliance tables and their utility to the Commission, I recommend that the COC discuss whether there are ways to improve formatting of the compliance tables.

For example, white marlin and blue marlin tables were not adopted at the 2015 meeting in part because of unresolved issue concerning reference to only to “LL + PS” in all “Landings”, “Balance”, and “Adjusted landings” columns even though the most recent Recommendation 12-04 no longer includes language limiting the application of landing limits to only these fisheries. In addition to potentially warranting changes to the column titles to reflect the revised measure, this could raise questions as to whether landings listed by CPCs in 2013 and 2014 columns that are labeled as “LL + PS” reflect landings from all fisheries or only LL + PS. Additionally, a number of CPCs with landing limits allocated under Rec. 12-04 have blanks in the “Adjusted landings” column, which may result in lack of clarity as to the CPCs fishing possibilities under the measure. Does the existence of blanks in this column reflect proper completion of the compliance form?

Addendum 1 to Appendix 7 to ANNEX 4.2

2015 Compliance Tables

(Compliance in 2014, reported in 2015)

NORTH ALBACORE (All quantities are in metric tons)

	Initial catch limits					*Current catches*				*Balance*				*Adjusted quota/catch limit*					
YEAR	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*
TAC	*28000.00*	*28000.00*	*28000.00*	*28000.00*	*28000.00*														
BARBADOS	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	**4.30**	**20.30**	**22.20**	**12.80**	**245.70**	**179.70**	**177.80**	**227.20**	**250.00**	**200.00**	**200.00**	**240.00**	**240.00**	
BELIZE	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	**351.00**	**155.00**	**230.00**	**79.20**	**-101.00**	**125.00**	**50.00**	**120.80**	**200.00**	**280.00**	**280.00**	**418.00**	**450.00**	
BRAZIL	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	
CANADA	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	**28.00**	**34.00**	**31.90**	**47.10**	**222.00**	**216.00**	**218.10**	**202.90**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	
CHINA	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	**101.00**	**21.00**	**81.08**	**34.87**	**149.00**	**229.00**	**168.92**	**165.13**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**200.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	**0.00**	**145.87**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**250.00**	**104.13**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	
EU	21551.30	21551.30	21551.30	21551.30	21551.30	**16413.48**	**21935.47**	**18607.00**	**23544.56**	**11503.32**	**5003.66**	**8323.13**	**2990.40**	**27916.80**	**26939.13**	**26939.13**	**26534.96**	**26939.13**	**24541.70**
FRANCE (St. P&M)	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.27**	**0.08**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**249.73**	**249.92**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	
JAPAN	478.68	638.88	**573.68**	**453.92**		**285.30**	**1822.10**	**266.40**	**294.90**	**193.38**	**-1183.22**	**307.28**	**159.02**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**		
KOREA	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	**101.00**	**191.00**	**184.40**	**63.87**	**149.00**	**59.00**	**65.60**	**186.13**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**215.60**	**250.00**
MAROC	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	**0.20**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**199.80**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	
ST V & G.	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	**329.10**	**304.50**	**286.00**	**326.91**	**20.90**	**16.40**	**44.40**	**-10.51**	**350.00**	**320.90**	**330.40**	**316.40**	**303.49**	
TR. & TOBAGO	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	**23.00**	**46.80**	**66.70**	**71.10**	**227.00**	**203.20**	**183.30**	**178.90**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	
UK-OT	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	**0.76**	**0.20**	**0.30**	**0.63**	**249.24**	**249.80**	**249.70**	**249.37**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	
USA	527.00	527.00	527.00	527.00	527.00	**422.37**	**417.70**	**598.84**	**459.39**	**236.38**	**241.05**	**59.91**	**127.52**	**658.75**	**658.75**	**658.75**	**586.91**	**654.52**	
VANUATU	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	**197.41**	**171.92**	**257.60**	**195.32**	**52.59**	**78.08**	**-7.60**	**54.68**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	
VENEZUELA	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	**247.40**	**312.00**	**180.70**	**284.71**	**-556.90**	**-680.90**	**-549.60**	**-584.31**	**-309.50**	**-306.90**	**-368.90**	**-299.60**	**-314.31**	
CHINESE TAIPEI	3271.70	3271.70	3271.70	3271.70	3271.70	**1367.00**	**1180.00**	**2393.63**	**947.00**	**2622.60**	**2609.62**	**1395.99**	**2842.62**	**3989.60**	**3789.62**	**3789.62**	**3789.62**	**3789.62**	
TOTAL CATCH						**19871.32**	**26757.86**	**23180.98**	**26362.48**										
Recommendation nº	*09-05*	*11-04*	*11-04*	*13-05*	*13-05*									*07-02*	*09-05*	*09-05*	*11-04*	*13-05*	*13-05*

BELIZE: payback proposal from 2012 to 2014. Also receiving a transfer of N-ALB from Chinese Taipei: 200 t in 2014, 2015 and 2016 (Rec. 13-05).
EU: shall transfer 20 t from its quota to Venezuela in 2014, Rec. 13-05.
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: all 2014 figures are provisional.
CHINESE TAIPEI: 2015 adjusted quota is 3789.62 t (=3271.7+3271.7*25%-100-200) due to the underage of 2013 exceeding 25% of 2015 catch quota and transfer of 100 t to St. V&G and 200 t to Belize.
VENEZUELA: the European Union transfered 20 t of its quota to Venezuela in 2014 (rec. 13-05, para 2).

SOUTH ALBACORE

	Initial quota /catch limit					*Referenc e years*	*Current catches*				*Balance*				*Adjusted quota (only applicable in case of overharvest)*					
YEAR	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*Average 1992-1996*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*
TAC	*29900*	*24000*	*24000*	*24000*	*24000*															
ANGOLA				50.00	50.00		**0.00**	**168.00**												
BRAZIL			3500.00	2160.00	2160.00		**1269.00**	**1856.58**	**1720.30**	**438.45**			**1757.00**	**1621.55**			**3500.00**	**2060.00**	**2700.00**	**2700.00**
NAMIBIA	TAC	TAC	10000.00	3600.00	3600.00		**3791.00**	**2265.00**	**990.00**	**1044.00**									**4329.17**	**4500.00**
S. AFRICA	share	share		4400.00	4400.00		**3380.00**	**3553.00**	**3526.10**	**3719.00**	**21509.00**	**20330.58**		**681.00**						**5500.00**
URUGUAY	26336.30	21000.00	1200.00	440.00	440.00		**37.00**	**12.00**	**209.00**	**0.00**								**70.00**		**550.00**
CH. TAIPEI			13000.00	9400.00	9400.00		**13032.00**	**12812.00**	**8519.00**	**6675.00**			**4481.00**	**2725.00**				**9400.00**	**11506.75**	**11750.00**
BELIZE	360.00	300.00	300.00	250.00	250.00	327.00	**364.00**	**171.00**	**87.00**	**98.36**	**-4.00**	**129.00**	**163.00**	**226.64**			**250.00**	**325.00**	**325.00**	**312.50**
CHINA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	**80.05**	**61.02**	**65.12**	**33.82**	**19.95**	**38.98**	**34.88**	**66.18**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**125.00**	**125.00**
CÔTE D'IVOIRE		100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00		**0.00**	**50.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**										**100.00**
CURAÇAO				50.00	50.00				**0.00**	**0.00**										**50.00**
EU	1914.70	1540.00	1540.00	1470.00	1470.00	1740.60	**410.16**	**521.99**	**455.00**	**335.36**	**1129.84**	**1018.01**	**1085.00**	**1502.00**				**1470.00**	**1470.00**	**1837.50**
JAPAN	275.06	415.68	342.28	**1355.00**	**1355.00**		**1776.40**	**3550.60**	**1713.80**	**1202.40**	**-1501.34**	**-3134.92**	**-1372.12**	**522.60**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**1725.00**	**1355.00**	**1693.75**
KOREA	100.00	150.00	150.00	140.00	140.00	9.00	**29.00**	**98.00**	**33.22**	**3.42**	**8.00**	**52.00**	**116.78**	**146.58**	**-24.00**	**37.00**	**150.00**	**150.00**	**177.50**	**175.00**
PANAMA	119.90	100.00	100.00	25.00	25.00	109.00	**0.00**	**12.00**	**3.00**	**0.30**	**100.00**	**88.00**	**97.00**	**24.70**						**25.00**
PHILIPPINES	100.00	150.00	150.00	140.00	140.00	0.00	**96.00**	**293.00**	**495.00**	**18.00**	**4.00**	**-143.00**	**-345.00**	**2.00**				**20.00**	**40.00**	**140.00**
STV & G	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00		**94.00**	**92.10**	**97.40**	**109.83**	**6.00**	**13.90**	**16.50**	**6.67**	**100.00**	**106.00**	**113.90**	**116.50**	**106.67**	**100.00**
UK-OT	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	40.00	**120.00**	**2.00**	**2.00**	**0.00**	**-20.00**	**78.00**	**98.00**	**100.00**			**80.00**	**100.00**	**116.00**	**125.00**
USA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.20	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.05**	**0.00**	**100.00**	**100.00**	**99.95**	**100.00**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**
VANUATU	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00		**86.04**	**35.11**	**53.11**	**91.00**	**13.96**	**64.89**	**46.89**	**9.00**	**100.00**	**100.00**	**100.00**	**100.00**	**100.00**	**100.00**
TOTAL CATCH							**24564.65**	**25553.40**	**18003.40**											
Rec. number	*07-03*	*11-05*	*11-05*	*13-06*	*13-06*										*07-03*	*07-03*	*07-03*	*11-05*	*13-06*	*13-06*

BELIZE: requested to the Commission in November 2014 to carry forward its unsued quota allocation from 2014 of 48 t.

BRAZIL: transfer of 100 t to Japan in August 2014.

BRAZIL: notified a transfer in 2015 of 250 t of its 2014 quota to South Africa.

JAPAN: all 2014 figures are provisional.

JAPAN: agreed the transfer of 100 t from Brazil to Japan in 2014; the adjusted quota includes the transfer in 2014 of 50 t from Namibia and of 100 t from Uruguay.

JAPAN: informed in 2015 of an additional transfer in 2014 of 120 t from Uruguay.

JAPAN: according to paragraph 4 b) of Rec. 13-06 for the period 2014 to 2016, Japan expresses its intention to carry over the underage in 2014 to 2016.

The amount of the underage to be used in 2016 is 338.75 t which is 25% of its original quota.

NAMIBIA: Japan has agreed the transfer of 50 t from Namibia to Japan in 2014.

NAMIBIA: in 2014 South Africa shall transfer 250 t to Namibia.

PHILIPPINES: the multi-year payback plan presented at the 2014 Commission meeting was pending the adoption of the Panel 3 and the Commission reports by correspondance.

SOUTH AFRICA: South Africa transfers 250 t of its 2014 southern Atlantic albacore quota to Namibia as a once-off transfer. Rec. 13-06.

SOUTH AFRICA: notified in 2014 the Commission of its request to transfer the 2013 underage of 1250 t to be caught and landed in 2015 [Rec. 13-06].

URUGUAY: notified in 2014 a transfer of 100 t to Japan in 2014. In 2015, Uruguay notified a transfer of 120 t to Japan in 2014.

URUGUAY: notified in 2015 a transfer in 2014 of 150 t of its quota to South Africa.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2015 adjusted quota is 11506.75 (=9400+2106.75).

NORTH SWORDFISH

	Initial quota					*Current catches*				*Balance*				*Adjusted quota*					
YEAR	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*
TAC	*13700*	*13700*	*13700*	*13700*	*13700*														
BARBADOS	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	**25.60**	**21.00**	**16.10**	**21.10**	**41.90**	**46.50**	**48.30**	**46.40**	**67.50**	**67.50**	**64.40**	**64.40**	**67.50**	**67.50**
BELIZE	130.00	130.00	130.00	130.00	130.00	**184.00**	**141.00**	**142.00**	**75.61**	**11.00**	**75.00**	**63.00**	**54.39**	**195.00**	**216.00**	**205.00**	**270.00**	**268.00**	
BRAZIL	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**75.00**	**75.00**	**75.00**	**75.00**	**75.00**	**75.00**	**75.00**	**75.00**	**75.00**	
CANADA	1348.00	1348.00	1348.00	1348.00	1348.00	**1550.60**	**1488.50**	**1505.50**	**1604.20**	**153.10**	**172.40**	**176.80**	**278.30**	**1703.70**	**1660.90**	**1682.30**	**1882.50**	**2157.70**	
CHINA	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	**74.70**	**59.00**	**95.95**	**60.29**	**5.30**	**46.30**	**4.05**	**39.71**	**80.00**	**105.30**	**100.00**	**100.00**	**104.05**	**137.50**
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	**0.00**	**6.60**	**1.37**	**0.00**	**46.80**	**68.40**	**73.63**	**75.00**	**46.80**	**75.00**	**75.00**	**75.00**	**75.00**	
EU	6718.00	6718.00	6718.00	6718.00	6718.00	**6110.68**	**6604.08**	**5567.90**	**5020.43**	**2886.22**	**1793.42**	**2829.60**	**2867.07**	**8996.90**	**8397.50**	**8397.50**	**7887.50**	**8397.50**	**7685.70**
FRANCE (St. P&M)	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	**0.60**	**0.00**	**17.85**	**3.02**	**79.40**	**100.00**	**82.15**	**96.98**	**80.00**	**100.00**	**100.00**	**100.00**	**100.00**	
JAPAN	842.00	842.00	842.00	842.00	842.00	**669.20**	**437.50**	**438.70**	**748.40**	**2038.23**	**2357.73**	**2676.03**	**2659.63**	**2707.43**	**2795.23**	**3114.73**	**3114.73**	**3408.03**	**3391.62**
KOREA	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	**0.00**	**0.00**	**64.40**	**34.66**	**-109.50**	**10.00**	**-4.40**	**15.34**	**-109.50**	**10.00**	**60.00**	**50.00**	**45.60**	**65.34**
MAROC	850.00	850.00	850.00	850.00	850.00	**781.00**	**770.00**	**1062.00**	**1062.50**	**381.00**	**492.50**	**0.50**	**0.00**	**1162.00**	**1262.50**	**1062.50**	**1062.50**	**850.00**	
MAURITANIA									**0.00**				**100.00**						
MEXICO	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	**37.00**	**40.00**	**32.00**	**32.00**	**246.50**	**260.00**	**268.00**	**268.00**	**283.50**	**300.00**	**300.00**	**300.00**	**300.00**	**300.00**
PHILIPPINES	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**25.00**	**25.00**	**37.50**	**25.00**	**37.50**	**37.50**	**37.50**	**25.00**	**25.00**	
SENEGAL	400.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	**43.00**	**30.10**	**43.20**	**48.79**	**557.00**	**344.90**	**387.92**	**436.21**	**600.00**	**375.00**	**431.12**	**485.00**		
ST V & G.	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	**10.70**	**8.30**	**4.21**	**39.80**	**101.80**	**104.20**	**108.29**	**72.70**	**112.50**	**112.50**	**112.50**	**112.50**		
TR. & TOBAGO	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	**15.60**	**14.10**	**15.90**	**26.40**	**171.90**	**98.40**	**96.60**	**86.10**	**187.50**	**112.50**	**112.50**	**112.50**	**112.50**	
UK-OT	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	**6.55**	**1.40**	**14.40**	**0.98**	**45.95**	**51.10**	**38.10**	**51.52**	**52.50**	**52.50**	**52.50**	**52.50**	**52.50**	
USA	3907.00	3907.00	3907.00	3907.00	3907.00	**2773.70**	**3610.00**	**2955.00**	**1954.55**	**3086.80**	**1123.75**	**1778.75**	**2904.20**	**5860.50**	**4733.75**	**4733.75**	**4858.75**	**4468.05**	
VANUATU	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	**18.49**	**15.48**	**1.75**	**43.67**	**12.51**	**15.52**	**29.25**	**-12.67**	**31.00**	**31.00**	**31.00**	**31.00**		
VENEZUELA	85.00	85.00	85.00	85.00	85.00	**18.00**	**24.95**	**24.10**	**23.85**	**109.50**	**102.55**	**103.40**	**103.65**	**127.50**	**127.50**	**127.50**	**127.50**	**127.50**	
CHINESE TAIPEI	270.00	270.00	270.00	270.00	270.00	**192.00**	**166.00**	**114.82**	**78.00**	**213.00**	**204.00**	**255.18**	**292.00**	**405.00**	**370.00**	**370.00**	**370.00**	**370.00**	
Recommendation nº	*10-02*	*11-02*	*11-02*	*13-02*	*13-02*									*10-02*	*11-02*	*11-02*	*11-02*	*11-02*	*13-02*
DISCARDS																			
CANADA						**7.80**	**111.00**												
USA																			
TOTAL DISCARDS																			
TOTAL CATCH																			

BRAZIL: according to Rec. 13-02, for the year 2014, transfer of 25 t to Mauritania.

CANADA: new balances and adjusted quotas for 2011-2013 due to recalculation of historic dead discards as submitted to SCRS.

EU: allowed to count up to 200 t against its uncaught southern SWO.

EU: quota transfer in 2015 from EU-Spain to Canada of 450 t.

JAPAN: all 2014 figures are provisional.

MAURITANIA: Brazil, Japan, Senegal and United States transfer 25 t each for a total of 100 t per year.

SENEGAL: transfer of quota in 2014 of 125 t to Canada and of 25 t to Mauritania.

USA: 2015 adjusted limit includes 25 t transfer from U.S. to Mauritania.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2015 adjusted quota is 370 t (=270+270*50%-35) due to the underage of 2013 exceeding 50% of 2015 catch limit and a transfer of 35 t to Canada.

SOUTH SWORDFISH

	Initial quota					*Currrent catches*				*Balance*				*Adjusted quota*					
YEAR	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*
TAC	*15000*	*15000*	*15000*	*15000*	*15000*														
ANGOLA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00														
BELIZE	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	**206.00**	**197.00**	**136.00**	**45.29**	**-56.00**	**-40.50**	**-11.00**	**79.71**	**150.00**	**156.50**	**125.00**	**205.00**	**239.00**	
BRAZIL	3785.00	3940.00	3940.00	3940.00	3940.00	**3033.00**	**2832.60**	**1395.11**	**2892.02**	**2585.00**	**2999.90**	**3726.89**	**1047.98**	**5618.00**	**5832.50**	**5122.00**	**5048.00**	**5122.00**	**4987.98**
CHINA	263.00	263.00	263.00	263.00	263.00	**247.51**	**315.50**	**195.96**	**205.89**	**114.49**	**61.99**	**67.04**	**119.10**	**362.00**	**377.49**	**263.00**	**324.99**	**330.04**	**341.90**
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	**145.44**	**81.76**	**108.98**	**53.42**	**3.35**	**105.74**	**78.52**	**134.08**	**148.79**	**187.50**	**187.50**			
EU	5082.00	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	**4962.50**	**5061.40**	**4308.60**	**4364.64**	**356.00**	**317.70**	**871.40**	**777.06**	**5318.50**	**5379.10**	**5180.00**	**5141.70**	**5695.40**	**5601.06**
GHANA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	**60.40**	**54.00**	**37.00**	**26.00**	**-50.4**	**-4.14**	**50.72**	**23.30**	**10.00**	**49.86**	**87.72**	**49.30**		
JAPAN	901.00	901.00	901.00	901.00	901.00	**1276.30**	**840.70**	**958.20**	**385.40**	**-425.30**	**447.56**	**-532.50**	**913.16**	**851.00**	**1288.26**	**425.70**	**1298.56**	**318.50**	**1651.00**
KOREA	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	**0.00**	**42.00**	**47.30**	**52.63**	**69.50**	**8.00**	**10.70**	**-2.63**	**69.50**	**50.00**	**58.00**	**50.00**	**60.70**	**47.37**
NAMIBIA	1168.00	1168.00	1168.00	1168.00	1168.00	**348.10**	**404.70**	**421.80**	**392.80**	**1027.40**	**1276.75**	**1330.20**	**1359.20**	**1375.50**	**1681.45**	**1752.00**	**1752.00**		
PHILIPPINES	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	**51.00**	**51.00**	**44.00**	**71.80**	**24.00**	**24.00**	**31.00**	**2.20**	**75.00**	**75.00**	**74.00**	**74.00**	**50.00**	
S.T. & PRINCIPE	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	**59.90**	**84.10**	**60.20**		**40.10**	**15.90**	**39.80**							
SENEGAL	401.00	417.00	417.00	417.00	417.00	**222.00**	**161.83**	**178.40**	**143.33**	**395.00**	**463.67**	**400.60**	**357.42**	**617.00**	**625.50**	**579.00**	**500.75**	**402.90**	
SOUTH AFRICA	962.00	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	**96.57**	**50.20**	**171.40**	**152.39**	**1465.43**	**1550.80**	**1429.60**	**848.61**	**1562.00**	**1601.00**	**1601.00**			
UK-OT	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	**0.00**	**0.00**	**5.00**	**6.41**	**37.50**	**37.50**	**32.50**	**31.09**	**37.50**	**37.50**	**37.50**	**37.50**	**37.50**	
URUGUAY	1204.00	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	**179.00**	**40.00**	**103.50**	**0.00**	**1784.00**	**2104.00**	**1774.50**	**1202.00**	**1954.00**	**2144.00**	**1878.00**	**1202.00**		
USA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.06**	**0.00**	**99.75**	**100.00**	**99.94**	**99.94**	**99.75**	**100.00**	**100.00**	**99.94**	**99.94**	
VANUATU	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	**0.89**	**2.74**	**0.10**	**8.00**	**28.11**	**26.26**	**28.90**	**17.00**	**29.00**	**29.00**	**29.00**	**29.00**		
CHINESE TAIPEI	459.00	459.00	459.00	459.00	459.00	**424.00**	**379.00**	**582.10**	**406.00**	**119.00**	**199.00**	**75.90**	**128.90**	**543.00**	**578.00**	**658.00**	**534.90**		
TOTAL						**11252.71**	**10514.43**	**8840.60**											
Rec. nº	*12-01*	*12-01*	*12-01*	*13-03*	*13-03*									*06-03*	*06-03*	*12-01*	*12-01*	*12-01*	*13-03*

BELIZE: received a 25 t transfer of S-SWO from USA 50 t from Brazil and 50 t from Uruguay. Payback proposal from Belize from 2013 to 2014.

BELIZE: payback proposal from 2014 to 2015 (as presented at COC in 2014: refer to doc. COC-304-2014 Annex).

EU: allowed to count up to 200 t against its uncaught northern SWO.

JAPAN: all 2014 figures are provisional.

USA: adjusted quota for 2015 reflects transfers to Namibia (50 t), Belize (25 t) and Côte d'Ivoire (25 t) under Rec. 12-01.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2015 adjusted quota includes 128.9 t of 2014 underage.

EAST BLUEFIN

	Initial quota					*Current catch*				*Balance*				*Adjusted quota*				
YEAR	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*
TAC	*12900*	*12900*	13400	13400	*16142*													
ALBANIA	32.3	32.3	33.58	33.58	39.65	**0.15**	**0.00**	**8.59**	**33.55**	**32.15**	**0.00**	**24.99**	**0.03**	**32.30**	**0.00**	**33.58**	**33.58**	**39.65**
ALGERIE	138.46	138.46	143.83	143.83	169.81	**0.00**	**69.00**	**243.80**	**243.80**	**138.46**	**69.46**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**228.46**	**138.46**	**243.83**	**243.83**	**369.81**
CHINA	36.77	36.77	38.19	38.19	45.09	**35.93**	**36.04**	**38.14**	**37.62**	**0.84**	**0.73**	**0.05**	**0.58**	**36.77**	**36.77**	**38.19**	**38.19**	**45.09**
EGYPT	64.58	64.58	67.08	67.08	79.20	**64.58**	**64.25**	**77.10**	**77.08**	**0.00**	**0.33**	**-0.02**	**0.00**	**64.58**	**64.58**	**77.08**	**77.08**	**155.20**
EU	7266.41	7266.41	7548.06	7938.65	9372.92	**5656.45**	**5715.60**	**7841.00**	**7795.98**	**99.96**	**40.81**	**97.65**	**142.67**	**5756.41**	**5756.41**	**7548.06**	**7938.65**	**9372.92**
ICELAND	29.82	29.82	30.97	30.97	36.57	**2.35**	**5.07**	**3.80**	**30.24**	**76.46**	**24.75**	**27.17**	**0.73**	**78.81**	**29.82**	**30.97**	**30.97**	**36.57**
JAPAN	1097.03	1097.03	1139.55	1139.55	1345.44	**1088.82**	**1092.60**	**1128.97**	**1134.47**	**8.21**	**4.43**	**10.58**	**5.08**	**1097.03**	**1097.03**	**1139.55**	**1139.55**	**1390.44**
KOREA	77.53	77.53	80.53	80.53	95.08	**0.00**	**77.04**	**80.50**	**80.52**	**77.53**	**0.49**	**0.03**	**0.01**	**77.53**	**77.53**	**80.53**	**80.53**	**0.08**
LIBYA	902.66	902.66	937.65	937.65	1107.06	**0.00**	**761.26**	**933.20**	**932.64**	**902.66**	**141.40**	**4.45**	**5.01**	**902.66**	**902.66**	**937.65**	**937.65**	**1157.06**
MAROC	1223.07	1223.07	1270.47	1270.47	1500.01	**1236.94**	**1223.00**	**1269.90**	**1270.46**	**1.39**	**0.07**	**0.57**	**0.01**	**1238.33**	**1223.07**	**1270.47**	**1270.47**	**1500.01**
MAURITANIA					5.00													**5.00**
NORWAY	29.82	29.82	30.97	30.97	36.57	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.31**	**0.12**	**29.82**	**29.82**	**30.66**	**30.85**	**29.82**	**29.82**	**30.97**	**30.97**	**36.57**
SYRIA	32.33	32.33	33.58	33.58	39.65	**82.05**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**33.58**	**82.05**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**33.58**	**39.65**
TUNISIE	1017.56	1017.56	1057.00	1057.00	1247.97	**851.48**	**1017.40**	**1056.60**	**1056.60**	**8.70**	**0.16**	**0.40**	**0.40**	**860.18**	**1017.56**	**1057.00**	**1057.00**	**1247.97**
TURKEY	535.89	535.89	556.66	556.66	657.23	**527.53**	**535.55**	**551.45**	**555.08**	**8.36**	**0.34**	**5.21**	**1.58**	**535.89**	**535.89**	**556.66**	**556.66**	**1222.96**
CHINESE TAIPEI	39.75	39.75	41.29	41.29	48.76	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**106.05**	**39.75**	**31.29**	**31.29**	**106.05**	**39.75**	**31.29**	**31.29**	**38.76**
TOTAL CATCH						**9839.08**	**10970.60**	**13233.36**										
Rec. number	*10-04*	*10-04*	*12-03*	*13-07*	*14-04*									*09-06*	*10-04*	*12-03*	*13-07*	*14-04*

JAPAN: all 2014 figures are provisional.

MAURITANIA: may catch up to 5 t for research in each year until the end of 2017 (Rec. 14-04, paragraph 5).

TURKEY: Turkey has lodged a formal objection to Rec. 14-04 and, consistent with Res. 12-11, has submitted measures to be taken.

TURKEY: the adjusted quota for 2015 indicating 1222.96 metric tons is the independent catch limit announced for 2015 by Turkey in its objection to Rec. 14-04.

KOREA: transfers in 2015 50 t of its quota to Egypt and 45 t of its quota to Japan.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2015 adjusted quota is 38.76 t (=48.76-10) due to the transfer of 10 t to Eygpt in 2015.

WEST BLUEFIN

	Initial quota					*Current catches*				*Balance*				*Adjusted quota/limit*					
YEAR	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*
TAC	*1750*	*1750*	*1750*	*1750*	*2000*														
CANADA	396.66	396.66	396.66	396.66	437.47	**483.30**	**487.40**	**480.40**	**462.90**	**5.60**	**1.40**	**4.10**	**24.40**	**488.90**	**488.80**	**484.50**	**487.30**	**476.90**	
FRANCE (St. P & M)	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.51	**0.40**	**0.00**	**0.31**	**0.17**	**7.60**	**8.00**	**7.69**	**7.83**	**8.00**	**8.00**	**8.00**	**8.00**	**8.51**	
JAPAN	301.64	301.64	301.64	301.64	345.74	**303.95**	**303.60**	**306.26**	**302.63**	**4.42**	**2.48**	**1.86**	**0.87**	**308.37**	**306.06**	**304.12**	**303.50**	**346.61**	
MEXICO	95.00	95.00	95.00	95.00	108.98	**14.00**	**50.60**	**22.00**	**51.00**	**36.50**	**80.90**	**67.40**	**24.90**	**50.50**	**131.50**	**89.40**	**75.90**	**133.88**	
UK-OT	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.51	**0.26**	**0.40**	**0.80**	**0.01**	**47.27**	**7.60**	**7.20**	**7.99**	**47.53**	**8.00**	**8.00**	**8.00**	**8.51**	
USA	948.70	948.70	948.70	948.70	**1058.79**	**904.70**	**919.00**	**658.90**	**810.29**	**138.87**	**124.57**	**384.67**	**233.28**	**1043.57**	**1043.57**	**1043.57**	**1043.57**	**1178.66**	
TOTAL LANDING						**1706.61**	**1761.00**	**1468.67**											
Discards																			
CANADA																			
JAPAN	n.a													**n.a**					
USA																			
TOTAL DISCARDS																			
TOTAL REMOVAL																			
Rec. number	*10-03*	*10-03*	*12-02*	*13-09*	*14-05*									*08-04*	*10-03*	*10-03*	*12-02*	*13-09*	*14-05*

CANADA: Mexico's transfer to Canada for 2015 not included/to be determined.

JAPAN: all 2014 figures are provisional.

MEXICO: requests to transfer to Canada 86.5 t (para 19, Rec. 12-02).

MEXICO: the 2014 balance is explained by the 2014 adjusted quota after 86.5 t transfer to Canada (for 2014) - (Rec. 13-09) and, for the 2015 adjusted quota: the 2015 catch is unknown.

MEXICO: 2015 catch unknown, transfer to Canada to be determined.

BIGEYE

	Initial catch limit						*Current catches*				*Balance*				*Adjusted catch limits*					
YEAR	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*1999 (SCRS 2000)*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*
TAC	*85000*	*85000*	*85000*	*85000*	*85000*															
ANGOLA						0.00	**320.00**	**4069.00**												
BARBADOS						0.00	**7.10**	**14.80**	**11.10**	**25.70**										
BELIZE						0.00	**1218.00**	**1242.00**	**1336.00**	**1501.60**										
BRAZIL						2024.00	**1799.20**	**1399.70**	**1134.99**	**3475.12**										
CANADA						263.00	**136.90**	**166.40**	**197.30**	**185.90**										
CABO VERDE						1.00	**1037.00**	**713.00**	**1333.00**	**2271.00**										
CHINA	5572	5572	5572	5572	5572.00	7347.00	**3720.78**	**3231.00**	**2371.30**	**2231.75**	**4851.22**	**6942.00**	**6130.70**	**7941.85**	**8572.00**	**10342.00**	**8502.00**	**10173.60**	**10173.60**	
CÔTE D'IVOIRE						0.00	**47.10**	**506.58**	**635.40**	**440.90**										
EU	22667.00	22667.00	22667.00	22667.00	16989.00	21970.00	**23526.39**	**20798.23**	**18652.00**	**18152.90**	**6340.61**	**9068.77**	**10815.10**	**11314.20**	**29867.00**	**29867.00**	**29467.10**	**29467.10**	**29467.10**	**29467.10**
FRANCE (SP&M)						0.00	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.31**	**0.10**										
GABON						184.00														
GHANA	4722.00	4722.00	4722.00	4722.00	4722.00	11460.00	**4440.00**	**2913.80**	**2786.00**	**4369.00**	**-13074.00**	**1983.20**	**3637.20**	**583.00**	**-8634.00**	**4897.00**	**6423.20**	**4952.00**		
GUATEMALA						0.00	**281.90**	**261.70**	**163.10**	**651.80**										
JAPAN	23611.00	23611.00	23611.00	23611.00	23611.00	23690.00	**11930.00**	**15971.90**	**14342.00**	**11348.05**	**14964.30**	**11652.40**	**13282.30**	**16276.25**	**26894.30**	**27624.30**	**27624.30**	**27624.30**	**27624.30**	
KOREA	1983.00	1983.00	1983.00	1983.00	1983.00	124.00	**2762.00**	**1908.00**	**1150.90**	**1038.83**	**21.00**	**76.00**	**881.10**	**1319.07**	**2783.00**	**1984.00**	**2039.00**	**2357.90**	**2557.90**	
MAROC						700.00	**300.00**	**300.00**	**308.00**	**300.00**										
MEXICO						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						423.00	**207.70**	**918.40**	**129.59**	**224.09**										
PANAMA	3306.00	3306.00	3306.00	3306.00	3306.00	26.00	**3461.55**	**1994.00**	**2774.00**	**2315.00**	**-155.55**	**2206.45**	**532.00**	**991.00**	**3306.00**	**4200.45**	**3306.00**	**3306.00.**	**4297.00**	
PHILIPPINES	1983.00	1983.00	1983.00	1983.00	1983.00	943.00	**1266.00**	**531.00**	**1323.00**	**1963.00**	**717.00**	**1452.00**	**660.00**	**615.00**				**2578.00**	**1983.00**	
RUSSIA						8.00	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**						
S. TOME & PRIN						0.00	**100.10**	**103.30**	**106.60**											
SENEGAL						0.00	**239.00**	**225.00**	**639.00**	**361.00**										
SOUTH AFRICA						41.00	**152.50**	**47.20**	**293.80**	**331.50**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**		**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**		
St. V. & GR.							**37.00**	**24.70**	**15.03**	**29.70**										
TRIN & TOBAGO						19.00	**33.50**	**33.30**	**36.60**	**58.90**										
UK-OT						8.00	**189.05**	**51.30**	**25.70**	**17.70**										
URUGUAY						59.00	**15.00**	**2.00**	**29.90**	**0.00**										
USA						1261.00	**722.11**	**867.50**	**880.40**	**866.10**										
VANUATU						0.00	**35.16**	**22.84**	**8.82**	**4.00**										
VENEZUELA						128.00	**263.80**	**97.70**	**93.70**	**169.10**										
CURACAO						0.00	**3441.40**	**2890.00**	**1964.00**	**2315.00**										
CH. TAIPEI	15583.00	15583.00	15583.00	15583.00	15583.00	16837.00	**13732.00**	**10805.00**	**10315.55**	**13272.00**	**6525.90**	**9382.90**	**9872.35**	**6915.90**	**20257.90**	**20187.90**	**20187.90**	**20187.90**	**20187.90**	
GUYANA																				
TOTAL CATCH							**75323.14**	**72007.05**	**62126.60**											
Rec. number	*10-01*	*11-01*	*11-01*	*11-01*	*14-01*										*08-01*	*10-01*	*11-01*	*11-01*	*14-01*	*14-01*

GHANA: in 2012-2015, annual transfers of China (70 t), Korea (20 t), Chinese 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: all 2014 figures are provisional.

SAO TOME E PRINCIPE: catches are artisanal.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2015 adjusted quota is 20187.9 t (=15583+15583*30%-70) due to the underage of 2013 exceeding 30% of 2015 catch limit and a transfer of 70 t to Ghana.

BLUE MARLIN

	Landings limit					*Reference years*		*Current landings*				*Balance*				*Adjusted landings**		
	2011	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*1996*	*1999*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*
						(PS+LL)	*(PS+LL*	*LL+PS*	*LL+PS*	*LL+PS*	*LL+P*	*LL+PS*	*LL+PS*	*LL+PS*	*LL+PS*	*LL+PS*	*LL+PS*	*LL+PS*
			2000.00	*2000.00*	*2000.00*													
BELIZE									**47.00**	**19.00**	**8.47**		**-47.00**	**-9.00**				
BRAZIL	254.40	254.40	190.00	190.00	190.00	308.00	509.00	**63.35**	**48.37**	**33.16**	**19.77**			**156.84**	**170.23**	**209.00**	**209.00**	
CHINA	100.50	100.50	45.00	45.00	45.00	62	201	**99.50**	**35.00**	**44.85**	**39.66**	**1.00**	**65.50**	**0.15**	**5.34**	**45.00**		
CÔTE D'IVOIRE			150.00	150.00	150.00			**42.08**	**22.76**	**26.32**	**43.84**	**-42.08**	**-22.76**	**123.68**	**106.16**			
EU	103.00	103.00	480.00	480.00	480.00	206.00	200.00	**69.70**	**88.30**	**357.07**	**552.37**	**33.30**	**14.70**	**122.93**	**-72.37**	**528.00**	**407.63**	
GHANA			250.00	250.00	250.00			**332.00**	**234.00**	**163.00**	**235.57**			**87.00**	**14.43**	**264.43**		
JAPAN	839.50	839.50	390.00	390.00	390.00	1679.00	790.00	**478.00**	**156.50**	**231.50**	**270.30**	**361.50**	**683.00**	**158.50**	**119.70**	**429.00**		
KOREA	72.00	72.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	144.00	0.00	**57.00**	**34.00**	**23.77**	**9.78**	**15.00**	**38.00**	**11.23**	**25.22**	**42.00**	**42.00**	
MEXICO	17.50	17.50	70.00	70.00	70.00	13.00	35.00	**67.00**	**105.00**	**85.00**	**67.00**	**-49.50**	**-87.50**	**-15.00**	**3.00**			
S. TOME & PRINCIPE			45.00	45.00	45.00			**72.00**	**59.50**	**73.10**				**-41.90**				
SENEGAL			60.00	60.00	60.00				**10.00**	**21.84**	**11.65**			**38.16**	**48.35**			
SOUTH AFRICA				10.00	10.00			**0.20**	**0.27**	**0.43**	**0.05**	**-0.20**	**-0.27**					
T & TOBAGO	9.90	9.90	20.00	20.00	20.00	13.90	19.70	**25.10**	**45.00**	**47.60**	**48.10**	**-15.20**	**-35.10**	**-27.60**	**-48.10**	**-50.00**	**-98.10**	
VENEZUELA	30.40	30.40	100.00	100.00	100.00	60.74	29.99	**32.98**	**50.38**	**47.56**	**40.77**	**-2.58**	**-19.98**	**52.44**	**59.23**		**110.00**	
CHINESE TAIPEI	330.00	330.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	660.00	486.00	**199.00**	**133.00**	**77.84**	**62.00**	**131.00**	**197.00**	**72.16**	**88.00**	**165.00**		
TOTAL								**1527.71**	**1009.31**	**930.35**								
USA(# of bum+whm	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00			**106.00**	**97.00**	**105.00**	**98.00**	**144.00**	**153.00**	**145.00**	**152.00**	**n.a**		
Rec. number	*06-09*	*11-07*	*11-07*	*12-04*	*12-04*											*12-04*	*12-04*	*12-04*

** as of entry into force of Rec.12-04.*

JAPAN: all 2014 figures are provisional.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2016 adjusted quota is 165 t=(150+150*10%) due to the underage of 2014 exceeding 10% of 2016 catch limit.

USA: total marlin landings for 2014 include 54 BUM, 42 WHM and 2 RSP.

VENEZUELA: transfer of 10% of the underage of its 2014 catch to its 2016 adjusted quota.

WHITE MARLIN

	Landings limit					*Reference years*		*Current landings*				*Balance*				*Adjusted landings**		
	2011	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*1996*	*1999*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*
			400.00	*400.00*	*400.00*													
						PS+LL	*PS+LL*	*LL+PS*	*LL+PS*	*LL+PS*	*LL+PS*	*LL+PS*	*LL+PS*	*LL+PS*	*LL+PS*	*LL+PS*	*LL+PS*	*LL+PS*
BARBADOS			10.00	10.00	10.00			**2.00**	**4.00**	**5.00**	**5.30**			**5.00**	**4.70**	**12.00**	**12.00**	
BRAZIL	51.81	51.81	50.00	50.00	50.00	70.00	158.00	**59.66**	**70.79**	**16.30**	**49.24**				**0.76**	**55.00**	**55.00**	
CANADA	2.60	2.60	10.00	10.00	10.00	8.00	5.00	**0.80**	**2.30**	**2.70**	**4.60**	**1.80**	**0.30**	**7.30**	**5.40**			
CHINA	9.9	9.9	10	10	10.00	9	30	**0.73**	**0.21**	**2.12**	**0.00**	**9.17**	**9.69**	**7.88**	**10.00**	**12.00**		
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	2.31	2.31	10.00	10.00	10.00	1.00	7.00	**0.52**	**0.00**	**0.63**	**0.91**	**1.79**	**2.31**	**9.37**	**9.09**			
EU	46.50	46.50	50.00	50.00	50.00	148.00	127.00	**22.40**	**58.40**	**47.50**	**102.21**	**24.10**	**-11.90**	**2.50**	**-52.21**	**52.50**	**23.89**	**23.89**
JAPAN	37.00	37.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	112.00	40.00	**27.90**	**49.60**	**16.90**	**2.60**	**9.10**	**-16.00**	**18.10**	**32.40**	**42.00**		
KOREA	19.50	19.50	20.00	20.00	20.00	59.00	0.00	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.15**	**19.50**	**19.50**	**20.00**	**19.85**	**24.00**	**24.00**	
MEXICO	3.63	3.63	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	11.00	**28.00**	**36.00**	**30.00**	**20.00**	**-24.37**	**-32.37**	**-5.00**	**5.00**			
S. TOME & PRINCIPE			20.00	20.00	20.00			**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**							
SOUTH AFRICA				2.00	2.00			**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**							
TRIN & TOBAGO	4.30	4.30	15.00	15.00	15.00	8.20	13.00	**14.50**	**38.50**	**32.50**	**38.30**	**-10.20**	**-34.20**	**-17.50**	**-38.30**	**-42.40**	**-80.70**	
VENEZUELA	50.04	50.04	50.00	50.00	50.00	152.00	43.00	**40.81**	**63.52**	**44.30**	**73.74**	**9.23**	**-13.48**	**5.70**	**-23.74**		**31.26**	
CHINESE TAIPEI	186.80	186.80	50.00	50.00	50.00	586.00	465.00	**28.00**	**15.00**	**6.72**	**7.00**	**158.80**	**171.80**	**43.28**	**43.00**	**55.00**		
TOTAL								**225.32**	**338.32**	**226.47**								
USA (# of bum+whm	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00			**106.00**	**97.00**	**105.00**	**98.00**	**144.00**	**153.00**	**145.00**	**152.00**	**n.a**		
Recommendation numb	*06-09*	*11-07*	*12-04*	*12-04*	*12-04*											*12-04*	*12-04*	*12-04*

** as of entry into force of Rec.12-04.*

JAPAN: all 2014 figures are provisional.

SAO TOME E PRINCIPE: catch data not available.

USA: total marlin landings for 2014 include 54 BUM, 42 WHM and 2 RSP.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2016 adjusted quota is 55 t=(50+50*10%) due to the underage of 2014 exceeding 10% of 2016 catch limit.

Compliance with size limits in 2014

Species	***SWO***			***BFT***						
Area	*AT.N*	*AT.S*	*Medi*	*AT.E*	*AT.E*	*Adriatic*	*Medi*	*AT.E*	*Medi*	*AT.W*
Recommendation Number	*13-02 § 9-10*	*13-02 § 9-10*	*13-04 § 7-8*	*14-04 § 27*	*14-04 Annex I, §2*	*14-04 § 27*	*14-04 § 27*	*14-04 § 28*	*14-04 § 28*	*14-05 §9*
Gear/fishery	*all*	*all*	*all*	*BB, TROL; >17 m**	*BB <17 m***	*Adriatic catches*	*coastal artisanal*	*14-04 all other*	*all other gears*	*all gears*
Min. weight (kg)	A=25 kg LW or B=	A=25 kg LW or B= 15 kg/	10kg RW or 9 kg GG or	8 kg	6.4 kg	8 kg	8 kg	30 kg	30 kg	30 kg
Min. size (cm)	A=125 cm LJFL/ 63 cm	A=125 cm LJFL/ 63 cm	90 cm LJFL	75 cm FL	70 cm FL	75 cm FL	75 cm FL	115 cm FL	115 cm FL	115 cm FL
Atl-SWO: Option chosen A or B			Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
EBFT: Amount allocated. To be	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable					Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Max. tolerance	A=15% 25kg/125		5%	0%	100 t**	0%	0%	5% between 8-	5% between	10%
Tolerance calculated as	number of fish per		weight or number of	weight or number of	weight per allocation of	weight or number of	weight or number of	number of fish per	number of fish	weight of the total
PERCENTAGE (%) OF TOTAL										
Albania										
Algeria							0%		0%	
Angola										
Barbados	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0	n.a.	n.a.
Belize										
Brazil										
Canada	1.9% less than125cm									<1%
Cabo Verde										
China	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0	n.a.	n.a.
Côte d'Ivoire	0%	0%								
Curaçao										
Egypt			0%				0%			
El Salvador										
EU	15%	13.40%	3.50%	0	0	0	0	2%	0,80%	n.a
France (SPM)	0,00%									0,00%
Gabon										
Ghana										
Guatemala										
Guinea Ecuatorial										
Guinée République										
Honduras										
Iceland								0		
Japan	2.1%	1.1%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0%	n.a.	0%
Korea	<1%	<1%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0%	n.a.
Liberia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Libya	n.a.	n.a.	8, 279	n.a.	n.a.	n.a	0	n.a.	294	n.a.
Maroc	0%	n.a	0%	n.a	n.a	n.a	0%	0%	n.a	10%
Mauritanie										
Mexico	15.43									0
Namibia										
Nicaragua										
Nigeria										
Norway								0%		
Panama										
Philipinnes	n.a	0	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
Russia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sao Tome										
Sénégal	1.65%	4.25%								
Sierra Leone										
South Africa										
St. Vincent & G	0%									
Syria										
Trinidad & Tobago	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Tunisie			3%				3.50%			10%
Turkey	n.a.	n.a.	1.79%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0	n.a.
UK-OT										
USA	8.2									2.6
Uruguay										
Vanuatu										
Venezuela										
Bolivia										
Chinese Taipei	0.95% (<125cm) 0% (<119cm)	0.28% (<125cm) 0% (<119cm)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Guyana										
Suriname										

Appendix 8 to ANNEX 4.2

Draft Resolution by ICCAT on guidelines to facilitate an efficient and effective compliance review process

(Submitted by the United States)

RECOGNIZING the substantial amount of information that must be reviewed and analyzed to prepare for meetings of the Compliance Committee; and

DESIRING to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of ICCAT's compliance review process in a fair, equitable, and transparent manner;

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

1. Each year, the Secretariat will, in consultation with the Compliance Committee (COC) Chair, compile an inventory of compliance information for each CPC and, as requested by the COC or COC Chair, by species, issue, or topic (i.e., Draft Summary Compliance Tables) using all appropriate sources, including reports submitted under Recommendation 08-09.

2. The Draft Summary Compliance Tables should include information on whether CPCs complied with applicable recommendations of the Commission, including reporting obligations.

3. The Secretariat will circulate the Draft Summary Compliance Tables to all CPCs for their review as far in advance of the ICCAT annual meeting as possible with a target deadline of two weeks before the opening session. CPCs will be invited to give initial feedback in writing to the Secretariat on their compliance status as reflected in the Draft Summary Compliance Tables at the latest before the first session of the Compliance Committee.

4. Prior to the first session of the Compliance Committee, the COC Chair will review any input or comments received from CPCs on the Draft Summary Compliance Tables, revise the tables as appropriate, and recirculate them to the CPCs. To assist with these tasks, the COC Chair may convene an *ad hoc* Friends of the Chair Group. If such a Group is to be convened, all CPCs should be notified that they can provide one representative to participate in its work. Interested CPCs should ensure their representative on the Group has expertise in Commission recommendations. The composition of the Group should reflect the geographical representation of the Commission to the extent possible. Participants will take no active part in discussions of compliance issues pertaining to their CPC during meetings of the Friends of the Chair Group. A CPC's ability to engage in COC discussions will not be affected by participation on the Friends of the Chair Group.

5. The first session of the COC should be held in the early part, or, if so decided by the Commission, the day before the start of the ICCAT annual meeting and should be of a duration to allow an initial CPC-by-CPC review, during which each CPC has the opportunity to provide additional information concerning their compliance, such as any mitigating circumstances or actions they intend to take to ensure future compliance and, as needed, to allow for questions and discussions.

6. After the initial CPC-by-CPC review, the Compliance Committee Chair will consider any additional information provided under paragraph 5, or available from other sources, and revise and finalize the Summary Compliance Tables, with assistance from the Secretariat, and propose actions, if appropriate, for addressing issues of non-compliance, taking into account any guidance that may be adopted by the Commission. The COC Chair may seek assistance from the *ad hoc* Friends of the Chair Group in completing this task. The Chair will ensure that the Group's deliberations and the Chair's rationale underpinning each proposed action to address issues of non-compliance are clearly documented.

7. After completion of the work specified in paragraph 6, the Chair will have the Final Summary Compliance Tables and the Chair's proposed actions to address non-compliance (with documented rationale) circulated to the CPCs for consideration at a subsequent COC session. Provided this transparent, well-documented compliance review process has been followed, neither repeated discussion of compliance issues, nor a detailed presentation of each proposed action, should be necessary. Rather, at this stage of the process, substantive COC discussion should be reserved for those cases where there are differences of view on the Chair's proposed action. Once any such differences have been resolved, the COC will make recommendations to the Commission for addressing issues of non-compliance, as appropriate.

4.3 REPORT OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CONVENTION AMENDMENT (Madrid, Spain, 7-8 March 2016)

1 Opening of the meeting

The Chair of the Working Group, Ms. Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA), opened the meeting and welcomed the delegations to the Fourth Meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment (Working Group).

The Executive Secretary, Mr. Driss Meski, introduced the 25 Contracting Parties and one cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity, in attendance. He also noted the participation of one intergovernmental and two non-governmental organizations. The list of participants is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.3**.

2 Nomination of Rapporteur

Ms. Kimberly Blankenbeker (USA) was appointed rapporteur.

3 Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted as proposed and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.3**.

4 Consideration of the report of the previous meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment

a) Finalizing remaining proposals for amendment

The Chair summarized the progress to date, including the outcomes of the sessions of the Working Group held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Commission in November 2015. She noted that the two remaining issues before the Working Group concerned the proposals on dispute resolution procedures and on fishing entity participation in the work of the Commission, which was linked to the issue of the Convention depositary. To facilitate discussion of these matters, the Chair called attention to the document entitled "Compiled Proposals for Amendment of the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas". She also noted that the Working Group still needed to review the options for how, and when, the amendments will be agreed and enter into force.

The Chair invited Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities (CPCs) to provide any editorial or technical edits to the compiled text directly to her; if she concluded that any of the edits were substantive, she would highlight them for discussion.

Dispute settlement

The Chair opened discussion on Article VIII bis on dispute settlement. She noted that the key unresolved issue was whether ICCAT would provide for a process that was compulsory or non-compulsory, i.e. could any one party to a dispute invoke the option for resolution through final and binding arbitration, or would all parties to a dispute have to agree.

A number of CPCs noted difficulties with the sequencing of concepts in Article VIII bis and suggested ways to improve it. The Working Group generally agreed on the elements that called for CPCs to cooperate to resolve disputes amicably, and acknowledged the ability of CPCs to use a tribunal or court constituted under another treaty to which they were party. The Working Group recognized that the latter option existed whether or not this was specifically provided for. The Working Group discussed whether the Article should include a right of appeal once such a court or arbitral tribunal has rendered a decision. It was agreed that an appeal process need not be specified, as such processes would be elaborated within the respective rules of the court or tribunal.

Several delegations noted the need for flexibility and creativity to find a way forward on the issue of compulsory or non-compulsory arbitration as an essential first step for reaching agreement on the rest of the Article. To try to advance the debate, one CPC suggested a possible middle ground, while noting a need to consider the idea further within its own delegation. Specifically, either a dispute would be submitted to final and binding arbitration at the joint request of the parties to the dispute, or at the request of a certain number or percentage of parties to the dispute. Some CPCs did not support this option, as it was complicated and set a problematic precedent. Others indicated their interest in considering the idea further.

Canada introduced the draft procedures for an arbitral tribunal set forth in Annex 1, which had been discussed by an informal working group Canada had facilitated on the margins of the 2015 ICCAT Commission meeting. Canada noted that the procedures in Annex 1 were modeled from the Convention establishing the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean.

One CPC suggested that Annex 1 could be eliminated if the option for arbitration is non-compulsory, since the joint decision to refer a dispute to binding arbitration would necessarily include all the relevant procedural matters related to the tribunal. Others supported retaining Annex 1, noting that it would streamline the application of the arbitration process. To provide additional clarity on the rules for constituting an arbitral tribunal, it was suggested that the rules of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) be referenced in Article VIII bis.

In light of discussions, a revision to Article VIII bis was tabled by the United States with a view to advancing the debate. The Working Group welcomed the U.S. proposal, noting that it provided a good basis for further discussion.

It was suggested that the text could perhaps be further improved to clarify how the options of using either the ICCAT arbitration process or the dispute resolution mechanisms of other treaties would work. The United States noted the legal complexities of this matter and explained that the text as drafted tried to treat the issue as lightly as possible. The Chair welcomed any additional drafting suggestions to improve this aspect of the text.

The revised text provided the option of constituting an arbitral tribunal in accordance with Annex 1 or in accordance with the rules of the PCA. Some CPCs preferred to incorporate the well-established rules of the PCA, whether by reference or as a replacement for Annex 1. Other CPCs requested more time to study the matter. One CPC reiterated its view that there would be no need to establish an arbitral process in the Convention if it is decided that ICCAT's dispute resolution procedures are not compulsory. The Working Group was unable to resolve this issue, and CPCs noted the need for their legal experts to study the options.

In addition, Norway noted that, if reference to PCA rules were included in the Convention, there would still be a need to specify certain additional aspects of the arbitral process not covered by those rules. Norway suggested additional text to Article VIII bis to address these aspects. The Working Group agreed to bracket the text offered by Norway for the time being while it considered the broader questions of whether and how to incorporate the PCA rules into the Convention. The revisions to Article VIII bis and Annex 1 are reflected in the updated compiled text attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.3**.

The Chair noted the constructive discussions on Article VIII bis, highlighting the need to resolve the remaining technical and legal issues prior to the 2016 ICCAT annual meeting. Toward that end, she asked interested CPCs to work intersessionally to develop a proposed way forward on the question of the arbitral tribunal process. She also urged CPCs to continue to consult on the question of whether ICCAT's dispute resolution procedure should be compulsory or not, or whether some middle ground exists. She stressed that both the technical/legal and policy questions must be resolved in November.

Fishing entity participation

The Executive Secretary reported that he had received, from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), a copy of the Note Verbale sent to them by China's Permanent Representative to the FAO in relation to the letter from the Commission Chair. Following consultation with the ICCAT Chair, the Secretariat had circulated this Note Verbale as a meeting document before the start of the meeting. The Executive Secretary was later informed by the FAO that the Permanent Representative of China had requested the

withdrawal of this Note Verbale, and hence the document was removed from the meeting document site. China confirmed that the communication in question should be disregarded, and its position on the issues under discussion by the Working Group was unchanged.

China also noted the letter sent by the Commission Chair, Mr. Martin Tsamenyi (Ghana), to the FAO informing that organization of the deliberations of the Working Group, including a possible change in the Convention depositary (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.3**). China thanked the Commission Chair for taking this action, stressing that a move of the depositary is a precondition to facilitate resolution of the question of fishing entity participation in ICCAT.

The Commission Chair explained his outreach to the FAO on the question of the depositary. While no written response to his letter had yet been received, Mr. Tsamenyi reported that he had received a phone call from the FAO Assistant Director General who made three points. First, the choice of the depositary for the ICCAT Convention is a decision to be made solely by ICCAT Contracting Parties. The FAO will respect whatever decision is made and will continue to work closely with ICCAT as the FAO-ICCAT relationship is not based on the issue of the depositary. Second, the FAO did not intend to send a representative to participate in the Working Group meeting as the FAO did not view their presence as necessary to the discussions. Third, the FAO would like to be kept informed on the progress of ICCAT's discussions. Mr. Tsamenyi indicated that he would continue to seek a written response from the FAO, and that any communication he received would be duly circulated to CPCs.

Morocco thanked the Commission Chair for reaching out to the FAO. Morocco also took note of the comments by China concerning the withdrawal of the Note Verbale.

At the invitation of the Chair, the United States explained the status of the proposal regarding fishing entity participation in Annex 2 of the compiled text. The United States reminded the Working Group that the proposal was modified as a result of the Working Group discussions held in conjunction with the 2015 Commission meeting, in order to clarify that the Annex is intended to apply only to the fishing entity that has already been participating in ICCAT as a Cooperating non-member. The United States explained that the proposal now stipulates that only a fishing entity that had been granted Cooperating status by the Commission as of a specific date in the past would be eligible to become a Member of the Commission pursuant to the Annex. The United States further noted that the Working Group should identify the appropriate date for this provision.

The Working Group determined that an appropriate date should be 10 July 2013, the day the Working Group began its negotiations. A few CPCs noted that there could still be ambiguity with regard to the application of the fishing entity annex to other potential fishing entities. After some debate, Annex 2 was further clarified through the addition of a footnote specifying that any Non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity that obtains Cooperating Status after 10 July 2013 shall not be considered a Fishing Entity for purposes of the annex and, thus, shall not enjoy the same rights and obligations as Members of the Commission. The Working Group noted that the footnote addressed any remaining ambiguity. The revised text of Annex 2 is reflected in the updated compiled text attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.3**.

The Working Group took note of the corresponding changes to be made to relevant Convention Articles once agreement was reached on the Annex 2, which are presented as bracketed options in the compiled text. One CPC highlighted its close involvement in the development of the fishing entity annex and its view that the Articles mentioned in paragraph 3 Annex 2 are a closed list; references to "Members of the Commission" should not appear in any other Articles of the Convention.

The Working Group reviewed those Convention Articles where decisions needed to be made on the use of "Contracting Parties", "Members of the Commission", or some other construction that would eliminate the need to use either phrase. Revisions to relevant Articles were agreed in principle. With respect to Article III, paragraph 5, the Working Group agreed that the current reference to "Members" should be changed to "Contracting Parties", which would mean that only representatives of Contracting Parties may serve as Chair or Vice Chair of the Commission. The United States noted that this was not its preferred outcome, but that it could go along with this change given the balance found on the fishing entity issue in other Convention Articles.

The Chair reminded the Working Group that the related issue of a change to the Convention depositary was still pending. She recalled that, at the time the Commission decided by consensus to include non-party participation on Annex 1 of the Working Group's terms of reference [Rec. 12-10], one CPC had clearly indicated that a change to the depositary was a precondition for the advancement of that issue. The EU emphasized that its offer to assume this function was solely to facilitate resolution of this issue, and that if the precondition were withdrawn, the EU would withdraw its proposal.

The Working Group could not reach consensus on the question of depositary. Some CPCs indicated they needed more time to undertake internal consultations on the matter and emphasized that receiving an official, written communication from the FAO expressing its view would be important to inform their position. The Chair urged CPCs to consult to find a way forward on this issue and expressed her willingness to reach out to the FAO to convey this message and seek a written response.

b) Process for adoption and entry into force of amendments

The Chair made a presentation setting out the points that need to be decided on procedures and timing for the adoption and entry into force of the amendments (**Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.3**). The Working Group welcomed this information. The Working Group agreed to consider the options, including the financial, legal, and practical implications of different ways to adopt the amendments and terms for their entry into force, in order to agree on a process at the 2016 ICCAT annual meeting.

5 Other matters

There were no other matters raised.

6 Adjournment

The Chair noted that the remaining two issues of substance must be solved by the time of the 2016 ICCAT annual meeting. She stressed that the Working Group does not want to be in the position of seeking another extension of its mandate from the Commission this year. She again urged CPCs to work together to resolve the technical, legal, and policy aspects of the dispute resolution issue as well as to come to closure on the question of depositary.

The Working Group considered whether to convene another meeting in conjunction with the 2016 ICCAT annual meeting, recognizing that finding time for such a meeting would be difficult. The Working Group agreed that its preference was to work out the remaining issues in the months leading up to the annual meeting. The Commission Chair stated that he does not want to open debate on the Convention amendments themselves at the annual meeting. His expectation is that the Working Group will resolve the remaining issues intersessionally and that a clear report will be made to the Commission that will facilitate decision-making.

In order to facilitate intersessional progress, the Chair committed to work with the ICCAT Secretariat to establish a website open to all CPCs to share relevant information. She requested the virtual working group on dispute resolution to work to resolve the rules for an arbitration process, and highlighted the importance of transparency in the process of finalizing the remaining issues.

The Working Group adopted the report by correspondence.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.3

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting

2. Nomination of rapporteur

3. Adoption of the agenda

4. Consideration of the report of the previous meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment:

   a) Finalizing remaining proposals for amendment

   b) Process for adoption and entry into force of amendments

5. Other matters

6. Adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.3

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Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.3

Compiled Proposals for Amendment of the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas as of 29 March 2016
(Prepared by the Chair of the Working Group on Convention Amendment)

NOTE: Highlighted text below reflects editorial corrections identified by the Chair, or received in writing from CPCs in response to the Chair's invitation.

Preamble

The Governments whose duly authorized representatives have subscribed hereto, considering their mutual interest in the populations of tuna and tuna-like fishes and elasmobranchs that are oceanic, pelagic, and highly migratory found in the Atlantic Ocean, and desiring to co-operate in maintaining the populations of these fishes at levels which will permit their long term conservation and sustainable use ~~maximum sustainable catch~~ for food and other purposes, resolve to conclude a Convention for the conservation of these resources ~~of tuna and tuna-like fishes of the Atlantic Ocean~~, and to that end agree as follows:

Article I

The area to which this Convention shall apply, hereinafter referred to as the "Convention area", shall be all waters of the Atlantic Ocean, including the adjacent Seas.

Article II

Nothing in this Convention shall prejudice the rights, jurisdiction and duties of States under international law. This Convention shall be interpreted and applied in a manner consistent with international law. ~~be considered as affecting the rights, claims or views of any Contracting Party in regard to the limits of territorial waters or the extent of jurisdiction over fisheries under international law.~~

Article III

1. The Contracting Parties hereby agree to establish and maintain a Commission to be known as the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, hereinafter referred to as "the Commission", which shall carry out the objectives set forth in this Convention. [Each Contracting Party shall be a Member of the Commission.]

2. Each of the [~~Contracting Parties~~][Members of the Commission] shall be represented on the Commission by not more than three Delegates. Such Delegates may be assisted by experts and advisors.

3. ~~Except as may otherwise be provided in this Convention~~ Decisions of the Commission shall be taken by consensus as a general rule. Except as may otherwise be provided in this Convention, if consensus cannot be achieved, decisions shall be made by a two-thirds majority of the [~~Contracting Parties~~][Members of the Commission] present and casting affirmative or negative votes, each [~~Contracting Party~~][Member of the Commission] having one vote. Two-thirds of the [~~Contracting Parties~~][Members of the Commission] shall constitute a quorum.

4. The Commission shall hold a regular meeting once every two years. A special meeting may be called at any time at the request of a majority of the [~~Contracting Parties~~][Members of the Commission] or by decision of the Council as constituted in Article V.

5. At its first meeting, and thereafter at each regular meeting, the Commission shall elect from among its [Contracting Parties][~~Members~~] a Chairman, a first Vice-Chairman and a second Vice-Chairman who shall not be re-elected for more than one term.

6. The meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies shall be public unless the Commission otherwise decides.

7. The official languages of the Commission shall be English, French and Spanish.

8. The Commission shall have authority to adopt such rules of procedure and financial regulations as are necessary to carry out its functions.

9. The Commission shall submit a report to the [~~Contracting Parties~~][Members of the Commission] every two years on its work and findings and shall also inform any [~~Contracting Party~~][Member of the Commission], whenever requested, on any matter relating to the objectives of the Convention.

Article III bis

The Commission and its Members, in conducting work under the Convention, shall act to:

(a) apply the precautionary approach and an ecosystem approach to fisheries management in accordance with relevant internationally agreed standards and, as appropriate, recommended practices and procedures;
(b) use the best scientific evidence available;
(c) protect biodiversity in the marine environment;
(d) ensure fairness and transparency in decision making processes, including with respect to the allocation of fishing possibilities, and other activities; and
(e) give full recognition to the special requirements of developing Members of the Commission, including the need for their capacity building, in accordance with international law, to implement their obligations under this Convention and to develop their fisheries.

Article IV

1. In order to carry out the objectives of this Convention the Commission shall be responsible for the study of the populations of tuna and tuna-like fishes ~~(the Scombriformes with the exception of the families Trichiuridae and Gempylidae and the genus *Scomber*)~~ and elasmobranchs that are oceanic, pelagic, and highly migratory (hereinafter "ICCAT species"), and such other species ~~of fishes exploited~~ caught in ~~tuna~~ fishing for ICCAT species in the Convention area. ~~as are not under investigation by another~~ taking into account the work of other relevant international fishery-related organizations or arrangements. Such study shall include research on ~~the abundance, biometry and ecology of the fishes~~ these species; the oceanography of their environment; and the effects of natural and human factors upon their abundance. The Commission may also study species belonging to the same ecosystem or dependent or associated with the ICCAT species. The Commission, in carrying out these responsibilities shall, insofar as feasible, utilise the technical and scientific services of, and information from, official agencies of the [~~Contracting Parties~~][Members of the Commission] and their political sub-divisions and may, when desirable, utilise the available services and information of any public or private institution, organization or individual, and may undertake within the limits of its budget with the cooperation of concerned [~~Contracting Parties~~][Members of the Commission], independent research to supplement the research work being done by governments, national institutions or other international organizations. The Commission shall ensure that any information received from such institution, organization, or individual is consistent with established scientific standards regarding quality and objectivity.

2. The carrying out of the provisions in paragraph 1 of this Article shall include:
   (a) collecting and analysing statistical information relating to the current conditions and trends of ~~the tuna fishery resources of~~ ICCAT species in the Convention area;

(b) studying and appraising information concerning measures and methods to ensure maintenance of the populations of ICCAT species ~~tuna and tuna-like fishes~~ in the Convention area at or above levels ~~which will permit the~~ capable of producing maximum sustainable ~~catch~~ yield and which will ensure the effective exploitation of these species ~~fishes~~ in a manner consistent with this yield ~~catch~~;
(c) recommending studies and investigations to the [~~Contracting Parties~~][Members of the Commission];
(d) publishing and otherwise disseminating reports of its findings and statistical, biological and other scientific information relative to ~~the tuna fisheries of~~ ICCAT species in the Convention area.

Article V

1. There is established within the Commission a Council which shall consist of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairmen of the Commission together with the representatives of not less than four and not more than eight Contracting Parties. The Contracting Parties represented on the Council shall be elected at each regular meeting of the Commission. However, if at any time the number of the Contracting Parties exceeds forty, the Commission may elect an additional two Contracting Parties to be represented on the Council. The Contracting Parties of which the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen are nationals shall not be elected to the Council. In elections to the Council the Commission shall give due consideration to the geographic, tuna fishing and tuna processing interests of the Contracting Parties, as well as to the equal right of the Contracting Parties to be represented on the Council.

2. The Council shall perform such functions as are assigned to it by this Convention or are designated by the Commission, and shall meet at least once in the interim between regular meetings of the Commission. Between meetings of the Commission the Council shall make necessary decisions on the duties to be carried out by the staff and shall issue necessary instructions to the Executive Secretary. Decisions of the Council shall be made in accordance with rules to be established by the Commission.

Article VI

To carry out the objectives of this Convention the Commission may establish Panels on the basis of species, group of species, or of geographic areas. Each Panel in such case:

(a) shall be responsible for keeping under review the species, group of species, or geographic area under its purview, and for collecting scientific and other information relating thereto;
(b) may propose to the Commission, upon the basis of scientific investigations, recommendations for joint action by the [~~Contracting Parties~~][Members of the Commission];
(c) may recommend to the Commission studies and investigations necessary for obtaining information relating to its species, group of species, or geographic area, as well as the co-ordination of programmes of investigation by the [~~Contracting Parties~~][Members of the Commission].

Article VII

The Commission shall appoint an Executive Secretary who shall serve at the pleasure of the Commission. The Executive Secretary, subject to such rules and procedures as may be determined by the Commission, shall have authority with respect to the selection and administration of the staff of the Commission. He shall also perform, *inter alia*, the following functions as the Commission may prescribe:

(a) coordinating the programmes of investigation ~~by the Contracting Parties~~ carried out pursuant to Articles IV and VI;
(b) preparing budget estimates for review by the Commission;
(c) authorising the disbursement of funds in accordance with the Commission's budget;
(d) accounting for the funds of the Commission;
(e) arranging for co-operation with the organizations referred to in Article XI of this Convention;
(f) preparing the collection and analysis of data necessary to accomplish the purposes of the Convention particularly those data relating to the current and maximum sustainable ~~catch~~ yield of ~~tuna~~ stocks of ICCAT species;

(g) preparing for approval by the Commission scientific, administrative and other reports of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

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 fished that may be taken in the Convention area at levels which will permit the maximum sustainable catch.~~:
   (i) ensure in the Convention area the long-term conservation and sustainable use of ICCAT species by maintaining or restoring the abundance of the stocks of those species at or above levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield; ~~and~~
   (ii) promote where necessary the conservation of other species that are dependent on or associated with ICCAT ~~S~~species, with a view to maintaining or restoring populations of such species above levels at which their reproduction may become seriously threatened.

   These recommendations shall be applicable to the [~~Contracting Parties~~][Members of the Commission] 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
   (ii) at the initiative of the Commission with the approval of at least two-thirds of all the [~~Contracting Parties~~][Members of the Commission] if an appropriate Panel has been established but a proposal has not been approved;
   (iii) on a proposal that has been approved by an appropriate Panel ~~if such a Panel has been established~~;
   (iv~~ii~~) on a proposal that has been approved by 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~~][Members of the Commission] ~~six~~ four months after the date of the notification from the Commission transmitting the recommendation to the [~~Contracting Parties~~][Members of the Commission], unless otherwise agreed upon by the Commission at the time a recommendation is adopted and except as provided in paragraph 3 of this Article. However, under no circumstances shall a recommendation become effective in less than three months.

3. (a) If any [~~Contracting Party~~][Member of the Commission] in the case of a recommendation made under paragraph 1(b)(i) or (ii) above, or any [~~Contracting Party~~][Member of the Commission which is also a] member of a Panel concerned in the case of a recommendation made under paragraph 1(b)(iii) or (iv~~ii~~) above, presents to the Commission an objection to such recommendation within the ~~six months~~ period established pursuant to ~~provided for in~~ paragraph 2 above, the recommendation shall not become effective for ~~an additional sixty days~~ the [~~Contracting Parties~~][Members of the Commission] concerned.
   ~~(b) Thereupon any other Contracting Party may present an objection prior to the expiration of the additional sixty days period, or within forty-five days of the date of the notification of an objection made by another Contracting Party within such additional sixty 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 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.~~

(b~~g~~) If objections have been presented by a majority of the [~~Contracting Parties~~][Members of the Commission] within the period established pursuant to paragraph 2 above, the recommendation shall not become effective for any [~~Contracting Party~~][Member of the Commission].

(c~~h~~)A [~~Contracting Party~~][Member of the Commission] presenting an objection in accordance with sub-paragraph (a) above shall provide to the Commission in writing, at the time of presenting its objection, the reason for its objection, which shall be based on one or more of the following grounds:

(i) The recommendation is inconsistent with this Convention or other relevant provisions of international law; or

(ii) The recommendation unjustifiably discriminates in form or in fact against the objecting [~~Contracting Party~~][Member of the Commission].

(iii) The [~~Contracting Party~~][Member of the Commission] cannot practicably comply with the measure because it has adopted a different approach to conservation and sustainable management or because it does not have the technical capabilities to implement the recommendation.

(iv) Security constraints as a result of which the objecting [~~Contracting Party~~][Member of the Commission] is not in a position to implement or comply with the measure.

(d~~i~~) Each [~~Contracting Party~~][Member of the Commission] that presents an objection pursuant to this Article shall also provide to the Commission, to the extent practicable, a description of any alternative conservation and management ~~and conservation~~ measures, which shall be at least equally effective as the measure to which it is objecting.

4. Any [~~Contracting Party~~][Member of the Commission] objecting to a recommendation may at any time withdraw that objection, and the recommendation shall become effective with respect to such [~~Contracting Party~~][Member of the Commission] 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~~ Executive Secretary shall promptly circulate to all [~~Contracting Parties~~][Members of the Commission] the details of any objection and explanation received in accordance with this Article ~~notify each Contracting Party immediately upon receipt of each objection~~ and of each withdrawal of such an objection, and shall notify all [~~Contracting Parties~~][Members of the Commission] of the entry into force of any recommendation.

Article VIII bis

1. Every effort shall be made within the Commission in order to prevent disputes, and the parties to any dispute shall consult each other in order to settle disputes concerning this Convention by amicable means and as quickly as possible.

2. Where a dispute concerns a matter of a technical nature, the parties to the dispute may jointly refer the dispute to an *ad hoc* expert panel established in accordance with the procedures that the Commission adopts for this purpose. The panel shall confer with the parties to the dispute and shall endeavour to expeditiously resolve the dispute without recourse to binding procedures.

3. A dispute concerning the interpretation or application of this Convention that is not resolved through a means set out in paragraph 1 or where relevant, paragraph 2, shall be submitted to final and binding arbitration for settlement, [at the request of any party to the dispute] [at the joint request of the parties to the dispute] [at the joint request of the parties to the dispute, or xxxx of the [Contracting Parties][Members of the Commission]]. The arbitral tribunal shall be constituted and conducted in accordance with [Annex 1 of this Convention] [the rules of the Permanent Court of Arbitration. The arbitral tribunal shall be composed of three arbitrators. [The arbitral tribunal shall render its decisions in accordance with the relevant provisions of this Convention, other relevant rules of international law, and generally accepted standards for the conservation and management of living marine resources. The place of arbitration shall be Madrid, Spain, and the language used shall be one of the three official languages of the Commission unless otherwise agreed by the parties to the dispute]].

4. The dispute settlement mechanisms set out in this Article are not applied to disputes that relate to any act or fact which took place or any situation which ceased to exist before the date of the entry into force of this Article.

5. Nothing in this Article shall prejudice the ability of parties to any dispute to pursue dispute settlement under other treaties or international agreements to which they are parties, in accordance with the requirements of that treaty or international agreement.

Article IX

1. The [~~Contracting Parties~~][Members of the Commission] agree to take all action necessary to ensure the enforcement of this Convention. Each [~~Contracting Party~~][Member of the Commission] shall transmit to the Commission, biennially or at such other times as may be required by the Commission, a statement of the action taken by it for these purposes.

2. The [~~Contracting Parties~~][Members of the Commission] agree:
   (a) to furnish, on the request of the Commission, any available statistical, biological and other scientific information the Commission may need for the purposes of this Convention;
   (b) when their official agencies are unable to obtain and furnish the said information, to allow the Commission, through the [~~Contracting Parties~~][Members of the Commission], to obtain it on a voluntary basis direct from companies and individual fishermen.

3. The [~~Contracting Parties~~][Members of the Commission] undertake to collaborate with each other with a view to the adoption of suitable effective measures to ensure the application of the provisions of this Convention[.

4. Contracting Parties undertake][~~and in particular~~] to set up a system of international enforcement to be applied to the Convention area except the territorial sea and other waters, if any, in which a ~~s~~State is entitled under international law to exercise jurisdiction over fisheries.

Article X*

1. The Commission shall adopt a budget for the joint expenses of the Commission for the biennium following each regular meeting.

2. Each [~~Contracting Party~~][Member of the Commission] shall contribute annually to the budget of the Commission an amount calculated in accordance with a scheme provided for in the Financial Regulations, as adopted by the Commission. The Commission, in adopting this scheme, should consider *inter alia* each [~~Contracting Party's~~][Member of the Commission's] fixed basic fees for Commission and Panel membership, the total round weight of catch and net weight of canned products of Atlantic tuna and tuna-like fishes and the degree of economic development of the [~~Contracting Parties~~][Members of the Commission].

   The scheme of annual contributions in the Financial Regulations shall be established or modified only through the agreement of all the [~~Contracting Parties~~][Members of the Commission] present and voting. The [~~Contracting Parties~~][Members of the Commission] shall be informed of this ninety days in advance.

3. The Council shall review the second half of the biennial budget at its regular meeting between Commission meetings and, on the basis of current and anticipated developments, may authorise reapportionment of amounts in the Commission budget for the second year within the total budget approved by the Commission.

* As modified by the Madrid Protocol, which entered into force on March 10, 2005.

4. The Executive Secretary of the Commission shall notify each [~~Contracting Party~~][Member of the Commission] of its yearly assessment. The contributions shall be payable on January first of the year for which the assessment was levied. Contributions not received before January first of the succeeding year shall be considered as in arrears.

5. Contributions to the biennial budget shall be payable in such currencies as the Commission may decide.

6. At its first meeting the Commission shall approve a budget for the balance of the first year the Commission functions and for the following biennium. It shall immediately transmit to the [~~Contracting Parties~~][Members of the Commission] copies of these budgets together with notices of the respective assessments for the first annual contribution.

7. Thereafter, within a period not less than sixty days before the regular meeting of the Commission which precedes the biennium, the Executive Secretary shall submit to each [~~Contracting Party~~][Member of the Commission] a draft biennial budget together with a schedule of proposed assessments.

8. The Commission may suspend the voting rights of any [~~Contracting Party~~][Member of the Commission] when its arrears of contributions equal or exceed the amount due from it for the two preceding years.

9. The Commission shall establish a Working Capital fund to finance operations of the Commission prior to receiving annual contributions, and for such other purposes as the Commission may determine. The Commission shall determine the level of the Fund, assess advances necessary for its establishment, and adopt regulations governing the use of the Fund.

10. The Commission shall arrange an annual independent audit of the Commission's accounts. The reports of such audits shall be reviewed and approved by the Commission or by the Council in years when there is no regular Commission meeting.

11. The Commission may accept contributions, other than provided for in paragraph 2 of this Article, for the prosecution of its work.

Article XI

1. The Contracting Parties agree that there should be a working relationship between the Commission and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. To this end the Commission shall enter into negotiations with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations with a view to concluding an agreement pursuant to Article XIII of the Organization's Constitution**. Such agreement should provide, *inter alia*, for the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to appoint a Representative who would participate in all meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, but without the right to vote.

2. The [~~Contracting Parties~~][Members of the Commission] agree that there should be co-operation between the Commission and other international fisheries commissions and scientific organizations which might contribute to the work of the Commission. The Commission may enter into agreements with such commissions and organizations.

3. The Commission may invite any appropriate international organization and any Government which is a member of the United Nations or of any Specialized Agency of the United Nations and which is not a member of the Commission, to send observers to meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

** See FAO Agreement.

Article XII

1. This Convention shall remain in force for ten years and thereafter until a majority of the Contracting Parties agree to terminate it.

2. At any time after ten years from the date of entry into force of this Convention, any Contracting Party may withdraw from the Convention on December thirty-first of any year including the tenth year by written notification of withdrawal given on or before December thirty-first of the preceding year to the [Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations][Secretary General of the Council of the European Union].

3. Any other Contracting Party may thereupon withdraw from this Convention with effect from the same December thirty-first by giving written notification of withdrawal to the [Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations][Secretary General of the Council of the European Union] not later than one month from the date of receipt of information from the [Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations][Secretary General of the Council of the European Union] concerning any withdrawal, but not later than April first of that year.

Article XIII

1. Any Contracting Party or the Commission may propose amendments to this Convention. The [Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations][Secretary General of the Council of the European Union] shall transmit a certified copy of the text of any proposed amendment to all the Contracting Parties. Any amendment not involving new obligations shall take effect for all Contracting Parties on the thirtieth day after its acceptance by three-fourths of the Contracting Parties. Any amendment involving new obligations shall take effect for each Contracting Party accepting the amendment on the ninetieth day after its acceptance by three-fourths of the Contracting Parties and thereafter for each remaining Contracting Party upon acceptance by it. Any amendment considered by one or more Contracting Parties to involve new obligations shall be deemed to involve new obligations and shall take effect accordingly. A government which becomes a Contracting Party after an amendment to this Convention has been opened for acceptance pursuant to the provisions of this Article shall be bound by the Convention as amended when the said amendment comes into force.

2. Proposed amendments shall be deposited with the [Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations][Secretary General of the Council of the European Union]. Notifications of acceptance of amendments shall be deposited with the [Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations][Secretary General of the Council of the European Union].

[Article XIII bis

The [Annex forms][Annexes form] an integral part of this Convention and a reference to this Convention includes a reference to the Annex[es].]

Article XIV*

1. This Convention shall be open for signature by the Government of any State which is a Member of the United Nations or of any Specialized Agency of the United Nations. Any such Government which does not sign this Convention may adhere to it at any time.

2. This Convention shall be subject to ratification or approval by signatory countries in accordance with their constitutions. Instruments of ratification, approval, or adherence shall be deposited with the [Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations][Secretary General of the Council of the European Union].

3. This Convention shall enter into force upon the deposit of instruments of ratification, approval, or adherence by seven Governments and shall enter into force with respect to each Government which subsequently deposits an instrument of ratification, approval, or adherence on the date of such deposit.

4. This Convention shall be open for signature or adherence by any inter-governmental economic integration organization constituted by States that have transferred to it competence over the matters governed by this Convention, including the competence to enter into treaties in respect of those matters.

5. Upon the deposit of its instrument of formal confirmation or adherence, any organization referred to in paragraph 4 shall be a Contracting Party having the same rights and obligations in respect of the provisions of the Convention as the other Contracting Parties. Reference in the text of the Convention to the term "State" in Article IX, paragraph [~~3~~][4], and to the term "government" in the Preamble and in Article XIII, paragraph 1, shall be interpreted in this manner.

6. When an organization referred to in paragraph 4 becomes a Contracting Party to this Convention, the member states of that organization and those which adhere to it in the future shall cease to be parties to the Convention; they shall transmit a written notification to this effect to the [Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations][Secretary General of the Council of the European Union].

Article XV*

[The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations][Secretary General of the Council of the European Union] shall inform all Governments referred to in paragraph 1 of Article XIV and all the organizations referred to in paragraph 4 of the same Article of deposits of instruments of ratification, approval, formal confirmation on adherence, the entry into force of this Convention, proposals for amendment, notifications of acceptance of amendments, entry into force of amendments, and notifications of withdrawal.

Article XVI*

The original of this Convention shall be deposited with the [Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations][Secretary General of the Council of the European Union] who shall send certified copies of it to the Governments referred to in paragraph 1 of Article XIV and to the organizations referred to in paragraph 4 of the same Article.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the representatives duly authorized by their respective Governments have signed the present Convention. Done at Rio de Janeiro this fourteenth day of May 1966 in a single copy in the English, French and Spanish languages, each version being equally authoritative.

* As modified by the Paris Protocol, which entered into force on December 14, 1997.

[**ANNEX 1**

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

1. The arbitral tribunal referred to in paragraph 4 of Article VIII bis is composed of three arbitrators who are appointed as follows:
   (a) The [Contracting Party] [Member of the Commission] that commences a proceeding shall communicate the name of an arbitrator to the other party to the dispute that shall, in turn, within a period of forty days following that notification, communicate the name of the second arbitrator. In disputes between more than two [Contracting Parties] [Members of the Commission], parties that have the same interest shall jointly appoint one arbitrator. The parties to the dispute shall, within a period of sixty days following the appointment of the second arbitrator, appoint the third arbitrator, who is not a national of either [Contracting Party] [Member of the Commission] and is not of the same nationality as either of the first two arbitrators. The third arbitrator shall preside over the tribunal;
   (b) If the second arbitrator is not appointed within the prescribed period, or if the parties are not able to concur within the prescribed period on the appointment of the third arbitrator, that arbitrator is appointed, at the request of one of those parties, by the Chair of the Commission within two months from the date of receipt of the request.

2. The arbitral tribunal shall decide the location of its headquarters and shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

3. The arbitral tribunal shall render its decisions in accordance with this Convention and international law.

4. The decision of the arbitral tribunal is made by a majority of its members, which may not abstain from voting.

5. A [Contracting Party] [Member of the Commission] that is not a party to the dispute may intervene in the proceedings with the consent of the arbitral tribunal.

6. The decision of the arbitral tribunal is final and binding on the parties to the dispute. The parties to the dispute shall comply with the decision without delay. The arbitral tribunal shall interpret the decision at the request of one of the parties to the dispute or of any intervening party.

7. Unless the arbitral tribunal determines otherwise because of the particular circumstances of the case, the parties to the dispute shall bear in equal shares the expenses of the tribunal, including the remuneration of its members.]

[ANNEX 2[1]

FISHING ENTITIES

1. After the entry into force of the amendments to the Convention adopted on <*date of adoption*>, any fishing entity that attained by 10 July 2013 Cooperating Status in accordance with the procedures established by the Commission, may, by a written instrument delivered to the Depositary, express its firm commitment to abide by the terms of this Convention and comply with recommendations adopted pursuant to it.* Such commitment shall become effective 30 days from the date of receipt of the instrument. Any such fishing entity may withdraw such commitment by a written notification addressed to the Depositary. The withdrawal shall become effective 1 year after the date of its receipt, unless the notification specifies a later date.

2. In case of any further amendment made to the Convention pursuant to Article XIII, any fishing entity referred to in paragraph 1 may, by a written instrument delivered to the Depositary, express its firm commitment to abide by the terms of the amended Convention and comply with recommendations adopted pursuant to it. This commitment of a fishing entity shall be effective from the dates referred to in Article XIII or on the date of receipt of the written communication referred to in this paragraph, whichever is later.

3. A fishing entity which has expressed its firm commitment to abide by the terms of this Convention and comply with recommendations adopted pursuant to it in accordance with paragraph 1 or 2 may participate in the relevant work, including decision making, of the Commission, and shall, mutatis mutandis, enjoy the same rights and obligations as Members of the Commission as set forth in Articles III, IV, VI, VIII, IX, X, and XI of the Convention.

4. If a dispute involves a fishing entity which has expressed its commitment to be bound by the terms of this Convention in accordance with this Annex and cannot be settled by amicable means, the dispute shall, at the request of any party to the dispute, be submitted to final and binding arbitration in accordance with the relevant rules of the Permanent Court of Arbitration.[2]

5. The provisions of this Annex relating to the participation of a fishing entity are only for the purposes of this Convention.]

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* Any Non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity that obtains Cooperating Status after 10 July 2013 shall not be considered a Fishing Entity for purposes of this Annex and, thus, shall not enjoy the same rights and obligations as Members of the Commission as set forth in Articles III, IV, VI, VIII, X, XI of the Convention.

[1] The proposal for this Annex is linked to the understanding that a Contracting Party will take the full role of depositary from the FAO as reflected in the bracketed proposals in Articles XII, XIII, XIV, XV and XVI.

[2] Resolution of the remaining bracketed issues related to dispute settlement in Article VIII bis may require conforming changes to this paragraph.

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.3

Letter to FAO Director-General

The Honorable José Graziano de Silva
Director-General
U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization
Rome, Italy

8 February 2016

Dear Director-General Graziano,

As you may be aware, since 2012, the Member States of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) have been engaged in negotiations to formulate amendments to its underlying Convention. The purpose of this effort is to bring the ICCAT Convention, first adopted in 1966, fully in line with twenty-first century management and governance practices, including those reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982), the U.N. Fish Stocks Agreement (1995), and the FAO's own Compliance Agreement (1994) and Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (1995).

On-going negotiations have focused on a number of areas, identified by ICCAT to be of paramount importance. These include: clarifying the species subject to the purview of ICCAT; inclusion of basic principles of modern international fisheries norms such as the ecosystem and precautionary approaches, science based management decision making, recognition of the special requirements of developing States; decision making; dispute settlement; and new provisions on non-party participation, to ensure the full participation by Fishing Entities in the work of the Commission, consistently with the relevant provisions of the U.N. Fish Stocks Agreement, other international instruments and international best practice.

Virtually all regional fisheries management organizations established since 2000 have included provisions through which Fishing Entities enjoy rights and obligations similar to Contracting party members of the Commissions established, in exchange for a commitment to be bound by the decisions taken by these organizations for the conservation and management of the fishery resources under their respective jurisdictions. In particular, such provisions are included in the Conventions establishing the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC, 2000), the "Antigua Convention" (2003) that amended in its entirety the 1949 Convention establishing the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), as well as the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO, 2010), and the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC, 2011).

In ICCAT there is large support for the incorporation of similar provisions on Fishing Entities in an amended Convention. However, one ICCAT Contracting Party has indicated that a change of the depositary from FAO Director General to one of the Contracting Parties to the ICCAT Convention is a "pre-condition" for its acceptance of the provisions currently under consideration.

The position expressed by this Contracting Party is seriously being addressed, with a proposal to move the ICCAT depositary to the Agreements Office of the Council of the European Union. Apart from this change. I can assure you that no other changes in the longstanding relationship between the FAO, ICCAT, and ICCAT Contracting Parties is being contemplated and that the relevant provisions of the ICCAT Convention (i.e. Article XI) remain untouched.

Another round of negotiations will be held in Madrid, Spain on 7-8 March 2016 and will focus on resolving few outstanding issues, including the participation of Fishing Entities.

In accordance with the very well established relationship between FAO and ICCAT pursuant to the ICCAT Convention and the Memorandum of Understanding between us, I invite you to send your representative to the forthcoming meeting of the ICCAT Convention Amendment Working Group.

I will keep you updated on developments as we move closer to agreement on a proposal to amend the ICCAT Convention which you, as the depository of the current Convention, can transmit to Contracting Parties for their consideration in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Martin Tsamenyi
ICCAT Chairman

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.3

ICCAT Amendment Process Points

Adoption

Convention sets out process for amendments in **Article XIII, Paragraph 1**:

"Any Contracting Party or the Commission may propose amendments to this Convention. The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations shall transmit a certified copy of the text of any proposed amendment to all the Contracting Parties. Any amendment not involving new obligations shall take effect for all Contracting Parties on the thirtieth day after its acceptance by three-fourths of the Contracting Parties. Any amendment involving new obligations shall take effect for each Contracting Party accepting the amendment on the ninetieth day after its acceptance by three-fourths of the Contracting Parties and thereafter for each remaining Contracting Party upon acceptance by it. Any amendment considered by one or more Contracting Parties to involve new obligations shall be deemed to involve new obligations and shall take effect accordingly. A government which becomes a Contracting Party after an amendment to this Convention has been opened for acceptance pursuant to the provisions of this Article shall be bound by the Convention as amended when the said amendment comes into force."

Adoption

"Any **Contracting Party** or the **Commission** may propose amendments to this Convention. The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations shall transmit a certified copy of the text of any proposed amendment to all the Contracting Parties."

- The **proposal** of amendments can be made by a Contracting Party (or Contracting Parties) or the Commission
- Convention is silent about **adoption** of proposal for amendment at the Commission level
- Assumption could be that **normal decision-making procedures** would apply
- Convention simply says any such proposal is circulated by the Depositary to Contracting Parties so they may consider moving forward with ratification or acceptance

Adoption

Form of the proposed amendments could go several ways

- Commission agrees on a set of amendments **pursuant to a Commission decision** made during an annual meeting in the usual way
- Commission convenes a **Conference of Plenipotentiaries** of the Contracting Parties who adopt a protocol containing the amendments and any related decisions related to procedure
- Adoption as a Commission decision is consistent with how several other RFMOs have formalized amendments
- Conference of Plenipotentiaries has been used in past ICCAT amendments
- No strict rule established either in the Convention or general international law

Adoption

Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Contracting Parties

- Process used two previous times the Convention was amended
  - Paris Protocol (1984) – allowed regional economic integration organizations to become Parties
  - Madrid Protocol (1992) – amended the financial contribution scheme set out in Art. X
- In both of those cases, the Conference served both to **negotiate** and **agree** the proposals for amendment
- Included **proposal** for amendment and **process** points
- Credentials Committee - yes for Madrid Protocol, no for Paris Protocol
- Full Power – per VCLT, relevant for signature of Protocol
- Participation – Paris Protocol: 20 of 23 Contracting Parties; Madrid Protocol: 16 of 22 Contracting Parties

Entry into Force

Any amendment **not involving new obligations shall take effect for all** Contracting Parties on the thirtieth day after its acceptance by three-fourths of the Contracting Parties.

- Commission decision if involves new obligations or not
- Once ratification threshold met, is in effect **for all whether or not they have ratified yet**

Entry into Force

"Any amendment **involving new obligations shall take effect for each** Contracting Party accepting the amendment on the ninetieth day after its acceptance by three-fourths of the Contracting Parties and thereafter for each remaining Contracting Party upon acceptance by it."

- Once ratification threshold is met, it enters into force and **only those that have ratified are bound**
- After that, becomes in effect for others **only as they complete** their ratification/acceptance processes
- Results in different provisions applying to different Parties for a time

Entry into Force

"Any amendment **considered by one or more** Contracting Parties to involve new obligations shall be deemed to involve new obligations and shall take effect accordingly."

- Could be understood to imply that that alternative procedures for entry into force require consensus

Entry into Force

Paris Protocol, Paragraph III:

"This Protocol shall enter into force upon deposit with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of instruments of approval, ratification or acceptance **of all Contracting Parties**. In this regard, the provisions set out in the last sentence of paragraph 1 of Article XIII of the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas shall apply *mutatis mutandis*. The date of entry into force shall be the thirtieth day following the deposit of the last instrument."

- Required **all** CPs to approve before entry into force, then entered into force for all

Entry into Force

Madrid Protocol, Article 3:

"This Protocol shall enter into force for all the Contracting Parties the **ninetieth day** following the deposit with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of the last instrument of approval, ratification or acceptance by three-quarters of the Contracting Parties, and these three-quarters shall include **all of the Parties classified by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as of June 5, 1992, as developed market economy countries**. Any Contracting Party not included in this category of **countries can, within six months following the notification of the adoption** of the Protocol by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, **request the suspension of the entry into force of said Protocol**. The provisions set out in the last sentence of Paragraph 1 of Article XIII of the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas shall apply *mutatis mutandis*."

Entry into Force

Madrid Protocol:

- Extended entry into force after ratification threshold met
- Alternate requirements for number of ratifications or acceptances
- Novel provision to allow request to suspend entry into force

Entry into Force

Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties – general provisions on Entry into Force:

- Article 24 (Entry into force), paragraph 4:

  "The provisions of a treaty regulating the authentication of its text, the establishment of the consent of States to be bound by the treaty, the manner or date of its entry into force, reservations, the functions of the depositary and other matters arising necessarily before the entry into force of the treaty apply from the time of the adoption of its text."

- Article 25 (Provisional application), paragraph 1:

"A treaty or a part of a treaty is applied provisionally pending its entry into force if:

(a) the treaty itself so provides; or

(b) the negotiating States have in some other manner so agreed."

Key Decision Points

- Proposal made per Commission decision or Protocol adopted by Conference of Plenipotentiaries
- Article XIII process for entry into force:
  - New obligations
  - No new obligations
- Alternative entry into force provisions
- Different process and provisions for different issues
- Provisional application

4.4 REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON FADs (Bilbao, Spain, 14-16 May 2016)

1 Opening of the meeting

Mr. Shep Helguile, co-Chair of the FAD Working Group, opened the meeting and reminded participants (**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.4**) of the objectives of the Working Group. The ICCAT Executive Secretary, Mr. Driss Meski, welcomed all the participants in the name of ICCAT.

2 Adoption of the Agenda and meeting arrangements

The Chair of the Working Group presented the final Agenda of the meeting which was adopted by the Working Group (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.4**). The Executive Secretary of ICCAT provided the meeting arrangements.

3 Nomination of Rapporteur

The following participants agreed to serve as Rapporteurs for various sections of the report:

Section	*Rapporteurs*
1-3	Paul de Bruyn
4-6	Michelle Sculley
7	David Die, Jon Lopez
8	Justin Konan

4 Review of the information provided by CPCs pursuant to the FAD related provisions in the relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures

During the meeting several documents and a few presentations were provided by participants and discussed by the Working Group (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.4**).

A presentation on retaining by-catch to avoid wastage of fishery resources was provided (SCRS/2016/017), noting the importance of by-catch landed by purse-seiners in Abidjan. It was noted that the average annual amount of fish sold on the local market by the main tuna purse seiners operating in the eastern Atlantic (France, Ghana and Spain) accounts for half of the total annual by-catch in the tropical tuna fishery (21,582 t for all species of fish), which could be used by the local populations, and that the capacity of absorption of this market remains high when considering the characteristics of the market in Côte d'Ivoire. It was noted that ICCAT is the only tuna RFMO which does not have a tuna retention requirement; however, approximately 50% of the small tuna caught are retained for sale in the local markets or for consumption by the fishers.

A presentation was given on the results achieved within the framework of the EU research project: Catch, effort, and ecosystem impacts of FAD-fishing (CECOFAD, SCRS/2016/030). The CECOFAD project aimed to improve the understanding of the use of drifting fish-aggregating devices (dFADs) in tropical purse seine tuna fisheries in open ocean ecosystems. The goals of this project are to: define a unit of fishing effort for FADs, standardize CPUEs for FADs, and estimate catch composition and ecosystem impacts of FADs.

It was noted by the Group that the work to standardize catch per unit effort of FADs is important to both management and science. When doing assessments it is important to standardize the catch rate which takes into account the changes in the fleets in order to identify changes in the catch rate that are related to abundance. Changes in purse seine fleets have been rapid and complex and have prevented the SCRS from standardizing the purse seine CPUE in a satisfactory manner, in spite of the importance of this fleet which accounts for a large part of the catch. It was noted that there has been good cooperation among elements of the EU purse seine fleet and that significant forward progress has been made to collect the data necessary to perform these standardizations and incorporate the data into the stock assessment. It was noted that the Ghanaian fleet is also an important component of the purse seine FAD catch and has a different fishing technique than the European Union fleets. The work to improve Ghanaian statistics, including EU-Ghana cooperation, should be continued.

The effects of FAD associated purse seine catches on ecosystem function in the Gulf of Guinea was discussed, noting that the FAD fishery in the eastern tropical Atlantic has increased in recent decades and accounts for over 60% of the tropical tuna catch from purse seine vessels (SCRS/2016/044). The use of FADs has raised concerns due to the wide array of species that are associated with these floating objects and are caught as by-catch along with tuna. An ECOPATH with ECOSIM model of the northern Gulf of Guinea was developed to investigate the effects of the FAD fishery on the ecosystem. In 2015, the Commission agreed to close the FAD fishery for two months [*Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-Annual Conservation and Management Program for Tropical Tunas*, Rec. 15-01] which, in terms of time, would represent a 15% decrease in effort. While the spatial extent of the Gulf of Guinea model presented encompasses a larger area than the FAD closure, the simulation strategy which reduced FAD effort by 25% may be an indication of the order of magnitude of ecosystem changes that may be expected from the FAD closure.

Document SCRS/P/2016/013 presents a study of the aggregative behavior of acoustically tagged tuna around anchored FADs that was used to parameterize a simulation model of the population dynamics of tuna aggregations at different spatial scales. The study showed the sensitivity of abundance estimates to different hypotheses about association dynamics, FAD numbers, population sizes and heterogeneities of the FAD-array. The main conclusion of the study was the importance of knowing the number of FADs.

The Group discussed whether the distance between FADs would impact the estimates of abundance around them. It was suggested that an increased distance between FADs may result in a longer time between detections and this could be included in the estimation models. It was noted that these abundance estimates have only used data from FADs with instrumentation. However, abundance estimates for non-instrumentalised FADs could be extrapolated by adding information on FADs from scientific observers. Further, the model suggests that an increase in FADs will potentially cause the fish to be more dispersed between them which would result in a lower catch per set. It was noted, however, that in the Atlantic the catch per set has increased with the increase in the number of FADs deployed. This suggests that either when there are more FADs, fish are not dispersed or that the fleets are able to select FADs with larger biomass thanks to the eco-sounder information.

The verification of best practices to reduce FAD impacts on by-catch fauna, and of the limitation of the number of FADs was presented (SCRS/2016/040). The paper explained how two initiatives of the Spanish tuna purse-seiners organizations ANABAC and OPAGAC helped monitor the number of active FADs. The study focused on evaluating the effects on the pelagic ecosystem of the: (1) limitation of the number of FADs (currently in force in the Indian Ocean and to be implemented in the Atlantic Ocean in 2016) and (2) the application of good practices to reduce the mortality of FAD-associated fauna, encompassing fauna release operations and the use of non-entangling FADs.

The presenter noted that shark by-catch rates by purse-seiners are lower than those in other fleets. Although the survival of released sea turtles approaches 100%, the current mortality of sharks released as by-catch is close to 80%. With the implementation of best practices for releasing by-catch, and 100% observer coverage, significant progress may be made to further reduce the mortality of sharks during fishing activities.

5 Assessment of the use of FADs in tropical tuna fisheries in ICCAT and of the relative contribution of FADs to overall fishing mortality in ICCAT tropical tuna fisheries

A presentation described the adoption of entanglement-reducing dFADs by several key fleets through skipper workshops sponsored by ISSF (SCRS/2016/054). The acceptance degree of NE FADs by fishers and ship-owners has been gradually increasing since 2010 and especially after learning how some fleets (e.g. European Union) have moved almost entirely to 100% NE FADs without adverse effects on their catches of tuna.

The Group noted that different fleets have different definitions of entangling and non-entangling FADs and suggested that the terminology used to describe FADs should be standardized across all tuna RMFOs. During fishing operations, sharks released at the beginning of operations have a much lower mortality rate, but survival decreases with time and many sharks which are brought on board are already dead. To reduce mortality on sharks it is important to develop technology which would allow for the removal of sharks at the beginning of fishing activities.

The use of fishers' echo-sounder buoys to estimate biomass of fish species associated with fish aggregating devices in the Indian Ocean was presented (SCRS/P/2016/012). The aim of this study was to progress towards improved biomass estimates using echo-sounder buoys and to improve the algorithms used by buoy manufacturers. Improvements of these algorithms are proposed by incorporating new knowledge on species vertical distribution of tuna, behavior of tuna around FADs, and new target strength values for tuna species.

It was noted that while the research presented uses a single frequency and cannot differentiate between species, some echo-sounder buoys being developed use multiple frequencies which may allow for the differentiation between skipjack and other tuna species.

Document SCRS/2016/039 examined the evolution and current use of FADs by the different fleets operating with FADs around the globe and provided insights into the first field experiment towards biodegradable FADs. The presenters discussed the dynamics on the use of different FAD designs and their implication for sustainable fishing, including non-entangling and biodegradable FADs.

The Group noted that it was often difficult to obtain feedback from fleets testing these materials because there is no guarantee that FADs will be visited multiple times by a skipper as other vessels may retrieve the FAD. It is unknown how long FADs remain active; however estimates suggest that they are active between six months to a year. There were questions on the risks of non-entangling FADs using biodegradable material becoming entangling FADs. So far, there is not enough information from the experiments to draw any conclusions about this. It was also noted that FADs with biodegradable materials cost approximately twice as much as FADs without biodegradable materials. However, these costs are insignificant compared to the cost of the satellite buoy attached to the FADs.

6 Assessment of developments in FAD-related technology

The Secretariat provided a summary of the data available on FADs provided as prescribed initially in Rec [11-01], Rec [13-01] and Rec [14-01] with additional management measures and requirements stipulated in Rec [15-01] (SCRS/2016/053). The information submitted to the Secretariat was presented in summarized tables in this document and a brief was provided in the *Management Plan for Fish Aggregating Devices*. It was noted that this document was submitted by Spain as a working document but has not been officially submitted as a FAD management plan on behalf of the EU. A description of the additional reporting requirements required in 2016 was provided and discussed.

The FAD management plan for EU-Spain stated that it can be difficult for fishers to record the information requested because some of the data are not easy to collect during fishing activities. It was suggested that the logbook should be revised to make this data recording easier.

Document SCRS/2016/042 presented an analysis of the methodology applied for collecting information from logbooks for the Fish Aggregating Devices Management Plan undertaken by the Spanish Institute of Oceanography. The design of the FAD logbook, the quality of the information obtained and the level of accomplishment by the fleet are examined.

It was noted that the logbook included in the document SCRS/2016/053 is an example of a logbook which could be used to record FAD fishing operations but not the format required for use. The Working Group was reminded that the SCRS has already provided specific recommendations regarding the data that should be collected, and the Commission acted on those recommendations through the adoption of Rec. 13-01. The CECOFAD project (SCRS/2016/030) has proposed factors which may be important in standardizing catch per unit effort for FAD catches; these factors should be taken into account when deciding what data is to be collected. It was noted that it was important to ensure that the amount of data collected does not overburden the vessel skippers.

Document SCRS/2016/044 was presented discussing potential management measures which could be implemented to reduce the catch of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tuna from FADs. The document reminded the Group of recent management measures taken by the Commission to reduce mortality of bigeye tuna, and the terms of reference of the current Working Group. The presenter urged the Working Group to address the unsustainable take of juvenile bigeye in FAD-associated purse seine fishing in the ICCAT Convention Area, by considering recommending additional new management measures.

Regarding the suggestion to place catch limits on purse seine catches to reduce the mortality of juvenile tunas, the Group noted that the bigeye tuna quota allocation may have the indirect effect of limiting mortality of juvenile bigeye associated with FAD fisheries. The Group discussed the scientific uncertainty regarding the reduction in the number of FADs deployed or the number of FAD sets that would be necessary to reduce mortality on juvenile tunas and support rebuilding of the bigeye tuna stock. The efficacy of any management actions to reduce juvenile tuna mortality on FADs would depend upon how successfully they were implemented. Further, the environmental impact of FADs must also be considered when implementing management recommendations.

7 Consideration of recommendations to the Commission for possible additional actions relating to FAD management and recovery

The Group agreed that it was important to summarize the conclusions reached by the Group during the entire two years of its functioning. For that purpose, the SCRS Chair developed a draft synthesis of such results in a separate document that was presented to the FAD Working Group during the meeting (*Synthesis of findings reached by the Ad-Hoc Working Group on FADs*). The FAD Working Group discussed the document and made modifications to it before adopting a final version to be provided to the Commission (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.4**).

After the discussions on the synthesis document, the FAD Working Group prepared a series of recommendations to be presented to the Commission. These are attached to this Report as **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.4**.

8 Other matters

[Rec. 15-02] requested that ICCAT should work during 2016 to organize a joint meeting with other tuna RFMOs which have their own FAD working groups. ICCAT did approach these other RFMOs but it was not possible for them to fully participate in the current meeting because of timing. Some of the participants at the current meeting participated in the other RFMO FAD working groups and were able to provide information on relevant progress in other RFMOs, as can be seen by the number of presentations that refer to work conducted in other RFMOs, especially IOTC. Efforts are still being made to organize such a meeting of FAD working groups of tuna RFMOs in the future.

It was noted that the success of the meeting was largely due to the productive discussions which took place and to the constructive input of all participants. Several CPCs were represented at the meeting, however, certain CPCs that harvest important amounts of tropical tunas in association with FADs did not attend. The Working Group reiterated the invitation to all the CPCs concerned with FAD fisheries to contribute to the work of the SCRS and the Commission with regards of the management of tropical tuna fisheries.

9 Adoption of Report and Adjournment

The synthesis of the work conducted by the Working Group during the last two years (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.4**) and the recommendations to the Commission (**Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.4**) were adopted at the meeting. The rest of the Report was adopted by correspondence after the meeting. Mr. Shep Helguile thanked all participants for their contributions and adjourned the meeting.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.4

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda and meeting arrangements
3. Nomination of Rapporteur
4. Review of the information provided by CPCs pursuant to the FAD related provisions in the relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures
5. Assessment of the use of FADs in tropical tuna fisheries in ICCAT and of the relative contribution of FADs to overall fishing mortality in ICCAT tropical tuna fisheries
6. Assessment of developments in FAD-related technology
7. Consideration of recommendations to the Commission for possible additional actions relating to FAD management and recovery
8. Other matters
9. Adoption of Report and Adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.4

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Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.4

List of Documents and Presentations

Documents

SCRS/2016/017	Retaining bycatch to avoid wastage of fishery resources: How important is the bycatch landed by purse-seiners in Abidjan	Amandè M.J., Restrepo V., Scott J.
SCRS/2016/030	Results achieved within the framework of the EU research project: Catch, effort, and ecosystem impacts of FAD-fishing (CECOFAD)	Gaertner D., Ariz J., Bez N., Clermidy S., Moreno G., Murua H., and Soto M.
SCRS/2016/042	Review of the Spanish Fish Aggregating Device Management Plan: implementation, evolution and recommendations	Soto M., Justel-Rubio A. and Lopez J
SCRS/2016/044	An assessment of FAD management options for the ICCAT Convention Area	Galland G.R.
SCRS/2016/045	Effects of FAD associated purse seine catches on ecosystem function in the Gulf of Guinea	Forrestal F., Menard F., and Coll M.
SCRS/2016/053	Summary of information available on FADs submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat	de Bruyn P.
SCRS/2016/054	Progress on the adoption of non-entangling drifting fish aggregating devices in tuna purse seine fleets	Murua J., Moreno G., and Restrepo V.

Presentations

SCRS/P/2016/012	Using fishers' echo-sounder buoys to estimate biomass of fish species associated with fish aggregating devices in the Indian Ocean	Orúe B., Lopez J., Murua H., Moreno G., Santiago J., and Soto M.
SCRS/P/2016/013	The importance of knowing the number of FADs for building sound indicators and impact assessments	Capello M., and Dagorn L.
SCRS/P/2016/015	Verification of best practices to reduce FAD impacts on bycatch fauna, and of the limitation of the number of FADs	Goñi N. , Santiago J., Murua H., Fraile I., Krug I., Ruiz J., and Pascual P.
SCRS/P/2016/016	Verification of best practices to reduce FAD impacts on bycatch fauna, and of the limitation of the number of FADs	Goñi N. , Santiago J., Murua H., Fraile I., Krug I., Ruiz J., and Pascual P.

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.4

Synthesis of Findings Reached by the Ad-Hoc Working Group on FADs

This synthesis reflects a compendium of conclusions related to the terms of reference of Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish an Ad Hoc Working Group on fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) [Rec. 15-02]. *It has been developed on the basis of the documents presented at the two meetings of the working group, the discussions held during them, the response to the Commission's request on the effects of the FAD moratoria in place prior to* [Rec. 15-01]*, and the latest stock assessments of yellowfin, bigeye and skipjack. The synthesis presented is arranged in sections corresponding to the terms of reference of* [Rec. 15-02]*.*

a) Assess the use of FADs in tropical tuna fisheries in ICCAT, including by estimating the past and current number of and different types of buoys and FADs operating in ICCAT tropical tuna fisheries, and evaluate ways to improve the use of information related to FADs in the process of stock assessments, including quantifying the effort associated with this type of fishery

a.1 Past and current use of FADs

- Technological improvements have increased the fishing power of purse seine vessels fishing on FADs, but also on those fishing on free schools.
- There are indicators suggesting that the number of FADs seeded, and the number of active FADs has continued to increase, however, the absolute number of these are not yet known. It is estimated that at least 17,000 FADs have been released each year in the ICCAT Convention area since 2010.
- It has been shown that adoption of FADs and other technologies have helped purse seine fleets expand the fishing area.
- It is unknown how long a FAD remains active after released by a vessel. Some estimates suggest six months to a year; however, FADs are often exchanged between vessels or retrieved by a different fleet, so the length of time a FAD is used by a single vessel can be much shorter.
- FADs are increasingly fitted with sophisticated technology; lately most FADs have satellite buoys and echo-sounders.

a.2 Ways to improve the use of information on FADs in the process of assessment

- Data collected on positions of FAD seeding and FAD drift and made available to CPC scientists, has helped the SCRS understand distribution of one of the main components of fishing effort: the area searched by purse seine fleet.
- Buoys equipped with echo-sounders provide relative estimates of aggregate biomass (all species combined) under the FAD.
- Some echo-sounders are being developed to use multiple frequencies to determine the species present under FADs. Initial trials suggest it may be possible to differentiate between skipjack and the other two tropical tunas, yellowfin and bigeye.
- If estimates of biomass from echosounders were made available to the SCRS they could be used to:
    - Improve estimates of relative abundance obtained from purse seine CPUE.
    - Provide new estimates of relative abundance by using biomass estimated by the buoy prior to the FAD been fished.

a.3 Quantifying the effort associated with this type of fishery

- Improvements in efficiency gained by the development of the strategy of fishing in associations of baitboats and purse seiners (with or without FADs) have yet to be estimated but are assumed to be significant.

- Current available data do not allow to accurately quantify the total effective effort and fishing capacity associated with this type of fishery, including the contribution of baitboats and support vessels.

b) In view of the identification of data gaps, review the information provided by CPCs pursuant to the FAD related provisions in the relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures

b.1 FAD moratoria

- A preliminary evaluation of the effectiveness of the moratorium agreed to in Rec. 15-01 will likely not be able to be conducted until at least three years have passed since its full implementation.

- Three important sets of data from all CPC purse seine and baitboat fleets that would improve the analyses of current and future moratoria are:

    - Catches by fishing mode (FAD, free) made by 1 degree and by month.

    - Number of sets by fishing mode (FAD, free) made by 1 degree and by month.

    - Number of active buoys with GPS set on FADs or other floating objects made by 1 degree and by month.

  Some CPCs are already providing most of this data to ICCAT, however, for the data to be most useful to the SCRS all fleets need to provide it.

b.2 Reporting obligations regarding FADs

- The analyses of the efficacy of the collection of data on FAD operations recorded in vessel logbooks has been conducted for the Atlantic and other oceans. These analyses can identify the reasons why data collected in such logbooks do not always record the information intended or why these records contain erroneous data. Such analyses can also provide solutions to these challenges.

    - Data collection related to FADs requires a standard set of definitions that can be adopted equally for all fleets. When practical, such a set of definitions should be ideally developed in consultation with other tuna RFMOs. The European CECOFAD project, which benefited from the participation of associations of French and Spanish fishermen, standardized a list of definitions and of minimum data requirements to be collected. These lists can be used to inform this process.

- It is premature to predict whether the number of active FADs will be constrained by the per vessel limit imposed by [Rec. 15-01].

- Initial efforts by industry and scientists to monitor the number of active FADs are encouraging.

- Data provided by scientific observers are crucial to complement logbook data and to provide more accurate knowledge of the biological information (e.g. by-catch, catch at size, biological samples, catch composition) related to the tropical tuna fishery. It should be noted that some purse seine fleets already moved towards a 100% coverage.

- Reporting obligations on FADs and support vessels would benefit from additional requirements concerning:
    - the role of support vessels in the evolution of fishing effort and
    - more accurate spatial and temporal scales for catch and effort reporting.

- A preliminary review of the information submitted by CPCs reveals that the degree of reporting differs among CPCs. As a result it is not possible to establish with certainty the number of deployed FADs.

c) Assess the relative contribution of FADs to overall fishing mortality in ICCAT tropical tuna fisheries

c.1 Fishing mortality of purse seine relative to the total fishing mortality of all gears

- Purse seine sets on FADs contribute considerably to the catch of tropical tunas in ICCAT. However, purse seine sets on free-swimming schools as well as catches from other fishing gears are also important. The relative contribution, by weight, of different fishing gears to the landings of the three species in recent years (2010-2013 averages) is as follows:

Gear	***BET***	***YFT***	***SKJ***
PS_Object	21%	20%	41%
PS_FS	4%	36%	4%
PS No info*	12%	15%	26%
LL	47%	17%	0%
BB	15%	8%	26%
Other	1%	4%	3%

- The catch of some species by purse seining has grown relative to other fishing gears. For example, the relative contribution of purse seine gear to the total catch of bigeye tuna in the period 2009-2014 has increased by 50% in comparison to the period 2000-2008.

c.2 Fishing mortality of FAD fishing relative to the total fishing mortality of purse seine

- Targeting skipjack schools by purse seine fleets will always lead to some unintended capture of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin. These catches of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin are greater when catches are made on FAD associated schools.

- As the number of FADs and their efficiency has increased, the relative contribution of FADs to the overall fishing mortality on skipjack, juvenile bigeye and juvenile yellowfin has continued to increase.

- Estimates of fishing mortality on juvenile tunas are challenged by the limited historical information on the details of changes in past FAD operations. If data on FAD operations requested in [Rec. 15-01] are reported accurately and comprehensively, they can be used to significantly improve the ability of the SCRS to estimate future fishing mortality of yellowfin, bigeye and skipjack.

- In October 2016 the SCRS will update whether the increase in relative fishing mortality on juvenile yellowfin has continued since 2010.

* Purse seine catches on unclassified school type (PS No info) correspond mainly to catches on FAD operations for fleets operating in the Gulf of Guinea.

- The moratorium on FAD fishing agreed in Rec. 11-01 and Rec. 14-01 was not effective in reducing the mortality of juvenile bigeye tuna, and any reduction in yellowfin tuna mortality was minimal, largely due to the redistribution of effort into areas adjacent to the moratorium area.

- Any moratoria in FAD fishing that does not encompass the majority of the area where FADs are used can potentially lead to the redistribution of FAD fishing effort to areas outside the moratoria.

- The proportion of juvenile bigeye from FAD catches is not constant across areas of the equatorial region. Moratoria placed in areas where juvenile bigeye catches are greater are likely to lead to greater reductions of the mortality on bigeye juveniles.

- Observer data show that purse seine discards of skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye is very small compared with the retained catch. Relative rates of discard are greater from sets made on FADs.

- An important component of "*faux poisson"* sold to local markets in Western Africa consist of tropical tunas that are not suitable for canning (e.g. considered too small or damaged). A larger proportion of these fish come from FAD sets. It is essential to ensure the monitoring of these catches with the help of on-board observers and to improve the monitoring of landings of purse seiners in African ports in accordance with the ICCAT port sampling program.

- It is still premature to attempt to estimate the effect that the new measures (catch limit on bigeye, limitation on active FADs per vessel and the new FAD closure) contained in [Rec. 15-01] will have in reducing the mortality on juvenile bigeye and yellowfin.

- Scientific research on tuna dynamics at various spatial and time scales related to the use of FADs by tuna schools can improve understanding of tropical tuna abundance and fishing mortality. This research is hampered by the lack of accurate estimates of the total number of FADs and its spatio-temporal distribution within the ICCAT area.

c.3 Fishing mortality on by-catch species

- Fishing on FADs results in increased mortality of not only tunas but also of other species that are discarded and do not survive the fishing operations. These mortalities can lead to changes in the ecosystem that can be detected by ecosystem models such as the one developed for the Gulf of Guinea. Changes detected in the Gulf of Guinea, however, are smaller than those estimated for other fished ecosystems.

- Fishing on FADs leads to the incidental capture of some species of sharks and sea turtles that are of conservation concern. These incidental catches are much smaller than incidental catches made by longliners. Some purse seine fishing fleets have developed best practices (monitored by 100% scientific observer coverage) for dealing with these captures. When best practices are used survival rates of sharks that reach the deck of the vessel are between 15-20% and survival rates of sea turtles are close to 100%.

d) Assess the developments in FAD-related technology, including with regard to:

- *Technological improvement in relation to fishing mortality*

  - Technological improvements that lead to fishing power change need to be properly monitored and cooperation between scientists and the fishing sector should be ensured.

- *FAD and buoys marking and identification as a tool for monitoring, tracking and control of FADs*

  - Monitoring of the number of active FADs is feasible and can be achieved by:

    - Using the identifying buoy-number provided by the buoy manufacturer.

- Recording the identifying buoy-number associated with any newly deployed FAD and the identifying buoy-number associated with any recovered FAD. In cases where there is a change of buoy in a FAD, both the ID code of the buoy associated with the FAD and the ID code of the buoy that serves as a replacement need to be recorded.

- Establishing a consolidated database of records of FAD activity across all purse seine fleets.

- *Reducing FADs' ecological impact through improved design, such as non-entangling FADs and biodegradable material*

  - FADs that are lost or abandoned can potentially negatively impact ecosystems by contributing to marine debris, and drift into and damage sensitive habitats (such as coral reefs).

  - It was estimated that during the period 2007-2013 approximately 10% of FADs equipped with buoys end up in the coast and some of these end up in sensitive habitats.

  - Non-entangling or lower entanglement risk FADs contribute to reducing mortality on protected species.

  - Purse seine fleets in the Atlantic and other oceans are aware of the need to shift to lower entanglement risk on non-entangling FADs and have been in the forefront of the testing and development of this technology.

  - Research is being conducted on the construction of FADs with biodegradable materials, primarily with funds from the fishing industry. Results of initial trials are encouraging. More comprehensive trials are planned to be conducted under typical fishing conditions of drifting FADs in tropical areas.

  - Further development of this technology is necessary and urgent given new provisions included in Rec. 15-01 and the fact that one CPC already requires the use of biodegradable material as a condition of their permit to operate in their EEZ.

e) Identify management options and common standards for FAD management, including components of FAD management plans, the regulation of deployment limits, characteristics and use of FADs, such as marking and activities of support vessels and evaluate their effect on ICCAT managed species and on the pelagic eco-systems, based on scientific advice and the precautionary approach. This should take into consideration all the fishing mortality components, the methods by which FAD fishing has increased a vessel's ability to catch fish, as well as socio-economic elements with the view to provide effective recommendations to the Commission for FAD management in tropical tuna fisheries.

e.1 Fishing capacity, including number of FADs

The ICCAT FAD Working Group recommends that relevant data are made available to accurately quantify the total effective effort and fishing capacity associated with this type of fishery, including the contribution of baitboat and support vessels. The FAD Working Group recommends that the SCRS review that information and provide advice on adapting the fishing capacity in all its components (number of FADs, number of fishing vessels and support vessels) to achieve the management objectives for tropical tuna species.

e.2 FAD management plans

Definitions of FAD activities

The ICCAT FAD Working Group recommends that:

- By taking into account as baseline the outputs of the EU CECOFAD research project (SCRS/2016/30) the SCRS:

- develops a set of definitions for floating objects and types of activities developed on them including "FAD sets" and "FAD fishing". In particular, definitions and characteristics of non-entangling and bio-degradable FADs should be established;

- reviews and recommends additional changes, as appropriate, to the minimum standard reporting requirements on data to be collected in FAD fisheries through logbooks;

- establishes guidelines addressed to vessel masters detailing how data and more particularly qualitative information would have to be reported.

In light of the SCRS outcomes the ICCAT FAD Working Group recommends that:

- National FAD management plans include a specific chapter on vessel masters' training programmes aiming at standardizing data collection and reporting procedures.

Recovery of FADs

- The ICCAT FAD Working Group urges CPCs, in collaboration with the industry, to address issues related to impacts of FADs on sensitive coastal habitats, in particular to mitigate risks of beaching.

- As a first step the ICCAT FAD Working Group recommends asking the SCRS to identify coastal areas, which would be likely impacted by possible beaching of FADs.

e.3 FAD data reporting and scientific collaborations related to reporting obligations

Data reporting

The ICCAT FAD Working Group recommends extending data requirements for CPCs laid down in Rec. 15-01 as follows:

- Report purse seine and baitboat catches and efforts including the number of sets in line with Task II data requirements (i.e. per 1°x1° statistical rectangles and per month) and by distinguishing floating-object associated schools and free school fisheries;

- Report the number of floating objects equipped with active buoys observed per 1°x1° statistical rectangles, month and flag state;

- Report the number of FADs deployed by support vessels per 1°x1° statistical rectangles and per month.

- When the activities of purse seine are carried out in association with baitboat, report catches and effort in line Task I and Task II requirements as "purse seine associated to baitboats" (PS+BB).

The ICCAT FAD Working Group also highlights the needs to address and monitor possible changes of fishing strategies, in particular fishing activities of purse seiners in association with baitboats and/or support vessels.

The ICCAT FAD Working Group recommends that the ICCAT Secretariat develop a common format allowing CPCs to submit information and data required in Rec. 15-01 in a standardised way. The ICCAT Secretariat should also develop the related data base.

Scientific collaborations

The CPC FAD management plan should include a specific chapter describing how the national fishing sector and the national fisheries scientists collaborate to exchange information on fishing strategies and fisheries dynamics, by identifying in particular data and information to be gathered and provided beyond compulsory reporting provisions laid down in Rec. 15-01. Data recorded by echo-sounders should be made available to national scientists, as well as any quantitative and qualitative information allowing national scientists to better assess links and trends between nominal and effective fishing effort.

Recognizing that the full analysis of detailed information on FAD effort may be hampered by existing restrictions limiting access to data from CPC fleets to national scientists from the same CPC, it is recommended that approaches be considered (e.g. confidentiality agreements) to enable the analysis of more complete data sets reflecting the FAD activities of multiple fleets.

e.4 Provision of scientific advice on FADs

The ICCAT FAD Working Group recommends asking the SCRS to develop fisheries indicators describing catch compositions, size structures and catch average sizes of the different metiers contributing to the tropical tunas' fishing mortality and in particular of purse seine fleets fishing on floating objects.

The FAD Working Group recommends asking the SCRS to provide advice on possible modifications of fishing patterns affecting the catch-at-size composition and their impact on MSY and relative stock status.

e.5 Compliance

The ICCAT FAD Working Group recommends that the Compliance Committee assesses the compliance of the concerned CPCs with the reporting obligations laid down in Rec. 15-01. To this end the ICCAT Secretariat should report on the information received to the Compliance Committee.

Concerning the number of FADs, the ICCAT FAD Working Group recommends implementing and monitoring the limits in accordance with the Rec. 15-01 as well as ensuring compliance assessment by ICCAT on a regular basis.

e.6 Marking and identification of FADs

The ICCAT FAD Working Group recommends the Commission to consider that monitoring of active FADs is achieved by:

- using the identifying buoy-number provided by the buoy manufacturer;
- recording the identifying buoy-number associated with any newly deployed FAD and the identifying beacon-number associated with any recovered FAD; In cases where there is a change of buoy in a FAD, both the ID code of the buoy associated with the FAD and the ID code of the buoy that serves as a replacement need to be recorded.
- establishing a consolidated database of records of FAD activity across all purse seine fleets.

e.7 Observers

The ICCAT FAD Working Group recommends the Commission to increase the observer coverage for large scale vessels with a view to collect more accurate data on catch composition and incidental by-catches. The FAD Working Group notes that the issue of by-catch in ICCAT fisheries should be addressed in a comprehensive way for all fleets.

e.8 Discards

The ICCAT FAD Working Group recommends the Commission to develop, in line with the principles of the *FAO International Guidelines on By-catch Management and Reduction of Discards*, an appropriate retention policy for tropical tunas to better manage by-catch and reduce discards in tropical tuna fisheries.

f) Identify and assess options for and timing of recovery of FADs in order to ensure a proper management of the marine environment

- The use of FADs equipped with buoys allows for the continuous monitoring of their position. This helps reduce the numbers of lost FADs through strategies that seek to recover and/or re-use them. Increase recovery of FADs may result in a reduction of potential impacts on sensitive habitats and protected species.

- There are strategies that can successfully increase the re-use of different components of active FADs. These include voluntary return of recovered buoys to their owners through industry networks, and the contracting of recovery efforts for lost FADs that approach coastal areas, in particular sensitive habitats.

- Re-use of FADs reduces impact on ecosystems and target species.

- It is important to distinguish between the recovery of the entire FAD from the recovery of instrumentation (buoys) alone, which, although economically advantageous to the industry, only partially mitigate the potential impact of unrecovered FADs.

References

ICCAT 2016. Report of the first meeting of the Ad-Hoc Working group on FADs. ICCAT Report for biennial period, 2014-15, Part II (2015) - Vol. 1. Annex 4.3. pp 187-206.

ICCAT 2016. Response to the Commission 19.1: *Evaluate the efficacy of the area/time closure referred to in paragraph 24 for the reduction of catches of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin*, [Rec. 14-01] paragraph 26. In Report of the Standing Committee of Research and Statistics (SCRS). ICCAT Report for biennial period, 2014-15, Part II (2015) - Vol. 2. pp 245-247.

ICCAT 2016. Rec. 15-01. *Recommendation by ICCAT on a multi-annual conservation and management program for tropical tunas*. 16p. In ICCAT Report for biennial period, 2014-15, Part II (2015) - Vol. 1. pp 317-332.

ICCAT 2016. Rec. 15-02. *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish an ad hoc working group on fish aggregating devices* (FADs). 2p. In ICCAT Report for biennial period, 2014-15, Part II (2015) - Vol. 1. pp 333-334.

ICCAT 2016. Report of the second meeting of the Ad-Hoc Working group on FADs.

Plus all other SCRS documents presented at the two FAD meetings.

Recommendations

- ICCAT should, in collaboration with industry, facilitate the training of fishers in the collection of current requirements for data collection on FAD activities. Such training should be repeated when data requirements change.

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.4

Final Recommendations

e.1 Fishing capacity, including number of FADs

The ICCAT FAD Working Group recommends that relevant data are made available to accurately quantify the total effective effort and fishing capacity associated with this type of fishery, including the contribution of baitboat and support vessels. The FAD Working Group recommends that the SCRS review that information and provide advice on adapting the fishing capacity in all its components (number of FADs, number of fishing vessels and support vessels) to achieve the management objectives for tropical tuna species.

e.2 FAD management plans

Definitions of FAD activities

The ICCAT FAD Working Group recommends that:

- By taking into account as baseline the outputs of the EU CECOFAD research project (SCRS/2016/30) the SCRS:
    - develops a set of definitions for floating objects and types of activities developed on them including "FAD sets" and "FAD fishing". In particular, definitions and characteristics of non-entangling and bio-degradable FADs should be established;
    - reviews and recommends additional changes, as appropriate, to the minimum standard reporting requirements on data to be collected in FAD fisheries through logbooks;
    - establishes guidelines addressed to vessel masters detailing how data and more particularly qualitative information would have to be reported.

In light of the SCRS outcomes the ICCAT FAD Working Group recommends that:

- National FAD management plans include a specific chapter on vessel masters' training programmes aiming at standardizing data collection and reporting procedures.

Recovery of FADs

- The ICCAT FAD Working Group urges CPCs, in collaboration with the industry, to address issues related to impacts of FADs on sensitive coastal habitats, in particular to mitigate risks of beaching.
- As a first step the ICCAT FAD Working Group recommends asking the SCRS to identify coastal areas, which would be likely impacted by possible beaching of FADs.

e.3 FAD data reporting and scientific collaborations related to reporting obligations

Data reporting

The ICCAT FAD Working Group recommends extending data requirements for CPCs laid down in Rec. 15-01 as follows:

- Report purse seine and baitboat catches and efforts including the number of sets in line with Task II data requirements (i.e. per 1°x1° statistical rectangles and per month) and by distinguishing floating-object associated schools and free school fisheries;

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- When the activities of purse seine are carried out in association with baitboat, report catches and effort in line Task I and Task II requirements as "purse seine associated to baitboats" (PS+BB).

The ICCAT FAD Working Group also highlights the needs to address and monitor possible changes of fishing strategies, in particular fishing activities of purse seiners in association with baitboats and/or support vessels.

The ICCAT FAD Working Group recommends that the ICCAT Secretariat develop a common format allowing CPCs to submit information and data required in Rec. 15-01 in a standardised way. The ICCAT Secretariat should also develop the related data base.

Scientific collaborations

The CPC FAD management plan should include a specific chapter describing how the national fishing sector and the national fisheries scientists collaborate to exchange information on fishing strategies and fisheries dynamics, by identifying in particular data and information to be gathered and provided beyond compulsory reporting provisions laid down in Rec. 15-01. Data recorded by echo-sounders should be made available to national scientists, as well as any quantitative and qualitative information allowing national scientists to better assess links and trends between nominal and effective fishing effort.

Recognizing that the full analysis of detailed information on FAD effort may be hampered by existing restrictions limiting access to data from CPC fleets to national scientists from the same CPC, it is recommended that approaches be considered (e.g. confidentiality agreements) to enable the analysis of more complete data sets reflecting the FAD activities of multiple fleets.

e.4 Provision of scientific advice on FADs

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The FAD Working Group recommends asking the SCRS to provide advice on possible modifications of fishing patterns affecting the catch-at-size composition and their impact on MSY and relative stock status.

e.5 Compliance

The ICCAT FAD Working Group recommends that the Compliance Committee assesses the compliance of the concerned CPCs with the reporting obligations laid down in Rec. 15-01. To this end the ICCAT Secretariat should report on the information received to the Compliance Committee.

Concerning the number of FADs, the ICCAT FAD Working Group recommends implementing and monitoring the limits in accordance with the Rec. 15-01 as well as ensuring compliance assessment by ICCAT on a regular basis.

e.6 Marking and identification of FADs

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- using the identifying buoy-number provided by the buoy manufacturer;
- recording the identifying buoy-number associated with any newly deployed FAD and the identifying beacon-number associated with any recovered FAD; In cases where there is a change of buoy in a FAD, both the ID code of the buoy associated with the FAD and the ID code of the buoy that serves as a replacement need to be recorded.
- establishing a consolidated database of records of FAD activity across all purse seine fleets.

e.7 Observers

The ICCAT FAD Working Group recommends the Commission to increase the observer coverage for large scale vessels with a view to collect more accurate data on catch composition and incidental by-catches. The FAD Working Group notes that the issue of by-catch in ICCAT fisheries should be addressed in a comprehensive way for all fleets.

e.8 Discards

The ICCAT FAD Working Group recommends the Commission to develop, in line with the principles of the *FAO International Guidelines on By-catch Management and Reduction of Discards*, an appropriate retention policy for tropical tunas to better manage by-catch and reduce discards in tropical tuna fisheries.

4.5 REPORT OF THE 11th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON INTEGRATED MONITORING MEASURES (IMM) (Sapporo, Japan, 18-19 July 2016)

1 Opening of the meeting

The Chair of the Working Group, Mr. Fabrizio Donatella (EU), opened the meeting and welcomed the delegates to the eleventh meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM). Japan, as the meeting host, also welcomed participants.

2 Nomination of Rapporteur

Melanie King (USA) was nominated as rapporteur.

3 Adoption of the Agenda and meeting arrangements

The United States requested that the Secretariat provide an update on the Consolidated List of Authorized Vessels (CLAV) under "Other matters." In addition, the Chair suggested the addition of Agenda item 7.3 to discuss the note on capacity building for port inspection. The Agenda was adopted with these changes and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.5**.

The Executive Secretary introduced the Contracting Parties present at the meeting: Algeria, Belize, Brazil, Canada, People's Republic of China, Côte d'Ivoire, European Union, Gabon, Republic of Guinea, Japan, Republic of Korea, Morocco, Senegal, Tunisia, and the United States.

The Executive Secretary also introduced Chinese Taipei as a Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity.

Ecology Action Center (EAC), International Sustainable Seafood Foundation (ISSF), and Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW) participated as observers. The List of Participants is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.5**.

4 Consideration of observer programmes

4.1 Review of ICCAT Regional Observer programme for transhipment

The EU introduced its proposal *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Transhipment*, which is attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.5** and would amend *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Programme for Transhipment* [Rec. 12-06], explaining that the proposal would require all carrier vessels to be listed on ICCAT's Record of Authorized Vessels, including those carrier vessels that receive transhipments in port.

Some CPCs noted that they would need more time to review the proposal, but were initially supportive in concept. It was noted that in the list of carrier vessels, it should be clear that vessels can be authorized to tranship both at sea and/or in port. It was also noted that extending the provisions for vessel monitoring systems (VMS) to carrier vessels that tranship in port should not be problematic, as those vessels generally are already equipped with VMS.

The EU responded that it agreed that it should be possible for vessels to be listed as authorized to tranship both at sea and in port and would amend the proposal accordingly. Later, in the meeting, the European Union presented an amended proposal in line with previous discussions. A friendly amendment was offered to **Addendum 3 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.5** of the proposal to ensure the information offered by the captain of the fishing vessel at the time of transhipment includes the authorized carrier vessels ICCAT record number. With this amendment, the proposal was endorsed by the IMM for consideration at the 2016 Permanent Working Group meeting on the condition that any further input from the participants would not be excluded.

4.2 Consideration of a scientific observer programme

The EU introduced its proposal *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Scientific Observer Programme within the ICCAT Convention Area,* which is attached as **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.5** and would amend and replace Recommendation 10-10. This draft reflects amendments from proposals considered at past IMM and Permanent Working Group (PWG) meetings. Further, the EU noted that Rec. 10-10 had to be reviewed in 2012, but to date it has not been undertaken.

Several CPCs raised concerns about the purpose, scope, and procedures contained in the proposal. Some CPCs noted that while the proposal seemed to address national observer programmes, some aspects of it reflect elements of regional observer programmes. There was also concern that some of the duties of the observer reflect enforcement functions rather than scientific observation. Concern was expressed on several specific provisions, including those related to nationality of observers, language spoken, a debriefing with the master of the vessel, timelines for submission of information, and confidentiality provisions. It was noted that each CPC has the sovereign right to prescribe the roles of their scientific authorities and management authorities, according to the organization of their own government.

Regarding provisions related to electronic monitoring and the use of cameras, the Working Group recognized the emerging developments in this area and the potential utility of this technology, although some CPCs expressed concerns related to operational management and the costs of these programmes. It was noted that some functions of human observers cannot be effectively replaced by electronic monitoring. Several CPCs noted the need for more dialogue on this issue, including the need for SCRS advice. The Chair suggested that this issue be considered in Permanent Working Group (PWG) at the Annual meeting with a view towards requesting advice from the SCRS.

The EU thanked participants for specific comments on the proposal, noting that comments in writing would be greatly appreciated to allow the EU to circulate an amended proposal well in advance of the Annual meeting. CPCs agreed to endeavor to provide written comments by the end of July 2016.

5 Consideration of a high seas boarding and inspection scheme

The United States introduced a proposal jointly sponsored by the European Union, Panama, Senegal, and United States entitled, *Draft [Recommendation] [Resolution by ICCAT for a [Model] Joint International Inspection Scheme* and accompanying explanatory note which is attached as **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.5**. The United States explained that this proposal is unchanged from the document circulated at the 2015 Permanent Working Group (PWG) meeting, and while the co-sponsors realize some CPCs still have issues with the proposal, they hoped for a more detailed discussion of any concerns and asked for Parties to provide edits to the text to address technical or other concerns with it.

There were some questions with the type of document that the IMM should be considering – if the document would be adopted as guidelines or a recommendation or a resolution. Some CPCs expressed support for the approach and agreed to provide editorial drafting to the United States while another noted the utility of the approach to address IUU fishing. Some CPCs expressed concern with the proposal. One CPC suggested that any high seas boarding and inspection programme should mirror the WCPFC's scheme, but the proposed document has some deviations from that scheme. One CPC reiterated that any scheme should only apply to States agreeing to participate in the scheme. Another CPC expressed concerns regarding ICCAT considering such a scheme under terms of the current Convention.

The United States thanked CPCs for their comments and expressed its view that Article IX(3) of the Convention is intended to specifically authorize a high seas boarding and inspection scheme, and noted that under the current Convention, ICCAT has adopted and implemented a joint inspection scheme in the eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna fishery.

The Chair noted that there was no agreement on the proposal but encouraged Parties to continue to engage on this matter, and suggested that the issue be taken up again in the Permanent Working Group during the 2016 Annual meeting.

6 Consideration of any necessary actions regarding trade/catch/statistical document programmes

6.1 Update on progress and implementation of eBCD

Mr. Neil Ansell, the Chair of the eBCD Technical Working Group (TWG) presented the state of play of the development of the eBCD system including the results of the April TWG meeting and recent developments in the implementation of the programme. In accordance with paragraphs 2 and 7 of Rec. [15-10] and, as communicated in ICCAT Circular #2274/16, the Chair also presented the TWGs decision on system readiness and explained that although core functionalities had been developed, delays in the development of some functionalities and their availability for testing resulted in the possibility to use paper through 30 June for bluefin not destined for farms, provided Parties so notified the Secretariat in accordance with the terms of Rec. 15-10. Afterwards, paper BCDs shall no longer be accepted except in the limited circumstances specified in paragraph 6 of Rec. 15-10.

The IMM Chair asked CPCs about their experiences with implementation of the programme. Several CPCs noted that overall the system is working well although with some technical issues and room for improvement. It was agreed that in accordance with paragraph 7 of Rec. [15-10] the TWG will continue their work, although future working methods and procedures, including the number of the meetings in 2017, will need to be discussed further.

Regarding financial and contractual issues, it was reminded that the current contract was extended until the end of 2016 including a higher level of support during the first months of full implementation of the system and main purse seine season in the eastern fishery. An extension of this support to encompass the caging and farming operations was raised and will be followed up by the TWG and the ICCAT Secretariat. The system is currently financed from the Working Capital Fund and any change to this would need to be decided in good time in order for the Commission to make the necessary decision in the 2016 Annual Session. In this regard the TWG will continue to discuss potential options and propose them to the Commission if requested.

It was noted that there were issues with entry of quotas in the system for some CPCs and alerts that quotas had been exceeded.

One Party noted problems with entering product caught in 2015 but traded and exported in 2016 and also their obligations with regard to catches in 2016 and possible future trades and exports in 2017.

Many CPCs noted that they were able to work with the Secretariat and Tragsa to quickly resolve problems, and commended the Secretariat for its efforts. The Secretariat noted that many issues that arose could be resolved through operator training.

The Secretariat provided an update on the number of eBCDs entered into the system and the costs. A total of 1,282 eBCDs have been electronically generated: 931 were received prior to 1 July and 351 were received since that date. Given that the BFTRC function was modified 28 June 2016, only 10 Re-export certificates have been entered. The system has cost 1.3 million Euros, and is expected to cost 220,000 Euros per year to maintain.

6.2 Possible review of current statistical document programmes (SDPs)

It was noted that there were efforts to enhance the statistical document programmes in the past, but there was not widespread support for those efforts within the IMM and PWG. A CPC noted that the existing SDPs were now somewhat dated and had been adopted under very different circumstances than the reality of the fisheries today. When the systems were adopted for bigeye tuna in the early 2000s there was concern about IUU on longline vessels. In the case of swordfish, the stock was overfished and there were a number of non-cooperating non-Members operating in the fishery. Now there is a need for a more evolved system. It was noted that the SDPs are administratively burdensome, and we should evaluate them periodically to determine whether they continue to provide valuable information to the Commission.

Another CPC noted that there are two loopholes in the SDP – for bigeye tuna, fresh product and product destined for canneries is not covered by the SDP. That CPC welcomed the idea of reviewing the strengths and weaknesses of the programmes but stressed the need for positive input from other CPCs.

The Chair noted that this issue could be taken up again in the Permanent Working Group.

6.3 Future extension of catch/trade tracking schemes

The Chair noted that this Agenda item is closely linked to Agenda item 6.2. No specific proposals were made regarding this Agenda item.

7 Other matters

7.1 Review of outdated Recommendations/Resolutions requiring update [Res. 94-09; Rec. 97-11]

The Chair introduced the document *Draft Text Resulting from Updating and Combining Two ICCAT Measures*, which is attached as **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.5** and contains draft text combining the *Resolution by ICCAT on Compliance with the ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* [Res. 94-09] with *Recommendation by ICCAT on Transhipments and Vessel Sightings* [Rec. 97-11]. The Chair explained that the document is an attempt to carry out decisions taken by the Commission in 2015 that these two out-of-date measures be amended and combined. He stressed that this was an initial attempt and required the input of CPCs.

Several CPCs thanked the Chair and the Secretariat for their efforts to develop this document and for initiating discussion on this important topic. They stressed there is a need to streamline and clarify the language in the proposal given significant developments in ICCAT since the adoption of these two measures. In particular, it was noted that the draft needs to take into account the adoption of Recommendation 12-07 on minimum standards for inspections in port, as well as the recent discussions related to high seas boarding and inspection, and consider the integration of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Ban on Landing and Transhipments of Vessels from Non-Contracting Parties Identified as having Committed a Serious Infringement* [Rec. 98-11].

The Chair emphasized that this issue is now in the hands of CPCs and encouraged participants to make improvements to the document prior to the Annual meeting. Several CPCs expressed interest in efforts to develop a revised document.

7.2 Requests for clarification of provisions of ICCAT Recommendations

There was no discussion under this Agenda item.

7.3 Capacity Building for Port Inspection

The Secretariat presented the document *Information on the Implementation of Recommendations 12-07 and 14-08 Adopted on Port Inspection Measures*, which is attached as **Appendix 7 to ANNEX 4.5**, explaining that in response to requests for assistance related to port inspection, the Secretariat received responses from Suriname, a Cooperating non-Contracting Party, for technical assistance related to port inspection and from Angola on a biological sampling programme. In order to implement its obligations under Recommendation 14-08, the Secretariat requested guidance from CPCs related to development of a manual and training course on port inspection.

Several CPCs noted ongoing efforts in other fora related to port inspection, including in IOTC, FAO, regional and sub-regional organizations, and by some Contracting Parties. Some participants considered that ICCAT should take similar action as the one developed by IOTC, and noted a need for the Secretariat to help review and coordinate this work for the benefit of developing CPCs. It was stressed that the Secretariat has an obligation to ensure the provisions of Rec. 12-07 and Rec. 14-08 are implemented, and it is important to be prepared in the event of a request for assistance.

A question was asked to the Secretariat regarding information related to whether coastal CPCs are meeting their obligation to inspect 5% of landings of foreign vessels, as required by Rec. 12-07. While the Secretariat reports to the Compliance Committee and the Permanent Working Group on the inspection reports it receives, it does not currently have information to assess port inspection coverage levels of CPCs. The Secretariat is committed to look into this issue in more detail prior to the Annual meeting so that capacity building efforts could be directed to areas of greatest need.

It was noted that developing coastal CPCs that are undertaking port inspections, are doing so in accordance with the means that are available, and they continue to need help from international partners to improve programmes.

The Chair noted the need for further discussions on this topic at the Commission level.

7.4 Consolidated List of Authorized Vessels (CLAV)

The Secretariat provided an update on the CLAV, noting it was recommended during the Kobe meeting in 2007, and that the Secretariat has been supporting the work of the CLAV and in coordination with the other tuna RFMOs since the CLAV was launched in 2011. With support of an expert funded by the ABNJ Tuna Project, the CLAV project now is fully launched, with daily automatic updates and significant work to verify and double check vessel data. Duplicate vessels entries and missing data points have been reduced significantly due to this effort and constant feedback between the CLAV coordinator and the ICCAT Secretariat. The CLAV server currently located in IOTC, and ICCAT maintains its public access through the tuna-org.org website. The tuna RFMO Secretariats have recently agreed to move the server from IOTC to tuna-org.org which is hosted by ICCAT.

It was agreed that future support and funding for the CLAV, including engagement and cooperation with the other tuna RFMOs, would be considered at the 2016 Annual meeting.

8 Adoption of report and adjournment

The report of the Eleventh meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) was adopted and the meeting was adjourned.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.5

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Nomination of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda and meeting arrangements
4. Consideration of observer programmes
   4.1 Review of ICCAT Regional Observer programme for transhipment
   4.2 Consideration of a scientific observer programme
5. Consideration of a high seas boarding and inspection scheme
6. Consideration of any necessary actions regarding trade/catch/statistical document programmes
   6.1 Update on progress and implementation of eBCD
   6.2 Possible review of current statistical document programmes
   6.3 Future extension of catch/trade tracking schemes
7. Other matters
   7.1 Review of outdated Recommendations/Resolutions requiring update (Res. 94-09; Rec. 97-11)
   7.2 Requests for clarification of provisions of ICCAT Recommendations
   7.3 Capacity building for Port inspection
   7.4 Consolidated List of Authorized Vessels
8. Adoption of report and adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.5

List of Participants

CONTRACTING PARTIES

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Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.5

Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Transhipment

(submitted by the European Union)

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 on tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species that were harvested in the ICCAT Convention area, in particular by large-scale pelagic longline vessels (LSPLVs), 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 3 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 **Addendum 3 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.5**, when transhipping tuna and tuna-like species and 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 swordfish[1] at sea.

4. This Recommendation does not apply to transhipments 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.

[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 2. RECORD OF CARRIER VESSELS AUTHORISED TO RECEIVE TRANSHIPMENT IN THE ICCAT AREA

6. Transhipment 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.

7. An ICCAT Record of Carrier Vessels authorized to receive tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species in the Convention area 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 other species caught in association with these species in transhipment operations.

8. 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 transhipments 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)
   - Type of transhipment authorised (i.e., in port and/or at sea)
   - Time period authorised for transhipping

9. Each CPC shall promptly notify the ICCAT Executive Secretary of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the ICCAT Record of Carrier Vessels, at any time such changes occur.

10. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall maintain the ICCAT Record of Carrier Vessels 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.

11. Carrier vessels authorized for transhipment shall be required to install and operate a VMS in accordance with all applicable ICCAT recommendations, including the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 03-14 by ICCAT concerning Minimum Standards for the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 14-09], or any successor recommendation, including any future revisions thereto.

SECTION 3. PROGRAMME TO MONITOR TRANSHIPMENT AT SEA

12. For the purposes of this Recommendation, LSPLVs shall be defined as those greater than 24 meters length overall.

13. 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 this Section, in Section 4, and **Annexes 1 and 2 to Appendix 3** below.

Large Scale Pelagic Longline Vessels (LSPLVs) authorized to tranship at sea

14. 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 transhipping 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.

Coastal State authorization

15. Transhipments 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

16. 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:

17. To receive the prior authorization mentioned in paragraph 15 and 16 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 transhipments 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 **Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.5**.

Receiving carrier vessel:

18. 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.

19. 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

20. 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 **Addendum 2 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.5**. 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.

21. Vessels shall be prohibited from commencing or continuing transhipping at sea 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 4. GENERAL PROVISIONS

22. 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 transhipments 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 transhipment 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 transhipment declaration.

23. The flag CPCs of LSPLVs which have transhipped during the previous year and the flag CPCs of carrier vessels accepting transhipments 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 transhipment 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.

24. All tuna and tuna-like species and 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 transhipment declaration until the first sale has taken place.

25. The Flag CPC of the LSPLV engaged in at-sea transhipments, 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, transhipments, 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.

26. 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.

27. 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.

28. This Recommendation replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Programme for Transhipment* [Rec. 12-06].

Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.5

Transhipment Declaration

Carrier vessel	**Fishing vessel**
Vessel Name and radio call sign:	Vessel Name and radio call sign:
Flag Country/Entity/Fishing Entity:	Flag CPC:
Flag State authorization number:	Flag CPC authorization number:
Domestic Registration Number:	Domestic Registration Number:
ICCAT Record Number:	ICCAT Record Number, if applicable:
IMO Number, if any:	IMO Number, if any:
	External identification:

	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:
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…….

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 transhipment 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.

Addendum 2 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.5

ICCAT Regional Observer Programme

1. Each CPC shall require carrier vessels included in the ICCAT record of vessels authorized to receive transhipments in the ICCAT area and which tranship at sea, to carry an ICCAT observer during each transhipment 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 transhipments 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 LSPLVs 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 transhipment takes place, to:
      a) Check the validity of the fishing vessel's authorization or license to fish for tuna and tuna-like species and 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 transhipment activities carried out;
      b) verify the position of the vessel when engaged in transhipping;

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 transhipment declaration, including through comparison with the LSPLV logbook, where possible;
g) certify the data contained in the transhipment declaration;
h) countersign the transhipment 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 transhipment operations.

6.3 In addition, the observer shall:

a) issue a daily report of the carrier vessel's transhipping 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 transhipment 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 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 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.

Addendum 3 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.5

In-Port Transhipment

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, transhipment in port by any CPC of tuna and tuna-like species and 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 transhipment operations, the captain of the fishing vessel must notify to the Port State authorities the name of the carrier vessel and date/time of transhipment.

3.2 The captain of a fishing vessel shall, at the time of the transhipment, 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 transhipment;
- 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 transhipment declaration, along with its number in the ICCAT record of fishing vessels, where applicable, in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 1 to Appendix 3** not later than 15 days after the transhipment.

4. Receiving vessel

4.1 Not later than 24 hours before the beginning and at the end of the transhipment, 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 transhipment 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 transhipment 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, transhipments, 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 transhipments by its vessels.

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.5

Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Scientific Observer Program within the ICCAT Convention Area

(Presented by the EU)

RECALLING that Article IX of the Convention requires Contracting Parties to furnish, on the request of the Commission, any available statistical, biological and other scientific information needed for the purposes of the Convention;

FURTHER RECALLING the 2001 *Resolution by ICCAT on the Deadlines and Procedures for Data Submission* [Res. 01-16], in which the Commission established clear guidelines for the submission of Task I and Task II data;

ACKNOWLEDGING that poor quality data impacts the ability of the SCRS to complete robust stock assessments and provide management advice as well as the ability of the Commission to adopt effective conservation and management measures;

CONSIDERING that the constitution of an ICCAT Scientific Observer Programme, by enlarging the minimum standards for fishing vessel scientific observer programmes detailed in Recommendation 10-10, would ensure the availability of sound scientific information on fishing activities in the ICCAT Convention area;

DETERMINED to ensure the collection of data accounting for all sources of mortality in ICCAT fisheries, for both target species and by-catch, to improve the certainty of future scientific advice while taking into account ecosystem considerations;

RECOGNIZING that, in relation with the protection of juveniles, a specific focus should be given to surface fishing in association with fish aggregating objects, including FADs, where area/time closures are implemented by ICCAT;

REITERATING the responsibilities of the flag CPC to ensure that their vessels conduct their fishing activities in a responsible manner, fully respecting the ICCAT Recommendations in force;

RECOGNIZING that scientific observer programmes are used successfully at both the national and Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) level for the purposes of collecting scientific data;

RECOGNIZING the international nature of the fishing activity on ICCAT species and the consequent need to embark well-trained and mandated observers to improve the collection of relevant data, in terms of continuity, coherence and quality;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the needs of developing States with regard to capacity building;

RECOGNIZING the United Nations General Assembly Sustainable Fisheries Resolution 63/112, that encourages the development of observer programmes by Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and arrangements to improve data collection;

ACKNOWLEDGING that specific provisions for scientific observers apply to tropical tuna fisheries, including the mutual recognition of scientific observers, and that those provisions should continue to apply;

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

An ICCAT Scientific Observer Programme is established as follows:

Definitions

1. For the purpose of the ICCAT Scientific Observer Programme:

   a) "***ICCAT scientific observer***" means a person, hereafter referred to as the "***observer***", selected and appointed by a flag CPC to collect scientific information on fishing activities for ICCAT species;

   b) "***ICCAT species***" means tuna and tuna-like species, and other species caught in association with these species within the Convention area;

   c) "***National authority***" means the authority of a CPC designated by that CPC to select and appoint the observer, and to disseminate the scientific information collected by the observer;

   d) "***Scientific institute***" means a scientific body cooperating with the SCRS, designated by a CPC to mandate the observer, and to analyse and validate the scientific information collected by the observer;

   e) "***Observer data***" means the raw scientific information collected by the observer during its assignment on the vessel observed;

   f) "***Observer report***" means the report summarising the scientific information collected by the observer;

   g) "***Programme***" means the ICCAT Scientific Observer Programme established by this Recommendation;

   h) "***CPC***" means Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entity.

Aim of the Programme

2. The aim of this Programme is:

   a) to ensure the collection by scientific observers of information related to fishing activities on ICCAT species in the ICCAT Convention area by vessels flying the flag of a CPC, within the domestic observer programmes of that CPC; and

   b) to transmit the observer reports and the observer data to the ICCAT Secretariat, which would make them available to the SCRS and to the concerned coastal CPC.

General Provisions

3. Notwithstanding additional requirements that may be in place or adopted by ICCAT in the future for specific fishing activities, each CPC shall take the measures as may be necessary to ensure that fishing vessels entitled to fly its flag, their Masters and the observers it has assigned to the Programme fulfil their respective tasks and requirements under the Programme.

Notification requirements

4. Each CPC shall notify the Executive Secretary:

a) its national authority (including telephone, fax numbers and e-mail address) in charge of implementing this Programme;

b) the national scientific institutes (including telephone, fax numbers and e-mail address) in charge of mandating the observer and collecting, analysing and validating the observer data;

c) the list of scientific observers it has assigned to the Programme, providing for each observer:

   i. name, sex, date of birth, nationality and passport number;

   ii. the date the qualification of scientific observer has been obtained, the training organization and the date of entry into the list of ICCAT scientific observers;

   iii. the name of the scientific institute that mandates the observer.

d) any change to the information under a to c above as soon as possible, but no more than [14] days after the effective date of the change.

Qualifications of Observers

5. Without prejudice to any training or technical qualifications recommended by the SCRS, CPCs shall ensure that their observers have the following qualifications to accomplish their tasks:

   a) sufficient knowledge and experience to identify ICCAT species and fishing gear configurations;

   b) satisfactory knowledge of the ICCAT Conservation and Management measures in force;

   c) the ability to observe and record accurately the information to be collected under the Programme;

   d) be national of one of the CPCs;

   e) be capable of performing the tasks set forth in point 10 below;

   f) the ability to collect biological samples;

   g) the ability to analyse images from on board cameras;

   h) not be a crew member of the vessel being observed;

   i) be independent of the vessel owner, the Master and any crew member, or of an NGO;

   j) not have current financial or beneficial interests in the tuna fisheries;

   k) a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag State of the vessel observed; and

   l) be trained in safety and sea survival.

Observer Coverage

6. Each CPC shall ensure the following with respect to its domestic observer programs:

   a) A minimum of 5% observer coverage of fishing effort in each of the pelagic longline, purse seine, and, as defined in the ICCAT glossary, baitboat, traps and fixed gillnet fisheries, as measured:

a) for purse seine fisheries, in number of sets or trips;

b) for pelagic longline fisheries, in fishing days, number of sets, hooks or trips;

c) for baitboat and trap fisheries, in fishing days;

d) for fixed gillnet fisheries, in net length.

b) the coverage rate in sub paragraph a) shall be adapted in accordance with specific ICCAT Recommendations requests;

c) Notwithstanding paragraph 1a), for vessels less than 15 meters, where an extraordinary safety concern may exist that precludes deployment of an onboard observer, a CPC may employ an alternative scientific monitoring approach (sampling plan) that will collect data equivalent to that specified in this recommendation in a manner that ensures comparable coverage. In any such cases, the CPC wishing to avail itself of an alternative approach must present the details of the approach to the SCRS for evaluation. The SCRS will advise the Commission on the suitability of the alternative approach for carrying out the data collection obligations set forth in this Recommendation.

Alternative scientific monitoring approaches may consist in monitoring at the landing place by field samplers, providing these field samplers do collect information during the landing of the vessels concerned.

d) Representative temporal and spatial coverage of the operation of the fleet to ensure the collection of adequate and appropriate data as required under this Recommendation and any additional domestic CPC observer programme requirements, taking into account characteristics of the fleets and fisheries;

e) Data collection on all aspects of the fishing operation, including catch and fishing effort.

7. Each flag CPC may deploy either national or non-national observers on vessels flying its flag.

8. CPCs may conclude bilateral arrangements whereby one CPC places national observers on vessels flying the flag of another CPC, until the flag CPC provides a replacement, or the target coverage level is met.

9. CPC shall endeavour to ensure that observers alternate vessels between their assignments.

Tasks of the Observer

10. CPCs shall require observers to:

a) record and report upon the fishing activity of the observed vessel, which shall include at least the following:

i. data collection, that includes quantifying total target catch, discards and by-catch (including sharks, sea turtles, marine mammals, and seabirds), size composition, disposition status (i.e., retained, discarded dead, released alive), the collection of biological samples for life history studies (e.g., gonads, otoliths, spines, scales), and the collection of tags markings;

ii. fishing operation information, including:

- area of catch by latitude and longitude;

- fishing effort information (e.g., number of sets, number of hooks, etc.);

- date of each fishing operation, including, as appropriate, the start and stop times of the fishing activity;
- use of fish aggregation objects, including FADs;
- reasons for discarding, and general state of catch released animals.

iii. exercise any other scientific work as recommended by SCRS and agreed by the Commission.

b) observe and record the use of by-catch and discards mitigation measures, and other relevant information;

c) analyse images from on board cameras, in support of the data collection referred to in a and b above;

d) observe and report environmental related elements;

e) present to their CPC, as feasible and appropriate, any proposals the observer considers appropriate to improve the efficiency of conservation measures and scientific monitoring;

f) perform any other scientific related task as required by a specific ICCAT Recommendation.

Obligations of the Observer

11. CPCs shall ensure that the observer:

a) carry a document identifying the observer as operating under the Programme;

b) do not interfere with the electronic equipment of the vessel;

c) be familiar with the emergency procedures aboard the vessel, including the location of life rafts, fire extinguishers and first aid kits;

d) communicate regularly in the language of the flag CPC with the Master on relevant observer issues and tasks;

e) do not hinder or interfere with the fishing activities and the normal operations of the vessel;

f) minimize endangering situations for the observer or a discomfort for the Master and crew when performing their fishing activity;

g) participate in a debriefing session with the Master, and possibly a delegate of the scientific institute or the national authority which appointed it;

h) treat as confidential all the observer data and information with respect to the fishing activities of the vessel, and accept this requirement in writing as a condition of appointment as an observer;

i) comply with requirements established in the laws and regulations of the flag CPC which exercises jurisdiction over the vessel to which the observer is assigned;

j) respect the hierarchy and general rules of behaviour which apply to all vessel personnel, provided such rules do not interfere with the tasks of the observer under this Programme, and with the obligations of the Master set forth in paragraph 15;

k) report without delay to its scientific institute, or to its national authority, for immediate information of the ICCAT Secretariat, any incident that may have occurred during the deployment.

Obligations of the Master

12. CPCs shall ensure that the Master of the vessel to which the observer is assigned shall:

    a) permit appropriate access to the vessel and its operations;

    b) allow the observer to carry out its responsibilities in an effective way, by

        i. having access to the vessel's crew and gears;

        ii. communicate at any time with the scientific institute, or a coordinator representing the scientific institutes participating in the Programme;

        iii. authorize the observer on request, to have access to the following equipment, if present on the vessel on which the observer is assigned, and to facilitate the fulfilment of its duty:

            - Satellite navigation equipment
            - Radar display screens during utilisation
            - Electronic means of communication

    c) provide accommodation to observers, including lodging, food and adequate sanitary facilities, equal to those of officers;

    d) provide the observer adequate space on the bridge or pilot house to perform its tasks, as well as space on deck adequate for carrying out observers tasks;

    e) participate in a debriefing session with the observer, and possibly a delegate of the scientific institute or the national authority which appointed the observer.

Observer Report

13. CPC shall ensure that the observer:

    a) compiles the information collected in accordance with this Programme in an observer report, if possible in electronic format, and offers the Master the opportunity to include any relevant comment, and

    b) within [10] days after the fishing trip, submit the observer report and the observer data to the scientific institute which has mandated the observer, and to the Master.

Timeframe for the boarding and reporting procedures

14. CPC shall ensure that the following timeframe of the observer boarding is respected:

    a) the scientific institute that mandates the observer addresses the vessel owner a request for boarding and a related boarding planning 45 days in advance of the fishing trip;

    b) the vessel owner validates the boarding planning 30 days in advance of the fishing trip;

    c) at the end of fishing trip, a debriefing is organized between the observer, the Master and, if possible, the scientific institute;

    d) the observer report, the observer data and all supporting material are transmitted by the observer to the scientific institute and the Master within [10] days after the fishing trip;

e) the observer report and the observer data are validated and made anonymous by the scientific institute within [30] days after the fishing trip. The validation may use the images recorded by the on board cameras;

f) the scientific institute transmits the anonymous observer report and the observer data to the national authority of the flag CPC within [45] days after the fishing trip;

g) in a manner consistent with its domestic confidentiality requirements, the flag CPC transmits the observer report and observer data within [90] days after the fishing trip to the Executive Secretary, to be stored in an observer database and made available to the SCRS and the national authority of the CPCs under whose jurisdiction the vessel has fished.

Duties of the CPCs

15. Each CPC shall:

a) require its vessels, when conducting fishing activities on ICCAT species , to carry a scientific observer in accordance with the provisions of this Programme. No vessel shall be required to carry more than one observer at any time;

b) ensure that the national scientific observers appointed under this Programme meet the qualification standards referred to in paragraph 5;

c) ensure that the timeframe for boarding and reporting procedures set out in paragraph 14 are complied with;

d) encourage their scientific institutes to enter into agreements with the scientific institutes of the other CPCs for the exchange of observer reports and observer data between them;

e) provide in its Annual Report to the Commission:

i. the number of vessels monitored and the coverage achieved by gear type;

ii. information on how vessels are selected for coverage to achieve the target;

f) compile the observer data in an electronic format adopted by the Commission and submit it every year to the Executive Secretary, to be made available to the SCRS.

16. The CPC shall meet the cost of the boarding, including the salary, the equipment and the insurance coverage.

Safety of the observer

17. CPCs shall take appropriate action with respect to their vessels to ensure safe working conditions, the protection, security and welfare of observers under this Programme, in the performance of their duties, and to provide them with medical care and safeguard their freedom and dignity in adherence to all pertinent international maritime regulations.

18. For transfers at sea, CPCs shall:

a) ensure that their vessel operators conduct transfers of observers under safe conditions and with the agreement of the observers;

b) conduct the transfer in a manner which maximizes the safety of observers and crew during the procedure; and

c) provide experienced crew members to assist observers during any transfer which is made.

Duties of the Executive Secretary

19. The Executive Secretary:

    a) establishes, maintains and posts on the secure part of the ICCAT website a register of national authorities, scientific institutes and ICCAT scientific observers as referred to in paragraph 4;

    b) with due consideration to the confidentiality requirements noted by CPCs, posts the observer reports and observer data in an observer database and make it available to the SCRS, and to the national authority of the CPCs under whose jurisdiction the vessel has fished.

Duties of the SCRS

20. The SCRS:

    a) elaborates an observer working manual, including standardized data collection sheets and procedures, taking into account the experience acquired in ICCAT and in other tuna RFMOs;

    b) if necessary, elaborates a template for the collection and reporting the observer data to be used by the observer;

    c) reports to the Commission at the Annual meeting on the coverage level achieved by each CPC and by fishery;

    d) provides the Commission with a summary of the scientific data and information collected and reported pursuant to this Programme, and any relevant associated findings;

    e) makes recommendations as necessary and appropriate on how to improve the effectiveness of the Programme in order to meet the data needs of the Commission, including possible revisions to this Recommendation and/or with respect to implementation of these minimum standards by CPCs.

Electronic Observer Systems

21. Electronic observer systems may be installed on board of the fishing vessels as alternative to collect independent and accurate information on fishing activities, to complement or, where the Commission decides so, to replace the human observer on board.

22. Electronic observer systems shall:

    a) be certified and installed on board so to ensure a camera coverage allowing to identify species and size composition, discards and by-catch, gears and FADs identification, and allowing a real time information with alarm operation;

    b) record and store encrypted information in a manner that forbids deletion or manipulation;

    c) allow crosschecks with other monitoring data related to the fishing activity of the vessel (position, time, course, etc.);

    d) be remotely checked by authorized personnel, or accessible to human observers when on board.

Support to Developing States

23. The Commission shall take due regard of the special requirements of developing States in the implementation of the provisions of this Recommendation.

24. The ICCAT funds available may be used to support the implementation of this Programme in developing States, notably the training of observers and of field samplers.

Final provision

25. Rec. [10-10] is repealed and replaced by this Recommendation.

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.5

EXPLANATORY NOTE ON THE DRAFT JOINT INTERNATIONAL INSPECTION SCHEME PROPOSAL TO THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON INTEGRATED MONITORING MEASURES (IMM)

At the 2015 ICCAT Annual meeting, co-sponsors EU, Panama, Senegal, and the United States introduced the attached draft proposal to establish a modern joint international inspection scheme for the high seas in ICCAT. The proposal includes alternative bracketed text providing the option of adopting it as a recommendation or a resolution. If adopted as a recommendation, the scheme would apply on the high seas to all ICCAT's fisheries without further action by the Commission. If adopted as a resolution, the proposal would establish a general boarding and inspection framework in ICCAT, but the Commission would have to take a separate decision to activate the scheme on a fishery-by-fishery or other basis.

We were pleased with the level of discussion this proposal received during the 2015 ICCAT Annual meeting. During the PWG's consideration of the issue, several Parties noted that adopting a modern high seas boarding and inspection scheme in ICCAT would provide an important tool for combatting IUU fishing. Given concerns about the possible resource implications of the measure, it was clarified that the proposal, whether adopted as a recommendation or resolution, did not create a requirement that Parties conduct at sea boarding and inspection activities. Rather, the proposal simply established clear standards and procedures to govern those instances if and when boarding and inspection was undertaken. Moreover, it was highlighted that, for those Contracting Parties that did not have sufficient resources to conduct boarding and inspection on the high seas, the proposal contained important provisions to assist them in this regard. Nevertheless, it became evident last year that the proposal, as drafted, needed additional work to address technical and other constraints faced by some Parties. There was no time, however, to explore those concerns fully and no specific amendments to the text were offered. Given this and the general interest to continue to try to advance the issue, the Commission referred the matter to the Eleventh Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) for further consideration.

We look forward to productive discussions by the IMM Working Group of the attached proposal as we seek to find an approach to this issue that meets everyone's needs. To facilitate this work, we ask that Parties come to the meeting in Japan with specific edits to the text to address any concerns they may have.

DRAFT [RECOMMENDATION] [RESOLUTION] BY ICCAT FOR A [MODEL] JOINT INTERNATIONAL INSPECTION SCHEME

(Proposed by the European Union, Panama, Senegal and the United States)

RECALLING Recommendation 75-02 for a Scheme of Joint International Inspection and Annex 7 of Recommendation 14-04 establishing a joint international inspection scheme for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery;

FURTHER RECALLING Resolution 94-09 on Compliance with the ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures, Recommendation 97-11 on Transhipments and Vessel Sightings, and Recommendation 98-11 Concerning the Ban on Landings and Transhipments of Vessels from Non-Contracting Parties Identifies *sic* as Having Committed a Serious Infringement;

RECALLING ALSO the General Outline of Integrated Monitoring Measures adopted at the 13th Special Meeting of the Commission (Doc. 02-31);

DESIRING to collaborate in the adoption of a system of joint international enforcement as provided in paragraph 3 of Article IX of the ICCAT Convention; [and]

INTENDING to strengthen ICCAT's monitoring, control, and surveillance regime to promote compliance with the ICCAT Convention and the Recommendations of the Commission [; and

RECOGNIZING the value of establishing a Model Scheme of Joint International Inspection that reflects current international standards and is available for activation in fisheries under the jurisdiction of ICCAT].

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS [RECOMMENDS] [RESOLVES] THAT:

[A Scheme of Joint International Inspection be established as follows:][Where a Scheme of Joint International Inspection is adopted in a fishery managed under the ICCAT Convention, such Scheme should be established based upon the following provisions, recognizing that additional elements may be needed to adapt the model scheme to a specific fishery:]

Section I: Definitions

For the purpose of the Scheme of Joint International Inspection:

1. "Fishing" means the catching, taking, or harvesting of fishery resources under the competence of ICCAT; the attempted catching, taking, or harvesting of such resources; or any other activity which can reasonably be expected to result in the catching, taking, or harvesting of such resources;

2. "Fishing activities" means fishing and any other activity in preparation for, in support of, or related to fishing, including storage, processing, transporting, transferring fish to or from cages, and transhipment of fish or fish products;

3. "Fishing vessel" means any powered vessel used for, intended to be used for, or equipped for use for fishing activities including catching vessels, support vessels, fish processing vessels, towing vessels, transport vessels and any other vessel directly engaged in fishing activities;

4. "Inspection vessel" means any vessel authorized by a Contracting Party and assigned to the ICCAT register of inspection vessels under the Joint International Inspection Scheme;

5. "Inspector" means an official authorized by a Contracting Party and assigned to conduct boarding and inspections in the ICCAT Convention area under the Joint International Inspection Scheme;

6. "Scheme" means the Joint International Inspection Scheme established by this Recommendation.

Section II: Purpose and area of application

7. Boarding and inspection conducted pursuant to this Scheme is intended to monitor compliance with the ICCAT Convention and related Recommendations in force.

8. This Scheme applies in the ICCAT Convention area beyond areas under national jurisdiction.

8*bis*. The ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection [1975-02] is hereby repealed [and replaced by this Scheme]. [Annex 7 of Recommendation 14-04 is hereby revoked and replaced by this Scheme.

Section III: General provisions

Duties of the Contracting Parties

9. Each Contracting Party shall take such measures as may be necessary to ensure that fishing vessels entitled to fly its flag, their Masters, its inspection vessels, and inspectors it has assigned to the Scheme, fulfil their respective duties and requirements under the Scheme.

10. Within 30 days of the entry into force of this Scheme, each Contracting Party shall advise the Executive Secretary of a point of contact for the purposes of receiving notifications, inspection reports and immediate notification of infringements pursuant to this Scheme. It shall notify any changes to this information to the Executive Secretary as soon as possible, but no more than 14 days after the effective date of the change.

11. Boarding and inspections shall be carried out by inspectors and inspection vessels assigned to the Scheme by a Contracting Party.

Notification requirements

12. A Contracting Party that intends to conduct boarding and inspection under the Scheme, including by deploying inspectors on board the inspection vessel of another Contracting Party pursuant to an agreement under paragraph 13, shall:

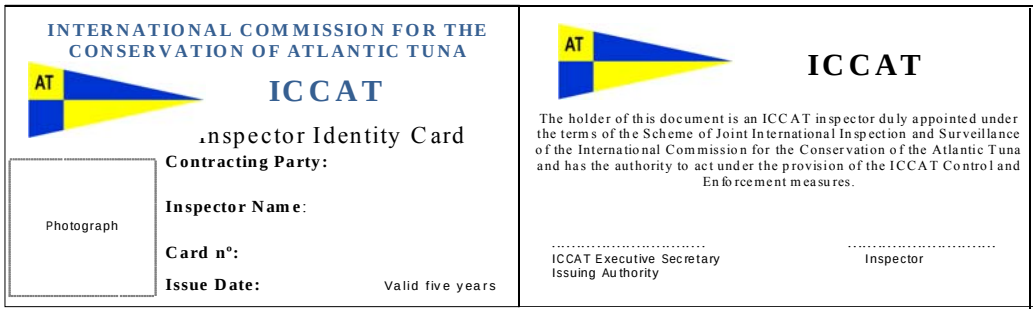
a) so notify the Executive Secretary, no later than 30 days in advance of the inspection vessel or inspector's deployment, providing the following particulars:

(i) its national authority responsible for at-sea inspection, as well as the name and contact details (including telephone and fax numbers and e-mail address) for a point of contact within that authority;

(ii) the names of the individual inspectors designated by the national authority referred to in subparagraph (i) above, where required by a Recommendation;

(iii) an example of the credentials issued to inspectors by the national authority referred to in subparagraph (i) above, except where a Recommendation requires the following ICCAT-approved credential:

Dimensions: Width 10.4cm, Height 7cm



and

(iv) for each inspection vessel designated by a national authority referred to in subparagraph (i) above, its name, description, image, registration number, port of registry and, if different from the port of registry, the name of the port as marked on the hull, international radio call sign and particulars of any other communication capabilities.

b) notify the Executive Secretary of any changes to the information it has provided pursuant to subparagraph (a) above as soon as possible and, in all cases, before a new inspection vessel, inspector or national authority participates in the Scheme;

c) ensure that each inspection vessel it authorizes to participate in the Scheme is clearly marked and identifiable as being on government service, and displays the ICCAT inspection flag or pennant depicted in **Addendum 1 to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.5**;

d) ensure that the inspectors and crew of any inspection vessel authorized and assigned to participate in the Scheme are competent to conduct inspection at-sea consistent with generally accepted international standards and are conversant with and have access to the ICCAT Recommendations in force; and

e) ensure that any inspector it authorizes to participate in the Scheme remains under its operational control, is fully familiar with the fishing activities being inspected and has been issued the credentials notified pursuant to this paragraph.

Exchange of Inspectors

13. Contracting Parties are encouraged to enter into standing or *ad hoc* arrangements to allow for an inspector, authorized by a Contracting Party, to be deployed on inspection vessels of another Contracting Party to facilitate communication and coordination for the purpose of implementing the Scheme.

    a) Such arrangements should establish a process for the timely identification of the authorized inspection vessels involved and include provisions for the cooperative deployment of personnel and the use of vessels, aircraft or other equipment for fisheries surveillance and law enforcement purposes.

    b) In addition to the notification requirements of paragraph 12, the Contracting Parties involved shall notify the Executive Secretary of any arrangement reached under this paragraph.

    c) Contracting Parties deploying inspection vessels should, subject to having an agreement as outlined in this paragraph, embark authorized inspectors from another Contracting Party if available. Foreign inspectors may participate in all inspections conducted by the inspection vessel under this Scheme as agreed upon by the two Contracting Parties prior to deployment.

Duties of the Executive Secretary

14. The Executive Secretary shall,

    a) establish, maintain and post to the secure part of the ICCAT website accessible to all Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities:

        i) a register, including the information notified by the Contracting Parties under subparagraph 12.a; and

        ii) information on the arrangements referred to in paragraph 13.

    b) issue the ICCAT inspection flag or pennant depicted at **Addendum 1 to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.5** to Contracting Parties deploying inspection vessels pursuant to the Scheme;

    c) maintain and post to the secure part of the ICCAT website a standardized multi-language questionnaire developed by Contracting Parties for use in contacting fishing vessels and conducting boarding and inspection activities pursuant to the Scheme.

Section IV: Inspections

Transparency and equitable treatment

15. Inspection shall be conducted in a transparent, non-discriminatory manner taking into account, *inter alia*, vessel fishing patterns and compliance records, the presence of observers, the frequency and results of prior inspections, and the full range of measures available to monitor compliance with ICCAT Recommendations.

Priorities for inspections

16. The inspecting Contracting Party should give priority to inspecting a fishing vessel:

    a) entitled to fly the flag of a Contracting Party that is eligible for inclusion in the ICCAT Record of Fishing Vessels, but is not included;

    b) where there are reasonable grounds to suspect the fishing vessel is, or has been, engaged in IUU fishing or in any activity in contravention of the ICCAT Convention or Recommendations;

c) included in the list of vessels that have engaged in IUU fishing adopted by a regional or sub-regional fisheries management organization; or

d) pursuant to a request by a Contracting Party or a regional or sub-regional fisheries management organization supported by evidence of IUU fishing by the vessel in question.

Optimal use of inspection resources

17. Contracting Parties shall direct their inspection vessels to seek to establish regular contact with other inspection vessels operating in the same area for the purpose of sharing information on sightings, inspections and other operational elements relevant to their activities under the Scheme.

Non-Contracting Party Fishing Vessels and Vessels of Undetermined Flag

18. Notwithstanding the notification requirements of *Recommendation by ICCAT on Transhipments and Vessel Sightings* [Rec. 97-11], an inspecting Contracting Party that sights a fishing vessel without nationality or of indeterminate flag, engaged in fishing activities in the Convention area, shall report the sighting to the Executive Secretary, who shall forward the reports to all Contracting Parties. Consistent with *Recommendation by ICCAT on Transhipments and Vessel Sightings* [Rec. 97-11], where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that such a fishing vessel is targeting ICCAT species and is stateless, the inspecting Contracting Party may take such action as may be appropriate in accordance with international law.

19. In accordance with paragraph 4 of *Recommendation by ICCAT on Transhipments and Vessel Sightings* [Rec. 97-11], an inspection vessel that sights a non-Contracting Party vessel that may be fishing contrary to ICCAT conservation and management measures shall immediately report such sighting to the authorities of the inspecting Contracting Party who shall notify the flag State of the fishing vessel and the Executive Secretary of such sighting. The Executive Secretary shall forward the reports to all Contracting Parties.

20. The inspection vessel shall, if possible, advise the Master of the sighted vessel that they are operating within the ICCAT Convention area and may be fishing contrary to conservation and management measures adopted by ICCAT. Where practicable, the inspecting Contracting Party shall request permission from the flag State of the fishing vessel to board and inspect the fishing vessel. A report of the encounter and of any ensuing inspection shall be transmitted to the flag State of the fishing vessel and to the Executive Secretary, who shall, in turn, forward the reports to all Contracting Parties.

Duties of the Executive Secretary

21. The Executive Secretary shall,

a) upon receipt, immediately distribute to the Contracting Parties the reports received pursuant to paragraphs 18, 19, and 20; and

b) compile, maintain, and post to the secure part of the ICCAT website a list of vessels reported pursuant to paragraphs 18 and 19 and encounters and inspections reported pursuant to paragraph 20.

Section V: Boarding and inspection procedures

Conduct of inspections

22. An inspection vessel that intends to undertake boarding and inspection of a fishing vessel entitled to fly the flag of a Contracting Party pursuant to the Scheme shall:

a) seek to establish contact with the fishing vessel by radio, using the appropriate International Code of Signals or other internationally accepted means of alerting the vessel;

b) identify itself as an inspection vessel by communicating its name, registration number, international radio call sign and frequency;

c) advise the vessel of its intention to board and inspect the vessel pursuant to the Scheme;

d) initiate notice through its authorities to the point of contact of the fishing vessel; and

e) display the ICCAT inspection flag or pennant depicted in **Addendum 1 to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.5** in a clearly visible fashion.

23. The inspection vessel and the inspectors shall make best efforts to communicate with the Master of the fishing vessel in a language that the Master can understand using the standardized multi-language questionnaire referred to in paragraph 14.c.

24. The number of inspectors assigned to an inspection party by the inspecting Contracting 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 conduct an effective inspection safely and securely.

25. Boarding and inspection shall be conducted:

a) in accordance with generally accepted international standards, regulations, procedures and practices relating to the safety of the fishing vessel and its crew; and

b) to the extent possible, in a manner that avoids:

i) undue interference with the lawful activity of the fishing vessel;

ii) actions that would adversely affect the quality of the catch; and

iii) harassment of the fishing vessel, its officers or crew.

26. In conducting an inspection pursuant to this Scheme, the inspectors shall:

a) upon boarding, present their credentials to the Master;

b) avoid interfering with the Master's ability to communicate with the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel;

c) inspect and record such images of the fishing vessel's license, gear, equipment, facilities, fish and fish products on board, and logbooks, records and documents as may be necessary to verify compliance with, or establish any suspected infringements of, the ICCAT Convention or Recommendations;

d) collect, and clearly document in the inspection report, any evidence of an infringement of the ICCAT Convention or Recommendations;

e) record the inspection and any suspected infringement in the fishing vessel's logbook or, where the vessel's logbook is electronic, provide a written record of the inspection and any suspected infringement;

f) provide the Master with a copy of the inspection report;

g) complete the inspection within four 4 hours unless evidence of a serious infringement is found, or where a longer time period is required to monitor ongoing fishing operations and obtain related documentation issued by the Master; and

h) except where they have reasonable grounds to believe that the fishing vessel has committed a serious infringement and other action is authorized pursuant to paragraph 41, promptly leave the vessel following completion of the inspection.

27. Where the inspectors have reasonable grounds to believe that the fishing vessel has committed an infringement of the ICCAT Convention or Recommendations, they shall seek to so advise, without delay, any inspection vessel of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel that may be present in the vicinity.

Use of force

28. The use of force shall be avoided except when and to the degree necessary to ensure the safety of the inspectors and where the inspectors are obstructed in the execution of their duties. The degree of force used shall not exceed that reasonably required in the circumstances.

29. The inspectors shall promptly report any incident involving the use of force to their national authorities responsible for at-sea inspection, who shall advise the contact point of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel, and to the Executive Secretary.

Duties of the Master of the fishing vessel

30. Each Contracting Party shall require that the Master of every fishing vessel entitled to fly its flag:

a) when signalled to do so by an inspection vessel displaying the ICCAT flag or pennant, using the International Code of Signals, accepts and, to the extent compatible with good seamanship, facilitates boarding by the inspectors, unless the vessel is directly engaged in fishing activities, in which case the Master shall manoeuver to safely facilitate boarding as soon as possible;

b) provides a standardized boarding ladder that meets the requirements of IMO Resolution A.889(21) and ensures safety measures are in place to prevent and respond as required to an accident during boarding;

c) cooperates with and assists in the inspection;

d) facilitates the inspection of such equipment, catch, gear and documents as the inspectors may consider necessary to verify compliance with the ICCAT Convention or Recommendations;

e) ensures that the crew avoids interfering with, or obstructing the inspectors in the performance of their duties;

f) makes available the use of the vessel's communication equipment and operator, to the extent required by the inspectors;

g) facilitates communication by the inspectors with the crew and the flag Contracting Party of the inspection vessel;

h) provides the inspectors with reasonable facilities, including, where appropriate, food and accommodation;

i) takes such action as may be necessary to preserve the integrity of any seal affixed by an inspector and of any evidence remaining on board;

j) where the inspectors have made an entry in the logbooks, provides the inspectors with a copy of each page where such entry appears and, at the request of the inspector, signs each page to confirm that it is a true copy;

k) refrains from resuming fishing activity until the inspectors have completed the inspection and, in the case of a serious infringement, secured the evidence; and

l) facilitates the safe disembarkation of the inspectors.

Refusal of boarding and inspection

31. Where the Master of a fishing vessel refuses to allow boarding and inspection pursuant to this Scheme, the inspecting Contracting Party shall immediately so advise the point of contact of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel and the Executive Secretary.

32. Upon receiving notification under paragraph 31, the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel shall:

a) except where generally accepted international regulations, procedures or practices relating to safety at sea make it necessary to delay the inspection, direct the Master to accept the inspection forthwith; and

b) where the Master does not comply with such direction:

i) order the Master to justify the refusal;

ii) where appropriate, take action in accordance with subparagraphs 40.a. and b; and

iii) promptly notify the Executive Secretary and the inspecting Contracting Party of the action it has taken.

Section VI: Inspection report and follow-up

Inspection reports

33. Each Contracting Party shall require that its inspectors:

a) upon completion of an inspection, complete an inspection report in the form set out in **Addendum 2 to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.5**;

b) sign the inspection report in the presence of the Master, who shall be given the opportunity to add or have added to the report any observations;

c) request the Master to sign the report only as an acknowledgement of receipt; and

d) before disembarking, provide a copy of the report to the Master, duly noting any refusal by the Master to acknowledge receipt.

Transmission and dissemination of inspection reports

34. Upon completion of the inspection, the inspecting Contracting Party shall transmit the inspection report, if possible within 30 days, to the point of contact of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel and to the Executive Secretary.

35. Notwithstanding paragraph 34, where inspectors have noted an infringement in the inspection report, the inspecting Contracting Party shall transmit, within 10 days, a copy of the inspection report and all supporting documents, images or audio recordings, to the point of contact of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel and to the Executive Secretary.

Duties of the Executive Secretary

36. The Executive Secretary shall, without delay, post the inspection report to the secure part of the ICCAT website.

Section VII: Procedures relating to serious infringements

Serious infringements

37. Each of the following constitutes a serious infringement:

a) fishing without a valid license, permit or authorization;

b) significant failure to maintain accurate records of catch or catch-related data in contravention of the ICCAT Convention or Recommendations, or significant misreporting of catch 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 ICCAT Recommendations;

f) significantly exceeding applicable catch limits or quotas;

g) using prohibited fishing gear;

h) falsifying or intentionally concealing the markings, identity or registration of a fishing vessel or its gear, or failing to mark fishing gear;

i) concealing, tampering with or disposing of evidence related to an inspection or investigation of an infringement, including the breaking or tampering of marks or seals, or accessing sealed areas;

j) committing multiple infringements which, taken together, constitute a serious disregard of the ICCAT Convention or Recommendations;

k) assaulting, resisting, intimidating, harassing, interfering with, obstructing or unduly delaying inspectors or observers in the performance of their duties;

l) tampering with, disabling, or interfering with the vessel monitoring system (VMS) of the fishing vessel where VMS is required by ICCAT Recommendations;

m) operating a fishing vessel without VMS in contravention of ICCAT Recommendations;

n) presenting falsified documents or providing false information to an inspector so as to prevent a serious infringement from being detected;

o) fishing with the assistance of spotter planes in contravention of ICCAT Recommendations;

p) failure to submit to an inspection;

q) transhipping at sea in contravention of ICCAT Recommendations;

r) operating a fishing vessel without an observer in contravention of ICCAT Recommendations; and

s) such other violations identified as a serious infringement in future ICCAT Recommendations.

Duties of the Inspectors

38. Each Contracting Party shall require that, where its inspectors have noted a serious infringement in the inspection report, they:

    a) immediately notify their national authority responsible for at-sea inspection of all relevant particulars;

    b) take all such measures as may be required to ensure the security and continuity of the evidence, including, as appropriate, marking or sealing the vessel's hold or gear for further investigation; and

    c) where feasible, advise any inspection vessel of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel they know to be in the vicinity of the serious infringement and of the action they have taken.

Duties of the inspecting Contracting Party

39. Where notified by its inspectors of a serious infringement, the inspecting Contracting Party shall immediately transmit written notification of the serious infringement and a description of the supporting evidence to the point of contact of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel and to the Executive Secretary.

Duties of the Flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel

40. Upon receiving notification pursuant to paragraph 39, the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel shall:

    a) acknowledge receipt of the notification without delay;

    b) require that the fishing vessel concerned:

        i) ceases all fishing activity until it is satisfied that the infringement will not continue or be repeated and has so notified the Master;

        ii) where appropriate to the conduct of a full and thorough investigation, to proceed immediately to a port or other location it designates for investigation under its authority; and

        iii) report to the Executive Secretary the measures it has taken pursuant to its laws in relation to the infringement.

41. The flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel may authorize the inspecting Contracting Party to take such enforcement action as it may specify with respect to the vessel. It may also authorize an inspector from another Contracting Party to board or remain on board the vessel as it proceeds to port and to participate in the port inspection.

Failure of the flag Contracting Party to respond

42. Where the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel fails to take action as required pursuant to paragraph 40, the inspectors shall immediately so advise their national authority responsible for at-sea inspection and record the failure in the inspection report.

43. The inspecting Contracting Party shall notify the Executive Secretary of the flag Contracting Party's failure to respond.

44. The flag Contracting Party shall, without delay, provide to the Executive Secretary a written explanation of its failure to respond.

Duties of the Executive Secretary

45. The Executive Secretary shall,

a) upon receipt, post any notifications received pursuant to paragraphs 39 or 42, and any explanation received pursuant to paragraph 44, to the secure part of the ICCAT website;

b) transmit, upon receipt, the justification received pursuant to paragraph 44 to the inspecting Contracting Party; and

c) maintain a record of actions reported by the flag Contracting Party pursuant to paragraph 40, post such record to the secure part of the ICCAT website, and refer the information to the Commission for its consideration.

Section VIII: Follow-up enforcement action

Cooperation

46. Contracting Parties shall cooperate to facilitate judicial or other proceedings initiated as follow-up to a report submitted by an inspector pursuant to the Scheme.

National treatment

47. Each Contracting Party shall:

a) without prejudice to their national legislation, treat interference by its fishing vessels, their Masters or crew with an inspector or an inspection vessel of another Contracting Party in the same manner as interference with its own inspectors within areas under its national jurisdiction; and

b) accord treatment to reports of inspections conducted by inspectors of another Contracting Party consistent with that accorded to reports of their own inspectors.

Duties of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel

48. A Contracting Party that has been notified of an infringement committed by a fishing vessel entitled to fly its flag shall:

a) investigate immediately and fully, including as appropriate, by physically inspecting the fishing vessel at the earliest opportunity or, authorize the inspecting Contracting Party to take enforcement action as appropriate under the circumstances;

b) cooperate with the inspecting Contracting Party to preserve the evidence in a form that will facilitate proceedings in accordance with its laws;

c) if the evidence so warrants, take judicial or administrative action, as appropriate; and

d) ensure that any sanctions applied are adequate in severity to be effective in securing compliance, deterring further infringements and, to the extent possible, depriving the offenders of the benefits accruing from the infringement, including, *inter alia*:

i) fines;

ii) seizure of the fishing vessel, illegal fishing gear and/or catches;

iii) suspension or withdrawal of authorization to fish; and

iv) reduction or cancellation of any fishing allocations.

e) notify the Executive Secretary of the measures taken pursuant to this paragraph as soon as possible.

Section IX: Annual compliance report

Reports by the Contracting Parties

49. Each Contracting Party shall for the period ending on September 30 of that year, include in its annual report to the Commission, a summary of:

    a) the boarding and inspection activities it has conducted pursuant to the Scheme;

    b) the action it has taken in response to reported infringements by its fishing vessels, including any enforcement procedures and the sanctions it may have applied; and

    c) an explanation regarding every reported infringement concerning which it has taken no action.

Report of the Executive Secretary

50. The Executive Secretary shall submit to the ICCAT Commission before each annual meeting a report setting out a description of:

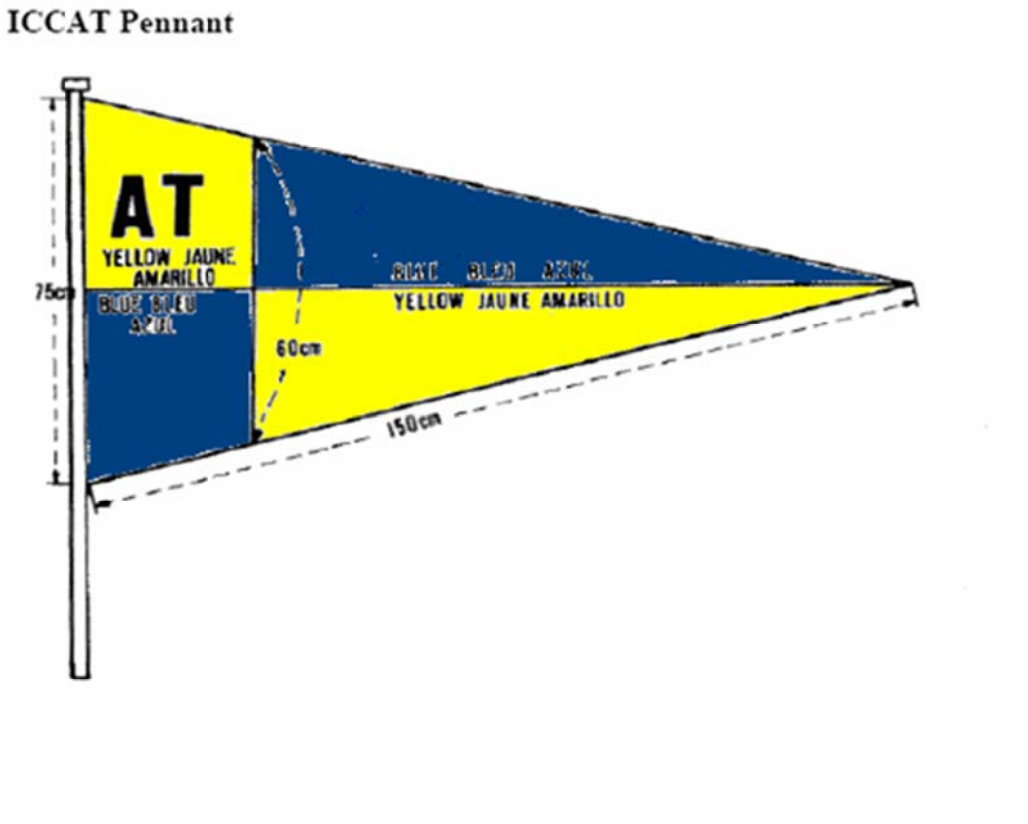
    a) the boarding and inspection activities and follow-up actions taken, as reported by each Contracting Party, for the period ending September 30;

    b) the instances where boarding and inspection was refused by a fishing vessel of a Contracting Party, and any follow-up action taken by that Contracting Party in respect of such fishing vessel; and

    c) the cases where force was used including the reported circumstances thereof.

Addendum 1 to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.5

ICCAT Inspection Flag or Pennant



Addendum to 2 Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.5

ICCAT Boarding and Inspection Report Form

1. Inspection report No.		2. Inspection Vessel			
3. Inspecting authority					
4. Name of principal inspector			ID		
5. Location of inspection (as determined by inspecting vessel)	Lat.		Long.		
6. Location of inspection (as determined by fishing vessel)	Lat.		Long.		
7. Commencement of inspection	YYYY	MM	DD	HH	
8. Completion of inspection	YYYY	MM	DD	HH	
9. Last port and date of last port call			YYYY	MM	DD
10. Vessel name					
11. Flag State					
12. Type of vessel					
13. International Radio Call Sign					
14. Certificate of registry ID					

15. IMO ship ID, if available	
16. External ID, if available	
17. Port of registry	
18. Vessel owner(s) and address	
19. Vessel beneficial owner(s), (if known and different from vessel owner) and address	
20. Vessel operator(s), if different from vessel owner	
21. Vessel master name and nationality	
22. Fishing master name and nationality	
23. Vessel agent	
24. VMS	Type:

25. Status in ICCAT and other RFMOs, including any IUU vessel listing

Vessel identifier	RFMO	Flag State status	Vessel on authorized vessel list	Vessel on IUU vessel list

26. Relevant fishing authorization(s)

Identifier	*Issued by*	*Validity*	*Fishing area(s)*	*Species*	*Gear*

27. Catch retained onboard (quantity)

Species	*Product form*	*Catch area(s)*	*Quantity declared*	*Quantity retained (based on inspection)*

28. Examination of logbook(s) and other documentation	*Yes*	*No*	*Comments*

29. Compliance with applicable catch documentation scheme(s)	*Yes*	*No*	*Comments*
30. Compliance with applicable statistical document scheme(s)	*Yes*	*No*	*Comments*
31. Type of gear used			
32. Gear examined	*Yes*	*No*	*Comments*
33. Findings by inspector(s)			
34. Apparent infringement(s) noted including reference to relevant legal instrument(s)			

35. Comments by the Master
36. Action taken
37. Master's signature*
38. Inspector's signature

* The Master's signature serves only as acknowledgment of receipt of a copy of the inspection report.

Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.5

Draft Text Resulting from Updating and Combining Two ICCAT Measures

Explanatory Note

(Presented by: PWG Chair)

During the last Commission meeting (November 2015) in the course of the discussion of the streamlining of conservation and management measures, the Commission "*agreed that the Resolution 94-09 required amendment in the future, and could be combined with Recommendation 97-11*." In order to advance work on this before the forthcoming Commission meeting (November 2016), the attached draft is being proposed for consideration. It should be noted that since the adoption of these two measures, several advances have been made in ICCAT, with specific measures having been adopted on transhipment (Rec. 12-06) and port inspection (Rec. 12-07), as well as species specific measures which would indicate a need for the texts to be extended to species beyond bluefin tuna.

The document comprises three parts 1) this introduction/explanatory note; 2) the combined texts with changes shown; and 3) a clean text with mark-up removed for easy reading.

The attached draft takes Resolution 94-09 as a base, inserting the relevant sections of Recommendation 97-11. Text taken from 97-11 is shown in italics. Underline and strikethrough show the parts which have been changed from the original texts.

From 97-11, the first paragraph has been omitted, as since then the Commission has adopted specific measures relating to transhipment, currently contained in Rec. 12-06. Paragraphs 2 and 3 of Rec. 97-11 were combined in the revision, as in the original, the only difference in treatment of CPCs and non-CPCs was the destination of the information (Compliance Committee for CPCs and other Contracting Parties for non-CPCs). Since the adoption of 11-24, however, the Compliance Committee is responsible for reviewing all activities which may undermine ICCAT conservation and management measures.

The preambles from both measures have been removed, as a new text may be required here. Whether this text should be converted into a Recommendation or a Resolution is a matter which will also require consideration by the delegates. The terminology in the text (binding shall or non-binding should) may need to be revised depending on the decision taken on this.

Text removed from 97-11:

1 *Contracting Parties shall ensure that fishing vessels and mother vessels flying their flag only transfer or receive at-sea transhipment of ICCAT species from Contracting Parties and Cooperating [Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities], as defined in the Resolution by ICCAT on Becoming a Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entity [Res. 97-17]*[*]*. Such transhipment activities shall be reported annually to the Commission.*

[*] Resolution 97-17 was replaced by Recommendation 03-20.

94-09: Resolution by ICCAT on Compliance with the ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures

Updated and Combined with

97-11: Recommendation by ICCAT on Transhipments and Vessel Sightings

Proposed by: PWG Chair

~~*RECALLING* that the Commission has taken various conservation and management measures on tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention Area;~~

~~*NOTING* the Recommendation on Supplemental Regulatory Measures for the Management of Eastern Atlantic Bluefin Tuna adopted at the Thirteenth Regular Meeting in 1993, which prohibits the fishing for bluefin tuna using longline fishing vessels greater than 24 m in length in the Mediterranean during the period from June 1 to July 31;~~

~~*FURTHER NOTING* the Recommendation on the Management of Bluefin Tuna Fishing in the Central North Atlantic Ocean adopted at the Thirteenth Regular Meeting in 1993, which limits the bluefin tuna catch in this area and prohibits the initiation of a new fishery targeting bluefin tuna for a period of two years;~~

~~*BEING AWARE* of the need to obtain and monitor cooperation from the non-Contracting Parties with ICCAT conservation and management measures to ensure the effectiveness of the Commission's recommendations;~~

~~*RECOGNIZING* the need to develop a mechanism to monitor fishing activities by non-Contracting Parties in the Convention Area and to take possible ways and means based on the collected information to deter fishing activities of non-Contracting Parties which undermine conservation and management measures of the Commission;~~

~~*ALSO RECOGNIZING* the need to improve compliance by Contracting Parties in the Convention Area;~~

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

1. The Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) should collect any information on the sighting of vessels of CPCs and non-Contracting Parties vessels that appear to be fishing for tuna or tuna-like species in the Convention area without being on the ICCAT Record of Vessels or contrary to any ICCAT conservation and management measures in force. This information should be collected through their enforcement and surveillance operations in the Convention Area. Such information should be transmitted promptly to the Executive Secretary through a sighting information sheet as attached in an Addendum.

~~a) Large pelagic tuna longline fishing vessels greater than 24 m in length operating in the Mediterranean during the period from June 1 to July 31,~~

~~b) Vessels that appear to be:~~

~~i) fishing bluefin tuna in the north Atlantic without regard to the scientific monitoring quota in the western Atlantic;~~
~~ii) directing a fishery on bluefin tuna spawning stocks in the Gulf of Mexico; or,~~
~~iii) fishing bluefin tuna in the central North Atlantic (north of 40°N, between 35°W and 45°W) contrary to the relevant Commission recommendation.~~
~~iv) fishing tuna and tuna-like species contrary to the relevant Commission Recommendations other than i, ii, and iii.~~

2. The Contracting Parties should encourage those of their fishermen who operate in the Convention Area to collect the information on the vessels set out in paragraph 1.

3. When a vessel described in paragraph 1 is sighted and:

   a) flies the flag of a Contracting Party or Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entity, or a non-Contracting Party which can be identified, ~~*any observation by a Contracting Party vessel or aircraft of Contracting Parties' vessels that*~~ and *may be fishing contrary to ICCAT conservation measures,* this siting *shall be reported immediately to the appropriate authorities of the flag-State making the observation. That Contracting Party shall then immediately notify the appropriate authorities of the flag-State of the vessel fishing* and the Executive Secretary who shall, ~~upon receiving the information from the Contracting Party which sighted the vessel,~~ immediately transmit ~~the~~ it to the relevant Contracting Party which shall immediately take appropriate action with respect to the vessel in question. ~~Such Contracting Party shall promptly inform the Commission of the actions taken.~~ ~~*Each*~~ *Both the Contracting Party making the observation and the Contracting Party whose fishing vessels were observed shall provide the pertinent information,* including information on the actions taken with respect to the vessel, *to the ICCAT Secretariat* which will forward the information to the Compliance Committee for review.

   b) ~~flies the flag of a non-Contracting Party, the Executive Secretary shall, upon receiving the information from the Contracting Party which sighted the vessel, immediately transmit it to the relevant non-Contracting Party and request that it promptly take appropriate action to ensure that the effectiveness of the ICCAT conservation measures are not undermined and inform the Commission of the results of such action. The Executive Secretary shall compile the information and provide it to the Commission.~~

   b) the flag state cannot be identified, ~~the Executive Secretary shall compile the information received from the Contracting Parties which sight such vessels and provide it to the Commission~~. *any sightings of vessels that appear to be without nationality (stateless) that may be fishing for ICCAT species shall be reported immediately to the appropriate authorities of the Contracting Party whose vessel or aircraft made the sighting. Where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that a fishing vessel targeting ICCAT species on the high seas is stateless, a Contracting Party may board and inspect the vessel. Where evidence so warrants, the Contracting Party may take such action as may be appropriate in accordance with international law. Any Contracting Party receiving a report of a sighting or conducting an action against a stateless fishing vessel shall immediately notify the ICCAT Secretariat, which, in turn, shall notify all other Contracting Parties. In addition, Contracting Parties are encouraged to establish points of contact to facilitate cooperation and other appropriate actions.*

4. Appropriate authorities of Contracting Parties are encouraged, upon the consent of the master, to board and collect information on pelagic fishing vessels of non-Contracting Parties fishing in the Convention Area. Information collected from such courtesy boardings shall be compiled and reported to the Commission.

5. Any Contracting Party in whose ports ~~bluefin~~ tuna fishing or transport vessels enter ~~and any Contracting Party which has ports identified by the Statistical Document Program as a point of export of bluefin tuna~~ should ~~make every effort to~~ collect the ~~following~~ information on the ~~tuna~~ vessels ~~of non-Contracting Parties~~ in its ports required by the port inspection form contained in Rec. 12-07 ~~(the appended sighting information sheet should be used for this purpose)~~ and report the information collected to the Commission.

   ~~a) Vessel Type and Name~~
   ~~b) Flag and Port of Registry~~
   ~~c) International Radio Call Sign~~
   ~~d) Registration Number~~
   ~~e) Length and Gross Tonnage~~
   ~~f) Fishing Gear Description (e.g. type, amount)~~
   ~~g) Nationality of master, officers and crew~~
   ~~h) Date of Entry and Departure~~
   ~~i) Activities at port (supply, landing, transhipment, etc.)~~
   ~~j) Other relevant information~~

~~6 Such Contracting Party should make every effort to photograph the vessels and collect the following information through interviews with vessel masters, officers or crew:~~

~~a) Name and Address of the Owner~~
~~b) Name and Address of the Operator~~
~~c) Amount of catch, landing or transhipment by species~~
~~d) Area, Target Species and Period of Fishing~~

7. Each Contracting Party shall make every effort to ensure that ~~bluefin~~ tuna and tuna-like species harvested by its vessels ~~and described in each Statistical Document~~ has not been taken contrary to the Commission's conservation and management measures.

8. Each Contracting Party should seek to discourage, in accordance with its law, its nationals from associating with the activities of non-Contracting Parties which undermine the effectiveness of the ICCAT conservation and management measures.

~~9. The Contracting Parties should review the ICCAT Scheme of Port Inspection with a view to developing an effective enforcement scheme to enhance compliance with the ICCAT Recommendations.~~

~~10. The Executive Secretary shall transmit this Resolution to all non-Contracting Parties and request their cooperation for the effective implementation of this Resolution.~~

Addendum to Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.5

SIGHTING INFORMATION SHEET
1. Date of Sighting: Month Day Year
2. Position of Vessel Sighted: ~~At Sea:~~ Latitude Longitude ~~At Port: Name of Port Country~~
3. Name of the Vessel Sighted:
4. Flag Country:
5. Port (and Country) of Registry:
6. Type of Vessel:
7. International Radio Call Sign:
8. Registration Number:
9. Estimated Length Overall and Gross Tonnage: m ~~MT~~GT
10. Fishing Gear Description: Type: Estimated quantity (units)
11. Nationality of Captain: Officer: Crew:
12. Vessel Situation When Sighted at Sea (Please check): Fishing Cruising Drifting Transhipping Other
13. Type of Activities of the Vessel Sighted at Sea (Please ~~check~~ describe): __ ~~1) Large pelagic tuna longline fishing vessels greater than 24 m in length operating in the Mediterranean during the period from June 1 to July 31~~ __ ~~2)Vessels actually or possible engaged in bluefin tuna fishing that is contrary to the quota established by the Commission for scientific monitoring purposes in the western Atlantic~~ __ ~~3) Vessels actually or possible engaged in a directed fishery on bluefin tuna spawning stocks in the Gulf of Mexico~~ __ ~~4) Vessels actually or possible engaged in fishing bluefin tuna contrary to the Commission's regulation in the central north Atlantic (north of 40°N, between 35°W and 45°W).~~ __ ~~5) Vessels actually~~ or possible engaged in fishing bluefin tuna contrary to the Commission Regulations other than above (Specify)
~~14. Date of Entry and Departure (Port Sighting Only)~~ ~~Entry: M , D , Y Departure: M , D , Y~~
~~15. Activities at Port (Port Sighting Only) (Please check):~~ ~~Supply Landing Transhipment Other (Specify)~~
16. Other Relative Information:
~~NOTE: THE SECTIONS BELOW ARE FOR NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES' VESSELS SIGHTED AT PORT ONLY. Fill out the following when information is obtained by interviewing the vessel master, officers and/or crew:~~
~~17. Name and Address of the Owner:~~
~~18. Name and Address of the Operator:~~

~~19. Estimated Amount of Catch, Landing, or Transhipment (when possible, by species) in metric tons (MT):~~

~~TOTAL MT BLUEFIN MT BIGEYE MT YELLOWFIN MT ALBACORE MT SWORDFISH MT BILLFISHES MT OTHERS MT~~

~~20. Fishing Area, Target Species, and Period of Fishing:~~

~~Fishing Area: Target Species: Fishing Period: From to~~

~~21. Other Information:~~

THE ABOVE INFORMATION WAS COLLECTED BY:

OFFICER'S NAME: TITLE:

NAME OF VESSEL: AIRCRAFT~~: OR PORT:~~

DATE: (Month) (Day) (Year)

SIGNATURE:

Draft Text Resulting from Updating and Combing two ICCAT Measures

[As above without markup]

94-09: Resolution by ICCAT on Compliance with the ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures

Updated and Combined with

97-11: Recommendation by ICCAT on transhipments and vessel sightings

Proposed by: PWG Chair

1. The Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) should collect any information on the sighting of vessels of CPCs and non-Contracting Parties Vessels that appear to be fishing for tuna or tuna-like species in the Convention area without being on the ICCAT Record of Vessels or contrary to any ICCAT conservation and management measures in force. This information should be collected through their enforcement and surveillance operations in the Convention Area. Such information should be transmitted promptly to the Executive Secretary through a sighting information sheet as attached in an Addendum.

2. The Contracting Parties should encourage those of their fishermen who operate in the Convention Area to collect the information on the vessels set out in paragraph 1.

3. When a vessel described in paragraph 1 is sighted and:

   a) flies the flag of a Contracting Party or Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entity, or a non-Contracting Party which can be identified, and may be fishing contrary to ICCAT conservation measures shall be reported immediately to the appropriate authorities of the flag-State making the observation. That Contracting Party shall then immediately notify the appropriate authorities of the flag-State of the vessel fishing and the Executive Secretary who shall, immediately transmit it to the relevant Contracting Party which shall immediately take appropriate action with respect to the vessel in question. Both the Contracting Party making the observation and the Contracting Party whose fishing vessels were observed shall provide the pertinent information, including information on the actions taken with respect to the vessel, to the ICCAT Secretariat which will forward the information to the Compliance Committee for review.

   b) the flag state cannot be identified, sightings of vessels that appear to be without nationality (stateless) that may be fishing for ICCAT species shall be reported immediately to the appropriate authorities of the Contracting Party whose vessel or aircraft made the sighting. Where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that a fishing vessel targeting ICCAT species on the high seas is stateless, a Contracting Party may board and inspect the vessel. Where evidence so warrants, the Contracting Party may take such action as may be appropriate in accordance with international law. Any Contracting Party receiving a report of a sighting or conducting an action against a stateless fishing vessel shall immediately notify the ICCAT Secretariat, which, in turn, shall notify all other Contracting Parties. In addition, Contracting Parties are encouraged to establish points of contact to facilitate cooperation and other appropriate actions

4. Appropriate authorities of Contracting Parties are encouraged, upon the consent of the master, to board and collect information on pelagic fishing vessels of non-Contracting Parties fishing in the Convention Area. Information collected from such courtesy boardings shall be compiled and reported to the Commission.

5. Any Contracting Party in whose ports tuna fishing or transport vessels enter collect the information on the vessels in its ports required by the port inspection form contained in Rec. 12-07 and report the information collected to the Commission.

6. Each Contracting Party shall make every effort to ensure that tuna and tuna like species harvested by its vessels has not been taken contrary to the Commission's conservation and management measures.

7. Each Contracting Party should seek to discourage, in accordance with its law, its nationals from associating with the activities of non-Contracting Parties which undermine the effectiveness of the ICCAT conservation and management measures.

Addendum to Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.5

SIGHTING INFORMATION SHEET
1. Date of Sighting: Month Day Year
2. Position of Vessel Sighted: Latitude Longitude
3. Name of the Vessel Sighted:
4. Flag Country:
5. Port (and Country) of Registry:
6. Type of Vessel:
7. International Radio Call Sign:
8. Registration Number:
9. Estimated Length Overall and Gross Tonnage: m GT
10. Fishing Gear Description: Type: Estimated quantity (units)
11. Nationality of Captain: Officer: Crew:
12. Vessel Situation When Sighted at Sea (Please check): Fishing Cruising Drifting Transhipping Other
13. Type of Activities of the Vessel Sighted at Sea (Please describe):
14. Other Relative Information:
THE ABOVE INFORMATION WAS COLLECTED BY: OFFICER'S NAME: TITLE: NAME OF VESSEL: AIRCRAFT: DATE: (Month) (Day) (Year) SIGNATURE:

Appendix 7 to ANNEX 4.5

Information on the Implementation of Recommendations 12-07 and 14-08 Adopted on Port Inspection Measures

Capacity Building for Port Inspection

(ICCAT Secretariat)

In 2012, ICCAT adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme of Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port* [Rec. 12-07], and in 2014, a Recommendation to Support Effective Implementation of this [Rec. 14-08]. In addition, the FAO Port State Measures Agreement entered into force on 5 June 2016.

At the 2015 Commission meeting, "in relation to port inspection, the Chairman of the PWG concluded that CPCs should express their capacity building needs to the Secretariat. The Commission agreed with this suggestion, and indicated that the Secretariat should investigate the possibilities of developing training in line with the needs indicated, although it was recognised that training was not the only impediment to the full implementation of the ICCAT measure on port inspection".

Through ICCAT Circular 2583/16, the Secretariat reiterated its request for information in order to be able to implement Rec. 14-08. In response to this Norway has made a contribution to the Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance Fund (MCSF), and Suriname reiterated its request for technical assistance. Suriname does not require financial assistance and would be willing to pay for training, but to date no CPC has offered any bilateral assistance in this regard. If any CPC is willing to assist in this regard, the Secretariat would be pleased to facilitate contacts. Angola responded to the Circular requesting assistance to establish a biological sampling programme for coastal tuna from the artisanal fisheries. The Secretariat will give consideration to Angola's request under other data collection and capacity building funds, as the request does not seem, *a priori,* to relate to the provisions of Rec. 12-07. No other answers were received to the above mentioned circular.

In order to advance on this, the Secretariat would appreciate:

1) Further guidance on the need for a manual and training course;
2) More information on developing CPC requirements in this regard;
3) If such manual and course are required, receiving input (guidance on course content and materials);
4) Approval by the Commission for requesting proposals to develop manual and training Course;
5) Guidance on how to implement training once 3) is developed: through external contract or through CPC experts;
6) While funding for the development of a manual/course is already available through the funds approved, guidance on the funding of any future training courses is needed.

A brief summary of possible content, based on IOTC training programme is attached. CPC input would be required to finalise this before a possible call for tender could be launched for its development. Existing material from currently available sources is noted in square brackets. Any CPC wishing to make comments on the draft outline, and/or which could provide additional content are requested to contact the Secretariat. If comments are received in good time, a revised outline could then be presented to the Commission in November for further discussion on the points above.

DRAFT CONTENT OF PORT INSPECTION MANUAL BASED ON IOTC COURSE

ICCAT organisation and role
The Commission
Functions and responsibilities
Members and structure
- The Panels
- The Standing Committee on Statistics and Research (SCRS)
- The Compliance Committee (COC)
- The Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD)
- The Permanent Working Group on Improvement of ICCAT Statistics (PWG)
- Others

Management responsibilities and adherence to measures

[If needed, adapt ICCAT Manual Chapter 1.1. Possibly redundant in light of same]

Overview of the Atlantic Ocean tuna fishery
The tuna resource
[Main species – ICCAT Manual and ROP transhipment training]

The fisheries:
Longline
Purse seine
Baitboat (pole & line)
Other fishing gears
- Gillnet
- Vessels with alternative gear

[ICCAT Manual Chapter 3. Possibly redundant in light of same]

Carrier vessels
[some information may be needed, not currently in ICCAT Manual]

Port Activities
The flow of tuna catches: in port versus at-sea transhipment
Ports supporting the Atlantic Ocean tuna fishery
Activities in ports

Port State Measures
International instruments
Historical development and International instruments
- FAO Compliance Agreement (1993)
- The UN Fish Stocks Agreement (1995)
- The FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (2001)
- Model Scheme on Port State Measures (2005)
- The FAO Port State Measure Agreement (2009)

[May not be necessary]

The ICCAT Port State Measures Recommendation
The responsibility of the port State
The responsibility of the flag State
The responsibility of the vessel owner, operator or agent
The responsibility of the ICCAT Secretariat
[Use Rec. 12-07 as guide]

PART 2
Inspector appointment and training
Ethics and confidentiality of information
Professional conduct
Uniforms and appearance

Procedures for the implementation of the ICCAT Port State Measures
Confidentiality of information
Health and safety on-board
Protective clothing
Safe working practices
Procedure for entering enclosed spaces
Fish and product identification [some information in ROP manual, but needs expanding]
On-board fish processing and preservation
Conversion factors [available on ICCAT Web site]

Powers of fisheries inspectors
Collection of evidence and follow-up actions
Expert witnesses, interviewing and communication

Vessel advance request to enter port
Assessment of vessel request to enter port
Risk Assessment processes
Procedures to assess the vessel request to enter port
Guide to complete the form "Check list - Assessment of the Advance Request of Entry in Port".
Inspection briefing

Standard Operational Procedures – on board inspection of fishing vessel
Pre-boarding process [take from ROP training manual]
Selection of fishing vessel and risk assessment
Preparation for boarding
On-board inspection - Standard Operating Procedures

Vessel Monitoring Systems
VMS functions and types - VMS identification guide [use ROP transhipment guide]
Means used by vessel operators to falsify VMS data that could be used by a vessel engaged in IUU fishing
On-board Inspection of the VMS

Requirement of the Port State inspection
Port State inspection - Standard Operating Procedures
Monitoring offloading and transhipments in port
Preparation and planning offloading operations
Offloading from tuna longline vessels to shore or transhipping to a carrier vessel
Offloading from purse seine vessels
[Use ICCAT Manual Annex 2]

Offloading from carrier vessels
[Use ROP-transhipment manual?]

Sampling forms
[base on ST10-PortSamp for tropical tunas/adapt to other fisheries]

Follow up procedures and information sharing
Reporting the results of inspections
Port State actions following inspection and evidence of IUU fishing
Flag State follow-up responsibilities
Procedures for the implementation of the ICCAT Port State Measures
Information systems on port State measures

Appendix I: ICCAT Rec. 12-07

Appendix II: Fishing gear design and specifications that can be encountered in the Atlantic Ocean region.

Appendix III: Latitude and longitude

Appendix IV: Form – Advance Request for Port Entry (as adopted by Commission)

Appendix V: Data field descriptions and guide to complete the advance request to enter port

Appendix VI: Check List - Assessment of the Advance Request of Entry in port

Appendix VII: Notification to fishing vessel following a request to enter port

Appendix VIII: Request for additional information following a request to enter port

Appendix IX: Data field descriptions and guide to complete the port inspection report form

Appendix X: *Port inspection report form (B) [no standard in ICCAT]*

Appendix XI: *Data field descriptions and guide to complete the offloading monitoring forms - [no standard in ICCAT]*

Appendix XII: Request for additional information following a port inspection

Appendix XIII: Codes for countries, fishing gears, fishing vessels and ICCAT species
[available from ICCAT Web site]

Abbreviations and acronyms
[to be based on final content]

4.6 REPORT OF THE INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 2 (Sapporo, Japan, 20-21 July 2016)

1 Opening of the meeting

The Chair of the Panel 2, Mr. Masanori Miyahara (Japan), opened the meeting and welcomed the delegates to this intersessional meeting of Panel 2.

2 Nomination of Rapporteur

Ms. Rachel O'Malley (USA) was nominated as rapporteur.

3 Adoption of the Agenda and meeting arrangements

Japan requested time for Dr. Kotaro Yokawa to make two presentations, reflecting his views on the North Atlantic albacore assessment and on the management strategy evaluation (MSE) for albacore. The European Union expressed their intention to introduce a document requesting clarification on matters related to caging operations for eastern Atlantic/Mediterranean bluefin tuna, under Other matters. The United States requested that the Secretariat provide an update on the activities of the Kobe Working Group on MSE, under Other Matters. The Agenda was adopted with these additions and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.6**.

The Executive Secretary introduced the Contracting Parties present at the meeting. The Panel 2 members in attendance were: Algeria, Belize, Brazil, Canada, People's Republic of China, European Union, Japan, Republic of Korea, Tunisia, and the United States. Other Contracting Parties in attendance were: Gabon, Republic of Guinea, Senegal, and Côte d'Ivoire. The Executive Secretary also introduced Chinese Taipei as a Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity. Ecology Action Center (EAC), International Sustainable Seafood Foundation (ISSF), and Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew) participated as observers. The List of Participants is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.6**.

4 Consideration of the report of the 2016 ICCAT North and South Atlantic albacore stock assessment meeting

The Chair of the Albacore Group of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), Dr. Haritz Arrizabalaga, gave a presentation on the methods and outcomes of the North and South Atlantic albacore assessments conducted in May 2016. This presentation included an overview of the biology, fishery indicators, stock status, outlook, management recommendations, and recommendations on research and statistics. He noted that the SCRS has not yet reviewed the report and that final management recommendations will be provided to the Commission this fall.

Dr. Kotaro Yokawa (Japan) gave a presentation entitled "A Proposal for Smoother, Faster and Safer Management of Atlantic Albacore: Lessons from Northern Albacore Assessment," which he summarized as follows. The north Atlantic albacore stock assessment conducted in May 2016 showed a strong retrospective pattern, and was also largely affected by CPUEs used in the analysis. One of major reasons is that recent peak of CPUE, which is due to the strong year class, appeared in different years in different magnitudes. In the north Atlantic, each fleet covers only part of the stock and different CPUEs represent different age groups, which react in different ways to the year class. In these conditions, use of a production model analysis may be a serious problem. In addition, delay in the submission of CPUEs and shortage of Task II data contributed to this problem. In Dr. Yokawa's view a full scale stock assessment should be re-conducted with improved data and CPUEs and then the performance of a management strategy should be tested using actual data.

Dr. David Die, Chair of the SCRS, noted that this presentation represents one view, but there are other views within the Albacore Working Group. He explained that issues associated with the stock assessment should and will be fully discussed within the SCRS through their usual process.

Dr. Die gave a presentation on advances in MSE within ICCAT. He contrasted the current ICCAT management process with the one envisioned under the application of harvest control rules (HCR) and MSE. He reminded the Panel that this process began in 2011 at the Second Meeting of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT, and continued through discussions at the 2013 Atlantic Albacore stock assessment meeting, the 2013 Meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods, and the adoption of Recs. [15-04] and [15-07] by the Commission. Dr. Die reviewed the basic stages of an MSE and defined the relative roles of the Commission and the SCRS in this process.

With the application of HCR/MSE, there will be some changes in the way the SCRS conducts assessments and provides advice. There would still be annual updates of the information. Stock assessments would be conducted every 5-10 years, and the objectives of the assessment would be expanded to include a review of the HCR. At 1-3 year intervals ICCAT will use a management strategy to interpret stock status and develop management advice, the result will be a very specific and pre-agreed recommendation on the TAC. This new system has many advantages, such as relieving some of the pressure for frequent stock assessments, more time for strategic research to support the assessment, and a more predictable path to management recommendations.

Dr. Die emphasized that this is an ongoing and iterative process. There will be a set of scientific outputs through simulation but also a need for regular dialogue between scientists and managers, which will ultimately lead to the development of a management strategy including HCR. A management strategy has the following components: data collection, indicators of stock status, and the HCR. He explained further that the HCR determines actions that will be taken by the Commission on the basis of stock status. This could be a simple proportion of a defined reference point, or it could be something more complex.

The SCRS will test the performance of alternative management strategies, including HCRs, through an operating model that provides the best description of how the simulations perform. Uncertainties can be taken into account within the simulations. The SCRS evaluates candidate HCRs in light of the performance indicators determined by the Commission, which correspond to management objectives for the stock. Based on the outcomes of these analyses, the Commission selects an HCR, the total allowable catch (TAC) is implemented, and the CPCs continue to report data. It is up to the Commission to decide which HCR performs the best in terms of balancing multiple management objectives.

Dr. Die presented a summary of the NALB MSE work conducted by Dr. Gorka Merino *et al.* This work was undertaken with funding from the EU and support from the Secretariat, as described in SCRS/2016/015. The authors conducted a full set of simulations where multiple HCRs were evaluated on the basis of the combination of different values for B threshold, F target and a B limit of $0.4B_{MSY}$.

A Pareto frontier graph can be used to illustrate the tradeoffs between two performance indicators (e.g., mean catch and the probability of the stock being in the green zone). The area of non-feasibility in the graph shows that it is not possible to achieve both management objectives with high certainty simultaneously. Butthe HCR performs best when it is as close to the frontier as possible. One limitation of the Pareto plot is that it can present the results of only two performance indicators at a time. Spider graphs are another alternative to represent the analysis of how multiple performance indicators are being met. When approaching the edge of the spider graph, the HCR is closer to achieving multiple management objectives.

Dr. Die presented an outline of next steps. He emphasized that the scientific work that might be accomplished between now and the SCRS meeting is limited and dependent upon additional funding. However, he explained that complications in the stock assessment don't prevent further progress on MSE work. To inform this work, Dr. Die asked the Panel to provide input on a series of questions beginning with the list of performance indicators used by Merino *et al*. The CPCs appreciated Dr. Die's presentation and congratulated him on his clarity, including some who noted the importance he identified on the scientist/manager dialogue.

Dr. Yokawa (Japan) presented a comparison of MSE processes between north albacore and CCSBT for southern bluefin tuna, which he summarized as follows. In his view, the study suggests the importance of a performance check of the management procedure using actual data, because available indices for north albacore are highly fluctuating and some show contradicting trends. Assessment results show a strong and inconsistent retrospective pattern. CCSBT is using a simple age-structured model and feedback style

of HCR, which would be useful to test for the north albacore MSE in the future. Dr. Yokawa suggested that these problems should be solved before further study of the north Atlantic albacore MSE because any performance checks of the management procedure using actual data would not work well under current circumstances. He also noted that continued feedback between the SCRS and Commission is important for the finalization of MSE. While Dr. Yokawa's presentation offered an interesting perspective, several CPCs stated that it would be more appropriate to hold these types of scientific debates within the SCRS process.

5 Consideration of candidate reference points for northern albacore identified by SCRS and development of harvest control rules

Dr. Die asked the Panel to provide feedback on a series of questions.

1) Is the current list of performance indicators enough/excessive?

There was extensive discussion of the performance indicators used in the northern albacore MSE. This set of indicators was developed by Merino *et al*., based on the management objectives established in Rec. 15-04. Dr. Die explained how each performance indicator was derived and on what basis it is measured. The European Union introduced a proposal for a revised Rec. 15-04, ¨*Draft recommendation by ICCAT to establish harvest control rules for the north Atlantic albacore stock*¨ (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.6**), which contained a modified list of performance indicators in **Addendum 2 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.6**. They explained that this Addendum was inspired by the table of performance indicators adopted by the IOTC for skipjack. The Panel discussed and debated the usefulness of each indicator. Results of this discussion are reflected in an amended list of performance indicators, agreed by Panel 2, ¨*Performance indicators from SCRS/2016/015 and PA2-003, Annex 2*¨ (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.6**). This document will be referred to the SCRS.

There was interest in exploring ways to limit the variability of the catch from one year or management period to the next, both in cases of increasing and decreasing TAC. Under the current performance indicators, the SCRS would report the variability of catch under various HCRs and let the Commission decide which is preferable. It is also possible to develop an HCR that explicitly limits the variability of catch so that if the biomass changes enough, the resulting adjustment to the TAC would be limited (e.g., never change >10% or 20% in one year or management period). However, the current simulations are not set up to do this. Rather, the concept of limiting the variability of catch is considered a constraint that would result in the elimination of a particular candidate HCR that the Commission considers undesirable due to too much variability in catch.

2) Are the data/method components of the tested MS appropriate?

Several CPCs noted the importance of reliable and stable assessment results. Dr. Die was asked: is it premature to do MSE given some of the questions regarding the data and methods used in the assessment? Or can the necessary work to improve the stock assessment be conducted in parallel with MSE? Dr. Die responded that there will always be uncertainty regarding whether a particular CPUE tracks biomass. These kinds of factors can be taken into account in the MSE process. What must be done is to characterize the variability and incorporate this in the simulation of the MSE. This has been done to a certain extent, but could be done to a greater extent in the future.

In response to some questions about the northern albacore CPUEs, Dr. Die explained that the current CPUEs were used to fit a production model. While the interannual variability and geographic variability has some impact, it is the overall trend that primarily affects the estimation of stock status in the case of northern albacore. By contrast, in the case of CCSBT, there is a much stronger link between variations in CPUE and variations in TAC for southern bluefin tuna.

It was noted that the northern albacore MSE has not addressed the issue of exceptional circumstances. The determination of when exceptional circumstances can be invoked depends in part on whether the testing of the robustness of management strategies considers a shift in productivity. One source of uncertainty is whether there is a relationship between CPUE and abundance. If CPUE is completely unrelated to biomass, that would be an exceptional circumstance.

In response to a question about the use of biomass vs. spawning stock biomass (SSB) in the simulations, Dr. Die explained that the production model does not allow the determination of SSB. However, scientists make the assumption that biomass and SSB are linked, so if the stock is managed on the basis of biomass, it will achieve the correct SSB. It is also possible to add a performance metric that corresponds to the level of SSB.

From his perspective as SCRS Chair, Dr. Die advised that the MSE process should not be delayed until we have the perfect assessment because there will always be uncertainties and doubts. At every assessment, the SCRS learns more about stock dynamics. The 2016 assessment revealed things that may lead us to make some changes to the simulations and improve the outputs.

3) Is the range of HCR tested appropriate? Should we narrow it?

One CPC responded that the range of HCRs tested was appropriate and they hoped further testing could proceed as soon as possible. There were no specific suggestions to modify the range of values tested for B_{limit}, $B_{threshold}$ and F_{target} at this time

4) Are the Pareto plots and spider diagrams useful?

There was consensus that these diagrams are useful to communicate results to an audience of fisheries managers. However, other tools will be needed to communicate results to stakeholders in terms of future benefits and trade-offs. These concepts will also be easier to understand when they include actual numbers.

5) What additional work is needed and what are resources needed to do it?

In terms of specific work needed in the near term, the Albacore Working Group provided the MSE modelers with some feedback during the stock assessment, but there is limited time for any adaptations or updates of the MSE before the SCRS and Commission meetings this fall. The main challenge is that many of the scientists conducting the modeling for the assessment are the same people working on the MSE. The SCRS may need other MSE experts to get involved to help advance the work in a timely way. An outside contract could be one way to involve additional expertise. One of the CPCs present at the meeting noted its commitment to continue to finance the albacore MSE. The meeting agreed that the SCRS should develop an estimated budget of the cost of continuing and expanding the northern albacore MSE work and provide this estimate to the Commission.

This fall, the SCRS will consider how to continue adjusting the observational model again in light of the 2016 assessment, considering which CPUE to include in the management strategy, and elaborating or expanding the sources of uncertainty with respect to implementation. This work is part of an ongoing process and it is up to the SCRS and the Commission to jointly decide when they have enough information to select a management strategy.

In summary, many CPCs were satisfied with progress to date on HCR/MSE. It was noted that under Rec. 15-07, this has been established as the way of managing in the future. Several CPCs expressed the desire to have a fuller understanding of work conducted by the SCRS before the Commission adopts HCRs. Dr. Die reminded the Panel that although we can describe this exercise in a series of steps, it is not a simple, linear process. Some steps may need to be repeated several times before the Commission commits to a management strategy.

There was a question about how realistic and practical it is for the Commission and the SCRS to follow an HCR/MSE approach for all stocks. Dr. Die replied that the Commission and SCRS have to be courageous. We will learn from our experience with northern albacore. Some stocks have complicated management issues and may take longer than others. But it would be tremendously useful for the Commission to take a step forward so that the lessons learned can be applied to other stocks.

The Panel 2 Chair referred again to the EU proposal (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.6**), which contains many elements for the Panel to consider, in addition to the performance indicators. He suggested that a detailed discussion of the operative text would be premature at this time, given that the SCRS has not yet reviewed the stock assessment or provided final management advice. The full text of the ¨*Draft recommendation by ICCAT to establish harvest control rules for the north Atlantic albacore stock*¨ is appended to the report as a working document so that CPCs can give it full consideration and provide any feedback to the EU in advance of the Annual meeting.

6. Other matters

Dr. Die gave a presentation summarizing recent work by the SCRS on bluefin tuna MSE. He explained that the interim objective is to use the MSE framework for improving the current scientific advice. New models will be tested to support the 2017 bluefin tuna assessment. Efforts to improve the data that will support the assessment are ongoing through the ICCAT GBYP. One CPC observed that the MSE for bluefin tuna is more comprehensive and flexible than the northern albacore MSE, with more scenarios and options for managers to choose from. The external review of the ICCAT GBYP will partially address the question of necessary resources, and the Steering Committee will make a recommendation about what proportion of resources should be devoted to modeling vs. other work.

The Executive Secretary, Mr. Driss Meski, provided an update on the work of the Kobe MSE Working Group, which is coordinated by the ICCAT Secretariat and convened by Dr. Laurie Kell. Work to date has been conducted on a virtual basis. The first in-person meeting of this Group will take place in Madrid (2-4 November 2016). The Group will examine computational aspects of the MSE, sharing code among the RFMOs, and how each RFMO has conducted MSE in their own areas of competency. This technical meeting will be open to all interested persons, with some funding available to support scientists from developing coastal States.

The United States thanked the Secretariat for this important effort and noted the availability of ABNJ funds for this purpose.

The observer from ISSF noted that there had been some concern about how interested technical experts can access the MSE Working Group's discussion. The ISSF has a strong interest in continuing to support this type of initiative.

The EU introduced ¨*Request by the European Union for Clarification by the Commission Regarding the Use of Algorithms for the Purpose of Bluefin tuna Caging Operations*¨ (**Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.6**). Dr. Die suggested that the Bluefin Tuna Working Group could review this when they meet in Madrid next week. It was agreed to append this document to the report and return to this issue in light of SCRS advice at the Panel 2 meeting in November.

7. Adoption of report and adjournment

The report was adopted by Panel 2 and the meeting was adjourned.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.6

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Nomination of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the agenda and meeting arrangements
4. Consideration of the Report of the 2016 ICCAT North and South Atlantic albacore stock assessment meeting
5. Consideration of candidate reference points for northern albacore identified by SCRS
6. Development of Harvest Control Rules based on Agenda Item 5
7. Other matters
8. Adoption of Report and adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.6

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Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.6

Draft recommendation by ICCAT to establish harvest Control rules for the north Atlantic albacore stock

(Proposal by the European Union)

RECALLING the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the North Atlantic Albacore Rebuilding Program* [Rec.13-05];

NOTING 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 Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) has proposed, among other case studies, the northern albacore stock as a suitable candidate to examine harvest control rules;

CONSIDERING the outcomes the 2016 Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) stock assessment concluded that the northern albacore stock…[to be completed after SCRS meeting];

CONSIDERING the discussions held at the 2016 intersessional meeting of Panel 2 [to be completed after Panel 2 meeting];

NOTING the progress achieved so far by the SCRS in the work for testing harvest control rules and conducting management strategy evaluations for northern albacore and in particular the Kobe II Strategy matrix showing the different levels of probability of being in the green quadrant for different combinations of reference point values;

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

1. The management objective for northern albacore stock is

    a) to maintain the stock in the green zone of the Kobe plot, with at least a 60% probability, while maximizing long-term yield from the fishery, and

    b) where the spawning stock biomass (SSB) has been assessed by the SCRS as below the level capable of producing MSY (SSB_{MSY}), to rebuild SSB to or above SSB_{MSY}, with at least a 60% probability, and within as short time as possible, by 2020 at the latest, while maximizing average catch and minimizing inter-annual fluctuations in TAC levels.

2. In 201x/By 2020, the SCRS shall refine the testing of candidate reference points (e.g., $SSB_{THRESHOLD}$, SSB_{LIM} and F_{TARGET}) and associated harvest control rules (HCRs)[1] that would support the management objective expressed in paragraph 1 above and/or any other management objectives agreed by the Commission. The SCRS shall also provide statistics to support decision-making (see **Addendum 2 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.6**).

3. The result of the analyses described in paragraph 2 will be discussed in a dialogue between scientists and managers to be organised in 201x/by 2020, either during a meeting of the SWGSM or as an inter-sessional meeting of Panel 2.

[1] **Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.6** provides a generic form of the HCR recommended by SCRS in 2010 that would be consistent with UNFSA.

4. Based on the SCRS inputs and advice provided pursuant to paragraph 2 above and the dialogue process indicated in paragraph 3, the Commission shall then adopt HCR for the northern albacore stock, including pre-agreed management actions to be taken under various stock conditions. For this specific purpose, the management actions below will be considered by the Commission and updated as necessary:

    a) If the average spawning stock biomass (SSB) level is less than SSB_{LIM} (*i.e., $SSB<SSB_{LIM}$*), the Commission shall adopt severe management actions immediately to reduce the fishing mortality rate, including measures that suspend the fishery and initiate a scientific monitoring quota to be able to evaluate stock status. This scientific monitoring quota shall be set at the lowest possible level to be effective. The Commission shall not consider re-opening the fishery until the average SSB level exceeds SSB_{LIM} with a high probability. Further, before reopening the fishery, the Commission shall develop a rebuilding program in order to ensure that the stock returns to the green zone of the Kobe plot.

    b) If the average SSB level is equal to or less than $SSB_{THRESHOLD}$ and equal to or above SSB_{LIM} (*i.e., $SSB_{LIM} \leq SSB \leq SSB_{THRESHOLD}$*) and
        i. F is at or below the level specified in the HCR, the Commission shall assure that that applied management measures will maintain F at or below the level specified in the HCR until the average SSB is above $SSB_{THRESHOLD;}$
        ii. F is above the level specified in the HCR, the Commission shall assure that in maximum 3 annual steps F is reduced to the level specified in the HCR to ensure F is at a level that will rebuild SSB to SSB_{MSY} or above that level.

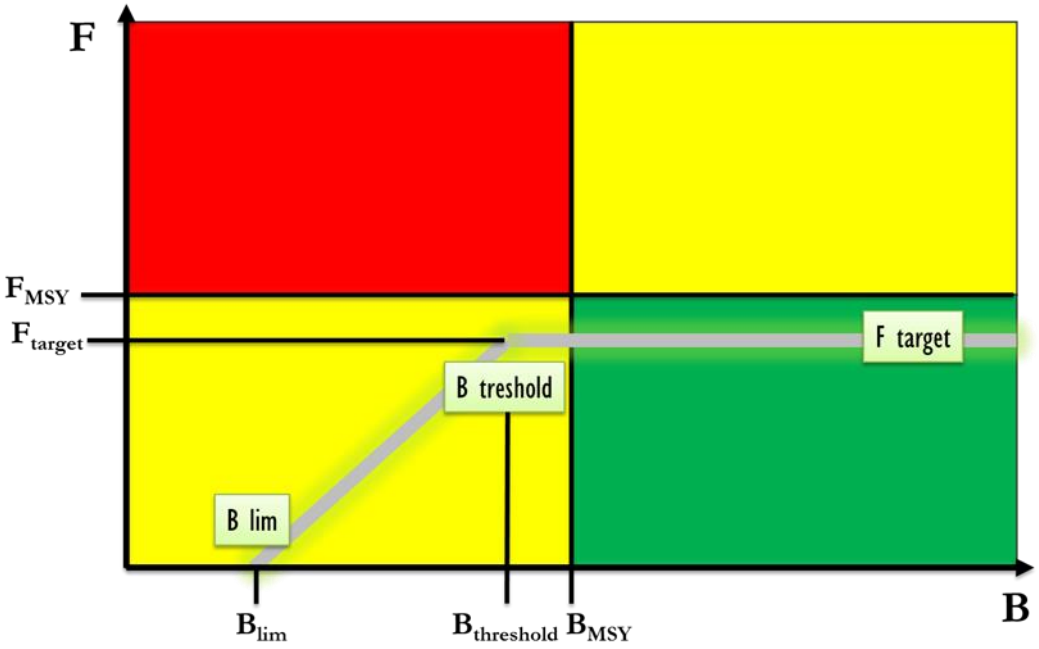
    c) If the average SSB is above $SSB_{THRESHOLD}$ but F exceeds F_{TARGET} (*i.e., $SSB>SSB_{THRESHOLD}$ and $F>F_{TARGET}$*), the Commission shall immediately take measures to reduce F to F_{TARGET} in maximum 3 annual steps.

    d) Once the average SSB level reaches or exceeds $SSB_{THRESHOLD}$ and F is less or equal than F_{TARGET} (*i.e., $SSB > SSB_{THRESHOLD}$ and $F \leq F_{TARGET}$*), the Commission shall assure that applied management measures will maintain F at or below F_{TARGET} and in case F is increased to F_{TARGET} this is done in minimum 3 annual steps.

5. These HCRs should be evaluated by SCRS through the management strategy evaluation process, including in light of new assessments of the stock. The Commission shall review the results of these evaluations and make adjustments to the HCRs as needed.

Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.6

Generic form of the HCR recommended by SCRS in 2010 that would be consistent with UNFSA (Report of the 2010 WGSAM)



Addendum 2 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.6

Indicative outline of the statistics to be provided by SCRS to support decision-making

PERFORMANCE METRICS AND ASSOCIATED STATISTICS	UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	TYPE OF STATISTICS
1 Status: maximize probability of maintaining stock in the Kobe green zone		
1.1 Minimum spawner biomass relative to B_{MSY}	B/ B_{MSY}	Minimum over [x] years
1.2 Mean spawner biomass relative to B_{MSY}	B/ B_{MSY}	Geometric mean over [x] years
1.3 Mean fishing mortality relative to F_{MSY}	F/ F_{MSY}	Geometric mean over [x] years
1.4 Probability of being in the Kobe green quadrant	B, F	Proportion of years that $B \geq B_{MSY}$ & $F \leq F_{MSY}$
1.5 Probability of being in the Kobe red quadrant	B, F	Proportion of years that $B \leq B_{MSY}$ & $F \geq F_{MSY}$
2 Safety: maximize the probability of the stock remaining above the biomass limit		
2.1 Probability that spawner biomass is above B_{lim} ($0.4B_{MSY}$)		Proportion of years that $B > B_{lim}$
3 Yield: maximize catches		
3.1 Mean catch		Mean over [x] years
4 Abundance: maximize catch rates to enhance fishery profitability		
4.1 Mean catch rates (CPUEs)	CPUE	Geometric mean over [x] years
5 Stability: maximize stability in catches		
5.1 Mean absolute proportional change in catch	Catch (C)	Mean over [x] years of $(C_n - C_{n-1})/ C_{n-1}$
5.2 Variance in catch	Catch (C)	Variance over [x] years
5.3 Probability in shutdown	Catch (C)	Proportion of years that C=0

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.6

Draft working document:
Performance indicators from SCRS/2016/015 and PA2-003, Annex 2
With changes agreed by Panel 2

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND ASSOCIATED STATISTICS	*UNIT OF MEASUREMENT*	*TYPE OF METRICS*
1 Status		
1.1 Minimum spawner biomass relative to B_{MSY}	B/ B_{MSY}	Minimum over [x] years
1.2 Mean spawner biomass relative to B_{MSY}[1]	B/ B_{MSY}	Geometric mean over [x] years
1.3 Mean fishing mortality relative to F_{MSY}	F/ F_{MSY}	Geometric mean over [x] years
1.4 Probability of being in the Kobe green quadrant	B, F	Proportion of years that $B \geq B_{MSY}$ & $F \leq F_{MSY}$
1.5 Probability of being in the Kobe red quadrant[2]	B, F	Proportion of years that $B \leq B_{MSY}$ & $F \geq F_{MSY}$
2 Safety		
2.1 Probability that spawner biomass is above B_{lim} ($0.4B_{MSY}$)[3]	B/ B_{MSY}	Proportion of years that $B > B_{lim}$
2.2 Probability of $B_{lim} < B < B_{thresh}$	B/ B_{MSY}	Proportion of years that $B_{lim} < B < B_{thresh}$
3 Yield		
3.1 Mean catch – short term	Catch	Mean over 1-3 years
3.2 Mean catch – medium term	Catch	Mean over 5-10 years
3.3 Mean catch – long term	Catch	Mean in 15 and 30 years
4 Stability		
4.1 Mean absolute proportional change in catch	Catch (C)	Mean over [x] years of $(C_n - C_{n-1})/ C_{n-1}$
4.2 Variance in catch	Catch (C)	Variance over [x] years
4.3 Probability of shutdown	TAC	Proportion of years that TAC=0
4.4 Probability of TAC change over a certain level[4]	TAC	Proportion of management cycles when the ratio of change[5] $(TAC_n - TAC_{n-1})/TAC_{n-1} > X\%$
4.5 Maximum amount of TAC change between management periods	TAC	Maximum ratio of change[6]

[1] This indicator provides an indication of the expected CPUE of adult fish because CPUE is assumed to track biomass.
[2] This indicator is only useful to distinguish the performance of strategies which fulfil the objective represented by 1.4
[3] This differs slightly from being equal to 1- Probability of a shutdown (4.3), because of the choice of having a management cycle of 3 years. In the next management cycle after B has been determined to be less than B_{lim} the TAC is fixed during three years to the level corresponding to F_{lim}, and the catch will stay at such minimum level for three years. The biomass, however, may react quickly to the lowering of F and increase rapidly so that one or more of the three years of the cycle will have $B > B_{lim}$.
[4] Useful in the absence of TAC-related constraints in the harvest control rule.
[5] Positive and negative changes to be reported separately
[6] Positive and negative changes to be reported separately

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.6

Request by the European Union for clarification by the commission regarding the use of algorithms for the purpose of bluefin tuna caging operations

(Document submitted by the European Union)

Caging operations for bluefin tuna are subject to significant controls, defined under Annex 9 of Recommendation [14-04]. Amongst these provisions, it is compulsory to use the most up-to-date Length/Weight relationships (algorithms) established by SCRS in order to convert lengths into weights.

New algorithms were adopted by SCRS in 2015 and should therefore have been used for the purpose of caging bluefin tuna in 2016. However, the publication of these algorithms on the ICCAT website created some level of uncertainty since an annual algorithm for the Eastern stock was provided (under Table 1 of the document on bluefin tuna conversion factors available on the ICCAT website[1]) along with monthly algorithms (Table 2 of the same document), leaving the possibility for farming CPCs to use either one. The outcomes from applying the annual or the monthly algorithm vary markedly and therefore have a very significant impact on the estimation of the quantities caged and ultimately on the quota uptake for each CPC.
The European Union would like to request the Commission to clarify which algorithm(s) must be applied for the purpose of using stereoscopical cameras to estimate the quantities caged, starting in 2017. This clarification is necessary, in order to provide operators and administrations with the legal clarity to conduct the caging operations and also to ensure the necessary level playing field between the ICCAT CPCs.

In accordance with this clarification, the document containing the most recent algorithms updated by SCRS, and published on the ICCAT website, should also clearly identify which algorithm(s) are to be used for the purpose of caging operations.

[1] www.iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/Manual/Appendices/Appendix_4_III_BFT_ENG.pdf

ANNEX 5

RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY ICCAT IN 2016

16-01 **TRO**

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON A MULTI-ANNUAL CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME FOR TROPICAL TUNAS

CONSIDERING that the further implementation of a multi-annual programme for the medium-term will contribute to the conservation and sustainable management of the tropical tunas fishery;

RECOGNIZING the necessity to adopt monitoring and control measures to ensure implementation of conservation and management measures and to improve the scientific assessment of those stocks;

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;

NOTING that further to the SCRS assessment conducted in 2015, the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) concluded that the bigeye tuna stock is overfished and that overfishing is occurring;

CONSIDERING that the SCRS recommended taking measures to reduce the bigeye TAC to levels that would allow a recovery with a high degree of probability and within a short timeframe and to find effective measures to reduce FAD-related and other fishing mortality of small bigeye tunas;

RECOGNISING that, in view of the state of the stock, it would be appropriate to carry out the stock assessment of bigeye in 2018;

RECOGNIZING that the SCRS concluded that the current area/time closure has not been effective at reducing the mortality of juvenile bigeye tuna, and any reduction in yellowfin tuna mortality was minimal, largely due to the redistribution of effort into areas adjacent to the moratorium area;

RECOGNIZING the contribution that a reduction in the harvest of juvenile tunas in the Gulf of Guinea can contribute to the long-term sustainability of the stocks;

NOTING that Recommendation 14-01 brought the coverage of national observers for purse seiner fishing for tropical tunas during the area/time closure period from the minimum of 5% of the fishing effort established by Recommendation 16-14 to a 100% coverage of fishing;

CONSIDERING that the SCRS concluded that current level of scientific observers (5%) seems to be inappropriate to provide reasonable estimates of total by-catch and recommended increasing the minimum level to 20%;

FURTHER CONSIDERING that the SCRS recommended studying the issue further, in order to determine the level of coverage appropriate to meet management and scientific objectives;

RECOGNIZING that the SCRS noted that the current mandatory level of observer coverage of 5% may have not been implemented by many of the fleets and underlined the need for achieving those minimum coverages so as the SCRS could address the mandate given by the Commission;

RECOGNIZING that the SCRS also notes that some fleets are currently implementing voluntary observer programmes that cover 100% of the fishing trips and that it also acknowledged the efforts conducted by some fleets to increase the observer coverage to 100% of the trips;

RECALLING recommendations by the SCRS to address the lack of reliable data collection mechanisms, particularly in tropical tuna fisheries carried on in association with objects that could affect fish aggregation, including FADs;

FURTHER RECALLING that as regards skipjack tunas SCRS stated in its 2014 report that the increasing use of FADs since the early 1990s has changed the species composition of free swimming schools, and that association with FADs may also have an impact on the biology and on the ecology of yellowfin and skipjack tunas;

NOTING that, according to the 2014 SCRS advice, increasing harvests and fishing effort for skipjack could lead to involuntary consequences for other species that are caught in combination with skipjack in certain fisheries;

NOTING that in its 2013 report, SCRS recognized the effect of FADs on both sea-turtle and shark by-catch and the need to provide advice on the design of FADs that would lessen their impact on by-catch species. Therefore, information on dimension and material of the floating part and of the underwater hanging structure should be provided. More particularly the entangling or non-entangling feature of the underwater hanging structure should be reported;

FURTHER NOTING that the activities of supply vessels and the use of FADs are an integral part of the fishing effort exerted by the purse seine fleet;

RECALLING measures related to FAD management plans in other tuna RFMOs;

CONSIDERING that the multispecies characteristics of the tropical tuna fisheries makes it appropriate to extend to skipjack tuna the multi-annual management and conservation plan for yellowfin and bigeye tuna;

RECALLING that the FAO International Guidelines on by-catch management and reduction of discards strongly encourage RFMOs to recognise the importance of addressing by-catch and discards;

RECOGNISING that it is appropriate to better manage by-catch and reduce discard practices in ICCAT fisheries, also taking into account food security issues and the importance to improve data collection for scientific purposes;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the recommendations of the 2016 ICCAT ad-hoc Working Group on FADs, which were endorsed by the SCRS at its 2016 meeting;

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

PART I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

Multi-annual Management and Conservation Programme

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) whose vessels fish bigeye and/or yellowfin tunas in the Convention area shall implement the Multi-annual Management and Conservation Programme initiated in 2012. As from 2015, such programme shall also apply to the eastern stock of skipjack tuna.

PART II
CATCH LIMTS

Catch limits for bigeye tuna

2. The annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for 2016 and subsequent years of the Multi-annual Programme is 65,000 t for bigeye tuna. The following shall apply:

   a) If the total of catches exceeds the TAC in a given year, the excess amount shall be paid back by CPCs to which a catch limit has been granted for the species concerned. Excess quantities shall be deducted the following year on a *prorata* basis from the adjusted quotas/catch limits of the CPC concerned, as per paragraphs 9 and 10.

b) The TAC and catch limits for 2016 and subsequent years of the Multi-annual Programme shall be adjusted based on the latest scientific assessment available. Whatever the outcome, the relative shares used to establish the annual catch limits for the CPCs appearing in paragraph 3 shall remain unchanged.

3. The following catch limits shall be applied for 2016 and subsequent years of the Multi-annual Programme to the following CPCs:

CPC	*Annual catch limits for the period 2016-2018 (t)*
China	5,376
European Union	16,989
Ghana	4,250
Japan	17,696
Philippines	286
Korea	1,486
Chinese Taipei	11,679

4. Catch limits shall not apply to CPCs whose annual catch of bigeye tuna in the Convention area in 1999, as provided to the SCRS in 2000, is less than 2,100 t. However, the following shall apply:

a) CPCs which are not developing coastal States shall endeavour to maintain their annual catch less than 1,575 t.

b) if the catch of bigeye tuna of any developing coastal CPC not listed in paragraph 3 above exceeds 3,500 t in any given year, a catch limit shall be established for that developing CPC for the following years. In such a case, the relevant CPC shall endeavour to adjust its fishing effort so as to be commensurate with their available fishing possibilities.

5. CPCs shall report quarterly the amount of bigeye caught by vessels flying their flag to the Secretariat by the end of the following quarter. When 80% of the catch limit or threshold for a CPC is exceeded, the Secretariat shall notify that to all CPCs.

6. If the total catch exceeds in any year the TAC in paragraph 2, the Commission shall review these measures.

Quota transfers of bigeye tuna

7. The following annual transfer of bigeye tuna shall be authorized in 2016-2018:

a) from Japan to China: 1,000 t
b) from Japan to Ghana: 70 t

8. Notwithstanding the *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding the Temporary Adjustment of Quotas* [Rec. 01-12], in between meetings of the Commission, a CPC with a catch limitation of bigeye tuna as per paragraph 3 may make a one-time transfer within a fishing year of up to 15% of its catch limit to other CPCs with catch limits, consistent with domestic obligation and conservation considerations. Any such transfer shall be notified to the Secretariat in advance and may not be used to cover over harvests. A CPC that receives a one-time catch limit transfer may not re-transfer that catch limit.

Underage or overage of catch of bigeye tuna

9. Underage or overage of an annual catch limit for CPCs listed in paragraph 3 for bigeye tuna may be added/to or shall be deducted from the annual catch limit as follows:

Year of catch	*Adjustment Year*
2015	2016 and/or 2017
2016	2017 and/or 2018
2017	2018 and/or 2019
2018	2019 and/or 2020

However,

a) The maximum underage that a CPC may carry over in any given year shall not exceed 15% of its annual initial catch limit;

b) For Ghana, the overage catch of bigeye tuna in the period 2006 to 2010 shall be repaid by reducing the catch limit of Ghana for bigeye tuna by a yearly amount of 337 t for the period 2012 to 2021.

10. Notwithstanding paragraph 9 if any CPC exceeds its catch limit during any two consecutive years, the Commission will recommend appropriate measures, which may include, but are not limited to, reduction in the catch limit equal to a minimum of 125% of the excess harvest, 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.

TAC for yellowfin tuna

11. The annual TAC for 2012 and subsequent years of the Multi-annual Programme is 110,000 t for yellowfin tuna and shall remain in place until changed based on scientific advice.

If the total catch exceeds the TAC for yellowfin tuna, the Commission shall review the relevant conservation and management measures in place.

PART III
CAPACITY MANAGEMENT MEASURES

Capacity limitation for bigeye tuna

12. A capacity limitation shall be applied for the duration of the Multi-annual Programme, in accordance with the following provisions:

a) The capacity limitation shall apply to vessels 20 meters length overall (LOA) or greater fishing bigeye tuna in the Convention area.

b) CPCs which have been allocated a catch limit in accordance with paragraph 3 shall each year:

i. Adjust their fishing effort so as to be commensurate with their available fishing possibilities;

ii. Be restricted to the number of their vessels notified to ICCAT in 2005 as fishing for bigeye tuna. However, the maximum number of longline and purse seine vessels shall each year be subject to the following limits:

CPC	*Longliners*	*Purse seiners*
China	65	-
EU	269	34
Ghana	-	17
Japan	231	-
Philippines	5	-
Korea	14	-
Chinese Taipei	75	-

c) Ghana shall be allowed to change the number of its vessels by gear type within its capacity limits communicated to ICCAT in 2005, on the basis of two baitboats for one purse seine vessel. Such change must be approved by the Commission. To that end, Ghana shall notify a comprehensive and detailed capacity management plan to the Commission at least 90 days before the Annual Meeting. The approval is notably subject to the assessment by the SCRS of the potential impact of such a plan on the level of catches.

d) The capacity limitation shall not apply to CPCs whose annual catch of bigeye tuna in the Convention area in 1999, as provided to the SCRS in 2000, is less than 2,100 t.

e) Curaçao shall be allowed to have up to 5 purse seiners.

f) El Salvador shall be allowed to have up to 4 purse seiners.

g) For CPCs for which a capacity limitation applies, vessels fishing tropical tunas in the Convention area may be replaced only by vessels of equivalent capacity or lesser vessels.

PART IV
MANAGEMENT OF FADs

Area/Time closure in relation with the protection of juveniles

13. Fishing for, or supported activities to fish for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas in association with objects that could affect fish aggregation, including FADs, shall be prohibited during the period 1 January to 28 February in the following area:

- Southern limit: parallel 4º / South latitude
- Northern limit: parallel 5º / North latitude
- Western limit: meridian 20º / West longitude
- Eastern limit: the African coast

14. The prohibition referred to in paragraph 13 includes:

- launching any floating objects, with or without buoys;
- fishing around, under, or in association with artificial objects, including vessels;
- fishing around, under, or in association with natural objects;
- towing floating objects from inside to outside the area.

15. As soon as possible and at the latest by 2018, the SCRS shall evaluate the efficacy of the area/time closure referred to in paragraph 13 for the reduction of catches of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tunas. In addition the SCRS shall advise the Commission on a possible alternative area/time-closure of fishing activities on FADs to reduce the catch of small bigeye and yellowfin tuna at various levels.

Limitation of FADs

16. CPCs shall ensure that for purse seiners flying their flag and fishing for bigeye, yellowfin or skipjack tunas on FADs the following provisional limits are not exceeded:

- No more than 500 FADs with or without instrumental buoys are active at any one time in relation to each of its vessels through such measures as, for example, the verification of telecommunication bills.

17. The Commission shall review the provisional limits laid down in paragraph 16 at its 2017 Annual meeting following the advice of SCRS and the conclusions of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on FADs.

FAD Management Plans

18. CPCs with purse seine and baitboat vessels fishing for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas in association with objects that could affect fish aggregation, including FADs, shall submit to the Executive Secretary Management Plans for the use of such aggregating devices by vessels flying their flag at least one week in advance to the 2016 meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on FADs and subsequently by 31 January each year.

19. The objective of the FAD Management Plans shall be to:

    i. improve the knowledge about FAD characteristics, buoy characteristics, FAD fishing, including fishing effort of purse seiners and associated support vessels, and related impacts on targeted and non-targeted species;
    ii. effectively manage the deployment and recovery of FADs, the activation of buoys and their potential loss;
    iii. reduce and limit the impacts of FADs and FAD fishing on the ecosystem, including, where appropriate, by acting on the different components of the fishing mortality (e.g. number of deployed FADs, including number of FAD's set by purse seiners, fishing capacity, number of support vessels).

20. The Plans shall be drawn up by following the Guidelines for Preparation for FAD Management Plans as provided in **Annex 6**.

FAD logbook and list of deployed FADs

21. CPCs shall ensure that all purse seine and baitboat fishing vessels and all support vessels (including supply vessels) flying their flag, and/or authorized by CPCs to fish in areas under their jurisdiction, when fishing in association with or deploying fish aggregating devices (FADs), including objects that could affect fish aggregation (e.g. carcasses, trunks) shall collect and report, for each deployment of a FAD, each visit on a FAD, whether followed or not by a set, or each loss of a FAD, the following information and data:

    (a) Deployment of any FAD

    i. Position
    ii. Date
    iii. FAD type (anchored FAD, drifting artificial FAD)
    iv. FAD identifier (i.e., FAD Marking and buoy ID, type of buoy – e.g. simple buoy or associated with echo-sounder)
    v. FAD design characteristics (material of the floating part and of the underwater hanging structure and the entangling or non-entangling feature of the underwater hanging structure)

    (b) Visit on any FAD

    i. Type of the visit (deployment of a FAD and/or buoy[1], retrieving FAD and/or buoy, strengthening/consolidation of FAD, intervention on electronic equipment, random encounter (without fishing) of a log or a FAD belonging to another vessel, visit (without fishing) of a FAD belonging to the vessel, fishing set on a FAD[2])
    ii. Position
    iii. Date
    iv. FAD type (anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD, drifting artificial FAD)
    v. FAD identifier (i.e., FAD Marking and buoy ID or any information allowing to identify the owner)
    vi. If the visit is followed by a set, the results of the set in terms of catch and by-catch, whether retained or discarded dead or alive. If the visit is not followed by a set, note the reason (e.g. not enough fish, fish too small, etc.)

[1] Deploying a buoy on a FAD includes three aspects: deploying a buoy on a foreign FAD, transferring a buoy (which changes the FAD's owner) and changing the buoy on the same FAD (which does not change the FADs owner).
[2] A fishing set on a FAD includes two aspects: fishing after a visit to a vessel's own FAD (targeted) or fishing after a random encounter of a FAD (opportunistic).

(c) Loss of any FAD
   i. Last registered position
   ii. Date of the last registered position
   iii. FAD identifier (i.e., FAD Marking and buoy ID)

For the purpose of the collection and the report of the information referred to above and where paper or electronic logbooks already in place do not allow it, CPCs shall either update their reporting system or establish FAD-logbooks. In establishing FAD logbooks, CPCs should consider using the template laid down in **Annex 2** as reporting format. When using paper logbooks, CPCs may seek, with the support of the Executive Secretary, for harmonized formats. In both cases, CPCs shall use the minimum standards recommended by SCRS in **Annex 3**.

22. CPCs shall also ensure that all vessels referred to in paragraph 21 keep updated on a monthly basis and per 1°x1° statistical rectangles a list of deployed FADs and buoys, containing at least the information as laid down in **Annex 4**.

Reporting obligations on FADs and on support vessels

23. CPCs shall ensure that the following information is submitted every year to the Executive Secretary in a format provided by the ICCAT Secretariat. This information shall be made available to the SCRS and to the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on FADs in a database developed by the the ICCAT Secretariat:
   i. the number of FADs actually deployed on a monthly basis per 1°x1° statistical rectangles, by FAD type, indicating the presence or absence of a beacon/buoy or of an echo-sounder associated to the FAD and specifying the number of FADs deployed by associated support vessels, irrespective of their flag;
   ii. the number and type of beacons/buoys (e.g. radio, sonar only, sonar with echo-sounder) deployed on a monthly basis per 1°x1° statistical rectangles;
   iii. the average numbers of beacons/buoys activated and deactivated on a monthly basis that have been followed by each vessel;
   iv. average numbers of lost FADs with active buoys on a monthly basis;
   v. for each support vessel, the number of days spent at sea, per 1° grid area, month and flag State;
   vi. purse seine and baitboat catches, efforts and number of sets (for purse seines) by fishing mode (floating-object associated schools and free school fisheries) in line with Task II data requirements (i.e. per 1°x1° statistical rectangles and per month);
   vii. when the activities of purse seine are carried out in association with baitboat, report catches and effort in line Task I and Task II requirements as "purse seine associated to baitboats" (PS+BB).

Non-entangling and biodegradable FADs

24. In order to minimize the ecological impact of FADs, in particular the entanglement of sharks, turtles and other non-targeted species, and the release of synthetic persistent marine debris, CPCs shall:

   i. replace by 2016 existing FADs with non-entangling FADs in line with the guidelines under **Annex 7** of this Recommendation.

   ii. undertake research to gradually replace existing FADs with fully biodegradable and non-entangling FADs, with a view to phase out non-biodegradable FADs by 2018, if possible.

CPCs shall report on an annual basis on the steps undertaken to comply with these provisions in their FADs Management Plans.

PART V
CONTROL MEASURES

Specific authorization to fish for tropical tunas

25. CPCs shall issue specific authorizations to vessels 20 meters LOA or greater flying their flag allowed to fish bigeye and/or yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas in the Convention area, and to vessels flying their flag used for any kind of support of this fishing activity (hereafter referred to as "authorized vessels").

ICCAT Record of authorized tropical tuna vessels

26. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of authorized tropical tuna vessels, including support vessels. Fishing vessels 20 meters LOA or greater not entered into this record are deemed not to be authorized to fish, retain on board, tranship, transport, transfer, process or land bigeye and/or yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas from the Convention area or to carry out any kind of support to those activities, including deploying and retrieving FADs and/or buoys.

27. A CPC may allow by-catch of tropical tunas by vessels not authorized to fish for tropical tunas pursuant to paragraph 25 and 26, if this CPC establishes a maximum onboard by-catch limit for such vessels and the by-catch in question is accounted for within the CPC's quota or catch limit. Each CPC shall provide in its Annual Report the maximum bycatch limit it allows for such vessels. That information shall be compiled by the ICCAT Secretariat and made available to CPCs.

28. CPCs shall notify the list of authorized vessels to the Executive Secretary in an electronic form and in accordance with the format set in the Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by ICCAT.

29. CPCs shall, without delay, notify the Executive Secretary of any addition to, deletion from and/or modifications of the initial list. Periods of authorization for modifications or additions to the list shall not include dates more than 45 days prior to the date of submission of the changes to the Secretariat. The Secretariat shall remove from the ICCAT Record of Vessels any vessel for which the periods of authorization have expired.

30. The Executive Secretary shall, without delay, post the record of authorized vessels on the ICCAT website, including any additions, deletions and/or modifications so notified by CPCs.

31. Conditions and procedures referred to 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. 13-13] shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the ICCAT record of authorized tropical tuna vessels.

Vessels actively fishing tropical tunas in a given year

32. Each CPC shall, by 31 July each year, notify to the Executive Secretary the list of authorized vessels flying their flag which have fished bigeye and/or yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas in the Convention area or have offered any kind of support to the fishing activity (support vessels) in the previous calendar year. For purse seines this list shall also include the support vessels that have supported the fishing activity, irrespective of their flag.

    The Executive Secretary shall report each year these lists of vessels to the Compliance Committee and to the SCRS.

33. The provisions of paragraphs 25 to 32 do not apply to recreational vessels.

Recording of catch and fishing activities

34. Each CPC shall ensure that its vessels 20 meters LOA or greater fishing bigeye and/or yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas in the Convention area record their catch in accordance with the requirements set out in **Annex 1** and in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Recording of Catch by Fishing Vessels in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 03-13].

Identification IUU activity

35. The Executive Secretary shall, without delay, verify that any vessel identified or reported in the context of this Multi-annual Programme is on the ICCAT record of authorized vessels and not out of compliance with the provisions of paragraphs 13 and 14. If a possible violation is detected, the Executive Secretary shall, without delay, notify the flag CPC. The flag CPC shall immediately investigate the situation and, if the vessel is fishing in relation to objects that could affect fish aggregation, including FADs, request the vessel to stop fishing and, if necessary, leave the area without delay. The flag CPC shall, without delay, report to the Executive Secretary the results of its investigation and the corresponding measures taken.

36. The Executive Secretary shall report to the Compliance Committee at each annual meeting of the Commission on any issue related to identification of unauthorized vessels, the implementation of the VMS, the observer provisions, and the results of the relevant investigation made as well as any relevant measures taken by the flag CPCs concerned.

37. The Executive Secretary shall propose to include any vessels identified in accordance with paragraph 36, or vessels for which the flag CPC has not carried out the required investigation and taken, if necessary, adequate measures in accordance with paragraph 35, on the provisional IUU list.

Observers and compliance with area/time closure

38. Each CPC shall:

    (a) Take appropriate action to ensure that all vessels flying its flag, including support vessels, when engaged in fishing activities during the area/time closure referred to in paragraph 13, have an observer on board in accordance with **Annex 5** and report the information collected by the observers each year by 31 July to the ICCAT Secretariat and to SCRS;

    (b) Take appropriate action against vessels flying their flag that do not comply with the area/time closure referred to in paragraph 13;

    (c) Submit an Annual Report on their implementation of the area/time closure to the Executive Secretary, who shall report to the Compliance Committee at each Annual Meeting.

Scientific Observers

39. For scientific observers on board vessels targeting bigeye, yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas in the area east of meridian 20º/West longitude and north of parallel 28º/ South latitude the following shall apply:

    a) Scientific observers shall automatically be recognized by all CPCs. Such recognition shall allow the scientific observer to continue the collection of data throughout the EEZ visited by the vessel observed. The coastal CPCs concerned shall receive from the flag CPC which mandated the observer the scientific information collected by the observer and related to fishing activities on ICCAT species in their EEZ.

    b) CPCs that do not accept that their national scientific observer may collect data in the EEZ of another CPC, or that do not recognize as valid the data collected in their EEZ by a scientific observer of another CPC, must inform the Executive Secretary, for immediate transmission to the SCRS and the Compliance Committee, of their refusal within three months after the entry into force of this Recommendation or their accession to ICCAT. By such refusal, the CPC concerned shall refrain to require the deployment of its national scientific observer on vessels of another CPC.

40. For purse seine and longline vessels flying their flag 20 meters length overall (LOA) or greater targeting bigeye, yellowfin and/or skipjack in the Convention area, CPCs are encouraged to increase the observer coverage stipulated in Recommendation 16-14, in line with the 2016 SCRS recommendations.

41. The ICCAT Secretariat shall compile the information collected under domestic observer programs, including on the observer coverage for each tropical tuna fishery, and make it available to the Commission before the 2017 Annual Meeting for further deliberation.

42. In 2017 the SCRS shall review its 2016 recommendations on observer coverage and advise the Commission on appropriate coverage levels for each tropical tuna fishery, taking in consideration the full suite of monitoring tools in the fishery.

Port Sampling Programme

43. The port sampling programme developed by the SCRS in 2012 aimed at collecting fishery data for bigeye, yellowfin, and skipjack tunas that are caught in the geographical area of the area/time closure referred to in paragraph 13 for surface fishery shall be continued for landing or transhipment ports. Data and information collected from this sampling programme shall be reported to ICCAT each year, describing, at a minimum, the following by country of landing and quarter: species composition, landings by species, length composition, and weights. Biological samples suitable for determining life history should be collected as practicable.

PART VI
FINAL PROVISIONS

Availability of data to SCRS and to national scientists

44. CPCs shall ensure that:

a) Both paper and electronic fishing logbooks referred to in paragraph 34 and the FAD-logbooks referred to in paragraph 21, where applicable, are promptly collected and made available to national scientists;

b) The Task II data include the information collected from the fishing or FAD logbooks, where applicable, and is submitted every year to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, to be made available to the SCRS.

45. CPCs should encourage their national scientists to undertake collaborative work with their national industry to analyse data related to FADs (e.g. logbooks, buoy data) and to present the outcomes of that analysis to the SCRS. CPCs should take steps to facilitate making the data available for such collaborative work, subject to relevant confidentiality constraints.

46. With the objective of providing information useful to estimate the fishing effort related to FAD-fishing each CPC should provide to its national scientists full access to:

(a) VMS data of their fishing and support vessels and trajectories of FADs;
(b) Data recorded by echo-sounders;
(c) FAD logbooks and the information collected pursuant to paragraph 23.

47. CPCs shall undertake historical data mining on the use and number of deployed FADs with a view to possibly submit the relevant information by 31 January 2017 to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, who shall make them available to the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on FADs and to the SCRS.

SCRS activity and stock assessment

48. The SCRS shall conduct the next stock assessment of bigeye in 2018.

49. At its 2017 meeting the SCRS shall:

(a) address to the extent possible the Recommendations made by the FAD Working Group in 2016 (**Annex 8**) and for the remaining ones develop a work plan to be presented to the Commission at its 2017 Annual meeting;

(b) provide performance indicators for skipjack, bigeye and yellowfin tuna as specified in **Annex 9**, with the perspective to develop management strategy evaluations for tropical tunas;

(c) develop a table for consideration by the Commission that quantifies the expected impact on MSY, B_{MSY}, and relative stock status for both bigeye and yellowfin resulting from reductions of the individual proportional contributions of longline, FAD purse seine, free school purse seine, and baitboat fisheries to the total catch.

Confidentiality

50. All data submitted in accordance with this Recommendation shall be treated in a manner consistent with ICCAT's data confidentiality guidelines and solely for the purposes of this Recommendation and in accordance with the requirements and procedures developed by the Commission.

Fishing management plans

51. The Commission shall establish at its 2018 meeting conservation and management measures on the basis of the SCRS advice resulting from the new stock assessment on bigeye as well as the *Resolution by ICCAT on Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* [Res. 15-13]. In support of this effort, the Commission shall consider development/management plans of coastal developing CPCs and fishing/management plans of other CPCs submitted in 2017, so that adjustments can be made to the existing catch and capacity limits and other conservation measures in 2018, as appropriate. Those plans shall include comprehensive information about how the CPC manages capacity in the bigeye fishery. Each CPC shall submit to the Executive Secretary its 2018 development or fishing/management plan by 15 September 2017, in accordance with a template to be provided by the ICCAT Secretariat.

Reduction of discards

52. CPCs shall:

- submit to the SCRS information on by-catches and discards made by fishing vessels flying their flag fishing for tropical tunas;
- encourage the vessel owners, masters and crew fishing for tropical tunas under their flag to implement good practices to better manage by-catches and reduce discards;
- consider designing and adopting management measures and/or management plans to better manage by-catch and reduce discards.

53. The SCRS shall:

- evaluate the contribution of by-catches and discards to the overall catches in ICCAT tropical tuna fisheries, on a fishery by fishery basis;
- advise the Commission on possible measures allowing to reduce discards and to mitigate onboard post-harvest losses and by-catch in ICCAT tropical tuna fisheries.

54. When revising this Recommendation, the Commission shall consider the adoption of possible provisions for a better management of by-catches and reduction of discards in ICCAT tropical tuna fisheries.

Repeals and review

55. This Recommendation replaces Rec. [15-01] and shall be revised as appropriate.

Annex 1

Requirements for Catch Recording

Minimum specification for paper or electronic logbooks:

1. The logbook must be numbered by sheets
2. The logbook must be filled in every day (midnight) or before port arrival
3. One copy of the sheets must remain attached to the logbook
4. Logbooks must be kept on board to cover a period of one-trip operation

Minimum standard information for logbooks:

1. Master name and address
2. Dates and ports of departure, Dates and ports of arrival
3. Vessel name, registry number, ICCAT number and IMO number (if available)
4. Fishing gear:
   (a) Type FAO code
   (b) Dimension (length, mesh size, number of hooks...)
5. Operations at sea with one line (minimum) per day of trip, providing:
   (a) Activity (fishing, steaming…)
   (b) Position: Exact daily positions (in degree and minutes), recorded for each fishing operation or at noon when no fishing has been conducted during this day
   (c) Record of catches
6. Species identification:
   (a) By FAO code
   (b) Round (RWT) weight in t per set
   (c) Fishing mode (FAD, free school, etc.)
7. Master signature
8. Observer signature, if applicable
9. Means of weight measure: estimation, weighing on board and counting
10. The logbook is kept in equivalent live weight of fish and mentions the conversion factors used in the evaluation

Minimum information in case of landing, transhipments:

1. Dates and port of landing /transhipments
2. Products: number of fish and quantity in kg
3. Signature of the Master or Vessel Agent

Annex 2

FAD logbook

FAD marking	*Buoys ID*	*FAD type*	*Type of visit*	*Date*	*Time*	*Position*		*Estimated catches*			*By-catch*				*Observations*
						Latitude	*Longitude*	*SKJ*	*YFT*	*BET*	*Taxonomic group*	*Estimated catches*	*Unit*	*Specimen released alive*	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(7)	(8)	(8)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…
…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…	…

(1,2) If FAD marking and associated beacon/buoy ID are absent or unreadable, report it in this section. However, if FAD marking and associated beacon/buoy ID are absent or unreadable, the FAD shall not be deployed.
(3) Anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD or drifting artificial FAD.
(4) I.e., deployment, hauling, strengthening/consolidation, removing/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.

Annex 3

Table 1. Codes, names and examples of different types of floating object that should be collected in the fishing logbook as a minimum data requirement. Table from 2016 SCRS report (section 18.2 Table 7).

Code	*Name*	*Example*
DFAD □	Drifting FAD	Bamboo or metal raft
AFAD	Anchored FAD□	Very large buoy
FALOG	Artificial log resulting from related to human activity (and related to fishing activities)	Nets, wreck, ropes
HALOG	Artificial log resulting from human activity (not related to fishing activities)	Washing machine, oil tank
ANLOG	Natural log of animal origin	Carcasses, whale shark
VNLOG	Natural log of plant origin	Branches, trunk, palm leaf

Table 2. Names and description of the activities related to floating objects and buoys that should be collected in the fishing logbook as a minimum data requirement (codes are not listed here). Table from 2016 SCRS report (section 18.2 Table 8).

	Name	*Description*
FOB	Encounter	Random encounter (without fishing) of a log or a FAD belonging to another vessel (unknown position)
	Visit	Visit (without fishing) of a FOB (known position)
	Deployment	FAD deployed at sea
	Strengthening	Consolidation of a FOB
	Remove FAD	FAD retrieval
	Fishing	Fishing set on a FOB[1]
Buoy	Tagging	Deployment of a buoy on FOB[2]
	Remove BUOY	Retrieval of the buoy equipping the FOB
	Loss	Loss of the buoy/End of transmission of the buoy

[1] A fishing set on a Fishing Object (FOB) includes two aspects: fishing after a visit to a vessel's own FOB (targeted) or fishing after a random encounter of a FOB (opportunistic).
[2] Deploying a buoy on a FOB includes three aspects: deploying a buoy on a foreign FOB, transferring a buoy (which changes the FOB owner) and changing the buoy on the same FOB (which does not change the FOB owner).

Annex 4

List of deployed FADs and buoys on a monthly basis

Month:

FAD Identifier		*FAD & electronic equipment types*		*FAD*				*Observation*
FAD Marking	*Associated buoy ID*	*FAD Type*	*Type of the associated buoy and /or electronic devices*	*FAD floating part*	*FAD underwater hanging structure*			
(1)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)			(6)
…	…	…	…		…			…
…	…	…	…		…			…

(1) If FAD marking and associated beacon/buoy ID are absent or unreadable, the FAD shall not be deployed.
(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) Mention the material of the structure and of the cover and if biodegradable.
(5) E.g. nets, ropes, palms, etc., and mention the entangling and/or biodegradable features of the material.
(6) Lighting specifications, radar reflectors and visible distances shall be reported in this section.

Annex 5

Observer Programme

1. The observers referred to in paragraph 38 of this Recommendation 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 assessed by a certificate provided by the CPCs and based on ICCAT training guidelines;
   - The ability to observe and record accurately;
   - The ability to collect biological samples;
   - A satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag of the vessel observed.

2. The observers shall not be a crew member of the fishing vessel being observer and shall:
   (a) Be nationals of one of the CPCs;
   (b) Be capable of performing the duties set forth in point 3 below;
   (c) Not have current financial or beneficial interests in the tropical tuna fisheries.

3. The observer tasks shall be in particular:
   (a) To monitor the fishing vessels' compliance with the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission.

   In particular the observers shall:
   i. Record and report upon the fishing activities carried out;
   ii. Observe and estimate catches and verify entries made in the logbook;
   iii. Sight and record vessels which may be fishing in contravention to ICCAT conservation and management measures;
   iv. Verify the position of the vessel when engaged in catching activity;
   v. Verify the number of instrumental buoys active at any one time;
   vi. Carry out scientific work such as collecting Task II data when required by the Commission, based on the directives from the SCRS, observing and recording data on FAD properties in accordance with **Table 1** below.

   b) Report without delay, with due regard to the safety of the observer, any fishing activity associated with FADs made by the vessel in the period referred to in paragraph 13 of this Recommendation.

   c) Establish general reports compiling the information collected in accordance with this paragraph and provide the master the opportunity to include therein any relevant information.

Obligations of the observer

4. Observers shall treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing and transhipment operations of the fishing vessels and accept this requirement in writing as a condition of appointment as an observer.

5. 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.

6. 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 programme, and with the obligations of vessel personnel set forth in point 7 of this Annex.

Obligations of the flag States of fishing vessels

7. The responsibilities regarding observers of the flag States of the fishing vessels and their masters shall include the following, notably:

   a) Observers shall be allowed to access to the vessel personnel and to the gear and equipment;

   b) Upon request, observers shall also be allowed access to the following equipment, if present on the vessels to which they are assigned, in order to facilitate the carrying out of their duties set forth in point 3 of this Annex:

      i) satellite navigation equipment;

      ii) radar display viewing screens when in use;

      iii) electronic means of communication, including FAD/buoys signals.

   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 and vessel owners do not obstruct, intimidate, interfere with, influence, bribe or attempt to bribe an observer in the performance of his/her duties.

Table 1. FOB/FAD information added to observer onboard form to comply with RFMOs recommendations. Table from 2016 SCRS report (section 18.2 Table 9).

Properties	*DFAD*	*AFAD*	*HALOG*	*FALOG*	*ANLOG*	*VNLOG*
FOB built using biodegradable materials (true/false/undefined)	X	X	X	X		
FOB is non-entangling (true/false/undefined)	X	X	X	X		
Meshed material (true/false/undefined) in FOB	X	X		X		
Size of largest mesh (in millimeters)	X	X		X		
Distance between the surface and the deepest part of the FOB (in meters)	X	X	X	X		
Approximate surface area of the FOB	X	X	X	X		
Specifies the FOB's ID whenever present	X	X	X	X		
Fleet owning the tracking device/ echo sounder buoy	X	X	X	X	X	X
Vessel owning the tracking device/ echo sounder buoy	X	X	X	X	X	X
Anchorage type used for mooring (AFAD registry)		X				
Radar reflectors (presence or not) (AFAD registry)		X				
Lighting (presence or not) (AFAD registry)		X				
Visual range (in nautical miles) (AFAD registry)		X				
Materials used for the floating part of the FOB (list to be defined)	X	X	X	X		
Materials making up the FOB underwater structure (list to be defined)	X	X	X	X		
Tracking device TYPE+ID if possible, otherwise no or undefined.	X	X	X	X	X	X

Annex 6

Guidelines for Preparation of FAD Management Plans

The FAD Management Plan for a CPC purse seine and bait boat fleets must include the following:

1. Description
    a) FAD types: AFAD = anchored; DFAD = drifting
    b) Type of beacon/buoy
    c) Maximum number of FAD to be deployed per purse seine and per FAD type and active at any one time per vessel
    d) Minimum distance between AFADs
    e) Incidental by-catch reduction and utilization policy
    f) Consideration of interaction with other gear types
    g) Statement or policy on "FAD ownership"
    h) Use of support vessels, including from other flag CPCs

2. Institutional arrangements
    a) Institutional responsibilities for the FAD Management plan
    b) Application processes for FAD deployment approval
    c) Obligations of vessel owners and masters in respect of FAD deployment and use
    d) FAD replacement policy
    e) Additional reporting obligations beyond this Recommendation
    f) Conflict resolution policy in respect of FADs
    g) Details of any closed areas or periods e.g. territorial waters, shipping lanes, proximity to artisanal fisheries, etc.

3. FAD construction specifications and requirements
    a) FAD design characteristics (a description)
    b) Lighting requirements
    c) Radar reflectors
    d) Visible distance
    e) FAD markings and identifier
    f) Radio buoys markings and identifier (requirement for serial numbers)
    g) Echo-sounder buoys markings and identifier (requirement for serial numbers)
    h) Satellite transceivers
    i) Research undertaken on biodegradable FADs
    j) Prevention of loss or abandonment of FADs
    k) Management of FADs recovery.

4. Applicable period for the FAD Management Plan

5. Means for monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the FAD Management Plan

Annex 7

Guidelines for reducing the ecological impact of FADs in ICCAT fisheries

1) The surface structure of the FAD should not be covered or only covered with material implying minimum risk of entangling by-catch species.

2) The sub-surface components should be exclusively composed of non-entangling material (e.g. ropes or canvas).

3) When designing FADs the use of biodegradable materials should be prioritised.

Annex 8

Activities to be included in the work plan to be developed by SCRS

1. Review the available information on fishing capacity and provide advice on adapting the fishing capacity in all its components (number of FADs, number of fishing vessels and support vessels) to achieve the management objectives for tropical tuna species.

2. By taking into account as baseline the outputs of the EU CECOFAD research project (SCRS/2016/30) the SCRS shall:

   (a) develop a set of definitions for floating objects and types of activities developed on them including "FAD sets" and "FAD fishing". In particular, definitions and characteristics of non-entangling and bio-degradable FADs should be established;

   (b) review and recommend additional changes, as appropriate, to the minimum standard reporting requirements on data to be collected in FAD fisheries through logbooks;

   (c) establish guidelines addressed to vessel masters detailing how data and more particularly qualitative information would have to be reported.

3. Develop fisheries indicators describing catch compositions, size structures and catch average sizes of the different metiers contributing to the tropical tunas' fishing mortality and in particular of purse seine fleets fishing on floating objects.

4. Provide advice on possible modifications of fishing patterns affecting the catch-at-size composition and their impact on MSY and relative stock status.

5. In collaboration with the Secretariat, provide advice to establish a consolidated database of records of FAD activity across all purse seine fleets.

Annex 9

Indicative Performance indicators to support decision-making

Performance metrics and associated statistics	*Unit of measurement*	*Type of statistics*
1. Status		
1.1 Minimum biomass relative to B_{MSY}	B/ B_{MSY}	Minimum over [x] years
1.2 Mean biomass relative to B_{MSY}[1]	B/ B_{MSY}	Geometric mean over [x] years
1.3 Mean fishing mortality relative to F_{MSY}	F/ F_{MSY}	Geometric mean over [x] years
1.4 Probability of being in the Kobe green quadrant	B, F	Proportion of years that $B \geq B_{MSY}$ & $F \leq F_{MSY}$
1.5 Probability of being in the Kobe red quadrant[2]	B, F	Proportion of years that $B \leq B_{MSY}$ & $F \geq F_{MSY}$
2. Safety		
2.1 Probability that biomass is above B_{lim} [3]		Proportion of years that $B > B_{lim}$
2.2 Probablity of $B_{lim} < B < B_{thresh}$		Proportion of years that $B_{lim} < B < B_{thresh}$
3. Yield		
3.1 Mean catch – short term		Mean over 1-3 years
3.2 Mean catch – medium term		Mean over 4-10 years
3.3 Mean catch – long term		Mean over [x] years
4. Stability		
4.1 Mean absolute proportional change in catch	Catch (C)	Mean over [x] years of $(C_n - C_{n-1})/ C_{n-1}$
4.2 Variance in catch	Catch (C)	Variance over [x] years
4.3 Probability in shutdown	TAC	Proportion of years that TAC=0
4.4 Probability of TAC change over a certain level[4]	TAC	Proportion of management cycles when the ration change[5] $(TAC_n - TAC_{n-1})/TAC_{n-1} > X\%$.
4.5 Maximum amount of TAC change between management periods.	TAC	Maximum ratio of change[6]

1. This indicator provides an indication of the expected CPUE of adult fish because CPUE is assumed to track biomass.
2. This indicator is only useful to distinguish the performance of strategies which fulfil the objective represented by 1.4.
3. This differs slightly from being equal to 1- Probability of a shutdown (4.3), because of the choice of having a management cycle of 3 years. In the next management cycle after B has been determined to be less than Blim the TAC is fixed during three years to the level corresponding to Flim, and the catch will stay at such minimum level for three years. The biomass, however, may react quickly to the lowering of F and increase rapidly so that one or more of the three years of the cycle will have B>Blim.
4. Useful in the absence of TAC-related constraints in the harvest control rule.
5. Positive and negative changes to be reported separately.
6. Positive and negative changes to be reported separately.

16-02 **TRO**

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO ESTABLISH AN AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES (FADs)

RECOGNIZING the increasing use of FADs in ICCAT fisheries, notably for tropical tunas, and the impact this may have on the fishing mortality of juveniles of tunas, especially bigeye and yellowfin;

RECALLING recommendations by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) to improve data collection for fisheries carried out in association with FADs, including floating objects that could affect fish aggregation, and to improve the ways to use this information in the process of stock assessments;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the reporting and monitoring, control, and surveillance measures for fishing activities carried out in association with FADs contained in Recommendation 15-01;

NOTING the need to assess the consequences of technological developments of FADs for future FAD-related management options;

RECOGNIZING that in response to an SCRS recommendation the Commission created in 2014 an ad hoc Working Group on FADs, composed of scientists, fishery managers, fishing industry administrators and other stakeholders, which was established by Recommendation 14-03, amended by Recommendation 15-02 and which held two meetings in 2015 and 2016;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the recommendations issued in 2016 by the ICCAT ad hoc Working Group on FADs and which were endorsed by the SCRS at its 2016 meeting;

CONSIDERING the need to improve the knowledge on FAD fisheries and to pursue discussions between managers, scientists and stakeholders on this important issue;

ACKNOWLEDGING the benefits of collaboration among the ICCAT ad hoc Working Group on FADs and other tuna RFMOs' FAD Working Groups to harmonise progress in addressing FAD issues that are common to all tuna RFMOs;

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

1. An ad hoc Working Group is established with the following Terms of Reference:

   a) Consider ways to reduce juvenile catches of bigeye and yellowfin tuna caught in FADs fishing;

   b) Assess the use of FADs in tropical tuna fisheries in ICCAT, including by estimating the past and current number of and different types of buoys and FADs operating in ICCAT tropical tuna fisheries, and evaluate ways to improve the use of information related to FADs in the process of stock assessments, including to quantify the effort associated with this type of fishery;

   c) In view of the identification of data gaps, review the information provided by CPCs pursuant to the FAD related provisions in the relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures;

   d) Based on the best available information, examine:

      i. the fishing capacity for all components of ICCAT tropical tuna fisheries, including the relative contribution of FAD fishing to overall fishing mortality by age or size category;
      ii. assessed and projected changes, in bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack Biomass and MSY estimates, associated to different selectivity patterns and juveniles fishing mortality levels.

e) Assess the developments in FAD-related technology, including with regard to:

- Technological improvement in relation to fishing mortality.
- FAD and buoys marking and identification as a tool for monitoring, tracking and control of FADs.
- Reducing FADs' ecological impact through improved design, such as non-entangling FADs and biodegradable material.

f) Identify management options and common standards for FAD management, including the regulation of: 1) FAD sets; 2) deployment limits of FADs and buoys (by distinguishing total number of deployed buoys and the number of active ones); 3) characteristics of FADs, such as marking; 4) activities of purse seiners, baitboats and support vessels, in particular the link established in fishing operations between support vessels and individual fishing vessels, and evaluate their effect on ICCAT managed species and on the pelagic eco-systems, based on scientific advice and the precautionary approach. This should take into consideration all the fishing mortality components, the methods by which FAD fishing has increased a vessel's ability to catch fish, as well as socio-economic elements with the view to provide effective recommendations to the Commission for FAD management in tropical tuna fisheries.

g) Identify and assess options for and timing of recovery of FADs and/or mitigating FAD losses in order to ensure a proper management of their potential impact on different coastal ad high-sea components of the marine environment.

h) Evaluate progress made based on the recommendations issued by the Working Group in 2016 and thereafter as appropriate.

2. The third meeting of this ad hoc Working Group shall take place in 2017 and thereafter as appropriate.

3. The ad hoc Working Group shall report on its work with a view to recommend the adoption of appropriate measures at the relevant ICCAT Commission meeting.

4. The ICCAT Commission, at its annual meetings, will review the progress and outcomes of the ad hoc Working Group, identify priority tasks, and assess future needs.

5. The ad hoc Working Group will be chaired by the Chair of Panel 1 and the Chair of the SCRS. The Chairs of the ad hoc Working Group should coordinate to establish procedures to ensure a full and open exchange among all participants.

6. The structure of the meetings will include an open forum/dialogue among scientists, fisheries managers, industry representatives and other interested stakeholders. Recommendations to the Commission shall be developed through sessions of the ad hoc Working Group, which should ensure a balanced presence and active participation of scientists and managers.

7. The ICCAT Secretariat will work with the Secretariats of other tuna RFMOs in which FAD Working Groups have been established to promote the cooperation between these groups, including through the organization of a joint session in 2017 with the interested tuna RFMOs.

8. This Recommendation repeals and replaces [Rec. 15-02].

16-03 **SWO**

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NORTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH

RECALLING the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Rebuilding Program for North Atlantic Swordfish* (Rec. 06-02), and the *Recommendations by ICCAT for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish* [Recs. 10-02, Rec. 11-02, and Rec. 13-02];

FURTHER RECALLING the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Principles of Decision Making for ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* [Rec. 11-13] and the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Development of Harvest Control Rules and of Management Strategy Evaluation* [Rec. 15-07];

CONSIDERING that following the 2013 stock assessment, the SCRS indicated that the stock was not overfished and that overfishing was not occurring, as initially determined in a 2009 stock assessment;

RECOGNIZING that based on the 2013 stock assessment, the SCRS advised that a TAC of 13,700 t has an 83% probability of maintaining the North Atlantic swordfish stock in a rebuilt condition by 2021;

TAKING NOTE OF the *Resolution by ICCAT on Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* [Res. 15-13];

SEEKING to ensure that the total catch does not exceed the annual TAC of 13,700 t;

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

1. The Contracting Parties, and non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) whose vessels have been actively fishing for swordfish in the North Atlantic shall take the following measures to ensure the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish with the goal of maintaining B_{MSY}, with greater than 50% probability.

2. TAC and catch limits

   a) The total allowable catch (TAC) shall be 13,700 t for North Atlantic swordfish for 2017:

   b) The annual catch limits as shown in the table below shall be applied for 2017:

	Catch limit[**] 13,700 (t)
European Union ***	6,718*
United States***	3,907*
Canada	1,348*
Japan***	842*
Morocco	850
Mexico	200
Brazil	50
Barbados	45
Venezuela	85
Trinidad & Tobago	125
United Kingdom (OTs)	35
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)	40
China	75
Senegal	250
Korea***	50
Belize***	130
Philippines	25

Côte d'Ivoire	50
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	75
Vanuatu	25
Chinese Taipei	270

* Catch limits of these four CPCs are based upon quota allocation shown in 3.c) of the 2006 *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Rebuilding Program for North Atlantic Swordfish* [Rec. 06-02].

** The following transfers of annual catch limits shall be authorized:
From Japan to Morocco: 100 t
From Japan to Canada: 35 t
From EU to France (St. Pierre et Miquelon) : 40 t
From Venezuela to France (St. Pierre et Miquelon) : 12.75 t
From Senegal to Canada: 125 t
From Trinidad & Tobago to Belize: 75 t
From Philippines to China: 25t
From Chinese Taipei to Canada: 35 t
From Brazil, Japan, Senegal, and the United States to Mauritania: 25 t each for a total of 100 t for 2017, on the condition that Mauritania submit its development plan per paragraph 5 of this Recommendation. If a development plan is not submitted in 2017, these transfers are considered null. Future decisions regarding access to the North Atlantic swordfish fishery by Mauritania shall be contingent upon submission of its development plan.
These transfers do not change the relative shares of CPCs as reflected in the above catch limits.

*** Japan shall be allowed to count up to 400 t of its swordfish catch taken from the South Atlantic management area against its uncaught North Atlantic swordfish catch limits.

The European Union shall be allowed to count up to 200 t of its swordfish catch taken from the South Atlantic management area against its uncaught North Atlantic swordfish catch limits.

The US shall be allowed to count up to 200 t of its swordfish catch taken from the area between 5°N and 5°S, against its uncaught North Atlantic swordfish catch limit.

Belize shall be allowed to count up to 75 t of its swordfish catch taken from the area between 5°N and 5°S, against its uncaught North Atlantic swordfish catch limit.

Korea shall be allowed to count up to 25 t of swordfish catch taken from the South Atlantic management area in 2017, against its uncaught North Atlantic catch limit.

c) If the total annual catch exceeds the TAC of 13,700 t, CPCs that have exceeded their individual adjusted catch limits shall pay back their overharvest in accordance with paragraph 3 of this recommendation. Any amount of the overharvest remaining after such adjustment shall be deducted from the annual catch limit of each CPC in the year following the excess, on a prorata basis of the catch limits in Table 2 (b) above.

3. Any unused portion or excess of the annual adjusted quota may be added to/shall be deducted from, according to the case, the respective quota/catch limit during or before the adjustment year, as follows:

Catch year	*Adjustment year*
2015	2017
2016	2018
2017	2019

However, the maximum underage that a Party may carryover in any given year shall not exceed 15% of its initial catch limit (as specified in paragraph 2.b) above and excluding quota transfers) for those CPCs holding catch limits more than 500 t, and 50% for other CPCs.

4. If Japan's landings exceed its catch limits in any year, the overage shall be deducted in subsequent years so that total landings for Japan shall not exceed its total catch limits for the three-year period commencing in 2017. When annual landings by Japan are less than its catch limits, the underage may be added to the subsequent years' catch limits, so that total landings by Japan do not exceed its total for the same three-year period. Any underages or overages from the 2015-2017 management period shall be applied to the three-year management period specified herein.

5. The Commission shall establish at its 2017 meeting conservation and management measures for North Atlantic swordfish on the basis of the SCRS advice resulting from the next stock assessment as well as the *Resolution by ICCAT on Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* [Res. 15-13]. In support of this effort, the Commission shall consider development/management plans of coastal developing CPCs and fishing/management plans of other CPCs so that adjustments can be made to the existing catch limits and other conservation measures, as appropriate. Each CPC shall submit its development or fishing/management plan to the Commission by September 15 of each year.

6. When assessing stock status and providing management recommendations to the Commission, the SCRS shall consider the interim limit reference (LRP) of $0.4*B_{MSY}$ or any more robust LRP established through further analysis.

7. In line with the provisions of *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Development of Harvest Control Rules and of Management Strategy Evaluation* [Rec. 15-07], paragraph 3, the SCRS and the Commission shall begin a dialogue to allow for the development of harvest control rules (HCRs) for consideration in any subsequent recommendations. Further, while the HCRs are being developed, should the biomass approach the level which triggered the establishment of the previous rebuilding plan [Rec. 99-02], then the Commission shall adopt a 10-year rebuilding plan, with harvest levels, as recommended by the SCRS, that will meet the Commission's objectives of maintaining or rebuilding stocks to B_{MSY} within the defined time period.

8. All CPCs catching swordfish in the North Atlantic shall endeavor to provide annually the best available data to the SCRS, including catch, catch at size, location and month of capture on the smallest scale possible, as determined by the SCRS. The data submitted shall be for broadest range of age classes possible, consistent with minimum size restrictions, and by sex when possible. The data shall also include discards (both dead and alive) and effort statistics, even when no analytical stock assessment is scheduled. The SCRS shall review these data annually.

9. In order to protect small swordfish, CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the taking of and landing of swordfish weighing less than 25 kg live weight, or in alternative, 125 cm lower jaw fork length (LJFL); however, the CPCs may grant tolerances to boats which have incidentally captured small fish, with the condition that this incidental catch shall not exceed 15 percent of the number of swordfish per landing of the total swordfish catch of said boats.

10. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 9, any CPC may choose, as an alternative to the minimum size of 25 kg/ 125 cm LJFL, to take the necessary measures to prohibit the taking by its vessels in the Atlantic Ocean, as well as the landing and sale in its jurisdiction, of swordfish (and swordfish parts), less than 119 cm LJFL, or in the alternative 15 kg, provided that, if this alternative is chosen, no tolerance of swordfish smaller than 119 LJFL, or in the alternative 15 kg, shall be allowed. For swordfish that have been dressed, a cleithrum to keel (CK) measurement of 63 cm can also be applied. A Party that chooses this alternative minimum size shall require appropriate record keeping of discards. The SCRS should continue to monitor and analyze the effects of this measure on the mortality of immature swordfish.

11. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 2, of the Convention, with respect to the annual individual catch limits established above, the CPCs whose vessels have been actively fishing for North Atlantic swordfish shall implement this recommendation as soon as possible in accordance with the regulatory procedures of each CPC.

12. Notwithstanding the *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding the Temporary Adjustment of Quotas* [Rec. 01-12], in between meetings of the Commission, a CPC with a TAC allocation of North Atlantic swordfish, as per paragraph 2.b), may make a one-time transfer within a fishing year of up to 15% of its TAC allocation to other CPCs with TAC allocations, consistent with domestic obligations and conservation considerations. Any such transfer may not be used to cover overharvests. A CPC that receives a one-time catch limit transfer may not retransfer that catch limit.

13. CPCs shall issue specific authorizations to vessels 20 meters LOA or greater flying their flag that are authorized to fish for North Atlantic swordfish in the Convention area. Each CPC shall indicate which of such vessels it has so authorized on its vessel list submitted pursuant to 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. 13-13]. Such vessels not entered into this record or entered without the required indication that fishing for North Atlantic swordfish is authorized are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, transship, transport, transfer, process or land North Atlantic swordfish.

14. CPCs may allow bycatch of North Atlantic swordfish by vessels not authorized to fish for North Atlantic swordfish pursuant to paragraph 13, if the CPC establishes a maximum onboard bycatch limit for such vessels and the bycatch in question is accounted for within the CPC's quota or catch limit. Each CPC shall provide in its Annual Report the maximum bycatch limit it allows for such vessels. That information shall be compiled by the ICCAT Secretariat and made available to CPCs.

15. This *Recommendation replaces the Recommendation by ICCAT for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish* [Rec. 13-02].

16-04 **SWO**

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT FOR THE CONSERVATION OF SOUTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH

CONSIDERING that the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) indicates that substantial unquantified uncertainties affect this stock, in particular due to lack or inconsistencies of available data;

CONSCIOUS that the SCRS underlined that due to the existing uncertainties there is no room to increase the existing TAC;

RECOGNIZING that this multi-annual approach for the management of South Atlantic swordfish reflects the thrust of the *Resolution by ICCAT on Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* [Res. 15-13], adopted by the Commission in 2015, for the period concerned;

RECOGNISING that it would be appropriate, as already applicable to other stocks under the purview of ICCAT, to establish an ICCAT register of vessels authorized to fish South Atlantic swordfish;

CONSIDERING that the period of validity of some of the provisions established in Rec. [15-03] will expire at the end of 2016 and that it is necessary to extend the period of application of such measures until a new assessment of the South Atlantic Swordfish takes place;

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

TAC and catch limits

1. For 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017, the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and the catch limits shall be as follows:

	(Unit: t)
TAC (1)	15,000
Brazil (2)	3,940
European Union	4,824
South Africa	1,001
Namibia	1,168
Uruguay	1,252
United States (3)	100
Cote d'Ivoire	125
China	313
Chinese Taipei (3)	459
United Kingdom	25
Japan (3)	901
Angola	100
Ghana	100
St. Tomé & Principe	100
Senegal	417
Korea	50
Belize	125

(1) The total catch for the four-year management period of 2014-2017 shall not exceed 60,000 t (15,000 t x4). 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 2016 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 2013 may be carried over to 2015 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 2014-2017 but such carried over amounts each year shall not exceed the amounts specified here.

Underage or overage of catch

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:

Catch Year	*Adjustment Year*
2014	2016
2015	2017
2016	2018
2017	2019

However, the maximum underage that a party may carryover in any given year shall not exceed 30% of the quota of previous year.

Transfers

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, the 25 t quota transfer from United States and the 50 t quota transfers from Brazil and Uruguay to Belize (total: 125 t) shall be authorized. The quota transfers shall be reviewed annually in response to a request from an involved CPC.

Minimum size

6. In order to protect small swordfish, CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the taking of and landing of swordfish in the entire Atlantic Ocean weighing less than 25 kg live weight, or in alternative, 125 cm lower jaw fork length (LJFL); however, the CPCs may grant tolerances to boats which have incidentally captured small fish, with the condition that this incidental catch shall not exceed 15 percent of the number of swordfish per landing of the total swordfish catch of said boats.

7. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 6, any CPC may choose, as an alternative to the minimum size of 25 kg/125 cm LJFL, to take the necessary measures to prohibit the taking by its vessels in the Atlantic Ocean, as well as the landing and sale in its jurisdiction, of swordfish (and swordfish parts), less than 119 cm LJFL, or in the alternative 15 kg, provided that, if this alternative is chosen, no tolerance of swordfish smaller than 119 LJFL, or in the alternative 15 kg, shall be allowed. For swordfish that have been dressed, a cleithrum to keel (CK) measurement of 63cm can also be applied. A Party that chooses this alternative minimum size shall require appropriate record keeping of discards. The SCRS should continue to monitor and analyze the effects of this measure on the mortality of immature swordfish.

ICCAT Record of vessels authorized to fish South Atlantic swordfish

8. CPCs shall issue specific authorizations to vessels 20 meters LOA or greater flying their flag that are authorized to fish for South Atlantic swordfish in the Convention area. Each CPC shall indicate which of such vessels it has so authorized on its vessel list submitted pursuant to 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. 13-13]. Such vessels not entered into this record or entered without the required indication that fishing for South Atlantic swordfish is authorized are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, transship, transport, transfer, process or land South Atlantic swordfish.

9. CPCs may allow bycatch of South Atlantic swordfish by vessels not authorized to fish for South Atlantic swordfish pursuant to paragraph 8, if the CPC establishes a maximum on board bycatch limit for such vessels and that the bycatch in question is accounted for within the CPC's quota or catch limit. Each CPC shall provide in its Annual Report the maximum bycatch limit it allows for such vessels. That information shall be compiled by the ICCAT Secretariat and made available to CPCs.

Availability of data to SCRS

10. CPCs shall endeavor to recover any missing catch data for years up to 2015, including reliable Task I and Task II data. CPCs will make available the above data to the SCRS as soon as possible, and not later than one week before the 2017 Swordfish data preparatory meeting. From 2017 onwards, CPCs will ensure accurate and timely data submission to SCRS.

11. All CPCs catching swordfish in the South Atlantic shall endeavor to provide annually the best available data to the SCRS, including catch, catch at size, location and month of capture on the smallest scale possible, as determined by the SCRS. The data submitted shall be for broadest range of age classes possible, consistent with minimum size restrictions, and by sex when possible. The data shall also include discards (both dead and alive) and effort statistics, even when no analytical stock assessment is scheduled. The SCRS shall review these data annually.

12. When assessing stock status and providing management recommendations to the Commission in 2017, the SCRS shall consider the interim limit reference (LRP) of $0.4*B_{MSY}$ or any more robust LRP established through further analysis.

Final provisions

13. None of the arrangements in this Recommendation shall be deemed to prejudice a future arrangement relating to South Atlantic swordfish.

14. The *Recommendation by ICCAT for the Conservation of South Atlantic Swordfish* [Rec. 15-03] is repealed and replaced by this Recommendation.

16-05 **SWO**

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT REPLACING THE RECOMMENDATION [13-04] AND ESTABLISHING A MULTI-ANNUAL RECOVERY PLAN FOR MEDITERRANEAN SWORDFISH

RECOGNIZING the outcome of the stock assessment conducted by SCRS in 2016, and in particular the overfished status of the stock over the last 30 years, as well as its current overfishing;

NOTING the high proportion of juveniles swordfish in the catches and its negative impact on the spawning biomass per recruit levels;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the recommendation by SCRS to substantially reduce catches, and to increase the monitoring of landings and discards;

ACKNOWLEDGING the recommendation by SCRS to take into account the impact of the albacore fishery on the level of catches of juvenile swordfish;

RECALLING the provisions of ICCAT Recommendation [11-13] and, for stocks overfished and subject to overfishing, the need to rebuild the stock and reduce fishing mortality;

ACKNOWLEDGING the socio economic dimension of the small scale Mediterranean fisheries and the need for a gradual approach and flexibility in managing these fisheries;

RECALLING the provisions of *Resolution by ICCAT on Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* [Res. 15-13] regarding the criteria for the allocation of fishing possibilities;

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

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 swordfish (*Xyphias gladius*) in the Mediterranean shall implement a 15 year Recovery plan starting in 2017 and continuing through 2031, with the goal of achieving B_{MSY} with at least 60% probability.

Part II
Conservation Measures

Total Allowable Catch

2. For the year 2017, a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) shall be set at 10,500 t[1]. This shall not be prejudging of the discussions to take place in the context of the Working Group referred to under paragraph 3 of this Recommendation.

3. An ICCAT Working Group shall be established in February 2017 in order to:

   a) establish a fair and equitable allocation scheme of the TAC of Mediterranean swordfish.
   b) establish a CPC quota for 2017 without prejudice to the allocation scheme aforementioned.
   c) establish the mechanism to manage the TAC.

[1] On the basis of the levels of captures since 2010.

The Working Group shall, in the context of the establishment of the allocation key, use transparent and objective criteria, including those of an environmental, social and economic nature, and notably take into consideration *Resolution by ICCAT on Criteria for the allocation of fishing possibilities* [Res. 15-13].

4. Over the period 2018-2022, the TAC should be gradually reduced by 3% each year.

5. The approach specified under paragraphs 2 and 4 shall continue to apply until a mutually agreed TAC allocation is adopted through a supplementary Recommendation.

Capacity limitations

6. A capacity limitation shall be applied for the duration of the Recovery plan. In 2017 CPCs shall limit the number of their fishing vessels authorised to fish for Mediterranean swordfish to the average yearly number of their vessels that fished for, retained on board, transhipped, transported, or landed Mediterranean swordfish over the period 2013-2016. However, CPCs may decide to use the number of their vessels that fished for, retained on board, transhipped, transported, or landed Mediterranean swordfish in 2016, if this number is inferior to the average yearly number of vessels over the period 2013-2016. This limit shall be applied by gear type for catching vessels.

7. By derogation to paragraph 6, developing CPCs may submit a list of fishing vessels less than 7m length overall, before the 15 January 2017. From 2017 onwards, these vessels will be added to the limits referred to under paragraph 6.

8. For the years 2017, 2018 and 2019, CPCs may apply a tolerance of 5% to the capacity limit referred to under paragraph 6 of this Recommendation.

9. Developing CPCs should be allowed to submit a plan of fleet development in accordance with the fishing opportunities allocated to them in ICCAT.

10. Starting in 2018, CPCs shall submit their fishing plan to ICCAT by 15 March each year. Such plan shall include detailed information regarding the quota allocated by gear type, including to sport and recreational fisheries (if applicable) and by-catches.

Closed fishing season

11. Mediterranean swordfish shall not be caught (either as a targeted species or as by-catch), retained on board, transhipped or landed during either:

    a) the period from 1 October to 30 November and during an additional period of one month between 15 February and 31 March,

    b) or, alternatively, during the period from 1 January to 31 March each year.

    The CPCs shall communicate to the Commission, by 15 January 2017, the details of the closure periods of their choice.

12. In order to protect juvenile swordfish, a closure period shall also apply to longline vessels targeting Mediterranean albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) from the 1 October to 30 November each year.

13. CPCs shall monitor the effectiveness of the closure periods referred to under paragraphs 11 and 12, and shall submit to the Commission, at the latest two months before the Annual meeting of the Commission, all relevant information on appropriate controls and inspections to ensure compliance with these measures.

Minimum size

14. Only entire specimens of swordfish, without removal of any external part, or gilled and gutted specimens, can be retained on board, landed, transhipped and first transported after landing.

15. In order to protect small swordfish, CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit catching, retaining on board, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale Mediterranean swordfish measuring less than 100 cm LJFL or, in alternative, weighing less than 11,4 kg of round weight or 10,2 kg of gilled and gutted weight.

16. Prior to the 2017 Annual meeting, SCRS shall provide the Commission with the confirmed average round weight and gilled and gutted weight, corresponding to the LJFL of 100 cm.

17. Incidental catch of Mediterranean swordfish below the minimum size referred to under paragraph 15 shall not be kept on board the fishing vessel, transhipped, landed, sold, displayed or offered for sale.

    However, the CPCs may grant tolerance to vessels which have incidentally captured small fish below the minimum size, with the condition that this incidental catch shall not exceed 5% by weight or/and number of pieces per landing of the total swordfish catch of the said vessels

Technical characteristics of the fishing gear

18. The maximum number of hooks that can be set or taken on board of vessels targeting swordfish should be fixed at 2500 hooks. A second set of rigged hooks may be allowed on board for trips longer than 2 days provided that it is duly lashed and stowed in lower decks so that it may not readily be used.

19. Hook size should never be smaller than 7 cm of height for fishing targeting swordfish.

20. The length of the pelagic longlines will be of maximum 30 NM (55 km).

Sport and recreational fisheries

21. CPCs shall provide to the ICCAT Secretariat the lists of all sport and recreational vessels authorized to catch swordfish in the Mediterranean Sea, at least 15 days before the exercise of the activities. Vessels not introduced on this list shall not be authorized to catch Mediterranean swordfish. The format for submitting such list shall be simplified and include the following information:

    – Name of vessel, register number
    – ICCAT Record Number (if any)
    – Previous name (if any)
    – Vessel's length
    – Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s)

22. Only 'rod and line' vessels shall be authorised for the purpose of sport and recreational fishing for Mediterranean swordfish.

23. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the catch and retention on board, transhipment or landing of more than one Mediterranean swordfish per vessel per day for sport and recreational fisheries.

24. The marketing of Mediterranean swordfish caught in sport and recreational fishing shall be prohibited.

25. Each CPC shall take measures to record catch data including round weight and length (LJFL) of each Mediterranean swordfish caught in the context of sport and recreational fishing and transmit them to the SCRS.

26. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the release of Mediterranean swordfish caught alive in the framework of sport and recreational fishing, especially juveniles. Any Mediterranean swordfish however landed should be done so whole or gilled and gutted, and either in a designated port referred to under paragraph 31 of this recommendation, or with a tag affixed to each piece. Each tag shall have unique country specific number and be tamper proof. A summary of the implementation of the tagging programme shall be submitted to ICCAT Secretariat by the CPC. The use of such tags shall only be authorized when the accumulated catch amounts are within the quota allocated to the CPC.

Part III
Control measures

ICCAT records of vessels authorized to catch Mediterranean swordfish

27. At the latest on the 15 January each year, CPCs shall provide to the ICCAT Secretariat the list of all catching vessels authorized to fish actively for swordfish. If needed, CPCs shall be able to modify this list during the year by providing an updated list to the ICCAT Secretariat.

    CPCs shall provide this list according to the format set out in the Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by ICCAT.

28. By 15 June 2017, CPCs shall provide to the ICCAT Secretariat the list of all catching vessels authorized to fish actively for Mediterranean albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*). For the subsequent years the deadline is set at 15 March. CPCs shall provide this list according to the format set out in the Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by ICCAT.

29. Procedures referred in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels over 20 Meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to Operate in the Convention Area* [Rec. 13-13] shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

By-catch

30. CPCs may allow by-catch of Mediterranean swordfish by vessels not authorised to fish actively Mediterranean swordfish, as referred to under paragraph 27 of this recommendation, if the CPCs establish a maximum by-catch limit per vessel and per fishing operation and that the by-catch in question are deducted from the CPC's TAC. Each CPC shall provide, in its fishing plan referred to under paragraph 10 of this recommendation, the maximum by-catch limit it allows for its vessels.

Designated ports

31. Fishing vessels shall only land Mediterranean swordfish catches, including by-catches and fish caught in the context of sport and recreational fisheries but not tagged as referred to under paragraph 26, in designated ports of CPCs. To this end, each CPC shall designate ports in which landing Mediterranean swordfish 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. On the basis of this information the ICCAT Secretariat shall maintain a list of designated ports on the ICCAT website.

32. Prior to entry into port, the fishing vessels or their representative shall provide the relevant authorities of the port with the following:

    a) estimated time of arrival;
    b) estimate of quantity of Mediterranean swordfish retained on board;
    c) the information on the geographic area where the catch was taken.

    Port State authorities shall keep a record of all prior notices for the current year.

33. CPC shall establish the minimum length overall of the vessels concerned by paragraphs 31 and 32.

Controls of landings

34. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to control landings of Mediterranean swordfish, and notify these measures to ICCAT when submitting its fishing plan as referred to under paragraph 10 of this recommendation.

Recording and Communication of catches

35. Each CPC shall ensure that during their period of authorisation, referred to under paragraph 27 of this recommendation, its catching vessels more than 15m fishing actively for Mediterranean swordfish communicate, by electronic or other means to their competent authorities, weekly information, including the date, time, location (latitude and longitude) and the weight and number of Mediterranean swordfish taken in the plan area. Such communication shall only be required when catches are reported over the period considered.

36. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that all catches by vessels flying its flag are recorded and communicated without delay to the competent authority.

37. CPCs shall report quarterly the amount of Mediterranean swordfish caught by vessels flying their flag to the Secretariat within 30 days of the end of the period during which the catches were made.

Transhipment

38. Transhipment operations at sea of Mediterranean swordfish shall be prohibited.

Part IV

ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection in International Waters

39. In the framework of the Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Mediterranean swordfish, 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 1**.

40. The Scheme referred to in paragraph 39 of this Recommendation shall apply in international waters 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].

41. When at any time, more than 50 catching vessels of anyone CPC are engaged in Mediterranean swordfish directed fishing activities, 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.

Part V

Scientific information

42. CPCs shall ensure the maintenance or development of adequate scientific information for highly migratory pelagic species in the Mediterranean. In particular, CPCs shall take the necessary measures and actions to better estimate:

- Region specific size and age at maturity;
- Habitat use for comparison of the availability of swordfish to the various fisheries, including comparisons between traditional and mesopelagic longlines;
- The impact of the mesopelagic longline fisheries in terms of catch composition, CPUE series, size distribution of the catches; and
- Monthly estimation of spawner and recruit proportion in the catches.

43. By 31 July each year, CPCs shall communicate specific information for the fishing vessels that were authorized to carry out pelagic longline fisheries and harpoons in the Mediterranean during the preceding year:

    a) Specific information on the fishing vessel:
    - Name of the vessel (if no name, the registry number without country initials should be indicated);
    - Registry number;
    - ICCAT list number;

    CPCs shall communicate this list electronically to the ICCAT Secretariat according to the format set out in the Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by ICCAT.

    b) Specific information related to fishing activities, based on sampling or for the whole fleet:
    - Fishing period(s) and total annual number of fishing days of the vessel, by target species and area;
    - Geographical areas, by ICCAT statistical rectangles, for the fishing activities carried out by the vessel, by target species and area;
    - Type of vessel, by target species and area;
    - Number of hooks used by the vessel, by target species and area;
    - Number of longline units used by the vessel, by target species and area;
    - Overall length of all longline units for the vessel, by target species and area.

    c) Specific data on the catches, in the smallest time-area possible:
    - Size and, if possible, age distributions of the catches,
    - Catches and catch composition per vessel and,
    - Fishing effort (average fishing days per vessel, average number of hooks per vessel, average longline units per vessel, average overall length of longline per vessel).

    These data shall be provided to SCRS in the format required by ICCAT.

Scientific observers

44. Each CPC shall ensure that national scientific observers are deployed on at least 5% of its pelagic longline vessels over 15 m length overall targeting Mediterranean swordfish. Each CPC shall design and implement a methodology to collect the information on the activities of the longline vessels below and up to 15 m length overall. Consistent with ICCAT Rec. [16-14] and any amendment thereto each CPC shall report this information to SCRS.

    In addition to the requirement of ICCAT Rec. [16-14], scientific observers shall in particular assess and report on the level of discards of undersized swordfish.

Review

45. The SCRS shall provide in 2019 an updated assessment of the state of the stock on the basis of the most recent data available. It shall assess the effectiveness of this Recovery plan and provide advice on possible amendments of the various measures. SCRS shall advice the Commission on the appropriate characteristics of the fishing gear, the closure period for the sport and recreational fishery, as well as the minimum size to be implemented for Mediterranean swordfish.

46. Based on such scientific advice, by the end of 2019 the ICCAT shall adopt changes of the management framework for swordfish, including the revision of the catch limits and alternative management scenarios, in case this is necessary to comply with the management objectives.

Repeals

47. This Recommendation replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT for Management Measures for Mediterranean Swordfish in the Framework of ICCAT* [Rec. 13-04].

Annex 1

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) interference with the satellite monitoring system and/or operation of a vessel without a VMS system;
   (o) transhipment 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;

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;

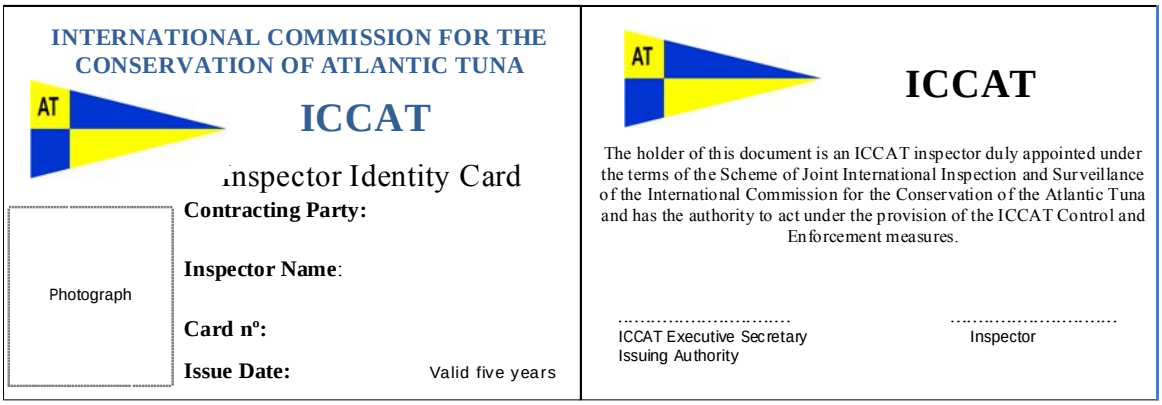
18. Inspectors shall affix an identification mark approved by the ICCAT Commission to any fishing gear inspected which appears to be in contravention of the ICCAT Commission's recommendations in force in relation to the flag State of the vessel concerned and shall record this fact in his/her report;

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



16-06 **ALB**

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON A MULTI-ANNUAL CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME FOR NORTH ATLANTIC ALBACORE

RECALLING the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Limitation of Fishing Capacity on Northern Albacore* [Rec. 98-08], *the Recommendation by ICCAT concerning Management Measures for Northern Albacore* [Rec. 99-05], the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the North Atlantic Albacore Rebuilding Programme* [Rec. 13-05] and the *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish harvest control rules for the North Atlantic Albacore stock* [Rec. 15-04];

RECOGNISING that the set of measures laid down in those Recommendations provide together for a multi-annual conservation and management programme for North Atlantic albacore;

ACKNOWLEDGING that it would be appropriate to streamline the existing measures concerning North Atlantic albacore and combine them into one Recommendation;

NOTING 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 2016 Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) stock assessment concluded that the relative abundance of North Atlantic albacore has continued to increase over the last decades and is likely somewhere in the green area of the Kobe plot, and as a result the stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring;

FURTHER CONSIDERING that the 2016 SCRS was unable to advise on the risks associated to an increase of the TAC and currently does not recommend an increase of the TAC;

WELCOMING the SCRS proposal to establish a coordinated, multi-year research program in order to advance knowledge of the stock and provide more accurate scientific advice to the Commission;

RECALLING the importance that all fleets participating in the northern albacore fishery submit the required data (catch, effort and catch-at-size) on their fisheries for transmission to the SCRS;

RECOGNISING that it would be appropriate, as already applicable to other stocks under the purview of ICCAT, to establish an ICCAT register of vessels authorized to fish North Atlantic albacore;

CONSIDERING that the Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) has proposed, among other case studies, North Atlantic albacore as a suitable candidate to examine harvest control rules;

NOTING the progress achieved so far by the SCRS in the work for testing harvest control rules and conducting management strategy evaluations for North Atlantic albacore, and seeking to advance this work;

FURTHER NOTING that the SCRS intends to complete a full Management Strategy Evaluation for North Atlantic albacore in 2017;

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

PART I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Multi-annual Management and Conservation Programme

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) whose vessels fish North Atlantic albacore in the Convention area shall implement this Multi-annual Management and Conservation Programme.

2. The management objective for the Northern Atlantic albacore stock is:

    a) to maintain the stock in the green zone of the Kobe plot, with at least a 60% probability, while maximizing long-term yield from the fishery, and

    b) where the spawning stock biomass (SSB) has been assessed by the SCRS as below the level capable of producing MSY (SSB_{MSY}), to rebuild SSB to or above SSB_{MSY}, with at least a 60% probability, and within as short time as possible, while maximizing average catch and minimizing inter-annual fluctuations in TAC levels.

PART II

CATCH LIMTS

TAC and catch limits

3. An annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 28,000 t for North Atlantic Albacore is established for 2017 and 2018. An annual TAC of 30,000 t may be established for 2019 and 2020 subject to a decision of the Commission based on the updated advice of the SCRS in 2018. If the Commission adopts a harvest control rule pursuant to paragraph 14 during the period covered by this measure, the TAC shall be re-established according to those rules.

4. The annual TAC shall be allocated among the ICCAT Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) according to the following:

CPC	*Quota (t) for the period 2017-2018*[1]	*Quota (t) for the period 2019-2020*[2]
European Union**	21,551.3	23,090.7
Chinese Taipei **	3,271.7*	3,505.4
United States**	527	564.6
Venezuela	250	267.9

[1] Quotas for 2018 may be altered contingent upon any decisions made under paragraph 3.
[2] If the TAC is increased to 30,000 t based on a decision of the Commission, these figures shall be applied to these CPCs.
* Chinese Taipei will transfer 100 t from its quota to St. Vincent and the Grenadines and 200 t from its quota to Belize in 2017 and 2018.
** The European Union, the United States and Chinese Taipei are authorized to transfer in 2017 to Venezuela 60 t, 150 t and 114 t respectively of their unused portion of their 2015 quotas.

5. CPCs other than those mentioned in paragraph 4 shall limit their annual catches to 200 t in 2017-2018 and to 215 t in 2019-2020.

6. By derogation to paragraphs 4 and 5, Japan shall endeavor to limit its total North Atlantic albacore annual catches to a maximum of 4% in weight of its total bigeye tuna longline catch in the Atlantic Ocean.

Underage or overage of catch

7. Any unused portion or excess of a CPC's 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:

Year of Catch	*Adjustment Year*
2015	2017
2016	2018
2017	2019
2018	2020
2019	2021
2020	2022

However, the maximum underage that a Party may carry-over in any given year shall not exceed 25% of its initial catch quota.

If, in any year, the combined landings of CPCs exceed the TAC, the Commission will re-evaluate this Recommendation at its next Commission meeting and recommend further conservation measures, as appropriate.

PART III

CAPACITY MANAGEMENT MEASURES

8. CPCs fishing for North Atlantic albacore shall limit the fishing capacity of their vessels, exclusive of recreational vessels, fishing for this stock from 1999 onwards, through a limitation of the number vessels to the average number in the period 1993-1995.

9. The provisions of paragraph 8 do not apply to CPCs whose average catches are less than 200 t.

PART IV

CONTROL MEASURES

Specific authorization to fish for North Atlantic albacore and ICCAT record of vessels

10. CPCs shall issue specific authorizations to vessels 20 meters LOA or greater flying their flag that are authorized to fish North Atlantic albacore in the Convention area. Each CPC shall indicate which of such vessels it has so authorized on its vessel list submitted pursuant to 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. 13-13]. Such vessels not entered into this record or entered without the required indication that fishing North Atlantic albacore is authorized are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, tranship, transport, transfer, process or land North Atlantic albacore.

11. CPCs may allow by-catch of North Atlantic albacore by vessels not authorized to fish for North Atlantic albacore pursuant to paragraph 10, if the CPC establishes a maximum onboard by-catch limit for such vessels and the by-catch in question is accounted for within the CPC's quota or catch limit. Each CPC shall provide in its Annual Report the maximum by-catch limit it allows for such vessels. That information shall be compiled by the ICCAT Secretariat and made available to CPCs.

PART V

HARVEST CONTROL RULES AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION

12. In 2017, the SCRS shall refine the testing of candidate reference points (e.g., $SSB_{THRESHOLD}$, SSB_{LIM} and F_{TARGET}) and associated harvest control rules (HCRs)[1] that would support the management objective expressed in paragraph 2 above. The SCRS shall also provide statistics to support decision-making in accordance with the performance indicators in **Annex 2**.

13. The result of the analyses described in paragraph 12 will be discussed in a dialogue between scientists and managers to be organised in 2017, either during a meeting of the SWGSM or as an inter-sessional meeting of Panel 2.

14. Based on the SCRS inputs and advice provided pursuant to paragraph 12 above and the dialogue process indicated in paragraph 13, the Commission shall then endeavour in 2017 to adopt HCRs for the North Atlantic albacore, including pre-agreed management actions to be taken under various stock conditions. The application of HCR/MSE is an iterative process. For this specific purpose, the management actions below will be considered by the Commission and updated as necessary:

    (a) If the average spawning stock biomass (SSB) level is less than SSB_{LIM} (*i.e.,* $SSB<SSB_{LIM}$), the Commission shall adopt severe management actions immediately to reduce the fishing mortality rate, including measures that suspend the fishery and initiate a scientific monitoring quota to be able to evaluate stock status. This scientific monitoring quota shall be set at the lowest possible level to be effective. The Commission shall not consider re-opening the fishery until the average SSB level exceeds SSB_{LIM} with a high probability. Further, before reopening the fishery, the Commission shall develop a rebuilding programme in order to ensure that the stock returns to the green zone of the Kobe plot.

    (b) If the average SSB level is equal to or less than $SSB_{THRESHOLD}$ and equal to or above SSB_{LIM} (*i.e.,* $SSB_{LIM} \leq SSB \leq SSB_{THRESHOLD}$) and

        i. F is at or below the level specified in the HCR, the Commission shall assure that that applied management measures will maintain F at or below the level specified in the HCR until the average SSB is above $SSB_{THRESHOLD;}$

        ii. F is above the level specified in the HCR, the Commission shall take steps to reduce F as specified in the HCR to ensure F is at a level that will rebuild SSB to SSB_{MSY} or above that level.

    (c) If the average SSB is above $SSB_{THRESHOLD}$ but F exceeds F_{TARGET} (*i.e.,* $SSB>SSB_{THRESHOLD}$ *and* $F>F_{TARGET}$), the Commission shall immediately take steps to reduce F to F_{TARGET}.

    (d) Once the average SSB level reaches or exceeds $SSB_{THRESHOLD}$ and F is less or equal than F_{TARGET} (*i.e.,* $SSB > SSB_{THRESHOLD}$ *and* $F \leq F_{TARGET}$), the Commission shall assure that applied management measures will maintain F at or below F_{TARGET} and in case F is increased to F_{TARGET} this is done with a gradual and moderate increase.

[1] **Annex 1** provides a generic form of the HCR recommended by SCRS in 2010 that would be consistent with UNFSA.

15. The HCRs referred to in paragraph 14 should be evaluated by SCRS through the management strategy evaluation process, including in light of new assessments of the stock. The Commission shall review the results of these evaluations and make adjustments to the HCRs as needed. If necessary, the Commission shall request SCRS to evaluate the adjusted HCRs and make further adjustments based on the feedback from SCRS. This iterative process shall continue and the Commission shall from time to time review and amend the HCRs taking into account the scientific advice.

PART VI

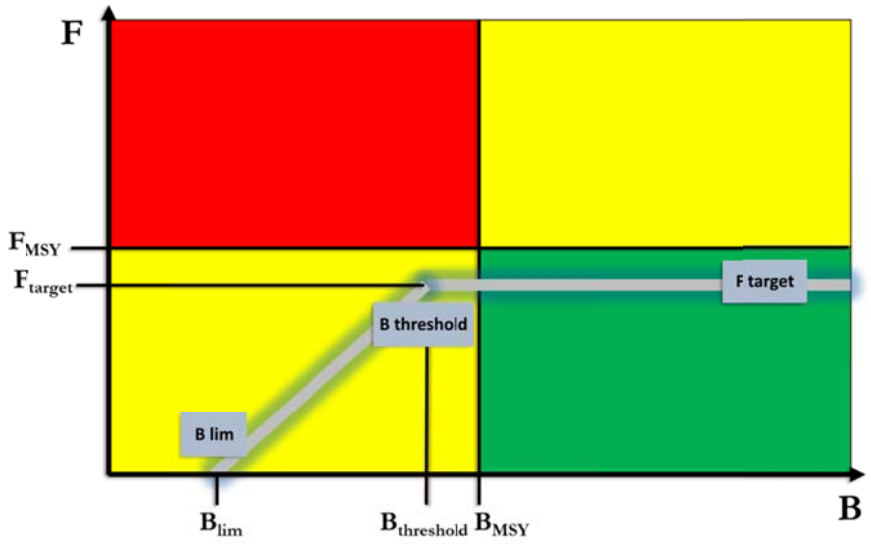
FINAL PROVISIONS

16. The Commission welcomes the initiation of a multi-year North Atlantic Albacore Tuna Research Program, as proposed by the SCRS in 2016 and described in its Albacore Work Plan, and encourages CPCs to consider ways that they can contribute to this work.

17. This Recommendation replaces the Supplemental *Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the North Atlantic Albacore Rebuilding Programme* [Rec. 13-05], the R*ecommendation by ICCAT concerning the limitation for fishing capacity on Northern Albacore* [Rec. 98-08], the *Recommendation by ICCAT concerning management measures for Northern Albacore* [Rec. 99-05] and the *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish harvest control rules for the North Albacore stock* [Rec. 15-04] and shall be revised by 2018.

Annex 1

Generic form of the HCR recommended by SCRS in 2010 that would be consistent with UNFSA (Report of the 2010 WGSAM)



Annex 2

Indicative outline of the performance metrics to be provided by SCRS to support decision-making

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND ASSOCIATED STATISTICS	*UNIT OF MEASUREMENT*	*TYPE OF METRICS*
1 Status		
1.1 Minimum spawner biomass relative to B_{MSY}	B/ B_{MSY}	Minimum over [x] years
1.2 Mean spawner biomass relative to B_{MSY}[1]	B/ B_{MSY}	Geometric mean over [x] years
1.3 Mean fishing mortality relative to F_{MSY}	F/ F_{MSY}	Geometric mean over [x] years
1.4 Probability of being in the Kobe green quadrant	B, F	Proportion of years that $B \geq B_{MSY}$ & $F \leq F_{MSY}$
1.5 Probability of being in the Kobe red quadrant[2]	B, F	Proportion of years that $B \leq B_{MSY}$ & $F \geq F_{MSY}$
2 Safety		
2.1 Probability that spawner biomass is above B_{lim} ($0.4B_{MSY}$)[3]	B/ B_{MSY}	Proportion of years that $B > B_{lim}$
2.2 Probability of $B_{lim} < B < B_{thresh}$	B/ B_{MSY}	Proportion of years that $B_{lim} < B < B_{thresh}$
3 Yield		
3.1 Mean catch – short term	Catch	Mean over 1-3 years
3.2 Mean catch – medium term	Catch	Mean over 5-10 years
3.3 Mean catch – long term	Catch	Mean in 15 and 30 years
4 Stability		
4.1 Mean absolute proportional change in catch	Catch (C)	Mean over [x] years of $(C_n - C_{n-1})/ C_{n-1}$
4.2 Variance in catch	Catch (C)	Variance over [x] years
4.3 Probability of shutdown	TAC	Proportion of years that TAC=0
4.4 Probability of TAC change over a certain level[4]	TAC	Proportion of management cycles when the ratio of change[5] $(TAC_n - TAC_{n-1})/TAC_{n-1} > X\%$
4.5 Maximum amount of TAC change between management periods	TAC	Maximum ratio of change[6]

1 This indicator provides an indication of the expected CPUE of adult fish because CPUE is assumed to track biomass.

2 This indicator is only useful to distinguish the performance of strategies which fulfil the objective represented by 1.4

3 This differs slightly from being equal to 1- Probability of a shutdown (4.3), because of the choice of having a management cycle of 3 years. In the next management cycle after B has been determined to be less than B_{lim} the TAC is fixed during three years to the level corresponding to F_{lim}, and the catch will stay at such minimum level for three years. The biomass, however, may react quickly to the lowering of F and increase rapidly so that one or more of the three years of the cycle will have $B > B_{lim}$.

4 Useful in the absence of TAC-related constraints in the harvest control rule.

5 Positive and negative changes to be reported separately

6 Positive and negative changes to be reported separately.

16-07 **ALB**

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON THE SOUTHERN ALBACORE CATCH LIMITS FOR THE PERIOD 2017 TO 2020

NOTING the conclusions of the 2016 SCRS Report, that the southern albacore stock is, most probably, not overfished and overfishing is not occurring;

NOTING ALSO that the SCRS concluded that projections at a level consistent with the 2016 TAC (24,000 t) showed that probabilities of being in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot across all scenarios would increase to 63% by 2020;

ACKNOWLEDGING that total annual declared catches have been considerably lower than MSY;

RECOGNISING the objective of the Convention is to maintain populations at levels that will support maximum sustainable catch (usually referred to MSY);

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

1. The annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for albacore caught in the Atlantic Ocean south of 5ºN shall be 24,000 t for the period 2017 to 2020.

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, should the total reported albacore catches in 2016, as reported to the 2017 ICCAT meeting, exceed 24,000 t, the TAC for 2018 shall be reduced by the full amount of the 2016 catch in excess of 24,000 t.

3. The annual catch limits for southern Atlantic albacore shall be as follows:

	Catch limits (t)*
Angola	50
Belize	250
Brazil	2 160
China	200
Chinese Taipei	9 400
Cote d'Ivoire	100
Curacao	50
European Union	1 470
Japan	1 355
Korea	140
Namibia	3 600
South Africa	4 400
St Vincent and Grenadines	140
UK St Helena	100
Uruguay	440
Vanuatu	100

* The following annual transfers of catch limits shall be authorized:
From Brazil to Japan: 100 t in 2017-2020
From Uruguay to Japan: 100 t in 2017-2018
From South Africa to Japan: 100 t in 2019-2020

All other CPCs not listed above shall limit their catches to 25 t.

4. Any unused portion or excess of the individual annual catch limits may be added to/shall be deducted from, according to the case, the respective catch limit during or before the adjustment year, in the following way for southern Atlantic albacore:

   a) Underages of the annual quota may be added to the respective quota for each CPC, to the maximum limit of 25% of their original quota, in the following way:

Year of catch	*Adjustment year*
2016	2018
2017	2019
2018	2020
2019	2021
2020	2022

   b) By the time of the Commission Meeting, those CPCs with underages in the previous year shall inform the amount of their underage they intend to use in the following year. The total underage from the TAC from one given year, minus the underages to be used by those CPCs wishing to do so, may be shared among those CPCs wishing to complement their quota, irrespective to their underages, to the limit of 25% of their original quota.

   c) In the case the total amount of underages requested by all CPCs exceeds the total amount made available under this mechanism, the amount of underages shall be shared pro rata among those CPCs requesting complementation of their quotas, in the proportion of their original quotas.

   d) In respect of the 2016 catches and TAC, underages may only be used to the extent of the available underage of total TAC.

   e) The carry-over of underages is only applicable to those CPCs specifically referred to in paragraph 3.

   f) In respect of South Africa, Brazil and Uruguay, should any of these aforementioned CPCs reach their individual catch limits by 31 December, and any other aforementioned CPCs have underage available within the same year, then any or all of the aforementioned CPCs with underage available shall automatically transfer, up to a maximum of 1000 t collectively, in proportion to their respective original quotas to any of the aforementioned which has reached its catch limit for that year, on condition that such transfer of underage does not prejudice the transferring CPCs respective maximum underage allowance as set out in paragraph 4 (b). Such transfers shall be reported in CPC Compliance Reporting Tables.

5. Should a given CPC exceed its quota, the over-catch must be deducted from its original quota by 100% of the total exceeded amount in accordance with the schedule in paragraph 4 and that CPC will be prohibited of requesting any underages made available under the present mechanism in the following year.

6. All CPCs specifically referred to in paragraph 3 may transfer a portion of their quota to another CPC subject to both CPCs agreeing and providing prior notification to the ICCAT Secretariat in terms of the quantity to be transferred. The Secretariat shall disseminate this notification to all CPCs.

7. Those CPCs that are catching southern Atlantic albacore, shall immediately improve their catch reporting systems to ensure the reporting of accurate and validated southern Atlantic albacore catch and effort data to ICCAT in full accordance with the ICCAT requirements for provision of Task I and Task II catch, effort and size data. In addition, port states CPCs in the south Atlantic shall report the results of their port inspections to the Secretariat in accordance with [Rec. 12-07]. The Secretariat shall forward the reports to the flag CPC.

8. The next stock assessment of southern Atlantic albacore shall be conducted in 2020. Scientists of entities actively fishing for southern Atlantic albacore are strongly encouraged to analyse their fisheries data and to participate in the 2020 assessment.

9. All aspects of the southern Atlantic albacore catch limit and sharing arrangement shall be reviewed and revised at the 2020 ICCAT Commission meeting, taking account of the results of the updated southern Atlantic albacore stock assessment to be conducted in 2020. This review and revision shall also address any over-harvests made in excess of the 2017 to 2020 TAC.

10. CPCs shall issue specific authorizations to vessels 20 meters LOA or greater flying their flag that are authorized to fish southern Atlantic albacore in the Convention area. Each CPC shall indicate which of such vessels it has so authorized on its vessel list submitted pursuant to 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. 13-13). Such vessels not entered into this record or entered without the required indication that fishing southern Atlantic albacore is authorized are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, tranship, transport, transfer, process or land southern Atlantic albacore.

11. CPCs may allow bycatch of southern Atlantic albacore by vessels not authorized to fish southern Atlantic albacore pursuant to paragraph 10, if the CPC establishes a maximum onboard bycatch limit for such vessels and the bycatch is accounted for within the CPC's catch limit. Each CPC shall provide in its Annual Report the maximum bycatch limit it allows for such vessels. That information shall be compiled by the ICCAT Secretariat and made available to CPCs.

12. This Recommendation replaces, in its entirety, the 2013 *Recommendation by ICCAT on the southern Atlantic albacore Catch Limit for 2014 to 2016* [Rec. 13-06].

16-08 **BFT**

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING THE 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 Recommendations by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program* [Recs. 06-06, 08-04, 10-03, 12-02, 13-09, and 14-05];

FURTHER RECALLING that the objective of the Convention is to maintain populations at levels that will support maximum sustainable catch (usually referred to as MSY);

CONSIDERING that the 2014 stock assessment resulted in a more optimistic view of stock status with respect to the 2012 assessment, but that the assessment and the projections do not capture the full degree of uncertainty;

NOTING 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, but is not experiencing overfishing. Regardless of recruitment scenario, the spawning stock biomass has increased by 70 percent since 1998, when the rebuilding program was adopted;

FURTHER CONSIDERING that the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) has estimated MSY to be 3,050 t under the low recruitment scenario and 5,316 t under the high recruitment scenario;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the SCRS indicates that the issue of identifying either the high or low recruitment scenario, or an alternative scenario, as being the more realistic remains unresolved;

RECOGNIZING that the SCRS recommended that the next stock assessment be conducted in 2017 to incorporate new data from the research conducted under the ICCAT Atlantic-wide Bluefin Tuna Research Program (GBYP) and related activities and to utilize new assessment methodologies;

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

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING the need to re-evaluate the western Atlantic bluefin tuna rebuilding program no later than 2017 in light of the 2017 stock assessment results and resulting advice from SCRS;

UNDERSCORING that the SCRS indicates that the strong 2002/2003 year classes and recent reduction in fishing mortality have contributed to a more rapid increase in spawning stock biomass in recent years;

UNDERSCORING FURTHER that SCRS has advised that further increases in spawning stock biomass will increase the ability to discriminate between alternative recruitment hypotheses;

RECOGNIZING that the SCRS noted the uncertainties associated with existing CPUE fishery dependent indices, and suggested that using a scientific research quota within a TAC that is consistent with scientific advice may help support the improvement of stock abundance indices, including fishery independent indices, for western Atlantic bluefin tuna and overcome this situation;

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 *Resolution by ICCAT on Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* [Res. 15-13];

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 2,000 t in 2017.

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 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:

CPC	*Allocation*
USA (by-catch related to longline fisheries in vicinity of management area	25 t
Canada (by-catch related to longline fisheries in vicinity of management area	15 t

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

	If the remainder of the annual TAC is:			
CPC	<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	1,303 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 SPM)	0.23%	5.5 t	5.5 t	0.23%
Mexico	5.56%	134 t	134 t	5.56%

(c) Consistent with paragraphs 1, 3, and 6(b), the TAC for 2017 results in the following CPC-specific quota allocations (not including by-catch allowances listed in 6(a)):

TAC	*2,000 t*
United States	1,058.79 t
Canada	437.47 t
Japan	345.74 t
United Kingdom (in respect of Bermuda)	4.51 t
France (in respect of St. Pierre & Miquelon)	4.51 t
Mexico	108.98 t

In no case shall the allocation to France (in respect of St. Pierre & Miquelon) and to the United Kingdom (in respect of 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 108.98 t of its adjusted quota in 2017 to Canada to support cooperative research as specified in paragraph 20.

(e) Depending on availability, the United Kingdom (in respect of Bermuda) can transfer up to the amount of its adjusted quota in 2017 to the United States to support cooperative research as specified in paragraph 20.

(f) Depending on availability, France (in respect of St. Pierre & Miquelon) can transfer up to the amount of its adjusted quota in 2017 to Canada to support cooperative research as specified in paragraph 20.

(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 present the results of the research to the SCRS.

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 UK (in respect of Bermuda), France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon), and Mexico (i.e., those with initial allocations of 115 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. Any overharvest of such tolerance limit from one year must be subtracted from the tolerance limit applicable in the next year or the year after that. 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, except as the subject of a research project notified to SCRS, developed taking into consideration the recommended research priorities of the SCRS, and conducted by individuals duly permitted by the CPC to undertake such research.

10. CPCs shall prohibit fishermen from selling or offering for sale recreationally harvested fish of any size.

11. 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

12. There shall be no directed fishery on the bluefin tuna spawning stock in the western Atlantic spawning grounds (i.e., the Gulf of Mexico). In light of advice received from SCRS pursuant to paragraph 23, the Commission shall review this measure and consider the need for alternative management actions.

Transshipment

13. Transshipment at-sea shall be prohibited.

Scientific research and data and reporting requirements

14. In 2017, 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.

15. 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].

16. Canada, the United States, Japan, Mexico, and, as appropriate, other CPCs harvesting western Atlantic bluefin tuna shall continue to collaborate in the improvement of existing indices of abundance and the development of new combined indices. To advance this work, SCRS should review the current stock abundance indices for western Atlantic bluefin tuna at its 2017 data preparatory meeting, as well as analysis of any relevant non-aggregated catch and effort data that can be provided, consistent with domestic confidentiality requirements.

17. The SCRS shall annually review available fishery and stock indicators 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.

18. In preparation for the 2017 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 that might also support alternative scenarios 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, or provide advice based on an alternative approach, 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) associated with managing the stock under a scenario that does not accurately reflect the stock-recruit relationship.

19. 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.

20. CPCs that harvest Atlantic bluefin tuna should contribute to the research being undertaken through ICCAT's GBYP. Based on analysis at the 2017 Bluefin Tuna Data Preparatory meeting, the SCRS will (a) identify existing Atlantic bluefin tuna fisheries for which biological sampling rates should be increased, (b) identify any such fisheries for which improvements in the collection and/or provision of catch, effort, and/or size data are necessary to support the stock assessment, and (c) provide information and guidance to CPCs and the Commission in 2017 on enhancing efforts to address any deficiencies identified in (a) and (b) above. CPCs should make or continue special efforts to enhance biological sampling activities in Atlantic bluefin tuna fisheries, and SCRS will report to the Commission in 2017 on these efforts. In addition, it is important to continue to explore sampling and/or other approaches for enhancing, and where needed developing, accurate abundance indices for juvenile bluefin tuna. CPCs should also make special efforts to ensure complete and timely submission of any collected data to the SCRS.

21. All CPCs shall monitor and report on all sources of fishing mortality, including dead discards, and shall minimize dead discards to the extent practicable.

22. Each CPC shall ensure that its fishing vessels landing bluefin tuna are subject to a data recording system, in accordance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Recording of Catch by Fishing Vessels in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 03-13].

23. As part of the 2017 stock assessment, the SCRS shall review new available information related to the identification of specific spawning times and areas of bluefin tuna within the western Atlantic Ocean, including from those CPCs that harvest western Atlantic bluefin tuna, and advise the Commission on the results of this review for its consideration. Concerned CPCs are encouraged to work through the SCRS to develop advice for managing any identified times and specific areas under a precautionary approach.

24. 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.

25. 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.

26. 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 all age classes encountered in their fisheries, consistent with minimum size restrictions.

27. SCRS should 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. The SCRS should also comment on the effect of fish size management measures on their ability to monitor stock status.

28. This Recommendation replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program* [Rec. 14-05].

16-09 **BFT**

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO SUPPLEMENT "RECOMMENDATION 14-04 BY ICCAT AMENDING THE RECOMMENDATION 13-07 BY ICCAT TO ESTABLISH A MULTI-ANNUAL RECOVERY PLAN FOR BLUEFIN TUNA IN THE EASTERN ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN"

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

1. In addition to the quota provided in the table and the footnote in Paragraph 5 of the Recommendation 14-04, Algeria may catch up to 500 t in 2017.

16-10 **BIL**

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING RECOMMENDATION [15-05] BY ICCAT TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE PLAN TO REBUILD BLUE MARLIN AND WHITE MARLIN STOCKS

TAKING NOTE of the request to transfer 30 t of blue marlins from Venezuela to the European Union in 2017, in the framework of the EU pay-back plan for blue marlins and white marlins;

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

1. The following text is added at the end of paragraph 1 of *Recommendation by ICCAT to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Stocks* [Rec. 15-05]:

   "In 2017 Venezuela is authorized to transfer 30 t of blue marlin to the European Union."

16-11 **BIL**

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC SAILFISH

CONSIDERING that in light of the results of the stock assessment of the Atlantic sailfish (*Istiophorus albicans*) undertaken in 2016 and in order to manage this species in a precautionary manner an annual catch limit should be established for the western and eastern stocks of Atlantic sailfish consistent with the scientific advice;

RECALLING the provisions of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Principles of Decision Making for ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* (Rec. 11-13);

NOTING that the western and eastern Atlantic stocks of sailfish are caught in a variety of ICCAT fisheries (e.g. longline, purse seine, recreational, and artisanal surface fisheries);

RECOGNIZING that SCRS has highlighted that recent research has demonstrated that in some longline fisheries the use of circle hooks resulted in a reduction of billfish mortality, while the catch rates of several of the target species remained the same or were greater than the catch rates observed with conventional J hooks;

ACKNOWLEDGING that catches of sailfish are likely under-reported, and according to the SCRS, this is one of the main sources of uncertainty in the assessment;

RECOGNISING the importance of the ICCAT Enhanced Research Programme for Billfish and the need to improve catch data reporting for sailfish;

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

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) whose vessels catch Atlantic sailfish (*Istiophorus albicans*) in the Convention Area shall ensure that management measures are in place to support the conservation of this species in line with ICCAT's Convention objective by undertaking the following:

   (a) If the total catch of either stock of Atlantic sailfish exceeds in any year the level corresponding to 67 % of the average estimate of their Maximum Sustainable Yield (i.e. 1,271 t for the eastern stock and 1,030 t for the western stock), the Commission shall review the implementation and effectiveness of this recommendation.

   (b) To prevent catches from exceeding this level for either stock of sailfish, CPCs shall take or maintain appropriate measures to limit sailfish mortality. Such measures could include, for example: releasing live sailfish, encouraging or requiring the use of circle hooks or other effective gear modifications, implementing a minimum size, and/or limiting days at sea.

2. CPCs shall enhance their efforts to collect data on catches of sailfish, including live and dead discards, and report these data annually as part of their Task I and II data submission to support the stock assessment process. The SCRS shall review these data and determine the feasibility of estimating fishing mortality by commercial fisheries (including longline, gillnets and purse seine), recreational fisheries and artisanal fisheries.

3. The SCRS shall also develop a new data collection initiative as part of the ICCAT Enhanced Program for Billfish Research to overcome the data gap issues of those fisheries, in particular artisanal fisheries of developing CPCs, and shall recommend the initiative to the Commission for its approval in 2017.

4. In their Annual Reports, beginning in 2017, CPCs shall describe their data collection programmes and steps taken to implement this Recommendation.

5. This recommendation shall be reviewed in light of the outcomes of the next stock assessment for Atlantic sailfish.

16-12 **BYC**

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC BLUE SHARK CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH ICCAT FISHERIES

RECALLING that the Commission adopted the *Resolution by ICCAT on Atlantic Sharks* [Res. 01-11], the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Conservation of Sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT* [Rec. 04-10], the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT concerning Sharks* [Rec. 07-06], including the obligation of CPCs to annually report Task I & II data for sharks in accordance with ICCAT data reporting procedures and the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Development of Harvest Control Rules and of Management Strategy Evaluation* [Rec. 15-07];

FURTHER RECALLING that the Commission has adopted management measures for shark species considered vulnerable to overfishing and caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT;

RECOGNIZING that Atlantic blue sharks (*Prionace glauca*) are caught in large numbers in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT*;*

CONSIDERING that following the stock assessment undertaken in 2015, the SCRS report states that despite the positive signs of the stock status of the North Atlantic stock of blue shark, a high level of uncertainty in data inputs and in model structural assumptions remains and, therefore, the possibility of the stock being overfished and overfishing occurring could not be ruled out;

NOTING that, according to SCRS advice precautionary management measures should be considered for shark stocks for which there are few data and/or greater uncertainty in assessment results;

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

1. To ensure the conservation of the blue shark (*Prionace glauca*) stocks in the Atlantic Ocean, the following shall apply.

Catch limits for Blue Shark

2. If the average total catch of the North Atlantic blue shark in any consecutive two years from 2017 onward exceeds the average level observed during the period 2011-2015 (*i.e.* 39,102 t), the Commission shall review the implementation and effectiveness of these measures. Based on the review and the results of the next stock assessment scheduled for 2021 or at an earlier stage if enough information is provided to SCRS, the Commission shall consider introduction of additional measures.

3. Based on the results of the next stock assessment, the Commission shall consider measures necessary to sustainably utilize the South Atlantic blue shark stock.

Recording, Reporting, and Use of the Catch Information

4. Each CPC shall ensure that its vessels catching blue shark in association with ICCAT fisheries in the Convention area record their catch in accordance with the requirements set out in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Recording of Catch by Fishing Vessels in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 03-13].

5. CPCs shall implement data collection programmes that ensure the reporting of accurate blue shark catch, effort, size and discard data to ICCAT in full accordance with the ICCAT requirements for provision of Task I and Task II.

6. CPCs shall include in their Annual Reports to ICCAT information on the actions they have taken domestically to monitor catches and to conserve and manage blue sharks.

Scientific Research

7. CPCs are encouraged to undertake scientific research that would provide information on key biological/ecological parameters, life-history, migrations, post-release survivorship and behavioural traits of blue sharks. Such information shall be made available to the SCRS.

8. In the light of the results of the next stock assessment of blue shark, the SCRS shall provide, if possible, options of HCR with the associated limit, target and threshold reference points for the management of this species in the ICCAT Convention area.

16-13 **BYC**

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON IMPROVEMENT OF COMPLIANCE REVIEW OF CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES REGARDING SHARKS CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH ICCAT FISHERIES

RECALLING that ICCAT has adopted several recommendations for sharks, either in a general or species-specific manner, in accordance with an ecosystem approach;

FURTHER RECALLING that *Recommendation by ICCAT on Compliance with Existing measures on Shark Conservation and Management* [Rec. 12-05] requires CPCs to report their implementation of and compliance with the shark conservation and management measures;

NOTING that the Compliance Committee during the 2015 Annual meeting was able to have only brief discussions about thematic issues on compliance of shark conservation measures due to time constraint and the CPC-by-CPC review was postponed to the Compliance Committee during the 2016 Annual meeting;

RECOGNIZING the need to improve the means to facilitate review process of implementation of and compliance with the shark conservation and management measures;

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

1. All CPCs submit to the ICCAT Secretariat, at least one month before the start of the 2017 Annual meeting, details of their implementation of and compliance with shark conservation and management measures [Rec. 04-10, 07-06, 09-07, 10-06, 10-07, 10-08, 11-08, 11-15, 12-05, 14-06 and 15-06] using the check sheet in **Annex 1**.

2. CPCs may be exempt from the submission of the check sheet when vessels flying their flag are not likely to catch any sharks species covered by the abovementioned Recommendations in paragraph 1, on the condition that the concerned CPCs obtained a confirmation by the Shark Species Group through necessary data submitted by CPCs for this purpose.

Annex 1

Shark Implementation Check Sheet

(Name of CPC)

Note: Each ICCAT requirement must be implemented in a legally binding manner. Just requesting fishermen to implement measures should not be regarded as implementation.

Rec. #	*Para #*	*Requirement*	*Status of implementation*	*Note*
04-10	1	Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) shall annually report Task I and Task II data for catches of sharks, in accordance with ICCAT data reporting procedures, including available historical data	Yes or No or N/A (Not applicable)	If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
	2	CPCs shall take the necessary measures to require that their fishermen fully utilize their entire catches of sharks. Full utilization is defined as retention by the fishing vessel of all parts of the shark excepting head, guts and skins, to the point of first landing	Yes or No or N/A	If "Yes", explain the details of the measures, including ways to monitor the compliance. If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
	3	(1) CPCs shall require their vessels to not have onboard fins that total more than 5% of the weight of sharks onboard, up to the first point of landing.	Yes or No or N/A	If "Yes", explain ways to monitor the compliance. If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
		(2) CPCs that currently do not require fins and carcasses to be offloaded together at the point of first landing shall take the necessary measures to ensure compliance with the 5% ratio through certification, monitoring by an observer, or other appropriate measures	Yes or No or N/A	If "Yes", explain the details of the measures, including ways to monitor the compliance. If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
	5	Fishing vessels are prohibited from retaining on board, transshipping or landing any fins harvested in contravention of this Recommendation	Yes or No or N/A	If "Yes", explain ways to monitor the compliance. If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
07-06	1	Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as CPCs), especially those directing fishing activities for sharks, shall submit Task I and II data for sharks, as required by ICCAT data reporting procedures (including estimates of dead discards and size frequencies) in advance of the next SCRS assessment	Yes or No or N/A	If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.

	2	Until such time as sustainable levels of harvest can be determined through peer reviewed stock assessments by SCRS or other organizations, CPCs shall take appropriate measures to reduce fishing mortality in fisheries targeting porbeagle *(Lamna nasus*) and North Atlantic shortfin mako sharks (*Isurus oxyrinchus*)	Yes or No or N/A	If "Yes", explain the details of the measures, including ways to monitor the compliance. If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
09-07	1	Contracting Parties, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall prohibit, retaining onboard, transshipping, landing, storing, selling, or offering for sale any part or whole carcass of bigeye thresher sharks (*Alopias superciliosus*) in any fishery with exception of a Mexican small-scale coastal fishery with a catch of less than 110 fish	Yes or No or N/A	If "Yes", explain ways to monitor the compliance. If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
	2	CPCs shall require vessels flying their flag to promptly release unharmed, to the extent practicable, bigeye thresher sharks when brought along side for taking on board the vessel	Yes or No or N/A	If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
	4	CPCs shall require the collection and submission of Task I and Task II data for Alopias spp other than *A. superciliosus* in accordance with ICCAT data reporting requirements. The number of discards and releases of *A. superciliosus* must be recorded with indication of status (dead or alive) and reported to ICCAT in accordance with ICCAT data reporting requirements	Yes or No or N/A	If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
10-06	1	CPCs shall include information in their 2012 Annual Reports on actions taken to implement Recommendations 04-10, 05-05, and 07-06, in particular the steps taken to improve their Task I and Task II data collection for direct and incidental catches	Yes or No or N/A	If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
10-07	1	Contracting Parties, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall prohibit retaining onboard, transshipping, landing, storing, selling, or offering for sale any part or whole carcass of oceanic whitetip sharks in any fishery	Yes or No or N/A	If "Yes", explain ways to monitor the compliance. If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
	2	CPCs shall record through their observer programs the number of discards and releases of oceanic whitetip sharks with indication of status (dead or alive) and report it to ICCAT	Yes or No or N/A	If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.

10-08	1	Contracting Parties, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall prohibit retaining onboard, transshipping, landing, storing, selling, or offering for sale any part or whole carcass of hammerhead sharks of the family Sphyrnidae (except for the *Sphyrna tiburo*), taken in the Convention area in association with ICCAT fisheries	Yes or No or N/A	If "Yes", explain ways to monitor the compliance. If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
	2	CPCs shall require vessels flying their flag, to promptly release unharmed, to the extent practicable, hammerhead sharks when brought alongside the vessel	Yes or No or N/A	If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
	3	(1) Hammerhead sharks that are caught by developing coastal CPCs for local consumption are exempted from the measures established in paragraphs 1 and 2, provided these CPCs submit Task I and, if possible, Task II data according to the reporting procedures established by the SCRS. If it is not possible to provide catch data by species, they shall be provided at least by genus Sphryna.	Yes or No or N/A	If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
		(2) Developing coastal CPCs exempted from this prohibition pursuant to this paragraph should endeavor not to increase their catches of hammerhead sharks. Such CPCs shall take necessary measures to ensure that hammerhead sharks of the family Sphyrnidae (except of *Sphyrna tiburo*) will not enter international trade and shall notify the Commission of such measures	Yes or No or N/A	If "Yes", explain the details of the measures, including ways to monitor the compliance. If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
	4	CPCs shall require that the number of discards and releases of hammerhead sharks are recorded with indication of status (dead or alive) and reported to ICCAT in accordance with ICCAT data reporting requirements	Yes or No or N/A	If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
11-08	1	Contracting Parties, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall require fishing vessels flying their flag and operating in ICCAT managed fisheries to release all silky sharks whether dead or alive, and prohibit retaining on board, transshipping, or landing any part or whole carcass of silky shark	Yes or No or N/A	If "Yes", explain ways to monitor the compliance. If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.

	2	CPCs shall require vessels flying their flag to promptly release silky sharks unharmed, at the latest before putting the catch into the fish holds, giving due consideration to the safety of crew members. Purse seine vessels engaged in ICCAT fisheries shall endeavor to take additional measures to increase the survival rate of silky sharks incidentally caught	Yes or No or N/A	If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
	3	CPCs shall record through their observer programs the number of discards and releases of silky sharks with indication of status (dead or alive) and report it to ICCAT	Yes or No or N/A	If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
	4	(1) Silky sharks that are caught by developing coastal CPCs for local consumption are exempted from the measures established in paragraphs 1 and 2, provided these CPCs submit Task I and, if possible, Task II data according to the reporting procedures established by the SCRS. CPCs that have not reported species-specific shark data shall provide a plan by July 1, 2012, for improving their data collection for sharks on a species specific level for review by the SCRS and Commission.	Yes or No or N/A	If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
		(2) Developing coastal CPCs exempted from the prohibition pursuant to this paragraph shall not increase their catches of silky sharks. Such CPCs shall take necessary measures to ensure that silky sharks will not enter international trade and shall notify the Commission of such measures	Yes or No or N/A	If "Yes", explain the details of the measures, including ways to monitor the compliance. If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
	6	The prohibition on retention in paragraph 1 does not apply to CPCs whose domestic law requires that all dead fish be landed, that the fishermen cannot draw any commercial profit from such fish and that includes a prohibition against silky shark fisheries	Applicable or N/A	
11-15	1	CPCs shall 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, in particular the steps taken to improve their Task I and Task II data collection for direct and incidental catches	Yes or No or N/A	If "Yes", explain the details of the actions. If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
14-06	1	CPCs shall improve their catch reporting systems to ensure the reporting of shortfin mako catch and effort data to ICCAT in full accordance with the ICCAT requirements for provision of Task I and Task II catch, effort and size data	Yes or No or N/A	If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.

	2	CPCs shall include in their annual reports to ICCAT information on the actions they have taken domestically to monitor catches and to conserve and manage shortfin mako sharks	Yes or No or N/A	If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
15-06	1	Contracting Parties, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall require their vessels to promptly release unharmed, to the extent practicable, porbeagle sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries when brought alive alongside for taking on board the vessel.	Yes or No or N/A	If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.
	2	CPCs shall ensure the collection of Task I and Task II data for porbeagle sharks and their submission in accordance with ICCAT data reporting requirements. Discards and releases of porbeagle sharks shall be recorded with indication of status (dead or alive) and reported to ICCAT in accordance with ICCAT data reporting requirements.	Yes or No or N/A	If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.

16-14 **GEN**

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO ESTABLISH MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR FISHING VESSEL SCIENTIFIC OBSERVER PROGRAMMES

RECALLING that Article IX of the Convention requires Contracting Parties to furnish, on the request of the Commission, any available statistical, biological and other scientific information needed for the purposes of the Convention;

FURTHER RECALLING the 2001 *Resolution by ICCAT on the Deadlines and Procedures for Data Submission* [Res. 01-16], in which the Commission established clear guidelines for the submission of Task I and Task II data;

ACKNOWLEDGING that poor quality data impacts the ability of the SCRS to complete robust stock assessments and provide management advice as well as the ability of the Commission to adopt effective conservation and management measures;

DETERMINED to ensure the collection of data accounting for all sources of mortality in ICCAT fisheries, for both target species and by-catch, to improve the certainty of future scientific advice while taking into account ecosystem considerations;

RECOGNIZING that observer programmes are used at both the national and RFMOs level for the purposes of collecting scientific data;

RECOGNIZING the international nature of the fishing activity on and management of ICCAT species and the consequent need to embark well-trained observers to improve the collection of relevant data, in terms of consistency and quality;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the needs of developing States with regard to capacity building;

RECOGNIZING the United Nations General Assembly Sustainable Fisheries Resolution 63/112, that encourages the development of observer programmes by RFMOs and arrangements to improve data collection;

CONSIDERING that the SCRS suggested that the current level of scientific observers (5%) seems to be inappropriate to provide reasonable estimates of total by-catch and recommended increasing the minimum level to 20%;

FURTHER CONSIDERING that the SCRS recommended studying the issue further, in order to determine the level of coverage appropriate to meet management and scientific objectives;

RECOGNIZING that the SCRS noted that the current mandatory level of observer coverage of 5% may have not been implemented by many of the fleets and underlined the need for achieving those minimum coverages so the SCRS could address the mandate given by the Commission;

ACKNOWLEDGING that electronic monitoring systems were successfully tested in some fisheries and that the SCRS adopted minimum standards for their implementation for the tropical purse seine fleet;

RECALLING the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Minimum Standards for Fishing Vessel Scientific Observer Programs* [Rec. 10-10] and desiring to enhance its provisions to improve the availability of scientific data and the safety of observers;

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

General Provisions

1. Notwithstanding additional observer program requirements that may be in place or adopted by ICCAT in the future for specific fisheries or fishing activities, each Contracting Party and Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity (CPC) shall implement the following minimum standards and protocols with respect to their domestic scientific observer programs to ensure the collection and reporting of relevant scientific information from ICCAT fisheries.

Qualifications of Observers

2. Without prejudice to any training or technical qualifications recommended by the SCRS, CPCs shall ensure that their observers have the following minimum qualifications to accomplish their tasks:

   a) sufficient knowledge and experience to identify ICCAT species and fishing gear configurations;

   b) the ability to observe and record accurately the information to be collected under the Program;

   c) the capability of performing the tasks set forth in paragraph 7 below;

   d) the ability to collect biological samples; and

   e) minimum and adequate training in safety and sea survival.

3. In addition, in order to ensure the integrity of their domestic observer program, CPCs shall ensure the observers:

   a) are not crew members of the vessel being observed;

   b) are not employees of the owner or beneficial owner of the fishing vessel being observed; and

   c) do not have current financial or beneficial interests in the fisheries being observed.

Observer Coverage

4. Each CPC shall ensure the following with respect to its domestic observer programs:

   a) A minimum of 5% observer coverage of fishing effort in each of the pelagic longline, purse seine, and, as defined in the ICCAT glossary, baitboat, traps, gillnet and trawl fisheries. The percentage coverage will be measured:

      i. for purse seine fisheries, in number of sets or trips;
      ii. for pelagic longline fisheries, in fishing days, number of sets, or trips;
      iii. for baitboat and trap fisheries, in fishing days;
      iv. for gillnet fisheries, in fishing hours or days; and
      v. for trawl fisheries, in fishing hauls or days.

   b) Notwithstanding paragraph a), for vessels less than 15 meters, where an extraordinary safety concern may exist that precludes deployment of an onboard observer, a CPC may employ an alternative scientific monitoring approach that will collect data equivalent to that specified in this recommendation in a manner that ensures comparable coverage. In any such cases, the CPC wishing to avail itself of an alternative approach must present the details of the approach to the SCRS for evaluation. The SCRS will advise the Commission on the suitability of the alternative approach for carrying out the data collection obligations set forth in this Recommendation. Alternative approaches implemented pursuant to this provision shall be subject to the approval of the Commission at the annual meeting prior to implementation.

c) Representative temporal and spatial coverage of the operation of the fleet to ensure the collection of adequate and appropriate data as required under this Recommendation and any additional domestic CPC observer program requirements, taking into account characteristics of the fleets and fisheries;

d) Data collection on pertinent aspects of the fishing operation, including catch, as detailed in paragraph 7.

5. CPCs may conclude bilateral arrangements whereby one CPC places its domestic observers on vessels flying the flag of another CPC, as long as all provisions of this Recommendation are complied with.

6. CPCs shall endeavour to ensure that observers alternate vessels between their assignments.

Tasks of the Observer

7. CPCs shall require, *inter alia*, observers to:

a) record and report upon the fishing activity of the observed vessel, which shall include at least the following:

i. data collection, that includes quantifying total target catch, discards and by-catch (including sharks, sea turtles, marine mammals, and seabirds), estimating or measuring size composition as practicable, disposition status (i.e., retained, discarded dead, released alive), the collection of biological samples for life history studies (e.g., gonads, otoliths, spines, scales);

ii. collect and report on all tags found;

iii. fishing operation information, including:
- location of catch by latitude and longitude;
- fishing effort information (e.g., number of sets, number of hooks, etc.);
- date of each fishing operation, including, as appropriate, the start and stop times of the fishing activity;
- use of fish aggregating objects, including FADs; and
- general condition of released animals related to survival rates (i.e. dead/alive, wounded, etc.).

b) observe and record the use of by-catch mitigation measures and other relevant information;

c) to the extent possible, observe and report environmental conditions (e.g., sea state, climate and hydrologic parameters, etc.);

d) observe and report on FADs, in accordance with the ICCAT Observer program adopted under the multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tuna; and

e) perform any other scientific tasks as recommended by SCRS and agreed by the Commission.

Obligations of the Observer

8. CPCs shall ensure that the observer:

a) does not interfere with the electronic equipment of the vessel;

b) is familiar with the emergency procedures aboard the vessel, including the location of life rafts, fire extinguishers and first aid kits;

c) communicates as needed with the Master on relevant observer issues and tasks;

d) does not hinder or interfere with the fishing activities and the normal operations of the vessel;

e) participates in a debriefing session(s) with appropriate representatives of the scientific institute or the domestic authority responsible for implementing the observer program.

Obligations of the Master

9. CPCs shall ensure that the Master of the vessel to which the observer is assigned:

a) permits appropriate access to the vessel and its operations;

b) allows the observer to carry out his/her responsibilities in an effective way, including by:

i. providing appropriate access to the vessel's gear, documentation (including electronic and paper logbooks), and catch;

ii. communicating at any time with appropriate representatives of the scientific institute or domestic authority;

iii. ensuring appropriate access to electronics and other equipment pertinent to fishing, including but not limited to:

- Satellite navigation equipment
- Electronic means of communication

iv. ensuring that no one on board the observed vessel tampers with or destroys observer equipment or documentation; obstructs, interferes with, or otherwise acts in a manner that could unnecessarily prevent the observer from performing his/her duties; intimidates, harasses, or harms the observer in any way; or bribes or attempts to bribe the observer;

c) provides accommodation to observers, including berthing, food and adequate sanitary and medical facilities, equal to those of officers;

d) provides the observer adequate space on the bridge or pilot house to perform his/her tasks, as well as space on deck adequate for carrying out observer tasks.

Duties of the CPCs

10. Each CPC shall:

a) require its vessels, when fishing for ICCAT species, to carry a scientific observer in accordance with the provisions of this recommendation;

b) oversee the safety of its observers;

c) encourage, where feasible and appropriate, their scientific institute or domestic authority to enter into agreements with the scientific institutes or domestic authorities of other CPCs for the exchange of observer reports and observer data between them;

d) provide in its Annual Report for use by the Commission and the SCRS, specific information on the implementation of this recommendation, which shall include:

i. details on the structure and design of their scientific observer programs, including, *inter alia*:
   - the target level of observer coverage by fishery and gear type as well as how measured;
   - data required to be collected;
   - data collection and handling protocols in place;
   - information on how vessels are selected for coverage to achieve the CPC's target level of observer coverage;
   - observer training requirements; and
   - observer qualification requirements;

ii. the number of vessels monitored, the coverage level achieved by fishery and gear type, and details on how those coverage levels were calculated;

e) following the initial submission of the information required under paragraph 10(d)(i), report changes to the structure and/or design of its observer programs in its Annual Reports only when such changes occur. CPCs shall continue to report the information required pursuant to paragraph 10(d)(ii) to the Commission annually;

f) each year, using the designated electronic formats that are developed by the SCRS , report to the SCRS information collected through domestic observer programs for use by the Commission, in particular for stock assessment and other scientific purposes, in line with procedures in place for other data reporting requirements and consistent with domestic confidentiality requirements;

g) ensure implementation of robust data collection protocols by its observers, when carrying out their tasks referred to in paragraph 7, including, as necessary and appropriate, the use of photography.

Duties of the Executive Secretary

11. The Executive Secretary facilitates access by SCRS and the Commission to relevant data and information submitted pursuant to this recommendation.

Duties of the SCRS

12. The SCRS shall:

a) develop, as needed and appropriate, an observer working manual for voluntary use by CPCs in their domestic observer programs, that includes model data collection forms and standardized data collection procedures, taking into account observer manuals and related materials that may already exist through other sources, including CPCs, regional and sub-regional bodies, and other organizations;

b) develop fisheries specific guidelines for electronic monitoring systems;

c) provide the Commission with a summary of the scientific data and information collected and reported pursuant to this recommendation and any relevant associated findings;

d) make recommendations, as necessary and appropriate, on how to improve the effectiveness of scientific observer programs in order to meet the data needs of the Commission, including possible revisions to this Recommendation and/or with respect to implementation of these minimum standards and protocols by CPCs.

Electronic Monitoring Systems

13. Where they have been determined by SCRS to be effective in a particular fishery, electronic monitoring systems may be installed on board fishing vessels to complement or, pending SCRS advice and a Commission decision, to replace the human observer on board.

14. CPCs should consider any applicable guidelines that are endorsed by SCRS on the use of electronic monitoring systems.

15. CPCs are encouraged to report to the SCRS their experiences in the use of electronic monitoring systems in their ICCAT fisheries to complement human observer programs. CPCs who have not yet implemented such systems are encouraged to explore their use and report their findings to the SCRS.

Support to Developing States

16. Developing States shall report to the Commission on their special requirements in the implementation of the provisions of this Recommendation. The Commission shall take due regard of these special requirements.

17. Available ICCAT funds will be used to support the implementation of scientific observer programs in developing States, notably the training of observers.

Final provisions

18. The Commission shall review this Recommendation no later than its 2019 annual meeting and consider revising it, in particular, in the light of information provided by CPCs and of SCRS recommendations.

19. Recommendation [10-10] is repealed and replaced by this Recommendation.

16-15 **GEN**

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON TRANSHIPMENT

TAKING ACCOUNT of the need to combat illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing activities because they undermine the effectiveness of the conservation and management measures already adopted by ICCAT;

EXPRESSING GRAVE CONCERN that organized tuna laundering operations have been conducted and a significant amount of catches by IUU fishing vessels have been transhipped under the names of duly licensed fishing vessels;

IN VIEW THEREFORE OF THE NEED to ensure the monitoring of the transhipment activities on tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species that were harvested in the ICCAT Convention area, in particular by large-scale pelagic longline vessels (LSPLVs), 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. All at-sea 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,

   are prohibited, except that large scale pelagic longline vessels, defined as those greater than 24 meters length overall, may conduct at-sea transhipment under the program established in Section 3 below. All other transhipments 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 **Appendix 3**, when transhipping tuna and tuna-like species and 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 swordfish at sea.[1]

[1] For the purpose of this Recommendation, "fresh swordfish" means swordfish that are alive, whole or gutted / dressed but not further processed or frozen.

4. This Recommendation does not apply to transhipments 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. RECORD OF CARRIER VESSELS AUTHORISED TO RECEIVE TRANSHIPMENT IN THE ICCAT AREA

6. Transhipment 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.

7. An ICCAT Record of Carrier Vessels authorized to receive tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species in the Convention area 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 other species caught in association with these species in transhipment operations.

8. 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 transhipments in the Convention area. This list shall include the following information:
   - Name of vessel, register number
   - ICCAT Record Number (if any)
   - IMO number
   - Previous name (if any)
   - Previous flag (if any)
   - Previous details of deletion from other registries (if any)
   - International radio call sign
   - Type of vessels, length, gross registered tonnage (GRT) and carrying capacity
   - Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s)
   - Type of transhipment authorised (i.e., in port and/or at sea)
   - Time period authorised for transhipping

9. Each CPC shall promptly notify the ICCAT Executive Secretary of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the ICCAT Record of Carrier Vessels, at any time such changes occur.

10. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall maintain the ICCAT Record of Carrier Vessels 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.

11. Carrier vessels authorized for transhipment shall be required to install and operate a VMS in accordance with all applicable ICCAT recommendations, including the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 03-14 by ICCAT concerning Minimum Standards for the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 14-09], or any successor recommendation, including any future revisions thereto.

SECTION 3. PROGRAMME TO MONITOR TRANSHIPMENT AT SEA

12. 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 provisions set forth in this Section, in Section 4, and **Appendix 1 and 2** below.

Large Scale Pelagic Longline Vessels (LSPLVs) authorized to tranship at sea

13. 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 transhipping 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.

Coastal State authorization

14. Transhipments 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:

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

Large Scale Pelagic Longline Vessels (LSPLVs):

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 transhipments 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 **Appendix 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 **Appendix 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 at sea 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 4. 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 transhipments 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 transhipment 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 transhipment declaration.

22. The flag CPCs of LSPLVs which have transhipped during the previous year and the flag CPCs of carrier vessels accepting transhipments 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 transhipment 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 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 transhipment declaration until the first sale has taken place.

24. The Flag CPC of the LSPLV engaged in at-sea transhipments, 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, transhipments, 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 on a Programme for Transhipment* [Rec. 12-06].

Appendix 1

Transhipment Declaration

Carrier vessel	**Fishing vessel**
Vessel Name and radio call sign:	Vessel Name and radio call sign:
Flag Country/Entity/Fishing Entity:	Flag CPC:
Flag State authorization number:	Flag CPC authorization number:
Domestic Registration Number:	Domestic Registration Number:
ICCAT Record Number:	ICCAT Record Number, if applicable:
IMO Number:	IMO Number:
	External identification:

	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:
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…….

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 transhipment 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.

Appendix 2

ICCAT Regional Observer Programme

1. Each CPC shall require carrier vessels included in the ICCAT record of vessels authorized to receive transhipments in the ICCAT area and which tranship at sea, to carry an ICCAT observer during each transhipment 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 transhipments 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 LSPLVs 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 point 10 of this Appendix, and before the transhipment takes place, to:
      a) Check the validity of the fishing vessel's authorization or license to fish for tuna and tuna-like species and 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 LSPLV, 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 LSPLV; and
      g) Record the results of these duties on the LSPLV in the observer's report.
   6.2 Observe the activities of carrier vessel and:
      a) record and report upon the transhipment activities carried out;
      b) verify the position of the vessel when engaged in transhipping;

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 transhipment declaration, including through comparison with the LSPLV logbook, where possible;
g) certify the data contained in the transhipment declaration;
h) countersign the transhipment 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 transhipment operations.

6.3 In addition, the observer shall:

a) issue a daily report of the carrier vessel's transhipping 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 point 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 point 6:

i) satellite navigation equipment;
ii) radar display viewing screens when in use;
iii) VMS
iv) electronic means of communication; and
v) 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 transhipment 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 transshipped;

f) In light of the provisions of point 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 LSPLV, if weather and other conditions permit, and shall be granted access to personnel, all pertinent documentation, VMS and areas of the vessel necessary to carry out their duties set forth in point 6 in this Appendix. The master of the LSPLV shall ensure that all necessary assistance is provided to the observer to ensure safe transport between the carrier and LSPLV. 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 point 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.

Appendix 3

In-Port Transhipment

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, transhipment in port by any CPC of tuna and tuna-like species and 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. Catching fishing vessel

3.1 At least 48 hours in advance of transhipment operations, the captain of the fishing vessel must notify to the Port State authorities the name of the carrier vessel and date/time of transhipment.

3.2 The captain of a fishing vessel shall, at the time of the transhipment, 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 transhipment;
- 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 transhipment declaration, along with its number in the ICCAT record of fishing vessels, where applicable, in accordance with the format set out in **Appendix 1** not later than 15 days after the transhipment.

4. Receiving fishing vessel

4.1 Not later than 24 hours before the beginning and at the end of the transhipment, 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 transhipment 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 transhipment 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 points shall review the information received pursuant to the provisions of this Appendix, including in cooperation with the flag CPC of the fishing vessel as necessary, to determine consistency between the reported catches, transhipments, 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 transhipments by its vessels.

16-16 **GEN**

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO AMEND ICCAT REPORTING DEADLINES IN ORDER TO FACILITATE AN EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT COMPLIANCE PROCESS

RECOGNIZING the substantial amount of information that must be reviewed and analyzed to prepare for meetings of the Compliance Committee; and

NOTING that an earlier submission date of the Annual Report Part II and other reports that contain information relevant to assessing CPC compliance will afford a more thorough review of this information;

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

1. The deadline in paragraph 1 of *Recommendation by ICCAT to Clarify the Application of Compliance Recommendations and for Developing the Compliance Annex* [Rec. 11-11], shall be amended to 15 August (Compliance Reporting Tables and associated forms, currently due 15 September).

2. Deadlines in the following ICCAT instruments shall be amended to 1 October, as follows:

   (a) *Revised Guidelines for the Preparation of Annual Reports* [Ref. 12-13], paragraph 2, last sentence (complete Annual Report, comprising Part I and Part II, currently due 16 October);

   (b) *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 13-07 by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 14-04], paragraph 101 (report on implementation of 14-04, currently due 15 October);

3. The Commission shall review this Recommendation at the 2018 meeting of the Commission to consider further modifying the deadline for the Compliance Reporting Tables and, as appropriate, other deadlines relevant to the Compliance Committee's work.

16-18 **TOR**

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO CLARIFY AND SUPPLEMENT THE PROCESS FOR SEEKING CAPACITY BUILDING ASSISTANCE PURSUANT TO ICCAT RECOMMENDATION 14-08

RECOGNIZING the role of the port State and the importance of port inspections in combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing activities;

ACKNOWLEDGING the port inspection obligations established in *Recommendation by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port* [Rec. 12-07];

RECALLING the provisions of Recommendation 12-07 that recognize the special requirements of developing CPCs in implementing ICCAT's port inspection minimum standards and calling on CPCs to provide assistance to such developing CPCs to ensure effective implementation of those minimum standards;

FURTHER RECALLING the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Support Effective Implementation of Recommendation 12-07 by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port* [Rec. 14-08];

DESIRING to enhance the process for identifying and evaluating port inspection capacity building needs and providing assistance to ensure the Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance Fund (MCS Fund) established in Recommendation 14-08 is utilized as effectively as possible;

AWARE that FAO has identified important considerations and objectives related to port inspection capacity building;

RECOGNIZING the utility of taking advantage of existing training materials and initiatives for port inspection capacity building wherever possible;

EMPHASIZING the value of regional and sub-regional cooperation and coordinated approaches to maximize standardization of port inspection procedures and enhance port inspection capacity among developing CPCs;

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

A Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity Building and Assistance is established with the following Terms of Reference:

1. Identify state-of-the-art needs assessment tools, training materials, and programmes related to port inspection. Sources may include CPCs, other RFMOs, the FAO, and other relevant organizations.

2. As appropriate, adapt training materials and programmes to reflect specific requirements of the ICCAT port inspection scheme, including the specific obligations of port State CPCs and the operational training needs of relevant personnel.

3. Evaluate and, if possible, prioritize applications for port inspection capacity building assistance submitted to the Secretariat in accordance with paragraph 7 of Recommendation 14-08. To facilitate this work, the Expert Group will:

   a) Develop one or more forms (with instructions) to help developing CPCs self-assess their port inspection capacity building needs and apply for assistance from ICCAT to address any identified needs, as appropriate. The Secretariat shall circulate the form(s) and instructions to all CPCs as soon as available and shall also post the form(s) and instructions on the public portion of the ICCAT website.

b) Review any other relevant information that might indicate a need for port inspection capacity building assistance, as compiled by the Secretariat and/or available from other sources.

c) As appropriate, engage with developing CPCs regarding their port inspection capacity building needs, including exploring possible approaches for addressing those needs.

d) Consider information on trainings or other capacity building assistance received by a developing CPC that was or will be provided outside of ICCAT's capacity building efforts. As required by the Expert Group, the Secretariat shall compile relevant information to support this task.

4. Identify CPCs with existing capacity building programmes that may be able to provide assistance to developing CPCs, and coordinate with the Secretariat to facilitate information exchange among these CPCs. Further, evaluate the potential to collaborate with the FAO in providing port inspection capacity building assistance in ICCAT through the FAO regional workshops related to implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement. In addition, consider if opportunities exist to cooperate with other governments or organizations on port inspection capacity building efforts.

5. Based on the work carried out under paragraphs 3 and 4 above, advise the Commission on the level and type of assistance that is needed, highlighting whether or not ICCAT funding would be required, to facilitate Commission decisions on the allocation of resources into and expenditures from the MCS Fund established in Recommendation 14-08.

6. Consider the effectiveness of the process and procedures for providing technical and capacity building assistance to developing CPCs with respect to the implementation of Recommendation 12-07 and, where relevant, advise the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of Statistics and Conservation (PWG) on ways to improve that effectiveness, including through the identification of difficulties that may be unrelated to a lack of capacity, such as unclear port inspection scheme requirements.

7. The Expert Group will meet in 2017 to begin its work, preferably in conjunction with a meeting of the Integrated Monitoring Measures Working Group or other appropriate intersessional ICCAT meeting. In addition, the Expert Group should seek to advance issues electronically to the extent possible.

8. At its first meeting, the Expert Group will elect a Chair from among its members. All CPCs with an interest in port inspection capacity building are encouraged to provide an expert to participate in the Group. The Expert Group will consist of no more than one participant from each CPC, participating as experts in port inspection and/or developing CPC needs, and not representing the interests of their respective CPCs. The ICCAT Secretariat will provide support and assistance as needed to ensure that the Expert Group can carry out these terms of reference as efficiently and effectively as possible.

16-19 **TOR**

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ONLINE REPORTING SYSTEM

RECOGNIZING that ICCAT has adopted a significant number of measures that require CPCs to submit information in various formats and under different schedules;

RECOGNIZING that the work of ICCAT benefits from timely and transparent information sharing;

RECOGNIZING the developments in electronic information exchange and the benefits, to the Secretariat and ICCAT members, of rapid communication with regard to the processing, management, and distribution of information;

NOTING the implementation of electronic systems will facilitate reporting, which should help address reporting delays, reporting in the wrong format, and incomplete reporting experienced by ICCAT under its current reporting process;

DESIRING to find effective ways to reduce the workload on the Secretariat and enhance the effective functioning of ICCAT, including the Compliance Committee;

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

1. An online reporting system shall be developed and maintained at the ICCAT Secretariat covering ICCAT reporting requirements, with an initial focus on elements of the required CPC Annual Reports.

2. An Online Reporting Technology Working Group is established, in collaboration with the ICCAT Secretariat, to develop the plan for the online reporting system, based on the elements presented in **Annex 1**. The Working Group should specify what information the system will collect, the format and structure of the user interface, and the underlying technical specifications. In developing these elements, the Working Group should include a cost-benefit analysis of options for the development and maintenance of this system, with a priority on creating a simple, user-friendly system.

3. In carrying out the work specified in paragraph 2 above, the Working Group will determine which electronic reporting elements need to be undertaken by outsourced technical services and which can be developed by the Secretariat, based on experience and management of other existing systems, including open source solutions based on international UN/CEFACT standards, and taking into account information from other regional fisheries management organizations considering implementation of such systems.

4. This Working Group shall begin its work in 2017 with a completion goal of 2019. The Working Group will provide annual interim reports to the Commission on the progress of its work, including presenting its proposal for the content and format of the online reporting system to the Commission for its consideration in order to inform the development of the technical specifications referred to in paragraph 2.

5. Any interested CPCs are invited to participate and shall notify the Secretariat of the name of their Working Group participant by 15 January 2017. Participants identified should have knowledge and experience in the development and use of electronic, web-based reporting tools. The Working Group will select a chair from among its membership.

6. Once the online reporting system is established, training programs shall be developed and implemented to the extent possible through existing bilateral or broader capacity building and technical assistance programs, to ensure that CPCs utilize the system for a more efficient and effective reporting.

Annex 1

Concept Note on an ICCAT online reporting system

Purpose and Need

ICCAT has adopted a significant number of measures that require CPCs to submit data and reports in various formats and under different schedules. This information is typically submitted via electronic mail to the general intake address (info@iccat.int). This approach places a significant burden on the Secretariat to evaluate the received information and place it into the appropriate databases for scientific and/or administrative uses. Additionally, there is a heavy burden on the Secretariat to extract the information from numerous electronic files in order to produce required reports and communications in a timely manner, in particular reports to support the work of the Compliance Committee.

An online reporting system on the ICCAT website could provide CPCs with a unified and comprehensive approach to submitting information. The system could assist CPCs by providing a "single window" reporting and management tool for tracking and organizing their respective submissions. The online reporting system could replace the need to separately submit Annual Reports and, to the extent possible, many other periodic submissions to the Secretariat.

Such a system could address the persistent problem of lack of reporting and/or incomplete and late reporting that creates work for the Secretariat and that impedes the effective functioning of the Compliance Committee. Extracts of information made directly by CPCs from the online reporting system could replace several reports and documents now prepared by the Secretariat and help streamline the support to the Compliance Committee and other ICCAT Sub-committees. In addition, these extracts could be available to CPCs at any time and could facilitate advance and more effective preparation for the Compliance Committee or other ICCAT bodies.

Potential Features of a System

The system would be based on a relational database consisting of individual reporting elements. These data elements are, to a large extent, already well defined (see ICCAT Guidelines for submitting data and the list of reporting requirements).

The system would include integrated information on reporting elements indicating origin (ICCAT measure) and purpose, an explanation of the requirement, conditions of its applicability, and an indication of the format and due date.

Filtering criteria would be assigned to each reporting element to enable system queries of a particular focus. For example, filters could be developed to allow selection by:

- Associated Recommendation(s)/Resolution(s)

- Associated Species (BFT, SWO, ALB, etc.)

- Associated Subject (e.g., observers, vessels, MCS)

- Reporting period (year) and applicable due date

- Indication of whether the element contains legacy data or is an active requirement

Mode of Operation

The internet-based self-reporting would be accomplished by authorized CPC officials such as scientific and administrative correspondents. Password protected accounts would be assigned by the Secretariat and the system would have a self-service password reset.

An automated e-mail reminder could be sent to designated CPC officials when a reporting element is due/overdue.

The system would automatically record the CPC account that is used to enter/modify data and record dates of the original entry and most recent change for that reporting element on each annual cycle.

The CPC official would attach formatted files for loading into respective databases by Secretariat (e.g., Task I and Task II data, vessel lists). The Secretariat would record a CPC specific response in cases of incorrect/incomplete submission (system would record date of message).

The Secretariat could post messages for response by involved CPCs (e.g., VMS irregularities, observer PNC reports, inspection reports, submissions under Rec. 08-09) with automated e-mail notification of Secretariat queries to the individual CPCs.

The Secretariat would develop and post an online user manual and help request tool. The Secretariat staff would have administrator role to assist/modify records when needed.

An extract tool would allow CPCs to generate reports (at any time) according to selected filtering criteria (due date, associated species, subject, CPCs indicating not applicable, etc.).

The system would be automatically locked from further changes to that year's reporting requirement during the annual meeting/after the annual meeting/at the end of the calendar year.

Benefits

An online reporting system would reduce workload and streamline the process for the Secretariat's compilation of information (direct submissions through online reporting system rather than collate information submitted in emails).

The system would enforce formats and completeness of response (e.g., reporting that a measure is not applicable requires explanation).

Access to structured, specific extracts would facilitate work of the Compliance Committee in assessing status of each CPC prior to meeting; the system would provide a harmonized real time and historical record of reporting status by measure, by subject area, etc.

Such online systems promote transparency through access to extracts (similar to queries on conservation measures and authorized vessel list).

Costs to Consider

- Database development and user interface, including new reporting elements when new measures adopted and deactivation of legacy reporting elements when measures replaced/rescinded
- Online user guide and training tools
- Operations and maintenance costs

ANNEX 6

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY ICCAT IN 2016

16-17 **GEN**

RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ESTABLISHING AN ICCAT SCHEDULE OF ACTIONS TO IMPROVE COMPLIANCE AND COOPERATION WITH ICCAT MEASURES

RECOGNIZING that compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures is critical to the success of the Commission;

RECALLING the 2011 Commission adoption of Recommendation 11-24, which amended the mandate and Terms of Reference of the Compliance Committee (COC) and required the COC to develop and make recommendations to the Commission to address issues of non-compliance or lack of cooperation with ICCAT conservation and management measures;

RECOGNIZING that non-compliance should be addressed in a concrete, and transparent, non-discriminatory way, taking into account the need to remain flexible to address the unique circumstances of individual CPCs;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that not all non-compliance is of the same level of severity and impact on the effectiveness of ICCAT's conservation and management measures or the work of the Commission; and

COGNIZANT of the need to assist in providing a consistent, fair, and transparent approach for considering and applying appropriate actions to improve compliance and cooperation with ICCAT measures pursuant to the requirements of Recommendation 06-13 and other relevant ICCAT instruments;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS RESOLVES THAT:

When determining non-compliance and appropriate actions to address non-compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures, the following guidelines for an ICCAT schedule of actions will be applied:

Step 1: Determination of category of non-compliance(s)

Primary areas of focus should include:

Category A: Conservation and/or Management, including:

- Failure to limit catches/landings to agreed limits
- Failure to restrict fleet size or other capacity measures to agreed limits
- Failure to implement time/area closures
- Failure to implement minimum size restrictions
- Failure to implement gear restrictions/limitations

Category B: Reporting requirements, including:

- Failure to report or delay in reporting statistical and other required data
- Failure to submit or delay in submitting reports

Category C: Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) measures, including:

- Failure to implement MCS measures, including, inter alia, catch documentation schemes/statistical document programs, observer programs, transhipment controls, and VMS requirements

- Failure to exercise port CPC controls, including port inspection requirements
- Failure to exercise flag CPC controls

Step 2: Determination of the severity of non-compliance(s)

Non-compliance can range from minor to significant. Highest priority should be given to determining and addressing significant non-compliance, although responsive action may also be warranted in other cases.

Minor non-compliance: These failures are first time or infrequent and do not significantly impact the work of the Commission or SCRS or diminish effectiveness of ICCAT's conservation and management measures. In most of these cases, the only necessary action would be to request the relevant CPC to rectify the situation and report back to the Compliance Committee on actions taken in this regard at the subsequent annual meeting of the Commission. In general, the preferred method for making such requests and tracking the issue would be through the COC meeting report, though the COC may, depending on the circumstances, recommend sending a Letter of Concern regarding their non-compliance to the CPC(s) in question

Significant non-compliance: These non-compliance issues reflect a CPC's systematic disregard of ICCAT regulations or infrequent (and even first time) violations that individually or collectively significantly impact the objectives of the Commission or SCRS or diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT's conservation and management measures. These non-compliance issues could include frequent non-reporting or insufficient reporting that impacts the COC's ability to evaluate the compliance of a CPC effectively. Failures of this nature meet the threshold for identification under the *Recommendation by ICCAT concerning Trade Measures* [Rec. 06-13].

To facilitate CPCs' comprehensive understanding of what constitutes minor or significant non-compliance in the context of existing Recommendations, the COC will develop a reference document, including a simple summary or table that lists the level of severity of types of non-compliance with specific ICCAT provisions, understanding that mitigating and aggravating considerations will also be taken into account as specified above.

Mitigating and aggravating considerations: Both mitigating and aggravating considerations, as indicated below, should be taken into account when determining the significance of non-compliance:

- Mitigating considerations include, *inter alia*: (1) the extent to which available capacity building and assistance programs have been used by a CPC to improve its ability to meet its ICCAT obligations and (2) any actions taken by the CPC to address its non-compliance or by a third party CPC in response to the non-compliance of another CPC's vessel.

- Aggravating considerations include, *inter alia*: (1) non-compliance that is repeated, frequent, numerous, and/or severe in degree, scope, and/or effect, individually or cumulatively; and (2) lack of effective corrective action by the flag CPC or third party CPC (if appropriate).

Step 3: Application of actions to address compliance failures, where warranted

Upon a determination that non-compliance has occurred pursuant to Step 1 and that further action by ICCAT, potentially including identification under Rec. 06-13, is warranted pursuant to Step 2, actions should be taken or required in one or more of the following categories: enhanced reporting requirements, restrictions on fishing activities, additional MCS requirements, and/or, as a last resort, trade restrictive measures. In that regard, a non-exhaustive, non-prioritized list of actions that could be taken or required by type of non-compliance as follows:

Category A*: Non-compliance involving conservation and/or management*:

Required/Automatic Actions Pursuant to Binding ICCAT Recommendations:

- In the case of binding quota/catch limit overharvest, 100% payback as specified in Rec. 00-14 and other relevant ICCAT recommendations**.**

Potential Actions:

- Additional reporting requirements, possibly including:
  - More frequent catch reporting
- Fishery restrictions, possibly including:
  - Reduction in quota allocation(s)
  - Additional quota/catch limit reductions
- Enhanced MCS requirements, possibly including:
  - Enhanced reporting requirements
  - Limitations on at sea transshipment
  - Increased port sampling and/or inspection
  - Increased observer requirements
  - Enhanced VMS requirements (fleets covered or polling rate used)
- Fishery restrictions, possibly including:
  - Individual vessel quota requirements
  - Bycatch retention limit requirements
  - Size class limitations
  - Fleet capacity limits or reductions
  - Time and/or area restrictions
  - Gear restrictions or requirements
- Trade restrictive measures

Category B*: Non-compliance involving reporting requirements:*

Required/Automatic Actions Pursuant to Binding ICCAT Recommendations:

In the case of Task 1 data, application of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Penalties Applicable in Case of Non Fulfilment of Reporting Obligations* [Rec. 11-15]

Potential Actions:

- Additional reporting requirements, possibly including:
  - More frequent reporting
  - Submission of a data improvement and/or reporting plan with required reporting on implementation
- Enhanced MCS requirements, possibly including:
  - Increased observer coverage requirements for data collection
  - Increased port sampling requirements
  - Enhanced VMS requirements (fleets covered or polling rate used)
- Fishery restrictions, possibly including
  - Allocation or quota/catch limit reductions
  - Limitations/reductions in fleet capacity levels
  - Increased port inspection
  - Limitations on or Loss of right to implement certain ICCAT recommendations, such as to charter or conduct at sea transshipment
- Trade restrictive measures

Category C: *Non-compliance involving MCS measures, including:*

Potential Actions:

- Additional reporting requirements, possibly including:
  - More frequent reporting
  - Submission of a performance improvement plan with required reporting
- Enhanced MCS requirements, possibly including:
  - Increased observer coverage requirements, possibly including use of ICCAT observers,
  - Increased port controls, such as more frequent port calls, expanded inspection requirements, and/or designation of authorized ports
  - Limitations on or prohibition of at sea transshipment
  - Enhanced VMS requirements (fleets covered or polling rate used)
- Fishery restrictions, possibly including:
  - Allocation or quota/catch limit reductions
  - Limitations/reductions in fleet capacity levels
  - Restrictions on posting vessels to the authorized vessel list
  - Placement of vessels on the IUU vessel list
  - Requirement to specify individual vessel quotas
- Trade restrictive measures

16-20 **TOR**

RESOLUTION BY ICCAT TO ESTABLISH AN AD HOC WORKING GROUP TO FOLLOW UP ON THE SECOND ICCAT PERFORMANCE REVIEW

CONSIDERING that the second performance review of ICCAT was carried out in 2016 by an external panel of experts;

NOTING that the panel of experts highlighted a number of areas where ICCAT made progress since the first performance review;

FURTHER NOTING that the panel of experts also drew up a number of recommendations to improve the performance of ICCAT;

RECOGNIZING the necessity to follow up on the conclusions of the second performance review with a view to further strengthening ICCAT;

RECALLING that a process to strengthen ICCAT was initiated in 2005 and that in 2006 ICCAT established a Working Group on the future of ICCAT that was tasked, among other things, to follow-up on the recommendations of the first performance review;

RECOGNIZING that it would be appropriate to establish a an ad-hoc Working Group to propose recommendations to the Commission for next steps further to the second performance review;

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

1. An ad-hoc Working Group on Performance Review Follow-up is established and will meet intersessionally in 2017 to:

   a) examine the outcomes of the second independent performance review of ICCAT to identify issues raised and recommendations made by the Performance Review Panel that need further consideration; and

   b) propose next steps in light of the examination carried out pursuant to 1(a) in particular draw up a work plan specifying which ICCAT body (Commission, Committee, Working Group or Panel) should consider identified issues and recommendations.

2. The ad-hoc Working Group will report to the Commission at its 2017 Annual meeting on the outcomes of its deliberations.

3. At its 2017 Annual Meeting the Commission will consider the outcomes of ad-hoc Working Group and decide on a work plan.

4. The Working Group will be supported by the ICCAT Secretariat and will be chaired by the ICCAT Chairman.

16-21 **TOR**

RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON THE THIRD MEETING OF THE STANDING WORKING GROUP FOR ENHANCING THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN FISHERIES SCIENTISTS AND MANAGERS (SWGSM)

RECOGNIZING that ICCAT has adopted Recommendation 15-07 for the development of Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) and Harvest Control Rules (HCR);

ACKNOWLEDGING that in 2016 the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) responded to the Commission's request to provide a 5-year schedule for advancing this work;

CONSIDERING the need for continuing dialogue between scientists and managers;

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

Based on ICCAT Recommendation 14-13, for Enhancing the Dialogue between Fisheries scientists and Managers, a meeting of the Standing Working Group for Enhancing the Dialogue Between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) will be held in 2017 and thereafter as appropriate.

Appendix 1

Draft Agenda for 2017

1. SWGSM Terms of Reference (Rec. 14-13) and outcomes of 1st and 2nd SWGSM meetings

2. Outcomes of the 2016 Joint Tuna RFMOs Working Group on Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)

3. Status of the development of harvest control rules (HCR) and actions to be taken in 2017 for priority stocks identified in Rec. 15-07[1]:

NALB:

- Status update on the testing of candidate HCRs through MSE

BFT:

- Status update on MSE-related work by the SCRS
- Consideration of management objectives
- Identification of performance indicators

NSWO:

- Identification of the acceptable quantitative probability of achieving and/or maintaining the stock in the green zone of the Kobe plot and avoiding the limit reference point
- Identification of performance indicators

Tropical tunas:

- Identification of the acceptable quantitative probability of achieving and/or maintaining the stocks in the green zone of the Kobe plot and avoiding the limit reference point
- Review of indicative performance indicators adopted in Rec. [16-01], Annex 8

4. Recommendations to the Commission on management objectives, performance indicators and HCR for stocks referred to under point 3

5. Review of the 5-year road map for the development of MSE/HCR for priority stocks

6. Consideration of other stocks for possible addition to the 5-year road map

7. Outcomes of the 2016 Joint Tuna RFMO Working Group on Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management (EBFM)

8. Development of a draft road map to implement EBFM, including roles and responsibilities

[1] Chairs of respective Panels together with the SCRS Species Group chairs and the SCRS Chair will work intersessionally to prepare an analysis of how management objectives have been established for priority stocks, which performance indicators have been identified and progress toward MSE/HCR development to date. An example of performance measures and associated statistics is attached (**Appendix 2**).

Appendix 2

Performance Indicators and Associated Statistics

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND ASSOCIATED STATISTICS	*UNIT OF MEASUREMENT*	*TYPE OF METRICS*
Status		
1.1 Minimum biomass relative to B_{MSY}	B/ B_{MSY}	Minimum over [x] years
1.2 Mean biomass relative to B_{MSY}[1]	B/ B_{MSY}	Geometric mean over [x] years
1.3 Mean fishing mortality relative to F_{MSY}	F/ F_{MSY}	Geometric mean over [x] years
1.4 Probability of being in the Kobe green quadrant	B, F	Proportion of years that $B \geq B_{MSY}$ & $F \leq F_{MSY}$
1.5 Probability of being in the Kobe red quadrant[2]	B, F	Proportion of years that $B \leq B_{MSY}$ & $F \geq F_{MSY}$
2 Safety		
2.1 Probability that biomass is above B_{lim} ($0.4B_{MSY}$)[3]	B/ B_{MSY}	Proportion of years that $B > B_{lim}$
2.2 Probability of $B_{lim} < B < B_{thresh}$	B/ B_{MSY}	Proportion of years that $B_{lim} < B < B_{thresh}$
3 Yield		
3.1 Mean catch – short term	Catch	Mean over 1-3 years
3.2 Mean catch – medium term	Catch	Mean over 5-10 years
3.3 Mean catch – long term	Catch	Mean in 15 and 30 years
4 Stability		
4.1 Mean absolute proportional change in catch	Catch (C)	Mean over [x] years of $(C_n - C_{n-1})/ C_{n-1}$
4.2 Variance in catch	Catch (C)	Variance over [x] years
4.3 Probability of shutdown	TAC	Proportion of years that TAC=0
4.4 Probability of TAC change over a certain level[4]	TAC	Proportion of management cycles when the ratio of change[5] $(TAC_n - TAC_{n-1})/TAC_{n-1} > X\%$
4.5 Maximum amount of TAC change between management periods	TAC	Maximum ratio of change[6]

[1] This indicator provides an indication of the expected CPUE of adult fish because CPUE is assumed to track biomass.
[2] This indicator is only useful to distinguish the performance of strategies which fulfil the objective represented by 1.4.
[3] This differs slightly from being equal to 1- Probability of a shutdown (4.3), because of the choice of having a management cycle of 3 years. In the next management cycle after B has been determined to be less than B_{lim} the TAC is fixed during three years to the level corresponding to F_{lim}, and the catch will stay at such minimum level for three years. The biomass, however, may react quickly to the lowering of F and increase rapidly so that one or more of the three years of the cycle will have $B > B_{lim}$.
[4] Useful in the absence of TAC-related constraints in the harvest control rule.
[5] Positive and negative changes to be reported separately.
[6] Positive and negative changes to be reported separately.

16-22 **TOR**

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT TO FACILITATE
AN EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT COMPLIANCE PROCESS**

RECOGNIZING the substantial amount of information that must be reviewed and analyzed to prepare for meetings of the Compliance Committee;

DESIRING to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of ICCAT's compliance review process in a fair, equitable, and transparent manner; and

NOTING that the effort to enhance ICCAT's compliance review process will, necessarily, be iterative in nature and that future review and amendment of the process set forth in this Resolution will be informed by the COC's experience in its implementation;

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

1. The Secretariat will, in consultation with the Compliance Committee (COC) Chair, compile an inventory of compliance information for each CPC (i.e., Draft Summary Compliance Tables), using all appropriate sources, including reports submitted under Recommendation 08-09. The Draft Summary Compliance Tables will include information on whether CPCs complied with applicable recommendations of the Commission, including reporting obligations. Further, if requested by the COC or COC Chair, the Secretariat will also compile a supplementary inventory of compliance information by species, issue, or topic (i.e., supplementary tables) to facilitate focused compliance review of identified priority matters.

2. The Secretariat will circulate the Draft Summary Compliance Tables and any supplementary tables to all CPCs for their review as far in advance of the ICCAT Annual meeting as possible with a target deadline of three weeks before the opening session. CPCs will be invited to give initial, written explanations of inaccuracies or additional information to the Secretariat on their own compliance information as reflected in the Draft Summary Compliance Tables and any supplementary tables at least five days before the start of the first session of the COC. The COC will hold its first session early in the ICCAT Annual Meeting as determined by the Commission Chair or at an appropriate time before the start of the ICCAT Annual Meeting if so decided by the Commission.

3. Prior to the first COC session, the COC Chair will review any written input received from CPCs on the Draft Summary Compliance Tables and any supplementary tables, revise the tables as appropriate, and recirculate them to the CPCs. At this time, the COC Chair will also identify and propose priority CPCs or cases, as well as broader issues or areas of focus for the current or a future ICCAT Annual Meeting, as needed and appropriate.

4. To assist with the tasks specified in paragraph 3 above, the COC Chair may convene a Friends of the Chair Review Group before and/or during the ICCAT Annual Meeting. If and when such a Group is to be convened, all CPCs will be notified and invited to provide one representative to participate in its work and interested CPCs should ensure their representative has expertise in Commission recommendations. To ensure the work of the group is as efficient and effective as possible, the Chair will ensure that the composition of the Group is as small as feasible given the varied fisheries interests of CPCs and reflects the geographical representation of the Commission to the extent possible. Participants will take no active part in discussions of compliance issues pertaining to their CPC during meetings of the Friends of the Chair Review Group. A CPC's ability to engage in compliance related discussions during COC sessions, however, will not be affected by participation on the Friends of the Chair Review Group. The COC Chair may also invite the Panel, PWG, and SCRS Chairs to participate in the Group, as appropriate.

5. The first COC session should be held early in the annual meeting. Discussions will focus on those priority cases, CPCs, or issues identified pursuant to paragraph 3. Other CPCs, cases, and issues not identified as priorities, will not be discussed, unless a CPC raises a specific matter for discussion. Each CPC will have the opportunity to provide additional information concerning their compliance during this discussion, such as any mitigating circumstances or actions they intend to take to ensure future compliance and, as needed, to allow for questions and discussions.

6. Additionally, once every two years, the COC will hold a special session just prior to the ICCAT Annual Meeting for a CPC by CPC review.

7. After the initial discussion review, the COC Chair will consider any additional information provided under paragraph 5 above or available from other sources, revise and finalize the Summary Compliance Tables and any supplementary tables with assistance from the Secretariat, and, where appropriate, propose actions for addressing issues of non-compliance, taking into account any guidance that may be adopted by the Commission. The COC Chair may seek assistance from the Friends of the Chair Group in completing this task. The Chair will ensure that the Group's deliberations and the Chair's rationale underpinning each proposed action to address issues of non-compliance are clearly documented.

8. After completion of the work specified in paragraph 6, the Chair will have the draft Summary Compliance Tables, any supplementary tables, and the Chair's proposed compliance status and actions to address non-compliance (with documented rationale) circulated to the CPCs for consideration by the COC at a later session held during the ICCAT Annual Meeting. Provided this transparent, well-documented compliance review process has been followed, neither repeated discussion of compliance issues, nor a detailed presentation of each proposed action, should be necessary. Rather, at this stage of the process, substantive COC discussion should be reserved for those cases where there are differences of view on the Chair's proposed action. Once any such differences have been resolved, the COC will forward its recommendations for addressing any issues of non-compliance to the Commission for consideration and appropriate action.

16-23 **MISC**

RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON ECOSYSTEMS THAT ARE IMPORTANT AND UNIQUE FOR ICCAT SPECIES

RECALLING the *Resolution by ICCAT on Pelagic Sargassum* [Res. 05-11] which called upon the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) to examine the available and accessible information and data on the status of pelagic *Sargassum* and its ecological importance to tuna and tuna-like species;

ALSO RECALLING the *Resolution by ICCAT on the Sargasso Sea* [Res. 12-12] which called upon the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) to examine the available data and information concerning the Sargasso Sea and its ecological importance to tuna and tuna-like species and ecologically associated species;

RECOGNISING that a report on the findings of this work was presented to the Commission in 2015;

ALSO RECOGNIZING that, in its 2015 report, the SCRS noted that the Sargasso Sea is an important and unique ecosystem for some ICCAT species, and at the same time it was acknowledged that there are other ecosystems in the Atlantic Ocean that are also important and unique for ICCAT species;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that in 2013 the SCRS noted that the basic biological and ecological data provided for the Sargasso Sea offers a useful foundation for adopting this region as a basis for a case study in implementing the Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) approach within ICCAT;

NOTING 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;

RECALLING the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning the Application of an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management* [Res. 15-11] which called upon the Commission to apply an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management when making recommendations pursuant to Article VIII of the Convention;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS RESOLVES THAT:

1. As part of advancing the work of Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management, the SCRS will examine the available information on the trophic ecology of pelagic ecosystems that are important and unique for ICCAT species in the Convention area.

2. The SCRS will provide an update on the progress of this work in 2018 and report back to the Commission with available findings in 2019, if possible.

ANNEX 7

OTHER DECISIONS ADOPTED BY ICCAT IN 2016

7.1 GUIDELINES FOR PREPARING THE EASTERN ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN BLUEFIN TUNA FISHING, INSPECTION AND CAPACITY MANAGEMENT PLANS [REF. 16-24]

In accordance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 13-07 by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 14-04], each Contracting Party and Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity (hereinafter referred to as CPC) which has eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna quota submits a fishing, inspection and capacity management plan. The Panel 2 (PA2) intersessional meeting reviews and endorses the submitted plans.

Each CPC should use the attached format (**Annex**) to prepare its eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishing, inspection and capacity management plan.

Annex

Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna
Fishing, Inspection And Capacity Management Plan

Name of CPC: XXX

Fishing Plan Year: 20XX

1. Introduction

Each CPC will provide a summary of its fishing plan, which includes information on their allocated quota, number of fishing vessels by gear type, and relevant national legislation.

2. Details of fishing plan

Each CPC will provide information on all fishing gear groups that catch Atlantic bluefin tuna, including the total number of vessels in each group, how quotas are allocated to each gear group and, where applicable, how they are allocated to each vessel in that group. CPCs will also provide information on method(s) used to manage quotas as well as how catches are monitored and controlled to ensure vessel and gear group quotas are respected.

CPCs should also complete the following table:

	ICCAT Requirement (per 14-04)	*Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement*	*Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)*	*Note*
1.	Catch recording and reporting (para. 61-67, 69)			
2.	Fishing Seasons (para. 18-23)			
3.	Minimum size (para. 26-28)			
4.	By-catch (para. 29)			
5.	Recreational and sports fisheries (para, 30-34)			
6.	Transshipment (para. 58-60)			
7.	VMS (para. 87)			
8.	CPC Observer (para. 88)			
9.	Regional observer (para. 89-90)			
	Other requirements, such as tagging program			

Inspection Plan

a) CPC's inspection (para 64, 99)

Each CPC will provide information on its inspection plan.

b) Joint international inspection (para 97-98)

Each CPC will provide information about joint international inspections that are implemented in accordance with Part V of Rec. 14-04 (if applicable).

Capacity Management Plan (para 35-42, 44-45a)

Each CPC will provide the number of fishing vessels and the corresponding fishing capacity using the template provided by the Secretariat (attached).

Tuna Vessel Fleet		*Fleet (vessels)*									*Fishing capacity*								
Type	*Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*
Purse seiner over 40m	70,70																		
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49,78																		
Purse seiners less than 24m	33,68																		
Total Purse Seine Fleet																			
Longliner over 40m	25																		
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5,68																		
Longliner less than 24m	5																		
Total Longline Fleet																			
Baitboat	19,8																		
Handline	5																		
Trawler	10																		
Trap	130																		
Other (please specify)	5																		
Total fleet/fishing capacity																			
Quota																			
Adjusted quota (if applicable)																			
Allowance for sport/recreational (if applicable)																			
Under/overcapacity																			

7.2 ROAD MAP FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION (MSE) AND HARVEST CONTROL RULES (HCR)

A 5-year schedule to develop harvest strategies for priority stocks identified in Rec. 15-07 (north Atlantic albacore, north Atlantic swordfish, eastern and western Atlantic bluefin tuna, and tropical tunas) based on the SCRS response to the Commission in 2016.

	NALB	*BFT*	*NSWO*	*Tropicals*
2015	- Commission established management objectives in Rec. 15-04			
2016	- SCRS evaluated a range of candidate HCRs through MSE - PA2 identified performance indicators			- Commission to identify indicative performance indicators
2017	- SCRS to evaluate the performance of candidate HCRs through MSE, using the performance indicators developed by PA2 - SWGSM to review and propose HCR to Commission - Commission to select a candidate HCR and adopt an HCR with associated TAC at the Annual Meeting, if possible	- SCRS to evaluate a range of candidate HCRs through MSE - SWGSM to identify the acceptable quantitative level of probability of achieving and/or maintaining the stocks in the green zone of the Kobe plot and avoiding the limit reference points - SWGSM to identify performance indicators - SCRS to conduct stock assessment	- SWGSM to identify the acceptable quantitative level of probability of achieving and/or maintaining the stock in the green zone of the Kobe plot and avoiding the limit reference point - SWGSM to identify performance indicators - SCRS to conduct stock assessment	- SWGSM to identify the acceptable quantitative level of probability of achieving and/or maintaining the stocks in the green zone of the Kobe plot and avoiding the limit reference point - SCRS to review performance indicators for YFT, SKJ, and BET - Initiate development of YFT/SKJ/BET MSE - Brazil to prepare and submit to SCRS a proposal on MSE and HCR, including performance indicators, for the SKJ-W - SCRS to review Brazil's proposal, and supporting scientific information, on MSE and HCR including performance indicators for SKJ-W.

	NALB	*BFT*	*NSWO*	*Tropicals*
2018		- SCRS to evaluate the performance of candidate HCRs through MSE, using the performance indicators developed by SWGSM or Panel 2 - Commission to select candidate HCR and adopt an HCR with associated TAC, if possible	- SCRS to review performance indicators	SCRS to conduct BET stock assessment - SCRS to evaluate candidate HCRs through MSE, using the performance indicators for SKJ-W - Commission to select a candidate HCR and adopt an HCR with associated TAC for SKJ-W at the Annual Meeting, if possible
2019			- SCRS to evaluate a range of candidate HCRs through MSE and to present the results to the Commission - Commission to select a candidate HCR and adopt an HCR with associated TAC, if possible	-SCRS to conduct skipjack stock assessment
2020				-SCRS to evaluate the performance of candidate HCRs through MSE, using the performance indicators - Commission to select a candidate HCR and adopt an HCR with associated TAC, if possible

ANNEX 8

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION (STACFAD)

1 Opening of meeting

The meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) was opened on Thursday, 17 November 2016 by the Committee Chair, Ms. Sylvie Lapointe (Canada).

2 Appointment of Rapporteur

The ICCAT Secretariat served as rapporteur.

3 Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, was adopted (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8**).

4 Secretariat Reports

4.1 2016 Administrative Report

The 2016 Administrative Report* was presented by the Chair.

The report summarized the activities carried out by the Secretariat in 2016, highlighting the heavy workload that had taken place during this year. The Chair pointed out that since the last meeting, Guinea Bissau had signed the Convention and that there were currently 51 Contracting Parties. The Chair also highlighted that the ICCAT recommendations and resolutions had been circulated on the dates agreed in Article VIII.2 and mentioned the numerous intersessional meetings, ICCAT Working Groups and the meetings at which ICCAT was represented. The Chair explained that a summary of these were included in the Appendix to the report. The Chair mentioned that the Secretariat continued to send two letters of reminder of compliance with budgetary obligations every year.

The report was adopted.

4.2 2016 Financial Report

The Head of Administration and Finance presented the *2016 Financial Report** of the Secretariat.

He stated that the 2015 auditor's report had been sent to the Contracting Parties in June 2016, and that the financial report presented the situation of the Commission's budgetary statements, at 21 October 2016, as well as the trust funds managed by the Secretariat. He also stated that the Working Capital Fund stood at 49.59% of the total budget. The Chair indicated that in both the auditor's report and the Report of the Independent Performance Review of ICCAT, emphasis had been made that the minimum percentage amount that the Working Capital Fund should reach should be reviewed by the Commission. He explained the most significant aspects of the financial statements and informed that there was 68.80% of expenses incurred and 73.30% of revenue received for the budget approved for 2016. As regards extra-budgetary expenses, he highlighted the meetings financed through the Working Capital Fund (€628,232.04), the financing of the special Meeting Participation Fund (MPF) (€250,000.00) and the Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP) (€194,397.00), the implementation of the eBCD in 2016 (€201,471.77), the travel expenses of the ICCAT Chairs (€47,498.65), as well as the expenses incurred as a result of the SCRS recommendations approved for 2016 (€85,880.49), among others.

* Published in Volume IV.

As to extra-budgetary revenue, he informed on the voluntary contribution that was received from the European Union to meet the costs of the 2016 Commission meeting (€403,070.32), as well as the balance which remained to be received for the 2015 meeting (€193,357.62), the special contribution from Chinese Taipei (€100,000.00), observer fees (€5,346.35), bank interest (€3,259.84), refund of VAT expenses (€25,892.06) and the overhead received from the ICCAT programmes (€256,920.95) and part of the contribution of Guinea Bissau as new Contracting Party to ICCAT (€906.00).

He also highlighted that subsequent to the date of this report, 21 October 2016, contributions were received from Brazil (€200,716.32), Curaçao (€102,439.35), Ghana (€201,840.98) and Liberia (€4,902.97), as well as an advance from Ghana (€20,128.02).

Finally, he stated that the costs estimated by the Secretariat to year-end amounted to €1,463,738.17 and that once the above mentioned income was received and if no new revenue was received before the end of the current financial year, the Working Capital Fund would stand at 22.07% of the budget (€728,220.31).

The Chair requested that when delegations make proposals, they include information on the expected impact they would have on human and financial resources. The Chair expressed appreciation towards those CPCs who had regularised their situation of arrears.

After applauding the Secretariat for the quality of the report, the delegate of the United States commented that the Commission's reliance on the Working Capital Fund to pay for core Commission activities in recent years was clearly having a negative effect and urged that those expenses related to the regular functions of the Commission be funded through the Commission budget, not the Working Capital Fund. The Chair requested that, for 2017, the Secretariat prepare a document that includes different options to finance the various activities currently covered by the Working Capital Fund that should be covered in the regular budget, as had been presented in 2015.

The Executive Secretary explained that there had been programmes such as the eBCD that had required substantial financing through the Working Capital Fund and that this programme would continue to require annual funds for its maintenance. He agreed that a more correct approach would be to include routine items, such as the SCRS recommendations that required financing, in the regular Commission budget and that the Working Capital Fund be used for special and specific activities.

The delegate of the European Union underlined that in recent years, her delegation had financed the majority of expenses derived from the Annual meetings, thus alleviating the burden on the Working Capital Fund. The delegate stated that solutions had to be found for issues concerning scientific research.

The financial report was adopted.

4.3 Review of the progress of the payment of arrears and voting rights

The Committee Chair presented the *Detailed Information on the Accumulated Debt of the ICCAT Contracting Parties and Review of the Payment Plans of Past-Due Contributions*, which reflected the accumulated debt of the Contracting Parties by year. The Chair underlined that there were seven Contracting Parties that were in a "suspension of voting right" situation (Article X of the ICCAT Convention). The Chair requested that those CPCs mentioned in the document contact the Secretariat to regularise their situation and provide payment plans.

5 Consideration of financial implications of measures proposed and SCRS requests

The SCRS Chairman presented the *General recommendations to the Commission that have financial implications*, containing a review of the recommendations issued by the Scientific Committee with financial implications for 2016 and 2017, which totalled €510,107.14 and €384,200.00, respectively. The Chairman stated that, together with the activities presented for 2017, some had been transferred from 2016 and some new ones had been added. The new activities included, *inter alia*: bluefin tuna peer reviewer (€10,000.00), swordfish peer reviewer (€10,000.00), regional workshop on gillnet by-catch (€30,000.00), review and update of Task I and II data for Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire (€30,000.00), four year research Programme for North and Mediterranean albacore, year 1 (€300,000.00).

Following the proposal of the European Union that part of the balance of the Scientific Capacity Building Fund (SCBF) (see item 6.2 of this report), was redirected to other activities of the SCRS and the annotation that its delegation had the available funds to finance 80% of the activities destined to complete the development of the T3+ computer programme, document *SCRS Recommendations for 2017 that Require Financing* was presented, which included the activities of the SCRS taking into account the priorities as well as possible sources of funding. Due to a lack of time, this document was reviewed by the Commission in plenary session.

6 Assistance to developing CPCs and identification of a mechanism to finance the Meeting Participation Fund and other capacity building activities

6.1 Special Meeting Participation Fund (MPF)

The Chair presented the *Meeting Participation Fund* (MPF) (**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 8**) on the financial situation of this Fund. The Chair highlighted that in addition to the opening balance of €7,151.18, the fund had been provisioned with €250,000.00 from the Working Capital Fund, with two voluntary contributions from the United States of €4,480.00 and €17,815.79 and two from the European Union, through the European Union Fund for Capacity Building, one in 2016 in the amount of €43,680.00 and another from the remaining amount of the 2015 Fund in the amount of €8,284.67. The Chair mentioned that until 7 November 2016, travel arrangements had been made for the participation of 100 people from 24 CPCs. Finally, he indicated that for 2017 an estimated allocation in the amount of €200,000.00 would be required to cover the 2017 requests. He also stressed that it was important that applicants comply with the procedure protocols approved for the Fund, with the objective of fully utilising financial resources as well as the human resources of the Secretariat staff.

The delegate of the United States expressed satisfaction for the practice that had been carried out and indicated that activities undertaken pursuant to this Fund should be financed through the regular Commission budget in the future rather than through the Working Capital Fund.

The Executive Secretary requested applicants to collaborate with the Secretariat to manage the Fund in an efficient way.

The Chair indicated that applications must be feasible for the Secretariat. She also reminded that the relevant funds that were requested amounted to €200,000.00, and that this item should be approved by the Committee.

The Head of Administration and Finance prepared the *Status of the ICCAT Working Capital Fund*, which was presented to the Commission in plenary session for consideration. This document contained the current status of the Working Capital Fund and the different activities that required financing for 2017, including the necessary funding for the special Meeting Participation Fund (MPF).

6.2 Mechanism for financing the special Scientific Capacity Building Fund

The Chair presented the *Scientific Capacity Building Fund (SCBF)* which reflects the financial situation of this Fund in 2016. She highlighted that no assistance had been requested for training workshops; therefore, the current balance of the Fund was €65,898.33.

The United States delegate inquired why the Fund had not been used.

The Head of Administration and Finance responded that no requests had been received. Dr. Die added that during 2016 a lot of intersessional meetings had taken place and scientists had no time to carry out any additional activity.

The European Union delegate pointed out that Rec. 13-19 establishing the scientific capacity building fund had to be reviewed in 2017, and suggested using part of the balance of this Fund to carry out other capacity-building activities.

Dr. Die stated that there was interest in holding a seminar on gillnets and that these funds could be used for this capacity-building activity. The Committee concurred with this use.

7 Consideration of Programmes/activities which may require extra-budgetary funding

7.1 Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP)

As regards the Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tunas Tagging Programme (AOTTP), it was recalled that there was a budget of €15,000,000.00, of which the European Union provided up to a maximum of €13,480,000.00 (90%) and that the remaining 10%, should be financed through ICCAT or ICCAT Contracting Parties. It was reported that in 2016, the amount of €194,397.00 had been transferred from the Working Capital Fund to this Programme and that if no contribution was received in 2017 from a CPC, ICCAT should transfer €464,656.96.

In the *Status of the ICCAT Working Capital Fund*, the necessary financing for the Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tunas Tagging Programme (AOTTP) was included.

7.2 Electronic Bluefin Catch Documentation Scheme (eBCD)

The Executive Secretary presented the *Study of the eBCD Implementation Expenses*, which included a summary of the costs that had taken place to implement the eBCD. The total cost amounted to €1,458,758.47. In 2017, it was calculated that apart from the annual maintenance cost which was estimated at €220,000.00 and €250,000.00 annually, additional expenses of up to €400,000.00 could be incurred.

Discussion was held regarding the creation of a voluntary fund to finance this work and other options to ensure the long-term financing of this important system. The eBCD Technical Working Group (TWG), in close coordination with the Secretariat, was requested to suggest options to ensure such financing and identify expected costs for maintenance, support, and needed improvements as identified by the TWG.

The Head of Administration and Finance recalled that Chapter 12, destined for Compliance, had been included last year in the ICCAT budget with €200,000.00 for 2017 to support the eBCD system. The ways to finance the additional €200,000.00 that might be needed for the system would have to be established.

The EU delegation proposed reducing the additional costs to €100,000.00, which was referred to the Commission for discussion in plenary session.

The Chair requested that the TWG be as conservative as possible in its work.

The necessary financing for the eBCD system was included in the *Status of the ICCAT Working Capital Fund*.

7.3 Financial implications of the new recommendations and resolutions proposed

The Executive Secretary presented the *Financial implications of proposed new recommendations and resolutions*, which included a table with the possible recommendations and resolutions presented during the meeting and an estimation of the working hours involved in the event of being adopted.

The delegate of the European Union expressed appreciation for the calculation presented and underlined how laborious it was to estimate the required resources from the proposals taking into account the little time available for the presentation of proposals.

The Executive Secretary clarified that in the list presented, an estimation of 85 additional weeks of work had been made to the existing workload, and that the final estimation would depend on the measures.

8 Review of findings of the virtual Working Group on communications policy and actions required

The STACFAD Chair presented the *Elements of an ICCAT Communication Policy*, which summarised the work carried out by the virtual Working Group created to establish an ICCAT communications policy. The document was divided into three blocks: "target audiences", "goals" and "next steps to implement the policy: review and recommendations by the virtual Working Group." The Chair explained that during 2016 the Working Group had not been able to meet but that they would do so in 2017. She encouraged the delegations to participate in the Working Group. The Chair concluded that this work would continue and that further developments would be presented at the next Commission meeting.

9 Procedures for the selection of the Executive Secretary

The Chair presented the *Terms of Reference, Process for Staffing of the Executive Secretary of ICCAT* including all the information discussed in the Working Groups and the intersessional meetings. The Chair indicated that the section on the interview process was still pending, as well as when the selection procedure would start and the date for the submission of applications.

Numerous delegations intervened to refine the text, and other items such as languages, in the section on abilities, were discussed. Several proposals were presented to include requests of delegations.

Due to a lack of time, the Committee referred the issue to the Commission for discussion in plenary session. The proposal which was approved is attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 8** to the report. The final text established that, in the interview process, the Chair will draft 10 questions and that two days prior to the interview, the Heads of Delegation of Contracting Parties will select five of these questions. These questions will be circulated one day prior to the interviews, with the intent of giving each candidate an equal amount of time and opportunity to prepare for them. Furthermore, it was established that candidates should not be part of a Contracting Party delegation at the 2017 ICCAT Annual Meeting. As regards languages, it was established that candidates should have an excellent spoken and written command of at least one of the three official languages of ICCAT (English, French and Spanish), strong preference for a good working knowledge of one of the other two languages of the Commission and preferably a good working knowledge of the third language.

10 Budget and Contracting Party contributions for 2017

The revised draft budget for 2017 was circulated in September 2016 and included Guinea Bissau as new Contracting Party. The only changes which were presented as regards the approved budget for 2015, was an increase of €10,000.00 in Chapter 5 (Office Equipment) to install air conditioning in several Secretariat offices, and an increase of €30,000.00 in Chapter 10 (Separation from Service Fund) faced with the imminent retirement of several staff members.

Subsequently, a new version to update the exchange rate published by the United Nations in November 2016 was presented and the modifications of CPCs in the different Panels.

The budget for 2017 was approved and is included as **Table 1**.

11 Other matters

No other matters were discussed.

12 Adoption of report and adjournment

It was agreed to adopt the STACFAD report by correspondence.

The STACFAD meeting was adjourned by its Chair, Ms. Lapointe.

Table 1. 2017 Commission Budget (Euros).

Chapters	2016	2017	2017 Revised	Revised Increase
1. Salaries	1,696,487.72	1,730,417.47	1,730,417.47	0.00%
2. Travel	25,500.00	26,010.00	26,010.00	0.00%
3. Commission meetings (annual & inter-sessional)	156,000.00	159,120.00	159,120.00	0.00%
4. Publicationes	26,000.00	26,520.00	26,520.00	0.00%
5. Office Equipment	5,000.00	5,000.00	15,000.00	200.00%
6. Operating Expenses	130,000.00	135,000.00	135,000.00	0.00%
7. Miscellaneous	7,400.00	7,548.00	7,548.00	0.00%
8. Coordination of Research				
a) Salaries	1,020,643.80	1,041,056.68	1,041,056.68	0.00%
b) Travel to improve statistics	25,000.00	25,500.00	25,500.00	0.00%
c) Statistics-Biology	17,000.00	17,340.00	17,340.00	0.00%
d) Computer-related items	38,000.00	38,760.00	38,760.00	0.00%
e) Database maintenance	25,000.00	25,500.00	25,500.00	0.00%
f) Phone line-Internet domain	25,000.00	25,500.00	25,500.00	0.00%
g) Scientific meetings (including SCRS)	75,000.00	76,500.00	76,500.00	0.00%
h) Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Sub-total Chapter 8	*1,225,643.80*	*1,250,156.68*	*1,250,156.68*	*0.00%*
9. Contingencies	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00%
10. Separation from Service Fund	30,000.00	30,500.00	60,500.00	98.36%
11. Research Programs				
a) ICCAT Billfish Research Program	20,000.00	20,400.00	20,400.00	0.00%
Sub-total Chapter 11	*20,000.00*	*20,400.00*	*20,400.00*	0.00%
12. Compliance				
a) Compliance database maintenance	70,000.00	200,000.00	200,000.00	0.00%
Sub-total Chapter 12	*70,000.00*	*200,000.00*	*200,000.00*	*0.00%*
TOTAL BUDGET	**3,392,031.52**	**3,595,672.15**	**3,635,672.15**	**1.11%**

Table 2. Basic information to calculate the Contracting Party contributions in 2017.

Contracting Parties	Groups[a]	GNP[b] 2012	GNP[b] 1991	Catch[c]	Canning[d]	Catch + Canning	Panels[e]				Total Panels	Contracting Parties
							1	2	3	4		
Albania	D	3,809	2,177	6	0	6	-	X	-	-	1	Albania
Algérie	D	5,380	3,074	2,080	1,562	3,642	-	X	-	X	2	Algérie
Angola	C	5,586	3,192	5,340	0	5,340	X	-	-	X	2	Angola
Barbados	C	16,004	9,145	308	0	308	-	-	-	-	0	Barbados
Belize	C	4,795	2,740	17,448	0	17,448	X	X	X	X	4	Belize
Brazil	B	11,347	6,484	40,554	13,391	53,945	X	X	X	X	4	Brazil
Canada	A	52,283	29,876	2,316	0	2,316	X	X	-	X	3	Canada
Cabo Verde	C	3,850	2,200	19,164	1,200	20,364	X	-	-	X	2	Cabo Verde
China, People's Rep. of	D	6,070	3,469	4,262	0	4,262	X	X	X	X	4	China, People's Rep. of
Côte d'Ivoire	C	1,230	703	10,996	0	10,996	X	-	-	X	2	Côte d'Ivoire
Curaçao	A	46,073	26,327	22,240	0	22,240	X	-	-	-	1	Curaçao
Egypt	D	3,155	1,803	1,543	0	1,543	-	X	-	X	2	Egypt
El Salvador	D	3,790	2,166	0	0	0	X	-	-	-	1	El Salvador
France (St. P. & M.)	A	39,552	22,601	8	0	8	X	X	-	X	3	France (St. P. & M.)
Gabon	C	14,747	8,427	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Gabon
Ghana	C	1,605	917	129,924	19,333	149,257	X	-	-	-	1	Ghana
Guatemala, Rep. de	C	3,340	1,909	7,304	0	7,304	X	-	-	X	2	Guatemala, Rep. de
Guinea Ecuatorial	C	19,680	11,246	1,267	0	1,267	X	-	-	X	2	Guinea Ecuatorial
Guinea, Rep. of	C	532	304	8,130	0	8,130	X	-	-	X	2	Guinea, Rep. of
Guinée-Bissau	D	510	291	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	0	Guinée-Bissau
Honduras	D	2,339	1,337	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Honduras
Iceland	A	41,670	23,811	4	0	4	-	X	-	-	1	Iceland
Japan	A	46,838	26,765	30,052	0	30,052	X	X	X	X	4	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	C	23,052	13,173	3,496	0	3,496	X	X	X	X	4	Korea, Rep. of
Liberia	D	356	203	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Liberia
Libya	C	15,566	8,895	565	1,113	1,678	X	X	-	-	2	Libya
Maroc	C	2,952	1,687	7,877	799	8,676	X	X	-	X	3	Maroc
Mauritania	D	1,018	582	0	0	0	X	X	-	X	3	Mauritania
Mexico	C	9,795	5,597	1,623	0	1,623	X	X	X	X	4	Mexico
Namibia	C	5,668	3,239	5,214	0	5,214	X	-	X	X	3	Namibia
Nicaragua, Rep. de	D	1,754	1,002	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	0	Nicaragua, Rep. de
Nigeria	D	1,555	889	40	0	40	X	-	-	X	2	Nigeria
Norway	A	100,056	57,175	0	0	0	-	X	-	X	2	Norway
Panama	B	9,534	5,448	15,301	0	15,301	X	X	X	X	4	Panama
Philippines, Rep. of	D	2,587	1,478	1,422	0	1,422	X	-	X	-	2	Philippines, Rep. of
Russia	C	14,178	8,102	2,111	0	2,111	X	-	-	-	1	Russia
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	D	6,349	3,628	1,289	0	1,289	X	X	-	X	3	Saint Vincent and Grenadines
São Tomé e Príncipe	D	1,386	792	2,295	0	2,295	X	-	-	X	2	São Tomé e Príncipe
Senegal	C	1,017	581	10,542	245	10,787	X	-	-	X	2	Senegal
Sierra Leone	C	725	414	10,490	0	10,490	X	-	-	-	1	Sierra Leone
South Africa	C	7,336	4,192	3,526	0	3,526	X	-	X	X	3	South Africa
Syrian Arab Republic	D	2,126	1,215	23	0	23	-	X	-	-	1	Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad & Tobago	C	17,365	9,923	2,707	0	2,707	X	-	-	X	2	Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisie	C	4,150	2,371	5,171	2,197	7,368	-	X	-	X	2	Tunisie
Turkey	B	10,653	6,087	4,100	9,954	14,054	X	X	X	X	4	Turkey
Union Européenne	A	33,995	19,426	262,013	203,725	465,738	X	X	X	X	4	Union Européenne
United Kingdom (O.T.)	A	39,213	22,407	598	0	598	-	-	-	-	0	United Kingdom (O.T.)
United States	A	50,880	29,074	21,917	10,536	32,453	X	X	X	X	4	United States
Uruguay	C	14,703	8,402	696	0	696	X	-	X	X	3	Uruguay
Vanuatu	D	3,040	1,737	661	0	661	-	-	-	-	0	Vanuatu
Venezuela	B	12,767	7,295	7,817	573	8,390	X	X	-	X	3	Venezuela

a), b), c), d), e): See the legends in the **Annex.**

Table 3. Contracting Party Contributions 2017 (Euros).

Exchange rate: : 1 €= 1.087 US$ (11/2016)

Contracting Party	Group[a]	Catch + Canning[a]	Panels[a]	% Catch + Canning[b]	% Member + Panels[c]	Membership fee[d]	Panel Membership[e]	Variable fees for Member[f]	Variables fees Catch-Canning[g]	Total fees[h]	Contracting Party
Albania	D	6	1	0.04%	4.65%	920.00	920.00	1,641.35	27.89	**3,509.24**	Albania
Algérie	D	3,642	2	23.99%	6.98%	920.00	1,840.00	2,462.02	16,929.78	**22,151.80**	Algérie
Angola	C	5,340	2	1.92%	4.23%	920.00	1,840.00	10,345.46	9,379.66	**22,485.13**	Angola
Barbados	C	308	0	0.11%	1.41%	920.00	0.00	3,448.49	541.00	**4,909.49**	Barbados
Belize	C	17,448	4	6.26%	7.04%	920.00	3,680.00	17,242.44	30,647.26	**52,489.70**	Belize
Brazil	B	53,945	4	58.83%	26.32%	920.00	3,680.00	36,736.90	164,265.11	**205,602.01**	Brazil
Canada	A	2,316	3	0.42%	12.90%	920.00	2,760.00	95,724.59	6,209.37	**105,613.96**	Canada
Cabo Verde	C	20,364	2	7.30%	4.23%	920.00	1,840.00	10,345.46	35,769.19	**48,874.66**	Cabo Verde
China, People's Rep. of	D	4,262	4	28.07%	11.63%	920.00	3,680.00	4,103.37	19,811.84	**28,515.20**	China, People's Rep. of
Côte d'Ivoire	C	10,996	2	3.94%	4.23%	920.00	1,840.00	10,345.46	19,314.38	**32,419.84**	Côte d'Ivoire
Curaçao	A	22,240	1	4.02%	6.45%	920.00	920.00	47,862.30	59,627.11	**109,329.41**	Curaçao
Egypt	D	1,543	2	10.16%	6.98%	920.00	1,840.00	2,462.02	7,172.61	**12,394.63**	Egypt
El Salvador	D	0	1	0.00%	4.65%	920.00	920.00	1,641.35	0.00	**3,481.35**	El Salvador
France (St. P. & M.)	A	8	3	0.00%	12.90%	920.00	2,760.00	95,724.59	21.45	**99,426.04**	France (St. P. & M.)
Gabon	C	0	2	0.00%	4.23%	920.00	1,840.00	10,345.46	0.00	**13,105.46**	Gabon
Ghana	C	149,257	1	53.54%	2.82%	920.00	920.00	6,896.98	262,168.66	**270,905.63**	Ghana
Guatemala, Rep. de	C	7,304	2	2.62%	4.23%	920.00	1,840.00	10,345.46	12,829.41	**25,934.88**	Guatemala, Rep. de
Guinea Ecuatorial	C	1,267	2	0.45%	4.23%	920.00	1,840.00	10,345.46	2,225.47	**15,330.94**	Guinea Ecuatorial
Guinea, Rep. of	C	8,130	2	2.92%	4.23%	920.00	1,840.00	10,345.46	14,280.28	**27,385.74**	Guinea, Rep. of
Guinée-Bissau	D	0	0	0.00%	2.33%	920.00	0.00	820.67	0.00	**1,740.67**	Guinée-Bissau
Honduras	D	0	2	0.00%	6.98%	920.00	1,840.00	2,462.02	0.00	**5,222.02**	Honduras
Iceland	A	4	1	0.00%	6.45%	920.00	920.00	47,862.30	10.72	**49,713.02**	Iceland
Japan	A	30,052	4	5.43%	16.13%	920.00	3,680.00	119,655.74	80,571.67	**204,827.41**	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	C	3,496	4	1.25%	7.04%	920.00	3,680.00	17,242.44	6,140.69	**27,983.13**	Korea, Rep. of
Liberia	D	0	2	0.00%	6.98%	920.00	1,840.00	2,462.02	0.00	**5,222.02**	Liberia
Libya	C	1,678	2	0.60%	4.23%	920.00	1,840.00	10,345.46	2,947.39	**16,052.86**	Libya
Maroc	C	8,676	3	3.11%	5.63%	920.00	2,760.00	13,793.95	15,239.32	**32,713.27**	Maroc
Mauritania	D	0	3	0.00%	9.30%	920.00	2,760.00	3,282.69	0.00	**6,962.69**	Mauritania
Mexico	C	1,623	4	0.58%	7.04%	920.00	3,680.00	17,242.44	2,850.79	**24,693.22**	Mexico
Namibia	C	5,214	3	1.87%	5.63%	920.00	2,760.00	13,793.95	9,158.35	**26,632.30**	Namibia
Nicaragua, Rep. de	D	0	0	0.00%	2.33%	920.00	0.00	820.67	0.00	**1,740.67**	Nicaragua, Rep. de
Nigeria	D	40	2	0.26%	6.98%	920.00	1,840.00	2,462.02	185.94	**5,407.96**	Nigeria
Norway	A	0	2	0.00%	9.68%	920.00	1,840.00	71,793.44	0.00	**74,553.44**	Norway
Panama	B	15,301	4	16.69%	26.32%	920.00	3,680.00	36,736.90	46,592.28	**87,929.18**	Panama
Philippines, Rep. of	D	1,422	2	9.37%	6.98%	920.00	1,840.00	2,462.02	6,610.14	**11,832.16**	Philippines, Rep. of
Russia	C	2,111	1	0.76%	2.82%	920.00	920.00	6,896.98	3,707.95	**12,444.93**	Russia
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	D	1,289	3	8.49%	9.30%	920.00	2,760.00	3,282.69	5,991.90	**12,954.59**	Saint Vincent and Grenadines
São Tomé e Príncipe	D	2,295	2	15.12%	6.98%	920.00	1,840.00	2,462.02	10,668.27	**15,890.29**	São Tomé e Príncipe
Senegal	C	10,787	2	3.87%	4.23%	920.00	1,840.00	10,345.46	18,947.27	**32,052.74**	Senegal
Sierra Leone	C	10,490	1	3.76%	2.82%	920.00	920.00	6,896.98	18,425.60	**27,162.57**	Sierra Leone
South Africa	C	3,526	3	1.26%	5.63%	920.00	2,760.00	13,793.95	6,193.39	**23,667.34**	South Africa
Syrian Arab Republic	D	23	1	0.15%	4.65%	920.00	920.00	1,641.35	106.92	**3,588.26**	Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad & Tobago	C	2,707	2	0.97%	4.23%	920.00	1,840.00	10,345.46	4,754.82	**17,860.29**	Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisie	C	7,368	2	2.64%	4.23%	920.00	1,840.00	10,345.46	12,941.83	**26,047.29**	Tunisie
Turkey	B	14,054	4	15.33%	26.32%	920.00	3,680.00	36,736.90	42,795.10	**84,132.00**	Turkey
Union Européenne	A	465,738	4	84.16%	16.13%	920.00	3,680.00	119,655.74	1,248,678.61	**1,372,934.35**	Union Européenne
United Kingdom (O.T.)	A	598	0	0.11%	3.23%	920.00	0.00	23,931.15	1,603.28	**26,454.43**	United Kingdom (O.T.)
United States	A	32,453	4	5.86%	16.13%	920.00	3,680.00	119,655.74	87,008.93	**211,264.67**	United States
Uruguay	C	696	3	0.25%	5.63%	920.00	2,760.00	13,793.95	1,222.52	**18,696.47**	Uruguay
Vanuatu	D	661	0	4.35%	2.33%	920.00	0.00	820.67	3,072.65	**4,813.32**	Vanuatu
Venezuela	B	8,390	3	9.15%	21.05%	920.00	2,760.00	29,389.52	25,547.95	**58,617.47**	Venezuela

a), b), c), d), e), f), g), h): See the legends in the **Annex.**

Table 4. Contributions by group 2017. Fees expressed in Euros.

Groups	Parties[a]	Panels[b]	Catch + Canning[c]	% of each Party[d]	% of the Budget[e]	Fees[f]	Panels fees[g]	Other fees[h]	Total fees[i]
A	9	22	553,409	---	62.00%	8,280.00	20,240.00	2,225,596.73	2,254,116.73
B	4	15	91,690	3.00%	12.00%	3,680.00	13,800.00	418,800.66	436,280.66
C	22	49	278,786	1.00%	22.00%	20,240.00	45,080.00	734,527.87	799,847.87
D	16	27	15,183	0.25%	4.00%	14,720.00	24,840.00	105,866.89	145,426.89
TOTAL	**51**	**113**	**939,068**		**100.00%**	**46,920.00**	**103,960.00**	**3,484,792.15**	**3,635,672.15**

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.

Parties	2011 Catch	2011 Canning	2011 Total	2012 Catch	2012 Canning	2012 Total	2013 Catch	2013 Canning	2013 Total	Parties
Albania	0 t		0	9 coo		9	9 t		9	Albania
Algérie	1,797	1,549	3,346	2,123	1,565	3,688	2,320	1,573	3,893	Algérie
Angola	5,156 t		5,156	4,027 t		4,027	6,838 t		6,838	Angola
Barbados	257 t		257	344 t		344	323 t		323	Barbados
Belize	14,386 co		14,386	22,899 co		22,899	15,060 t		15,060	Belize
Brazil	45,294	12,587	57,881	37,640	14,446	52,086	38,727	13,141	51,868	Brazil
Canada	2,311	0	2,311	2,291	0	2,291	2,345	0	2,345	Canada
Cabo Verde	16,353 t	1,200 coo	17,553	13,238 t	1,200 coo	14,438	27,900 t	1,200 coo	29,100	Cabo Verde
China, People's Rep. of	4,997		4,997	4,271		4,271	3,518		3,518	China, People's Rep. of
Côte d'Ivoire	2,856 t		2,856	14,585 t		14,585	15,548 t		15,548	Côte d'Ivoire
Curaçao	20,032	0	20,032	22,723	0	22,723	23,964	0	23,964	Curaçao
Egypt	1,955	0	1,955	1,270	0	1,270	1,405	0	1,405	Egypt
El Salvador			0			0			0	El Salvador
France (St. P. & M.)	1		1	0		0	23		23	France (St. P. & M.)
Gabon			0			0			0	Gabon
Ghana	154,442 co	18,000 co	172,442	170,680 co	20,000 co	190,680	64,650 t	20,000 coo	84,650	Ghana
Guatemala, Rep. de	5,962		5,962	6,842		6,842	9,108		9,108	Guatemala, Rep. de
Guinea Ecuatorial	1,267 t		1,267	1,267 coo		1,267	1,267 coo		1,267	Guinea Ecuatorial
Guinea, Rep. of	2,189 t		2,189	11,423 t		11,423	10,778 t		10,778	Guinea, Rep. of
Guinée-Bissau			0			0			0	Guinée-Bissau
Honduras			0			0			0	Honduras
Iceland	2	0	2	5	0	5	4	0	4	Iceland
Japan	25,442	0	25,442	33,563	0	33,563	31,150	0	31,150	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	4,312 t		4,312	3,533 t		3,533	2,642 t		2,642	Korea, Rep. of
Liberia			0			0			0	Liberia
Libya	0 co	1,359 co	1,359	763 co	990 co	1,753	933 t	990 coo	1,923	Libya
Maroc	8,584 co	482 co	9,066	7,724 co	957 co	8,681	7,324 t	957 coo	8,281	Maroc
Mauritania			0			0			0	Mauritania
Mexico	1,637	0	1,637	1,831	0	1,831	1,401	0	1,401	Mexico
Namibia	8,449	0	8,449	4,733	0	4,733	2,461	0	2,461	Namibia
Nicaragua, Rep. de			0			0			0	Nicaragua, Rep. de
Nigeria	17 t		17	52 t		52	52 coo		52	Nigeria
Norway			0			0	0		0	Norway
Panama	20,668 t		20,668	12 t		12	25,224 t		25,224	Panama
Philippines, Rep. of	1,557		1,557	764		764	1,944		1,944	Philippines, Rep. of
Russia	3,355	0	3,355	1,535	0	1,535	1,443	0	1,443	Russia
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	1,958 t		1,958	966 t		966	944 t		944	Saint Vincent and Grenadines
São Tomé e Príncipe	2,229	0	2,229	2,298	0	2,298	2,359	0	2,359	São Tomé e Príncipe
Senegal	5,997 co	337 co	6,334	3,937 co	199 co	4,136	21,693 t	199 coo	21,892	Senegal
Sierra Leone	10,490 t		10,490	10,490 coo		10,490	10,490 coo		10,490	Sierra Leone
South Africa	1,550 t		1,550	4,093 t		4,093	4,935 t		4,935	South Africa
Syrian Arab Republic	22 coo		22	25 t		25	22 t		22	Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad & Tobago	2,842	0	2,842	2,351	0	2,351	2,928	0	2,928	Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisie	5,069	2,205	7,274	5,208	2,195	7,403	5,235	2,190	7,425	Tunisie
Turkey	6,102	7,984	14,086	3,229	9,525	12,754	2,968	12,352	15,320	Turkey
Union Européenne	275,942	204,825	480,767	258,004	202,375	460,379	252,094	203,976	456,070	Union Européenne
United Kingdom (O.T.)	1,109	0	1,109	441	0	441	244	0	244	United Kingdom (O.T.)
United States	19,996	8,519	28,515	24,927	10,139	35,066	20,827	12,949	33,776	United States
Uruguay	1,067 t		1,067	540 t		540	480 t		480	Uruguay
Vanuatu	764 t		764	633 t		633	587 t		587	Vanuatu
Venezuela	7,981 co	573 co	8,554	8,128 t	573 coo	8,701	7,341 t	573 coo	7,914	Venezuela
TOTAL	696,396	259,620	956,016	695,417	264,164	959,581	631,508	270,100	901,608	TOTAL

co = Transfer of the data received (S13-3343).
coo = Transfer of the latest data received/obtained from the database.
t = Obtained from the database, because there was no official communication.
(Data updated until 23 June 2015)

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 1,75 (Source: CPI Inflation/Bureau of Labor Statistics/United States Department of Labor)
c	Average 2011-2012-2013 Catches (t)
d	Average 2011-2012-2013 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 ANNEX 8

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

3. Adoption of the Agenda

4. Reports from the Secretariat

   4.1 2016 Administrative Report
   4.2 2016 Financial Report
   4.3 Review of progress of the payment of arrears and voting rights

5. Consideration of financial implications of measures proposed and SCRS requests

6. Assistance to developing CPCs and identification of mechanism to finance the Meeting Participation Fund and other capacity building activities

7. Consideration of other programmes/activities which may require additional or extra-budgetary funding

8. Review of findings of Virtual Working Group on Communications Policy and actions required

9. Procedures for selection of the Executive Secretary

10. Budget and Contracting Party contributions for 2017

11. Other matters

12. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 8

Meeting Participation Fund[1]

In 2014 the Commission adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 11-26 on the Establishment of a Meeting Participation Fund for Developing ICCAT Contracting Parties* [Rec. 14-14] which substitutes and repeals Rec. 11-26 in its entirety.

Recommendation 14-14 establishes a Meeting Participation Fund (MPF) to support representatives of those ICCAT Contracting Parties which are developing States for the purpose of attending and/or contributing to the work of the Commission and other subsidiary bodies. This fund was initially provisioned with €60,000.00 from the Working Capital Fund.

The new recommendation differs from the previous one in that participation of two members per delegation (a manager and a scientist) will be financed for SWGSM meetings only, for the remainder of meetings one member per delegation will be financed.

This fund was financed in 2016 with an allocation of €250,000.00 charged to the Working Capital Fund, as approved by the Commission in 2015. In addition, the Secretariat received two voluntary contributions from United States in the amounts of €4,480.00 and €17,815.79 and two from the European Union, through the European Union Funds for Capacity Building, one from the 2016 Fund in the amount of €43,680.00 and another one from the carryover of the same 2015 Fund in the amount of €8,284.67.

To these funds, the carryover of financial year 2015 must be added, which amounted to €7,151.18. Therefore, the available amount in 2016 has been €331,411.64.

Implementation of this fund has significantly driven participation by representatives of developing Contracting Parties, so much so that 100 trips have been organised and 24 CPCs have benefited. This initiative has not presented a risk for the Commission's finances until 2016. However, in recent years, the usage of the Working Capital Fund to finance this and other activities such as Commission and intersessional meetings, as well as other activities related to databases, such as the eBCD, have significantly reduced the Working Capital Fund. Therefore, the Commission is requested to include of a budgetary item for the annual financing of this Fund.

Taking into account that in 2016 the number of requests for participation in meetings has increased, and therefore, the expense incurred charged to this fund, it is considered appropriate to destine €200,000.00 as the allocation for 2017, based on the amount forecast to be spent in 2016.

Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities are requested to inform STACFAD and the Executive Secretary of the amounts which they could commit to the MPF through voluntary contributions for 2017.

Finally, it is recalled that access to the funds for participation in meetings is governed by a protocol published on the web site and sent to the delegations for each meeting. The requests received are submitted for approval to the ICCAT Chairman and the STACFAD Chair.

[1] Information at 7 November 2016.

Addendum 1 to Appendix 2 to ANNEX 8

Special Meeting Participation Fund (MPF)	
Opening balance for financial year 2016	**€7,151.18**
REVENUE	**€324,260.46**
Financed by the Working Capital Fund	€250,000.00
Voluntary contribution from the United States	€4,480.00
Voluntary contribution from the United States	€17,815.79
Voluntary contribution from the European Union through the European Union Fund for Capacity Building for 2015	€8,284.67
Voluntary contribution from the European Union through the European Union Fund for Capacity Building for 2016	€43,680.00
Expenses	**€258,692.24**
Scientific meetings	€178,338.61
ICCAT Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods Meeting (Madrid, Spain, 15-19 February 2016)	*€3,671.48*
Yellowfin Data Preparatory Meeting (Pasajes, Spain, from 7 to 11 March 2016)	*€16,002.93*
Small Tunas Species Group Intersessional Meeting (Madrid, Spain, from 4 to 8 April 2016)	*€18,247.48*
Sharks Species Group Intersessional Meeting (Madeira, Portugal, from 25 to 29 April 2016)	*€12,765.15*
Atlantic Albacore Stock Assessment Session (Madeira, Portugal, from 28 April to 6 May 2016)	*€6,166.18*
Training Workshops on Standardization CPUE series for Sailfish (Miami, United States, 25 to 29 May 2016)	*€6,444.26*
Sailfish Stock Assessment Session (Miami, United States from 30 May to 3 June 2016)	*€16,921.71*
Yellowfin Data Preparatory Meeting (Pasajes, Spain, from 27 June to 1 July 2016)	*€14,758.06*
Mediterranean Swordfish Stock Assessment Session (Casablanca, Morocco, from 11 to 16 July 2016)	*€2,088.31*
Bluefin Tuna Species Group Meeting (Madrid, Spain, from 25 to 29 July 2016)	*€10,564.92*
The intersessional meeting of the Sub-Committee on Ecosystems (Madrid, Spain, 5-9 September 2016)	*€14,175.65*
SCRS Species Groups Meeting and Meeting of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (Madrid, Spain, from 26 September to 7 October 2016)	*€56,532.49*
Intersessional meetings of Panel 2 / Compliance Committee meeting / Working Group on the ICCAT Convention Amendment meeting	
(Madrid, Spain, 2-8 March 2016)	€21,085.37
2nd Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on FADs	
(Bilbao, Spain, 14-16 March 2016)	€4,898.01
Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) meeting / Intersessional meeting of Panel 2	
(Sapporo, Japan, 18-21 July 2016)	€25,113.16
20th Special Meeting of the Commission	
(Vilamoura, Portugal, 14- 21 July 2016)	€29,257.09
Balance as of 7 November 2016	**€72,719.40**

Summary of expenses

CPC	*Scientific meetings*		*Intersessional meetings of Panel 2 / Compliance Committee meeting / Working Group on the ICCAT Convention Amendment meeting*		*2nd Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on FADs*		*Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) meeting / Panel 2 meeting*		*20th Special Meeting of the Commission*	
Algeria	i) C	€401.03								
	j)	€1,815.84					X	€2,965.12	X	€1,716.51
	l)	€3,416.68								
Belize							X	€3,399.04	X	€3,197.34
Brazil	c)	€2,495.58	X	€1,628.63			X	€2,202.31	X	€2,273.24
	d)	€2,727.55								
	e) C	€34.00								
	g)	€3,058.95								
	k)	€2,756.52								
	l)	€4,043.09								
Cabo Verde	b)	€2,812.41								
	c)	€2,961.97								
	d)	€2,089.76								
	l)	€4,892.75								
Côte d'Ivoire	a)	€2,356.45	X	€2,335.30	X	€1,603.60	X	€3,770.36	X	€2,377.07
	b)	€2,410.97								
	c)	€2,346.62								
	d)	€2,049.17								
	e)	€2,614.92								
	g)	€4,067.16								
	h)	€2,537.63								
	k)	€2,189.60								
	l)	€3,897.90								
Egypt			X	€2,380.49						

CPC	Scientific meetings		Intersessional meetings of Panel 2 / Compliance Committee meeting / Working Group on the ICCAT Convention Amendment meeting		2nd Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on FADs		Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) meeting / Panel 2 meeting		20th Special Meeting of the Commission	
El Salvador	l)	€2,969.94	X	€2,749.20						
Gabon	d)	€2,381.41			X	€1,841.48	X	€3,449.26		
Ghana	b)	€1,513.44			C	€380.45				
	f)	€2,196.84								
	g)	€2,423.74								
	h)	€2,289.56								
Guatemala, Rep. of									X	€2,973.94
Guinea, Rep. of							X	€4,279.36	X	€2,400.56
Liberia	l)	€4,726.34							X	€298.28
Morocco	c)	€1,701.66								
Mauritania	c)	€2,247.74								
	h)	€3,336.43								
	j)	€2,339.74								
	k)	€2,454.62								
	l)	€4,016.44								
Mexico	j)	€4,701.02								
	l)	€4,335.71							X	€2,680.36
Namibia	l)	€3,261.97								
Nigeria			X	€2,384.49					X	€2,332.13
Panama			X	€2,899.29						

CPC	Scientific meetings		Intersessional meetings of Panel 2 / Compliance Committee meeting / Working Group on the ICCAT Convention Amendment meeting		2nd Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on FADs		Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) meeting / Panel 2 meeting		20th Special Meeting of the Commission	
São Tomé and Príncipe	c)	€3,155.86							X	€2,077.17
	f)	€2,224.47								
	g)	€2,753.89								
	h)	€3,166.52								
	k)	€4,022.74								
	l)	€4,945.52								
Senegal	b)	€1,667.22	X	€2,422.93	X	€1,072.48	X	€2,894.10	X	€1,852.21
	c)	€1,879.41								
	f)	€2,022.94								
	g)	€2,249.83								
	l)	€3,508.61								
Sierra Leone	b)	€2,744.67								
Tunisia	a)	€1,315.03	X	€2,203.17			X	€2,153.61	X	€1,983.34
	b)	€3,112.34								
	c)	€1,458.64								
	i)	€1,687.28								
	j)	€1,708.32								
	l)	€3,234.35								
Uruguay	b)	€1,741.88	X	€2,081.87					X	€3,094.94
	d)	€1,762.69								
	e)	€1,762.69								
	h)	€3,427.92								
	k)	€2,752.17								
	l)	€4,573.02								

CPC	Scientific meetings		Intersessional meetings of Panel 2 / Compliance Committee meeting / Working Group on the ICCAT Convention Amendment meeting		2nd Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on FADs		Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) meeting / Panel 2 meeting		20th Special Meeting of the Commission	
Venezuela	d)	€1,754.57								
	e)	€1,754.57								
	g)	€2,368.14								
	l)	€4,710.17								
Total		**€178,338.61**		**€21,085.37**		**€4,898.01**		**€25,113.16**		**€29,257.09**

a) Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods Meeting (WGSAM)
b) Yellowfin data preparatory Meeting
c) Intersessional Meeting of the Small tunas Species Group
d) Sharks Species Group Intersessional Meeting
e) Atlantic Albacore Stock Assessment Meeting
f) Training workshops on Standardized CPUE series for Sailfish
g) Sailfish Stock Assessment Meeting
h) Yellowfin Stock Assessment meeting
i) Mediterranean Swordfish Stock Assessment Meeting
j) Bluefin tuna Species Groups Intersessional meeting
k) Intersessional Meeting of the Sub-committee on Ecosystems
l) Species Groups Meeting and Meeting of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)

C. Trip cancelled

Appendix 3 to ANNEX 8

Process for Staffing of Executive Secretary of ICCAT

1. Development of Vacancy Announcement

   Circulate draft Statement of Duties and Obligations and Statement of Qualifications to Heads of Delegations of Contracting Parties for review and comment.

2. Finalize Statement of Duties and Obligations and Statement of Qualifications.

3. Advertise position in December 2016.

4. Screening Committee

   Establish a Screening Committee to review applications by 1 May 2017. The Committee will be chaired by the Chair of the Commission and comprised of the First Vice-Chairman, Second Vice-Chairman, Chairman of STACFAD and SCRS, and the current Executive Secretary. The Committee will review the applications and identify any applications that do not meet requirements as outlined in the Vacancy Announcement. All information pertaining to the application process as well as applications will be kept confidential and only available to the Committee members and Heads of Delegation of Contracting Parties.

5. All applications, except for those disqualified by the Screening Committee for not meeting identified requirements, will be circulated to all Heads of Delegations of Contracting Parties for ranking of candidates. In addition, the Screening Committee will report to the Heads of Delegations of Contracting Parties with the relevant rationale on all the candidates that did not pass the initial screening.

6. Ranking of Applicants

   Each Head of Delegation of Contracting Parties shall notify the Screening Committee of its 5 preferred candidates in order of preference by 1 July 2017. The Screening Committee will review the results and prepare a composite list of the candidates based on the lists provided by the Heads of Delegation of Contracting Parties. In doing so, the Screening Committee will assign a value in inverse relationship to the order on each list (i.e., 5 points for number 1; 4 points for number 2; etc.). The top 5 candidates will be invited to participate in the interviews.

7. Interview Process

   The list of shortlisted candidates will be circulated to Heads of Delegation of Contracting Parties by the Screening Committee and will be invited to the 2017 Annual Meeting for interviews.

   Some degree of standardization should be built into the interview process to ensure fairness. The Screening Committee will draft a list of questions and circulate them to Heads of Delegation of Contracting Parties for comment so that the questions are agreed to in advance of the interviews.

   Options to consider:

   The Chair will draft 10 questions and two days prior to the interview, the Heads of Delegation of Contracting Parties will select 5 of these questions. These questions will be circulated 1 day prior to the interviews, with the intent to give each candidate an equal amount of time and opportunity to prepare.

   Only members of the Screening Committee, as well as Heads of Delegation of Contracting Parties, may attend the interview. The Chair of the Screening Committee will ask the questions.

Travel (economy class), hotel accommodation and *per diem* expenses of candidates invited for the interviews shall be reimbursed by ICCAT. Candidates should not be part of a Contracting Party delegation at the 2017 ICCAT Annual Meeting.

8. Voting Procedure

Voting will be done by secret ballot with tabulation done by the Chair of the Screening Committee under the supervision of the STACFAD Chair. The candidate receiving the majority (>50%) of the affirmative votes of all Contracting Parties present shall be declared elected. If any candidate does not receive the majority of the affirmative votes in the 1st Ballot, the candidate receiving the least number of affirmative votes shall be eliminated and the process will be repeated until one candidate receives majority support.

Vacancy Announcement

For the Position of Executive Secretary of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) invites applications for the position of Executive Secretary. The appointment will be for a term of five years with the possibility of an additional five-year appointment.

ICCAT is a Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) headquartered in Madrid, Spain.

It is responsible for the conservation of tunas and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas, through implementation of the objectives and principles of the *International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas* (ICCAT Convention). The official languages of ICCAT are English, French and Spanish. Currently, there are 51 Contracting Parties.

For further information on the Commission, please refer to: http://www.iccat.int/

Summary Description of the Position

The **Executive Secretary** is ICCAT's chief administrative office and must be impartial in promoting and coordinating the interests of all Contracting Parties. The Executive Secretary is responsible for the effective running of ICCAT's Secretariat and administration of ICCAT's appropriations, budget (currently at the level of €3.4 million) and other extra-budgetary funds, approximately €8 million.

The Executive Secretary's responsibilities include, in particular, the following:

- Supervising and coordinating all the Secretariat's activities, including appointing and supervising the staff of the Secretariat;
- Managing and administering the annual budget of the Secretariat, including:
    - Preparing the budget estimates for review and approval by the Commission;
    - Authorizing the disbursements of funds in accordance with the budget approved by the Commission;
    - Maintaining the bookkeeping of the Commission's funds;
    - Preparing annual and/or periodical financial reports for review and approval by the Commission;
    - Aiding and facilitating the work of the external auditor in the preparation of the annual fiscal audit of the Commission's accounts;
- Coordinating and promoting the research programs of the Contracting Parties;
- Promoting and maintaining collaboration with other international organizations;
- Maintaining close working relationships with the Contracting and non-contracting Party governments;
- Maintaining close working relations with the government and authorities of the host country and the embassies of the Contracting Parties;
- Preparing for approval by the Commission the scientific, administrative and other reports of the Commission and its auxiliary bodies;
- Organizing the meetings of the Commission and auxiliary bodies;
- Preparing the meeting agendas and accompanying detailed information and documentation to facilitate the work of the Contracting Party delegates, advisors and experts;
- Acting as Secretary of meetings of the Commission; and,
- Compiling and analyzing data necessary to fulfil the objectives of the Commission, especially those relative to current catches.

In addition, the Executive Secretary carries out any other activity as specified in the Convention, Rules of Procedure, Financial Rules and the Staff Rules, and/or as entrusted to him/her by the Commission. Applicants should understand that this posting will require extensive travel.

Statement of Qualifications

Candidates will be assessed against the following qualifications:

Education Requirement:

- The Executive Secretary must have, at a minimum, a university degree. Preference may be given to candidates who have an advanced university degree or an equivalent in fisheries-related disciplines or other relevant fields.

Knowledge of:

- International organizations in the field of fisheries and marine resource based management, including a broad understanding of the operations of RFMOs;
- Fisheries management, preferably relating to tuna, tuna-like, and elasmobranch species and/or to the management of fisheries in the Atlantic and Mediterranean;
- The basics of fisheries related research and science programs;
- Modern principles of management, budgeting and administration; and,
- Computer and information technology services and their management.

Experience:

- Minimum of 10 years in fisheries management, with at least 5 years at a senior management/administration level, preferably including bilateral and international relations;
- Managing a large and diverse staff, including technical and administrative positions; and,
- Significant experience in preparing and organizing international meetings.

Abilities:

- Excellent spoken and written command of at least one of the three official languages (English, French and Spanish) a strong preference for a good working knowledge of one of the other two languages of the Commission and preferably a good working knowledge of the third language;
- Excellent interpersonal skills, including a demonstrated ability to work with different organizations, cultures and stakeholders, and competence in public relations;
- Ability to work with all Parties equally and diplomatically, and to deal appropriately and effectively with a range of international issues;
- Leadership that fosters a strong team through building trust, committing to common objectives, and recognizing team successes;
- Willingness and ability to travel internationally; and,
- High degree of adaptability.

Salary and Benefits

The salary classification for this position is equivalent to the Director 1 Level (D-1), based on the current United Nations Salary Scheme for Professional and Higher Categories, at a step depending on qualifications and experience. In addition to the basic salary, the Commission has a benefits package includes pension, insurance, leave, etc. Further information can be found in the ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules – http://www.iccat.int/Documents/Commission/StaffRules2005.pdf – which set the conditions and principles of employment and the responsibilities of the ICCAT Secretariat Staff.

Payment will be made for moving expenses incurred at the time of appointment and at the end of the appointment by transporting the successful applicant to/from the Headquarters of the Commission. Moving expenses will be in accordance with United Nations policies.

Members of the Secretariat enjoy the privileges and immunities to which they are deemed to be entitled pursuant to relevant provisions in the *Agreement on Seat Between the Spanish State and The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.*

Please refer to http://www.iccat.int/Documents/Commission/BasicTexts.pdf for further information on privileges and immunities.

Appointment Procedures

A short list of five applicants will be invited for interviews at the 2017 ICCAT Annual meeting (further information on date and location TBC). ICCAT will compensate the reasonable travel and subsistence costs associated with travel to the interview location. The successful candidate will be announced at the meeting, and will assume the position of Executive Secretary on XXXX (date TBD).

As stated in the "ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules", the Executive Secretary will serve a one-year probationary period. Upon satisfactory completion of the probationary period, the Commission will confirm his/her appointment for a five-year term (probationary period plus four years), renewable for a second (five-year) term at the discretion of the Commission.

Applications should include the following:

- Cover Letter;
- Curriculum Vitae;
- List of publications, if available;
- Copies of academic and other relevant professional certificates (please provide English translation if applicable); and
- Three references – one from a recent supervisor (within last 3 years), one from a peer, and one from a subordinate. Each reference should have a strong understanding of the applicant's character, qualifications and experience.

The short-listed candidates will be required to submit a certificate of health.

Applications should be sent to:

The Commission Chairman
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
C/Corazón de María, 8 (6th fl.)
28002 Madrid, Spain

All applications will be treated as confidential. For additional information or clarification, please address any inquiries to the above address.

We thank all respondents; however, only candidates under consideration will be contacted.

Deadline for Application: 1 April 2017

ANNEX 9

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 Appointment of the Rapporteur

Ms. Julie Matakowski (France in respect of St. Pierre & Miquelon) was appointed Rapporteur.

3 Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was adopted with no modifications (attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**).

4 Review of panel membership

Mr. Driss Meski, Executive Secretary, presented the list of members of Panel 1 which was made up of the following 39 members: Angola, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Cabo Verde, China (People's Rep. of), Côte d'Ivoire, Curaçao, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea (Rep. of), European Union, France (Saint-Pierre and Miquelon), Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Panama, Philippines, Russia, El Salvador, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela.

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

The SCRS Chairman, Dr. David Die, presented the Detailed Reports for bigeye (BET), yellowfin (YFT) and skipjack (SKJ) tuna stocks. A yellowfin tuna stock assessment was carried out in 2016, while assessments for bigeye and skipjack were conducted in 2015 and 2011, respectively.

Tropical tuna fisheries are multi-species and multi-gear, with significant catches in recent years by purse seine fleets fishing on FADs. As a result of this, there has been an increase in the juvenile mortality of yellowfin and bigeye tunas. These devices have an impact on the biology and ecology of the tuna species. The SCRS is attempting to study the impacts of FADs. The Commission has adopted successive area/time closures. However, the SCRS has stated that the area/time closure currently in place off the coast of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire has limited effect on the state of stocks. This may be linked to the short duration of the closure, and to the increase in fleet capacities outside the affected area during the closure. A longer and larger offshore closure would have a greater effect.

The SCRS stated that the yellowfin stock most likely remains overfished, although some data from the 2016 assessment indicates the population might be rebuilt.

For yellowfin, the TAC recommended by the SCRS is 110,000 t to support an MSY of 126,304 t, while the catches reported in 2015 amount to 109,810 t. Since the highest annual reported catch of 193,600 t of yellowfin in 1990, significant declines in catches by the different gears involved in this fishery have been observed. In the East Atlantic, a 60% decline is observed from 1990 to 2007 for purse seiners, and 70% and 78%, respectively, for baitboat and longline for the 1990 to 2015 period. Since 2007, the number of purse seiners and the overall fleet efficiency have increased, including the transfer of more powerful vessels that operated in the Indian Ocean to the Atlantic, leading to a 50% increase in the carrying capacity of the purse seine fleet from 1990 levels. The SCRS is currently not planning a new yellowfin stock assessment in the next five years.

According to the 2015 assessment, the bigeye tuna stock is both overfished and suffering overfishing. Recommendation 15-01 establishes an annual TAC in the amount of 65,000 t for the 2016 to 2018 period while the 2016 catches were estimated at 79,577 t. According to the SCRS, the proliferation of FADs has a negative impact on the productivity of bigeye fisheries. The bigeye stock will be assessed in 2018.

As of the 2011 assessments, the eastern Atlantic skipjack tuna stock is not likely to be overfished or suffering from overfishing and the western Atlantic stock is not overfished or suffering overfishing. The skipjack stocks will be reassessed in 2019.

In response to questions from Panel members, the SCRS Chairman commented on the area/time closure, the limits on the use of FADs, the observer coverage and the development of HCRs.

As regards the closure, the SCRS recommends to continue analysing the effect of the closure on the mortality of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tunas in 2017 and 2018 and reiterates its recommendation to the Commission that it establish a desired target reduction level of juvenile mortality. Concerning the number of FADs, the Committee indicated that it could not yet reach a conclusion regarding this issue. The Committee suggests adopting three tables presented in the SCRS report which will allow it to make better use of data on FADs to enhance analyses and improve understanding of FADs and their impact.

With regard to the observer coverage, the SCRS suggests that the current level of scientific observers (5%) is inadequate to provide reasonable estimates on by-catch and recommends increasing the coverage rate to 20% for vessels targeting tropical tunas.

Finally, for recommendations on MSE, the SCRS estimates at this stage an assessment should explore the HCRs in a multi-species context. While some other RFMOs do this for individual species, such as for skipjack in the Indian Ocean, for Atlantic tropical tunas dialogue is needed between managers and scientists to enhance consideration of the trade-offs for each species associated with different management options.

6 Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities

Panel 1 adopted *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish an Ad Hoc Working Group on Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)* [Rec. 16-02] proposed by the EU. This recommendation clarifies the terms of reference of the *ad hoc* Working Group on FADs and extends its mandate to 2017 and beyond. The European Union, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal submitted a draft Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-Annual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tunas. The proposal made some adjustments to Recommendation 15-01, including the provisions related to quota transfer, capacity limitations, data reporting in FAD fisheries, limits to the number of FADs, and the list of authorized tropical tuna vessels. In addition, the proposal includes requirements related to development of bigeye fishery management plans and the reduction of discards. As consensus on this measure could not be reached in the Panel, it was agreed to forward the proposal to the Commission for further consideration. El Salvador presented a Fisheries Development Plan as required in Recommendation 15-01, which was discussed by Panel 1 and forwarded to Plenary for further discussions.

A Statement by the PEW Charitable Trusts to Panel 1 is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9**.

7 Research

The SCRS Chairman summarised the Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP). This Programme is successful in the East Atlantic area with the recruitment of a consortium that organised several training courses for scientists of coastal States. Around 20,000 fish were tagged with conventional tags and 80 fish were tagged with internal tags. Awareness amongst fishermen was raised to assist in the recovery tags. To date, 2,000 conventional tags and three internal tags have been recovered.

Although provisional, the first results of the Programme show the movement of bigeye tuna off Senegal and Cabo Verde, of skipjack and yellowfin towards the northwest and sometimes towards the north. The team also tagged small tunas whose recovery rates, for the time being, are varied. A first AOTTP report was drafted in June 2016 in line with EU requirements given that the EU provides the majority of the funds to the Programme.

The European Union recalled the importance of the AOTTP and invited CPCs to participate in its funding to cover the 10% corresponding to the rules of co-financing.

The United States requested information on the tagging campaign in the West Atlantic, given that, at this time, there has been no call for tenders covering this part of the ocean. The United States stressed the need for outreach to fishermen in the longline and rod and reel fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico and North America. The United States is hopeful that the SCRS Chairman can indicate a date to start the procedure.

In response to the concerns of the United States, the Executive Secretary indicated that the AOTTP Coordinator is currently working on the recruitment of a consortium for the West Atlantic and Caribbean, including the waters of the Gulf of Mexico, and that it is likely that the publication of the call for tenders will take place the week following the Annual meeting.

8 Other matters

No other matters were discussed.

9 Adoption of the report

The Chairman adjourned the meeting. The Report of Panel 1 was adopted by correspondence.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 2

1 Opening of meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chair of Panel 2, Mr. Masanori Miyahara (Japan).

2 Appointment of Rapporteur

Mr. Larry Redd, Jr. (United States) was designated Rapporteur of Panel 2.

3 Adoption of the Agenda

Norway noted an issue to discuss under "Other Matters" regarding bluefin tuna caught accidentally in trout and salmon farms.

The Agenda was adopted.

4 Review of Panel Membership

The Executive Secretary reported that Panel 2 was comprised of the following 25 members: Albania, Algeria, Belize, Brazil, Canada, China (People's Rep.), Egypt, European Union, France (St. Pierre and Miquelon), Guatemala, Iceland, Japan, Korea, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Panama, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, United States and Venezuela. During the meeting, Guatemala notified the Commission that it would be withdrawing from Panel 2.

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

Dr. David Die, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), presented the Executive Summaries on the North Atlantic and Mediterranean stocks of albacore and the western and eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stocks of bluefin tuna. These summaries can be found in Sections 8.4 and 8.5 of the 2016 SCRS Report.

5.1 Northern albacore

According to the 2016 assessment, the northern albacore stock is no longer overfished and overfishing is not occurring. Catches for northern albacore have remained below the current TAC in recent years. The SCRS Chair noted some contradictions in abundance indices but a general upward trend for biomass. New projections for the stock suggested higher sustainable catch levels compared to the most previous assessments; however, the SCRS had little confidence in the absolute biomass estimate as the projections did not fully account for many other sources of uncertainty (e.g. model structure and assumptions) that need further evaluation. The SCRS decided not to provide the Kobe II Strategy Matrix for northern albacore or use it as the basis for advice. Dr. Die noted that although the magnitude of stock recovery is uncertain, the current TAC would maintain long-term objectives. The SCRS could not provide advice related to an increase in the TAC and does not recommend increasing the TAC at this time. Finally, Dr. Die indicated that the SCRS will conduct further testing of candidate harvest control rules for northern albacore.

5.2 Bluefin tuna

5.2.1 Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean

The SCRS did not conduct a full assessment for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock of bluefin tuna as this will happen in 2017. Dr. Die noted increasing difficulties with updating CPUE time series linked to recent management regulations (i.e. time/area closures, individual quota, a changing TAC, minimum size limits). The 2016 SCRS analysis looked at the 2014 stock assessment considering the actual catches from the fishery in 2014-2015**.** The SCRS suggested that catches at or below the TAC set in Rec.14-04 are consistent with achieving the goals of F_{MSY} and B_{MSY} through 2022 with at least 60% probability. The 2017 stock assessment will provide more information regarding the stock status.

5.2.2 Western Atlantic

Dr. Die noted that the 2014 stock assessment was highly sensitive to recruitment assumptions. Similar to the eastern stock, SCRS reviewed the 2014 stock assessment of western bluefin tuna in light of actual catch data from 2014-2015. Results of the stock update were similar to the 2014 stock assessment but with slight improvements. Since the updated assessment changed SSB and F only slightly from the 2014 projections, the SCRS noted that it was not appropriate to alter the management advice that was provided to the Commission in 2014.

5.2.3 Responses of the SCRS to Commission requests

The SCRS Chair addressed the SCRS responses to the following requests by the Commission:

1. *Continue working on the identification of spawning grounds in the Atlantic and Mediterranean and provide advice to the Commission on the creation of sanctuaries, [Rec. 14-04] paragraph 24*.

   This response is presented in point 18.4 of the 2016 SCRS report.

2. *Update the Commission annually and prior to the Commission meeting, on any changes of the estimated bluefin catch rates per vessel and gear, [Rec. 14-04] paragraph 43*.

   This response is presented in point 18.5 of the 2016 SCRS report.

3. *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, Rec. [14-04] paragraph 82*.

   This response is presented in point 18.6 of the 2016 SCRS report.

4. *Evaluate the results of the 100% coverage programme using stereoscopical cameras systems or alternative techniques that provide the equivalent precision to refine the number and weight of the fish during all caging operations, Rec. [14-04] paragraph 83*.

   This response is presented in point 18.7 of the 2016 SCRS report.

5. *Evaluate the bluefin tuna national observer programmes conducted by CPCs to report the Commission and to provide advice on future improvements, Rec. [14-04] paragraph 88*.

   This response is presented in point 18.8 of the 2016 SCRS report.

6. *Review the information from BCDs and other submitted data and further study growth rates so as to provide updated growth tables to the Commission, [Rec. 14- 04] paragraph 96*.

   This response is presented in point 18.9 of the 2016 SCRS report.

7. *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; and also comment on the effect of fish size management measures on their ability to monitor stock status, [Rec. 14-05] paragraph 27*.

   This response is presented in point 18.10 of the 2016 SCRS report.

8. *Request from the 2016 Panel 2 intersessional meeting (Japan): SCRS clarification by the Commission regarding the use of algorithms for the purpose of bluefin tuna caging operations in Mediterranean Sea during May-June period*.

   This response is presented in point 18.13 of the 2016 SCRS report.

9. *Request from the Second Meeting of the Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists in support of the WBFT Stock Assessment, in 2014: SCRS to explore options/proposals for the development of new fishery independent indices of abundance and the improvement of existing bluefin tuna indices*.

   This response is presented in point 18.14 of the 2016 SCRS report.

5.2.4 Comments on SCRS Presentation

Northern albacore: The United States asked Dr. Die if there was any reason to expect that the SCRS would advise an increase in the northern albacore TAC before the 2020 stock assessment. The SCRS Chairman noted that the current advice from the SCRS was not to increase the TAC. The European Union asked about the uncertainties in the northern albacore stock assessment and if the lack of confidence by SCRS in the projections was for the near-term or for all years prior to the next assessment. Dr. Die replied that the SCRS was cautious about catch increases because of the current lack of confidence in absolute biomass levels. Improved confidence in biomass estimates is needed before there will be substantial changes in management advice.

Bluefin tuna: Several parties noted that they were looking forward to the 2017 bluefin tuna stock assessments and that expectations are high that the assessment will incorporate the latest modeling approaches and data collected under the GBYP and national research programs. The European Union asked the SCRS Chair whether improvements in the data and models are likely to result in more robust information and management advice. The SCRS Chair stated that the SCRS will be in a strong position to conduct stock assessments that explicitly consider mixing.

Norway asked if the SCRS would be able to identify the most correct recruitment scenario for the eastern stock in future stock assessments. Dr. Die responded that the SCRS may have more information to help with this question, but he was not sure how definitive such advice would be in the near-term.

Japan expressed concern about the impact of the decline in available stock indices for use in the eastern Atlantic/Mediterranean stock assessment. Additionally, Japan expressed the need for the SCRS to update information on catch rate per vessel/gear. The SCRS Chair noted that the SCRS will continue to pursue improvements to the data, including through fishery independent indices and information on catch rate per vessel/gear, to support future stock assessments.

Canada asked about the implications of using data from 2015 and not 2016 for the upcoming 2017 bluefin tuna stock assessments and about any recommendations to enhance observer programs to improve stock assessment data. In relation to the use of 2015 data, Dr. Die explained that complexity of the new models should allow for a more complete stock assessment next year. He did not offer specific recommendations regarding observer programs but noted that in 2017 the SCRS will be reviewing and making recommendations regarding the ST09 forms for collecting data from observer programs.

Morocco noted its efforts toward full electronic catch data reporting and expressed concern that CPCs not respecting ICCAT recommendations may compromise the information needed by the SCRS for stock assessments.

Mexico asked about progress on efforts to identify spawning areas in the Atlantic and Mediterranean, highlighting that identification could necessitate changes in future management actions, as well as on a combined index of abundance for the western Atlantic. The SCRS Chair noted that efforts are underway for the development of a combined index.

6 Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the ICCAT Criteria for Allocation of Fishing Possibilities

6.1 Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna

The Chair of Panel 2 suggested that, as there were no changes to the scientific advice for western bluefin tuna, there should be a one-year rollover of the western bluefin tuna TAC. The United States tabled a proposal amending the supplemental recommendation by ICCAT concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program, which was cosponsored by Canada and Japan. After consultations, *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rebuilding Program* was agreed and forwarded to Plenary for final adoption.

6.2 Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna

The Chair of Panel 2 noted that the existing recommendation for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna stock already established a TAC for 2017, which would apply unless changed during the meeting.

The delegation of Japan tabled a proposal with draft guidelines for preparing the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishing, inspection, and capacity management plans (**ANNEX 7.1**). The delegation of Norway asked the SCRS Chair whether the calculations on capacity correspond to conditions in the Northeast Atlantic or Mediterranean and if the calculations could be extrapolated to the Northeast Atlantic if the conditions were based on the Mediterranean. The delegation from Norway informed the floor that they intend to take this issue into account when developing their fishing plan. Iceland expressed views similar to Norway's. The document *Draft Guidelines for Preparing the EBFT Fishing, Inspection, and Capacity Management Plans* was forwarded to Plenary for final adoption.

Algeria provided a statement (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9**), which is attached requesting a change in its allocation of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, indicating that for the past seven years, Algeria has been subject to a reduced quota (from 5% to 1.7%) and that its quota loss was redistributed to others. The delegate of Algeria stressed that, since 2012, Algeria has accepted all compromises set forth by ICCAT but that there was still no plan to permanently resolve the situation. Algeria requested consideration of two alternative solutions: either restore immediately Algeria's historical allocation of 5% of the TAC or provide Algeria with a significant addition in quota for 2017 to bring it up to the equivalent of its 5% historical share.

The Chair of Panel 2 introduced a draft proposal that would allow Algeria to catch an additional 500 t of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean in 2017. The proposal included a provision that any excessive amount of catch over the TAC in 2017 would be deducted from the TACs to be set for the next management period (2018-2020). Several CPCs did not agree with this proposal and asked for the language to be removed.

Norway expressed sympathy for Algeria's situation but stressed that it would not be fair to expect Norway to give up any part of its quota share given how small Norway's allocation is. Moreover, Norway did not benefit from the reduction in Algeria's allocation in 2010. At the time, Norway had disagreed with the 2010 decision to reduce Algeria's quota share and had even lodged a formal objection to that recommendation. Norway also reminded the Panel members and Chair of the commentary in the Second Performance Review report with regard to voting. Iceland agreed with the views expressed by Norway and suggested that a vote may be warranted. Additionally, Norway and Iceland mentioned their history in the fishery and that they look forward to allocation discussions in 2017. Tunisia also stressed its history in the fishery and noted that revisions to the TAC should take into account the interests of developing States.

Japan asked the SCRS Chair whether raising the TAC by 500 t would have an impact on the recovery of the stock. The SCRS Chair responded that calculations have not been performed that include an additional catch of 500 t, but he noted that he would not expect the calculation to lead to a different outcome with respect to stock recovery. Japan suggested removal of the second paragraph regarding payback of catch in excess of the 2017 TAC.

Algeria called for a vote on the draft proposal with paragraph 2 removed. This recommendation was adopted by the Panel, with the following voting results: 23 members were present for the vote; 13 members voted in favour: two members voted against; and eight members abstained. The vote carried by simple majority. Norway and Iceland both reserved their positions, noting their right to file a formal objection at a later time. The United States suggested that Panel 2 hold an intersessional meeting in 2017 to begin to address allocation issues before the 2017 annual meeting. Finally, the Ecological Action Centre expressed disappointment with the results of the vote, noting that the additional quota for Algeria is not accounted for within the TAC.

Additionally, Turkey continued to press its claim for an increase in its eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna allocation. Turkey requested a fair, non-discriminatory allocation of quota taking into account its historical catch with specific reference to the 1993-1994 reference years, which were the basis for the original quota allocations for the eastern stock. In that regard, Turkey stressed in a statement (**Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9**) that its rightful historical share is 7.73% of the TAC.

The Chair of Panel 2 noted Turkey's request and called for CPCs to address this matter. CPCs appreciated the document provided by Turkey setting forth its claim and the history surrounding it, but CPCs could not reach a conclusion on the issue. Turkey requested that the Commission give priority to the case of Turkey in the next round of management negotiations. Turkey noted that if its request is prioritized, it would reconsider its decision and position on its autonomous quota next year. The Chair expressed his intention to take up this matter as a priority issue at the 2017 Panel 2 meeting and urged Turkey to seriously reconsider its autonomous quota and not use it in excess of the allocated quota in 2017. Egypt noted that as a coastal State, it has not received a fair share of the TAC and remains hopeful that the matter be solved in the future.

6.3 Northern albacore

The Chair of Panel 2 noted that two proposals had been tabled and requested that the United States and European Union work together to produce one document regarding northern albacore. After consultations, the European Union provided a modified draft recommendation for a multi-annual conservation and management program.

The final version established an annual TAC of 28,000 t for 2017-2018, with the possibility of an increase to 30,000 t for 2019-2020 subject to a decision by the Commission based on updated advice of the SCRS in 2018. However, if the Commission adopts an HCR during this period, as is anticipated, the TAC shall be re-established according to those rules. The proposal authorizes transfers in 2017 from the EU (60 t), the United States (150 t), and Chinese Taipei (114 t) to Venezuela from the unused portion of their 2015 quotas, as well as transfers from Chinese Taipei to St. Vincent and the Grenadines (100 t) and Belize (200 t) in 2017 and 2018. The proposal also incorporates the following: capacity management measures from Recommendations 98-08 and 99-05; establishment of an authorized vessel list; updated operative paragraphs regarding HCR and MSE based on text from Recommendation 15-04; and the performance indicators agreed at the 2016 Panel 2 intersessional meeting held in Sapporo to support future decision-making. The proposal was agreed and forwarded to Plenary for final adoption.

The observer from Eurofish noted that, based on the SCRS report, the northern albacore stock was neither overfished nor experiencing overfishing and fishermen had hoped to see an increase in the TAC.

7 Research

The SCRS Chair presented the latest progress on the ICCAT Atlantic-wide Bluefin Tuna Research Program (GBYP). The objectives of the phase to be completed in February 2017 (Phase 6) were to improve (a) data collection, (b) understanding of biological and ecological processes, and (c) assessment models and provision of scientific advice. In 2016, the activities included reviewing cost-benefit analysis of tagging activities, analysis of GBYP aerial surveys, a second review of the GBYP program, and recovery of historical data.

Dr. Die noted that conventional tagging of bluefin tuna during Phase 6 was suspended but tag recovery efforts will continue. Additionally, SCRS will continue PSAT tagging. The bluefin core modeling work continues and seeks to move away from catch-at-age data and use more statistical catch-at-length models. Additionally, Dr. Die mentioned the 2016 GBYP Larval Workshop, which has provided a good initial proxy for a Mediterranean wide larval index. He noted that an international effort is needed to sample all major spawning areas; this faces great logistical and funding challenges. The SCRS Chair further mentioned that the GBYP has analyzed the feasibility of close kin genetic tagging for the eastern Atlantic/Mediterranean stock. The SCRS believes there is promising new scientific work underway, including the close-kin analysis, larval indices, and MSE development.

The European Union asked what activities might be dropped due to funding and the cost/benefit of the close kin research. Morocco noted the suspension of aerial surveys and asked about the alternatives used to fill in the gaps. Morocco also sought clarification regarding the added value of projects that require more funding under GBYP. The United States explained it had been undertaking a number of activities over the years in support of the GBYP using its own funds. Japan asked about the number of years it would take for the larval index to provide an estimate of recruitment and for the connection of larval data to recruitment. The SCRS Chair noted that prior to beginning Phase 7, the GBYP Steering Committee will evaluate which activities should be funded, and expressed gratitude to the countries that have supported efforts to-date.

8 Other matters

Norway raised the issue of bluefin tuna entering salmon aquaculture cages and feeding off the salmon, and asked for guidance regarding how to report those bluefin tuna that die in the cages. The Panel Chair noted that all mortality should be reported to the SCRS for assessment purposes. He suggested, however, that such fish not be counted against the quota for 2016, and that the topic be discussed again at the next ICCAT annual meeting.

Japan raised a concern regarding CPCs that overharvest bluefin and do not intend to pay it back. The Chair suggested raising that issue in the Compliance Committee.

The European Union asked about the appropriate algorithm to use (at time of caging) for 2017 (Mediterranean and eastern Atlantic). Dr. Die indicated the algorithm used in the Mediterranean could be used for all Mediterranean areas, and suggested that the algorithm for bluefin tuna caught in the Mediterranean should also be used for bluefin tuna caught by traps in the Atlantic Ocean. Regarding fish caught in the Adriatic Sea, Dr. Die indicated that until the development of a specific algorithm for this fishery, the algorithm used in 2016 could continue to be used.

Pew Charitable Trust provided a statement, which is attached as **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 9**. The World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) provided a statement, which is attached as **Appendix 7 to ANNEX 9**.

9 Adoption of the report and adjournment

The 2016 meeting of Panel 2 was adjourned and the report of the meeting was agreed by correspondence.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 3

1 Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Panel 3 Chair, Mr. Asanda Njobeni (South Africa).

2 Appointment of Rapporteur

The Secretariat agreed to serve as Rapporteur for Panel 3.

3 Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda was adopted by the Panel members and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**.

4 Review of Panel membership

Panel 3 currently comprises 14 members as follows: Belize, Brazil, European Union, Japan, Mexico, Namibia, Panama, People's Republic of China, Philippines, Republic of Korea, South Africa, Turkey, United States of America, and Uruguay.

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

Relevant information is contained in the 2016 SCRS Report. A stock assessment was carried out for South Atlantic albacore in 2016. The SCRS Chair, Dr. David Die, reviewed the current state of the southern albacore stock and also noted that the catches in 2015 were just over 15,000 t, which was well below the TAC of 24,000 t.

5.1 South Atlantic albacore

The SCRS Chair informed the Panel that the 2016 stock assessment of South Atlantic albacore included catch, effort and size data up until 2014, and considered similar methods as in the previous assessment. Two different production model forms were considered, each with four scenarios. One showed more optimistic results than the other. However, the Committee lacked enough objective information to identify the most plausible scenarios and considered them equally likely. Six of eight scenarios indicated that the stock is not overfished and not undergoing overfishing, and two other scenarios indicated that the stock is overfished but not undergoing overfishing. Six scenarios estimated a higher B/B_{MSY} than in the last stock assessment, and seven scenarios estimated a lower F/F_{MSY} than in the previous assessment. This indicated that current stock status has improved since the last assessment. Considering the whole range of scenarios, the median MSY value was 25,901 t (ranging between 15,270 t and 31,768 t), the median estimate of current B/B_{MSY} was 1.10 (ranging between 0.51 and 1.80 t) and the median estimate of current F/F_{MSY} was 0.54 (ranging between 0.31 and 0.87). The wide confidence intervals reflect the large uncertainty around the estimates of stock status. Considering all scenarios, there is 3% probability for the stock to be both overfished and experiencing overfishing, 31% probability for the stock to be either overfished or experiencing overfishing but not both, and 66% probability that biomass is above and fishing mortality is below the Convention objectives.

The Kobe matrix indicates that, depending on the scenario, catches which enable the stock to be in the Kobe green zone in 2020 with at least a 60% probability ranged from 18,000 to 34,000 t, with an average of 25,750 t and a median of 26,000 t. Averaging all scenarios, projections at a level consistent with the 2016 TAC (24,000 t) showed that probabilities of being in the green area of the Kobe plot would be higher than 60% in 2020. Results indicate that, most probably, the South Atlantic albacore stock is not overfished and that overfishing is not occurring. However, there is considerable uncertainty about the current stock status. Projections at a level consistent with the 2016 TAC (24,000 t) showed that probabilities of being in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot across all scenarios would increase to 63% by 2020. Further reductions in TAC would increase the probability of being in the green zone in those timeframes. On the other hand, catches above 26,000 t will not permit maintaining the stock in the green area with at least 60% probability by 2020.

A clarification was requested as to why the SCRS had evaluated the probability of being in the green Kobe zone by 2020 as needing to be above 60% when Rec. [13-06] states that this probability/percentage should be at least 50%.

The Chair of the SCRS stated that this may be an oversight, and the SCRS applied the same probability to the southern stock as was applied to the northern stock, which was 60%. This will be addressed and corrected although the corresponding values for 50% can be obtained from the Kobe matrix presented in the SCRS report. In addition, it was noted that the values for projected TACs included in the Kobe matrix increase by steps of 2,000 t and, therefore, the impacts of a TAC of 25,000 t cannot be demonstrated.

5.2 Southern bluefin tuna

This stock is currently managed by the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT).

The SCRS report had no comments from the participants.

6 Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*

The Chair of Panel 3 informed about the communication received from St. Vincent and the Grenadines regarding a request for an increase in quota. This communication is attached as **Appendix 8 to ANNEX 9**. St. Vincent and the Grenadines was not present to discuss their communication as they are not currently members of the panel.

The Chair then opened discussion on a proposal sponsored by Japan regarding southern albacore catch limits for the period 2017 to 2020. The proposal included a definition of an annual TAC of 24,000 t for the southern albacore stock, as well as a table defining the catch allocations over the time period as well as provisions for transfer of quotas. It was clarified that the next southern albacore assessment was planned for 2020 after which this recommendation would need to be reviewed.

Brazil, the European Union, Namibia, South Africa and Chinese Taipei expressed their support for the proposal following discussions to revise key aspects of the text, most notably with regard to the allocation table (paragraph 3), mechanisms for the transfer of quotas (paragraph 4f) and the authorisation of fishing vessels (paragraph 10). In particular, paragraph 10 establishing an authorized vessel list was modified to be in line with text already proposed for inclusion in draft recommendations for other species. The proposed text is simpler while also being consistent with vessel listing requirements of measures already in force. Lastly, it was noted by the Chair of the Panel, that the request by St. Vincent and the Grenadines should not be addressed in this recommendation as they are not currently members of Panel 3.

7 Research

The SCRS Chair noted that he had already presented a summary of relevant research regarding the southern albacore stock during his presentation of the report of the SCRS; however, he did note that the SCRS had also discussed three potential future avenues of research for the stock. He firstly noted that the SCRS is interested in conducting additional studies on including environmental factors in CPUE standardisation in order to improve CPUE estimation. In addition, he noted that there was a possibility to combine catch and effort data from multiple longline fleets to develop a single regional CPUE series.

Lastly, he stated that there was interest in analysing ongoing studies regarding stock structure of the southern stock and, in particular, considering whether there is evidence of mixing between the southern Atlantic and Indian Ocean stocks in the southern African region.

8 Other matters

There were no other matters.

9 Adoption of the report and adjournment

The 2016 meeting of Panel 3 was adjourned and the report of Panel 3 was adopted by correspondence.

REPORT ON THE SESSION MEETINGS OF PANEL 4

1 Opening of the meeting

The Chair of Panel 4, Brazil, was not able to serve. Second Vice Chair of the Commission, Mr. Raul Delgado (Panama), was asked to Chair the 2016 meeting of Panel 4. Mr. Delgado opened the meeting and welcomed all participants.

2 Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was adopted without changes (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**).

3 Appointment of the Rapporteur

The Panel appointed Mr. Casey Pickell (USA) as Rapporteur.

4 Review of panel membership

The Executive Secretary reviewed the Panel 4 membership. The Panel comprises the following 36 members: Algeria, Angola, Belize, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canada, China (People's Republic), Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Gabon, Guatemala, Guinea (Rep.), Japan, Korea (Rep.), Liberia, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Sao Tomé & Principe, Senegal, South Africa, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States of America, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

5 Report on the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics

The Chair of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), Dr. David Die, presented the report of the SCRS on Panel 4 species: swordfish, marlins, sailfish, small tunas, and sharks, including detailed results from the 2016 Mediterranean swordfish and sailfish assessments.

5.1 Swordfish

5.1.1 South Atlantic swordfish

Landings of South Atlantic swordfish have generally been below the total allowable catch (TAC). Considering the unquantified uncertainties and the lack of signal in the data for the South Atlantic swordfish stock, and until more research has been conducted to reduce the high uncertainty in stock status, the SCRS did not have sufficient confidence in the assessment results to change the previous recommendation to limit catches to no more than 15,000 t. The next stock assessment will be conducted in 2017.

5.1.2 North Atlantic swordfish

The SCRS Chair referred to his earlier discussion of North Atlantic swordfish and the development of a Harvest Control Rule (HCR) for this stock. The current TAC of 13,700 t has an 83% probability of maintaining the North Atlantic swordfish stock in a rebuilt condition by 2021. The next stock assessment will be conducted in 2017.

5.1.3 Mediterranean swordfish

The SCRS chair presented the results of the 2016 assessment of the Mediterranean swordfish stock, which included data through 2015.

Assessment of stock status and reference points were done under the assumption that recruitment levels can come back up to the levels seen in the past (1980s and 1990s). Under this assumption, the stock is currently overfished and subject to overfishing. Catches of immature fish remain high and the greatest fishing mortality is for fish of age three and younger, comprising of 50%-70% of the total catch. The SCRS Chair noted that the spawning stock biomass has greatly declined. Further, recruitment has also declined for the last 10 years, and recent recruitments have been lower than the expected levels.

The SCRS Chair recalled the current driftnet ban specified in [Rec. 03-04] and the three-months closure specified in [Rec. 13-04], but the SCRS has yet to estimate the impact of these recommendations on the stock. Reported catches of juvenile swordfish of less than 90 cm has also decreased on average 54% in the last two years compared with the levels of the decade of 2000s. However, the measures taken in the above recommendations so far appear to be insufficient in bringing the stock to levels consistent with the Convention objective.

The SCRS recommended that substantial decreases in catches are needed for the stock to recover. Without substantial decreases in catches, the Chair noted that it is extremely difficult to detect population trends and gain a clearer picture of what recruitment should be, and that it would be difficult to start the recovery process. It was also noted that discards need to be reported to the SCRS, as well as swordfish catches taking place in the Mediterranean albacore fishery.

5.2 Marlins

The SCRS discussed the stock status of both blue and white marlin species together. The last assessment of blue marlin took place in 2011, and white marlin in 2012. Both species are overfished; overfishing is occurring on the blue marlin stock, while overfishing is not likely to be occurring on the white marlin stock. The next blue marlin assessment will take place in 2018, with white marlin following in 2019.

5.3 Sailfish

The SCRS completed a new assessment for sailfish in 2016. The assessment found large changes in the distribution and amount of catch from the 1960s to the present. The new biological information on sailfish looked comprehensively at samples across the Atlantic and determined a moderate to strong differentiation between stocks in the southern and northern Atlantic, rather than between the east and west, as previously thought.

All models of the eastern stock clearly indicated that this stock is overfished and likely undergoing overfishing (however the same models present disagreement on whether overfishing is ongoing). The western stock appears to be in better shape with all models showing the stock not to be overfished and not undergoing overfishing. The SCRS recommended that, for the eastern stock, at a minimum, catches should not exceed current levels taking into account the possibility that overfishing may be occurring. Further, the Commission should consider reductions in catch. For the western stock, the SCRS recommended that catches should not exceed current levels.

5.4 Small tunas

No stock assessments were conducted on the five species that comprise 80% of the catches of small tunas, and the SCRS did not make any management recommendations. The SCRS noted that the provision of scientific advice for small tuna stocks will depend on the accurate reporting of data by the CPCs. The SCRS is developing indicators that could support management advice through their robustness but still need to be evaluated. Recruitment overfishing is occurring in the most recent years for some species in the North Atlantic. Other work is being carried out to address knowledge gaps regarding size data and biological parameters.

5.5 Sharks

The SCRS Chair reported that precautionary measures should be considered for sharks, especially for those stocks that show the greatest vulnerability. The SCRS also strongly urged CPCs to submit all required statistics on shark catches, including discards, whether they are dead or alive, from commercial, recreational and artisanal fisheries.

5.5.1 Blue shark

Given the uncertainty in stock status results for the South Atlantic stock of blue sharks, the SCRS recommended that recent catch levels (e.g. in the final five years of the assessment model, 2009-2013) not be increased. For the North Atlantic stock, while all model formulations explored predicted that the stock was not overfished and that overfishing was not occurring, the level of uncertainty in the data inputs and stock structure assumptions used in the model was high enough to prevent the SCRS from reaching a consensus on a specific management recommendation.

5.5.2 Shortfin mako

The SCRS Chair noted that the last assessment of shortfin mako showed that both stocks are not overfished and not subject to overfishing but again noted a high degree of uncertainty in the results. A new assessment of shortfin mako will be conducted in 2017.

5.5.3 Porbeagle

The SCRS expressed concern regarding the status of all porbeagle stocks, as indices for three stocks (northeast, northwest, and southwest) suggest that the biomass is below B_{MSY}. The status of the southeastern stock remains undetermined. The SCRS, therefore, recommended that porbeagle catches should not exceed current levels and that new porbeagle fisheries should be prevented and porbeagle caught alive should be released alive. The SCRS Chair noted that the next assessment will be completed in 2019.

5.6 General comments

One CPC recommended that a regional research initiative should be developed for Mediterranean swordfish to address data gaps in particular with respect to catches of juveniles, and for the possible recovery of historical CPUE data.

The United States stated that the SCRS advice on the management of blue shark was vague, noting the wide range of catches from 2009 to 2013. China noted similar concerns. The United States asked for clarification, specifically whether the SCRS advice should be understood to mean that catches should not exceed an average of catches recorded from 2009 to 2013 given the uncertainties in the assessment and the need to be precautionary. Dr. Die noted that this interpretation of the scientific advice was appropriate.

A CPC asked Dr. Die why the time/area closures and the minimum size limits adopted in 2011 for Mediterranean swordfish (Rec. 11-03) and extended in 2013 (Rec. 13-04) have not improved the stock status. Dr. Die explained that there has been too little time for the stock to respond to recent measures; there is some indication that the recommendations adopted in 2011 and 2013 might have resulted in some reduction of fishing mortality although not in an increase in stock biomass.

6 Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities

6.1 Introduction of proposals

The Chair identified eleven proposals for the Panel's consideration and these were presented by the proponents. The Chair asked the co-sponsoring delegations to work together to merge their separate proposals on Atlantic swordfish, sailfish and blue sharks for further consideration by the Panel members.

6.2 Swordfish

6.2.1 North Atlantic stock

The EU introduced *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish*. A new stock assessment will be conducted in 2017, thus the proposal would extend the TAC of 13,700 t for one year. The proposal also included a new requirement to list vessels authorized to fish for swordfish, as well as vessels actively fishing. There were some questions from other CPCs as to the purpose of collecting this additional information, which adds to the reporting burden for CPCs and the Secretariat. The EU reminded the Panel that the concept of authorized vessel lists was supported in the independent performance review, and that additional information on vessels actively fishing could potentially be useful in the future, particularly if ICCAT decides to consider capacity limits in this fishery.

The United States introduced a *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish*, similar to that presented by the European Union, except that the authorized vessel listing requirement in the U.S. proposal would be accomplished by adding a new check box for vessels authorized to fish for swordfish to the current ICCAT list of authorized vessels greater than 20 m, with no new reporting requirements beyond those already required in Recommendation 13-13. Several CPCs expressed support for this streamlined approach to reporting. Both proposals contained text recognizing the next steps in the development of candidate harvest control rules for this fishery.

Ultimately, the EU's proposal was combined with the proposal by United States. The EU suggested additional language to the vessel listing requirement that exempted vessels that catch swordfish as bycatch from the authorized vessel listing requirement. This discussion resulted in inclusion of a paragraph clarifying that the authorized vessel listing requirement applies to vessels targeting swordfish if the CPC establishes a maximum onboard bycatch limit. The combined proposal was adopted by Panel 4 with some corrections to the footnotes and forwarded to the Commission for final adoption.

6.2.2 South Atlantic stock

The EU introduced a *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for the Conservation of South Atlantic Swordfish*. This proposal is the same as the North Atlantic swordfish proposal in that it extends the current TAC of 15,000 t for one year pending the outcome of the 2017 stock assessment. The EU also noted the addition of paragraph 16bis that requests the SCRS align the proposal with the biological reference points requested in the proposal for North Atlantic swordfish.

China noted that the Philippines was not present at this meeting and requested that the Philippines' quota be transferred to China because the Philippines' distant water fleet has no plans to return to the South Atlantic. China requested that the footnote below the quota table to transfer Philippines' quota to China be deleted, and that the transfer instead be reflected in the quota table. The proposal was adopted with this change and forwarded to the Commission for final adoption.

6.2.3 Mediterranean stock

The EU proposed *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Replacing the Recommendation [13-04] and Establishing a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Mediterranean Swordfish*. This multi-annual plan aims to lower fishing mortality through several means. First, the plan introduces a TAC in 2017 and its gradual reduction starting in 2018. This plan provides the option for CPCs to maintain the existing time closures (1 October and 30 November of each year and another one month closure anytime during the period 15 February and 31 March of each year) or, alternatively, adopting a new closure applicable from 1 January to 31 March each year. The plan also increases the minimum size limit from 90 cm to 100 cm, further limits the number of hooks, requires landing to take place in designated ports and controls to be implemented at the ports, implements an at sea inspection scheme, introduces new control measures of the recreational fishery, and creates a working group to establish an allocation scheme for the fishery as well as CPC quotas for 2017 without prejudice to any agreed allocation scheme, and a mechanism to manage the TAC.

One CPC referred to the current time closure and minimum size measures, as well as efforts to eliminate driftnets in recent years, and asked for a delay of further management action until the effectiveness of these measures has been assessed. Several parties questioned the effectiveness of such a broad suite of new measures, noting that some would be difficult to implement.

Several CPCs recalled the assessment results, which found the stock to be overfished with overfishing occurring, and suggested that the measures should go further, particularly in light of the Commission's general obligations under Recommendation 11-13 to end overfishing as soon as possible and given the uncertainties in the status of the stock.

Others stated that they were not opposed to establishing a TAC but had serious issues with paragraphs 2 and 3 of the proposal. One CPC highlighted the importance of taking into consideration the economic effects on small vessel fleets. Some technical adjustments were suggested concerning the minimum size and maximum number of hooks. Turkey expressed concern over adoption of insufficient technical management measures through the proposal which still fall short of legal practices in Turkey. For instance, minimum size should never be smaller than 125 cm LJFL, hook size should never be smaller than 9 cm and maximum number of hooks to be fixed should never exceed 1000. Notwithstanding, Turkey would still join the consensus on this proposal with a view to contribute joint efforts towards a better stock status. In light of comments received, revised versions of the measure were produced and eventually Panel 4 adopted *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Replacing the Recommendation [13-04] and Establishing a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Mediterranean Swordfish* and agreed to forward the measure to the Commission for final adoption.

6.3 Cetaceans

The United States presented *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Monitoring and Avoiding Cetacean Interactions in ICCAT Fisheries*, noting that WCPFC, IOTC, and IATTC have already adopted similar measures. While recognizing that the nature of cetacean interactions varies depending on region, gear, and other factors, the United States explained that data on these interactions are quite limited and, thus, precautionary action to prohibit intentional encirclement is warranted. The proposal requested that the SCRS review best practices concerning safe handling and release of cetaceans that have been developed by other RFMOs, as those best practices could be adapted for ICCAT fisheries.

A CPC spoke in support of the measure, in particular for the SCRS to look at the work of the scientific committees of other tuna RFMOs. Several CPCs questioned the need for such a measure in light of a lack of SCRS advice on the matter and given other ICCAT priorities. One CPC argued that the proposal should not restrict particular fishing practices.

Given concerns expressed, the proposal was not adopted by the Panel. The United States noted its continued interest in this issue and, in view of some of the concerns expressed, requested that the SCRS present available information on interactions between ICCAT fisheries and cetaceans in 2017.

6.4 Sharks

6.4.1 Fins attached

The United States presented the *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT*, co-sponsored by Belize, the European Union, Gabon, Honduras, and Senegal. The proposal would prohibit the removal of shark fins at sea and require that all sharks be landed with their fins naturally attached (fully or partially) through the point of first landing of the shark. The United States noted that the measure would increase the enforceability of ICCAT's finning ban, first adopted in 2004, and that both the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization and North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission have adopted fins-attached measures.

Several CPCs stated they could support the measure if paragraphs 2, 3 and 8 (requiring that sharks be landed with fins naturally attached, prohibiting the possession, transshipping, or landing of shark fins in contravention to the proposal and applying this recommendation only to sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT) were deleted, or if the proposal was changed to exclude its application to sharks frozen at sea.

Many CPCs took the floor to underline the ecological and economic importance of sharks, the waste that occurs with finning, and the effectiveness of their experience so far with domestic requirements to land sharks with fins naturally attached.

With some modifications, the United States and 29 other co-sponsors retabled the proposal. The co-sponsors, however, declined to restrict its applicability to fresh and chilled shark products, noting that providing an exemption for frozen product would undermine the effectiveness of the proposal. Another co-sponsor, Belize, noted that this proposal has been retabled for many consecutive years, and even as a developing State it was able to easily comply with the measure for frozen sharks using simple techniques. EU cited its own successful experience with implementing a fins-attached requirement to its distant water fleets. Japan emphasized that CPCs should fully implement existing conservation measures before considering new measures and pointed out that some co-sponsors of that proposal did not report their implementation of existing measures on shark conservation and management in accordance with [Rec. 12-05].

As discussion could not be completed in the Panel due to a lack of time, the Chair referred the proposal to Plenary for further consideration.

6.4.2 Blue Shark

Japan proposed a *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Management Measures for the Conservation of Atlantic Blue Shark Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries*. Japan presented the proposal as a combination of the EU's earlier separate proposals for the North and South Atlantic blue shark stocks. Japan explained the importance for its fleet to have a consistent management approach across both stocks.

The EU reminded the Commission that it had presented a proposal in 2015 that covered both the North and South Atlantic stocks of blue sharks and, therefore, it had no opposition to this approach. Norway stated that the proposal would establish management measures for directed shark fisheries and, as such, was outside the scope of the Convention. Norway suggested that if management action was needed, then the Commission should consider releasing all live blue sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries.

Brazil highlighted the uncertainties in the assessment results for the southern stock and stated that any TAC should be based on biological criteria rather than historical catches; thus, Brazil could not support the proposal as drafted.

Namibia stated opposition for combining the two stocks since they have a different assessment status and said it would go along with the proposal as long as the stocks are addressed separately. Namibia also stated that the Commission should not wait to address directed fishing for sharks and that CPCs should take heed of the SCRS report as it is, since it was not possible to set biological reference points at this time. Uruguay echoed Namibia's concerns.

In subsequent versions of the proposal, there was discussion about the range of years that constitute "recent catches" in the SCRS recommendation and if the highest annual catch or an average annual catch within the range should be used to set the total catch limit. There was also discussion about the number of years (1-3 consecutive) that should be averaged to compare against the total catch limit, which would trigger consideration of additional measures. Members of Panel 4 agreed to establish the total catch limit for the North Atlantic stock of blue shark as the average level observed during the period 2011-2015 (i.e. 39,102 t). If the average total catch of the North Atlantic blue shark in any consecutive two years from 2017 onward exceeds the average, the Commission shall consider additional measures.

There was no consensus on a similar catch limit for the South Atlantic blue shark stock, so this provision was removed from the proposal.

Brazil requested the addition of language in the proposal to allow the SCRS to conduct a stock assessment earlier than 2021, if possible. Based on Brazil's suggestion, Japan agreed to insert language to specifically refer to the next SCRS stock assessment in 2021 or another earlier year if enough information has been submitted to the SCRS.

After incorporating text to address these comments, the proposal was adopted by Panel 4 and will be forwarded to the Commission for final adoption.

6.5 Sailfish

Prior to presentation on the floor, the *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Management Measures for the Conservation of the East Atlantic Sailfish* and *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for Western Atlantic Sailfish* were combined into one proposal. The proposal, with co-sponsors EU, Guatemala, the United States and Venezuela, would set a TAC based on 2015 catches for both the eastern and the western Atlantic stocks. To prevent catches from exceeding this level for either stock of sailfish, the proposal required CPCs to take or maintain appropriate measures to limit sailfish mortality using measures that could include releasing live sailfish, encouraging or requiring the use of circle hooks or other effective gear modifications, implementing a minimum size limit, and/or limiting days at sea. If the catch limit is exceeded, the Commission shall review the implementation and effectiveness of this recommendation. The proposal also sought to address data gaps in fishing activity by encouraging CPCs to gather and report more data on commercial, recreational, and artisanal fishing.

Brazil expressed support for the proposal in principle, but called attention to recent years of decreasing catches in the western Atlantic, which had not been the case in the eastern Atlantic, and the overfished status of the eastern stock. Brazil suggested that that the catch limits for both stocks be set at the same percentage of MSY. Brazil emphasized the need to work toward development of a harvest control rule in the future and requested that in the interim biological reference points would be preferable to capping catches. Following some discussion by the Panel, a catch limit was established for each stock at 67% of MSY, and Brazil joined as a co-sponsor.

Japan stated that since sailfish is a bycatch species for their fleet, limiting mortality is not easy. Japan committed to not increasing its longline fleet in the Atlantic and noted for the record that it considered this commitment as fulfilling the requirements of the measure.

The proposal was adopted by the Panel and will be forwarded to the Commission for final adoption.

7 Research

There were no additional questions for the SCRS. The SCRS Chair stated that the research program that the SCRS has designed for North Atlantic swordfish will look at stock structure and mixing with the Mediterranean stock.

8 Other matters

The EU raised the issue of payback for exceeding its blue and white marlin catch limits that were established in [Rec. 15-05]. For white marlin in 2014, the EU exceeded its quota by 52.21 t. In 2015, the EU proposed a payback plan over two years resulting in a quota of 23.9 t in 2016 and 2017. In 2016, the quota was exceeded again, and the EU proposed payback of overharvest in 2018 and 2019. For blue marlin, the 48 t quota was exceeded in 2014 by 72.3 t overharvest and in 2015, the EU's blue marlin limit was again exceeded, this time by 130 t. The EU made an agreement with Venezuela for that country to transfer 30 t of blue marlin in 2017 to the EU in exchange for 60 t of northern albacore. In addition, 100.51 t remain to be paid back over two years resulting in 50.25 t to be paid back in 2017 and 2018.

The United States commented that it needed more time to consider the payback plan by the EU and asked what procedural process the EU was suggesting for considering and adopting their request, including the authorization of a temporary quota transfer of marlin between Venezuela and EU. The United States noted that such transfers require authorization by the Commission per Recommendation 01-12. Mexico added that the Compliance Committee determined that this issue would be discussed in the Panel. Mexico also stated its concern about the proposed quota trading between EU and Venezuela. Japan noted the clear rules in the Recommendation 15-05 for marlin and requested the EU provide its plan in writing.

Given time constraints, the Chair proposed to refer the issue to Plenary and requested that the EU post a written statement of the plan with the Secretariat. The Panel agreed that this matter should be taken up by the Commission in Plenary.

The Pew Charitable Trusts provided a statement which is attached as **Appendix 9 to ANNEX 9**. The EU provided a statement which is attached as **Appendix 10 to ANNEX 9**. Ecology Action Centre, Shark Advocates International, Project AWARE, Shark Trust, Humane Society International, and Defenders of Wildlife submitted a joint statement which is attached as **Appendix 11 to ANNEX 9**. Oceana provided a statement which is attached as **Appendix 12 to ANNEX 9** and WWF provided a statement which is attached as **Appendix 13 to ANNEX 9**.

9 Adoption of the Report and adjournment

The 2016 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. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
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. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
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. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
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. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
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

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9

Statement by The Pew Charitable Trusts to Panel 1

After a series of challenging negotiations in both Panel 1 and the Plenary last year, ICCAT adopted a risky rebuilding plan for the Atlantic bigeye tuna – a stock that scientists determined to be both overfished and experiencing overfishing, and to be vulnerable to high levels of juvenile mortality associated with FADs. With a total allowable catch (TAC) that has only a 49% chance of ending overfishing and recovering the stock on a 13 year timeline, this current measure falls short of even the basic objectives of the Convention and relies on untested, unproven additional measures that ICCAT hopes will improve the likelihood of successfully recovering the stock in a timely manner. Recent statements from the SCRS make it clear that the additional measures were not based on scientific advice, and the second independent performance review of ICCAT concluded that "the management of fisheries on this stock by ICCAT is not consistent with the objective of the Convention." Furthermore, exemptions to the rebuilding plan for minor harvesters and the related reflagging of vessels, could very well lead, for the first time in 2016, to an annual catch of a tropical tuna stock that is higher than the TAC. This is clearly not an acceptable situation. Fortunately, there is an opportunity for ICCAT to improve the rebuilding plan this year. As the recent finding that the Atlantic yellowfin stock is still slightly overfished will require some renegotiation of Recommendation 15-01 on tropical tuna management, Panel 1 and ICCAT will have a second chance to also address the heavily depleted Atlantic bigeye. It is vital that Panel 1 heed the advice of the performance review by:

- Further lowering the bigeye TAC this year, in order to increase the likelihood of recovering the stock and shorten its timeline for success;
- Immediately reducing juvenile mortality of bigeye and yellowfin by enacting policies that limit the number and use of FADs;
- Prioritizing the issue of juvenile mortality associated with FADs by expanding the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on FADs to include instructions to develop management recommendations that directly and unequivocally limit juvenile mortality.

In addition to lowering the bigeye TAC to a level that scientists believe has a reasonable probability of successfully recovering the stock, Panel 1 should also find a way to ensure that the actual catch is held below these levels. This may mean addressing the current system of exemptions for minor harvesters or limiting the entry of new fishing capacity until the stock has fully recovered.

Waiting until the catch breaches the TAC or until another assessment reveals more trouble for the stock is not consistent with the precautionary approach and is not a prudent management strategy for Atlantic bigeye. This is particularly true while the maximum sustainable yield for this stock and for Atlantic yellowfin continues to decline, a result of the increasing numbers of these fish that are taken before they can reproduce.

The Atlantic bigeye and yellowfin stocks are extremely valuable to fishermen and processors in the region. Without careful consideration of a complete rebuilding plan, including a real effort to limit juvenile mortality, the fisheries for these two stocks – both industrial and small-scale – are at risk of decline. Atlantic bigeye cannot wait until 2018 or beyond for new management options that promote recovery.

Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9

Statement by IPNLF to Panel 1

Thank you Chair, as this is the first time taking the floor, I'd like to thank everyone for welcoming the International Pole & Line Foundation as an observer, and specifically thank the host for the hospitality.

We with small-scale tuna fisheries throughout the world – those using baitboat, handline, and troll gear – catching tuna one-at-a-time - while supporting communities, livelihoods, and food security.

With regard to the tropical tuna CMM proposal, we recognize this is a complex issue but encourage additional action, in line with the latest performance review and the SCRS advice. While there are some positive elements of the current proposal, we are still worried that it does not go far enough, and it is the small-scale and artisanal fishing communities that bear the consequences. These fisheries cannot reflag. These fishers cannot go to other oceans.

We work with many fisheries around the Atlantic, including the baitboat fishery of the Azores whose catches of tropical tunas have been at historic lows for the last three years. The issue of bigeye overfishing is not merely academic. It is a serious threat to small businesses, and more importantly, an issue of food security and livelihoods.

For this year, we hope to see something that will effectively reduce catches of juvenile bigeye, but based on current fishing effort, it is likely that fishing mortality will continue to increase. If overexploitation is a problem, then better controls of drifting FADs and supply vessels can be part of the solution, and as a start, there could be at least a freeze on current levels of use.

Mr Chair, we are fully supportive of responsible management that allows for all stakeholders to benefit, and ask that this Commission take the current situation of bigeye tuna seriously by taking meaningful steps this year.

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9

Statement by Algeria to Panel 2

Request from Algeria to Panel 2 for a final regulation of its East bluefin tuna quota

It is true, for seven years Algeria has suffered the effects of a spoliation undertaken by the 2010 Commission, without any right, reducing its quota by a 4/5 (from 5% to 1.07%), distributed to the benefit of four other Contracting Parties.

Algeria has needed two years to make ICCAT recognise the damage that it has caused.

Since 2012, Algeria has accepted in good faith the different compromises proposed for the reinstatement of its initial quota. However, it should be noted, that after seven years (2017), Algeria's quota (which is not a quota), will not exceed the 2% of its historical quota, which is 5% of the TAC.

Everyone will understand that since 2010, despite this difficult situation, Algeria's behaviour has been more than exemplary and that it has done everything to avoid a blockade by the Commission.

Nevertheless, it seems that to date, there will not be any settlement arrangement to remedy Algeria's situation after 2017, and as far as we are concerned, the idea of waiting more years to remedy this, is out of the question.

However, Algeria is willing to accept one of the two following measures, in the short-term:

1. The immediate reinstatement of its historical quota of 5% of the allocation key.

2. Algeria will receive its current quota (1.07%) accumulated with a significant supplementary allocation that will bring it closer to its historical quota of 5% (*i.e.* around 1,160 t) and without touching the allocation quota and until the Commission decides on the latter.

Algeria counts on a sense of fairness and responsibility of all Parties to repair the damage caused in 2010 once and for all. This will allow our Organization to finally turn this page and consider in a more serene way its important missions and future work.

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9

Document by Turkey for consideration at the Panel 2 session

- Turkey believes exercising of TAC allocations for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna (E-BFT) and for other tuna and tuna-like fish stocks in the correct way is of great importance. It is clear that time has come for ICCAT *to fully and properly apply the mutually agreed and pre-existing principles and criteria* in the process of allocations of fishing possibilities.

- When allocations of the TAC to the CPCs are made for E-BFT, historical catches of the CPCs at reference years 1993 and/or 1994 should be taken as a basis and applied properly, considering the original rule set by ICCAT in 1994 and 1998 [Rec. 94-11] and [Rec. 98-5]. The bluefin allocations made from 2003 have been determined by predicating on 1993's or 1994's catch figures of the CPCs with the exception of Turkey's allocation.

- Turkey's sincere expectation is that the most recent attempts towards allocation of E-BFT catch quotas based on the pre-existing criteria (as defined in ICCAT Rec. 98-5 and as applied in Rec. 00-9) would not stay as mere intention, but translate into action towards a more balanced and equitable sharing of this important stock, in a way to look after each and every one's interests, including the rights of CPCs with traditional shares and also the rights of newcomers to ICCAT.

- We strongly believe and trust that the allocation issue that has also been discussed and tackled as part of modernization process of the ICCAT Convention and the Commission will be arrived at a fair and standard solution, as a first step and as a preliminary ruling, at this 20th Special Meeting of the Commission.

Appendix 6 to ANNEX 9

Statement by PEW to Panel 2

Panel 2 has made laudable progress in rebuilding the stocks under its purview. However, the scientific advice calls for precaution to avoid reversing recent gains, including by maintaining current catch levels for northern albacore and both bluefin stocks. With the goal of long-term fishery sustainability, important progress has also been made for Panel 2 stocks on harvest strategy development based on management strategy evaluation (MSE) in accordance with Recommendation 15-07.

The Pew Charitable Trusts urges Panel 2 to build upon these recent advancements in Vilamoura by:

- Maintaining bluefin tuna catch limits, in accordance with the scientific advice, by rolling over Recommendation 14-05 for one year and leaving Recommendation 14-04, which already grants a 20% quota increase for 2017, as is. The quotas should not be revisited before next year's benchmark stock assessment, especially since four of the six updated western abundance indices and both of the updated eastern indices show declines.

- Maintaining the northern albacore quota, as recommended by the SCRS, adopting the performance indicators proposed at the July 2016 Panel 2 intersessional, and confirming the SCRS-recommended 2017 deadline for harvest control rule (HCR) adoption for the stock.

- Discussing management objectives for Atlantic bluefin tuna, as a step toward HCR adoption in 2018 in line with the timeline proposed in the 2016 SCRS report. To ensure these management objectives are consistent with best practices and relevant international and domestic agreements to which ICCAT members have committed, they should include the following:

    - A requirement to maintain the stocks in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot, with at least 75% probability, while avoiding breaching SSB_{LIM} with at least a 95% probability[1];

[1] Regarding ICCAT's current practice of requiring low probability of success (i.e. between 48 to 60 percent, depending on the stock), the second independent review states: "The Panel questions whether such low levels of probability are consistent with the precautionary approach and effective management."

- A requirement that rebuilding plans be designed to have at least a 75% chance of success, within as short timeline as possible, but not longer than 1.5 generations;

- A limit on inter-annual change in quota to no more than 10% upwards or downwards, unless scientific evidence is presented that demonstrates the stock is in a state of emergency, in which case more significant decreases in quota shall be approved.

When designed appropriately, pre-agreed harvest strategies increase the predictability, transparency and efficiency of management, and contribute to the sustainability and profitability of fisheries. The second independent review of ICCAT also calls for movement toward harvest strategies as "a more pro-active policy of developing comprehensive long term management strategies for the main stocks" and states that "ICCAT, with its vast experience in tuna fisheries management, is ideally placed to be the pioneer in the rapid introduction of long term management strategies to ensure the sustainability of individual stocks and consistency of management approach across the range of stocks." Panel 2, with the substantial work done to date on MSE for northern albacore and bluefin and its dedicated intersessional held recently in Sapporo, is poised to continue to lead this work at ICCAT by making further progress here in Vilamoura.

Appendix 7 to ANNEX 9

Statement by WWF to Panel 2

East Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna – Towards the full Recovery of the Stock

WWF commends ICCAT for steps taken towards sustainable management and associated compliance performance of East Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna

WWF expects that Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) will act according to the spirit of the Convention and resist the temptation to undermine the successful achievements of the last 10 years. WWF believes that the milestones towards the full recovery of the East Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna are:

- Maintain TAC at the level set by the recovery plan for 2017
- Robust stock assessment in 2017
- Ensure full traceability of catches
- Fair allocation of quotas at national level.

Background

In the last decade of the 20th Century the millennia-old bluefin tuna fishery in the Mediterranean entered a phase of rapid and intense deterioration when the new practice of farming wild-caught tunas, formerly unknown in the Mediterranean, proliferated without control. This generated a perverse overfishing spiral as growing demand for live large tunas fueled the massive development of industrial purse seine fleets and their expansion over virtually all Mediterranean waters where bluefin tuna gathered to reproduce.

Since 2001 WWF has led the international campaign to avoid the collapse of the bluefin tuna population and to ensure rational and sustainable fishing activity.

After years of mismanagement, in 2006 ICCAT reacted to the clear calls from science and civil society worldwide to avert the collapse of the fishery and the stock, adopting a first recovery plan for the species. This first plan fell short of following scientific advice. It has been strengthened and refined over the years – particularly since 2009, coinciding with a proposal to list the species in the App. I of the CITES Convention in 2010.

In 2014 the Commission issued Recommendation 14-04 (amending 13-07) to establish a multi-annual recovery plan for the following 3 years for bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean. The Total Allowable Catch was established for more than one year, with an increase of about 20% TAC per year recommended by the SCRS to reach Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) as follows: 16,142t for 2015, 19,296t for 2016 and 23,155t for 2017. There is still concern about the potential for illegal fishing due to overcapacity of the fleet and loopholes plaguing traceability and control. In 2014 the East Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna stock assessment was also updated, and scientists concluded that the management efforts of the past few years have resulted in a substantial increase in bluefin tuna population size. There is even the possibility that a full recovery of the stock to above its MSY might be reached soon[2]. However, scientists warn of the huge uncertainties surrounding the assessment exercise which have prevented an agreement being reached on robust advice to ICCAT regarding quotas and other aspects. The next stock assessment for East Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna will take place in 2017.

Major steps have been taken for the management of the stock. Now is the time to capitalize on these efforts and make sure that the full recovery of the stock is achieved by 2022.

[2] Refer to report from 2014 ICCAT Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS).

In addition to efforts to recover stocks to levels above MSY, ongoing research into bluefin tuna ecology has increased knowledge of the species. SCRS reports on improved understanding of regional mixing levels, size data from catches destined for farms and length-weight relationships. These sources show the complexity of bluefin tuna behaviour. The ICCAT Atlantic-wide research programme for bluefin tuna (GBYP) appears to have expedited this work and WWF appreciates those research efforts. The GBYP tagging programme is providing significant insights into bluefin tuna mixing and migration patterns.

On the occasion of the 20th special Meeting of the ICCAT Commission, WWF calls upon all CPCs to:

1. Maintain the TAC at the level set by Rec. 14-04 (23,155t) for 2017

Although there are clear signs of recovery of the stock, a precautionary approach must be maintained and, pending results from SCRS assessments that would support any management option, TACs for 2017 must not be modified upwards from ICCAT Recommendation 14-04.

2. Ensure full traceability and eradication of IUU fishing

Lack of traceability from the boat to the market still prevails, preventing the eradication of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Although the ICCAT Secretariat and CPCs have made an effort to put in place the e-BCD scheme, loopholes still remain at the farming level. For example, ICCAT members apply different measurement methods, which don't facilitate a strict reporting system. The use of stereoscopic cameras when bluefin tunas enter the fattening farms is a viable technology which could help to fight IUU fishing practices and will help the estimation of fish size, relevant data for the stock assessment. WWF asks ICCAT CPCs to adopt a standardized protocol for the use of stereoscopic cameras covering all bluefin tuna caging operations.

The video record should cover the entire transfer process and be provided to the observer immediately following the transfer while still on board.

3. Support ICCAT SCRS in its endeavour to develop a new methodology and gather new data leading to a much more reliable and robust stock assessment in 2017

In the upcoming session of the ICCAT SCRS, new models will be proposed and reviewed to improve the reliability of scientific advice. So far, most of the data used for the assessments comes from the fishery sector. It is crucial that a greater effort is made to ensure the availability of fisheries-independent data. This should result in a more accurate knowledge of the status of the species and thus better management. WWF is proud to contribute to the GBYP electronic tagging programme and is committed to continuing such efforts.

4. Allocate quota for traditional and small scale fisheries

WWF supports a fair allocation of fishing opportunities and strongly encourages ICCAT Contracting Parties to include traditional and small scale fleet segments when they distribute national quotas.

Fishing opportunities should be allocated using transparent and objective criteria, including those of an environmental, social and economic nature. They should also endeavour to fairly distribute national catch limits between the various fleet segments, including traditional and small-scale fisheries, and provide incentives to fishing vessels deploying selective fishing gear or using fishing techniques with reduced environmental impact. Bluefin tuna quotas allocated to small scale-fleets should be governed by the same high standards of monitoring, control and surveillance as all other allocations.

Appendix 8 to ANNEX 9

Statement by St. Vincent to Panel 3

The Fisheries Division, St. Vincent and the Grenadines is requesting an increase in quotas for the Northern Albacore and Southern Albacore Fishery. For the past four (4) years, St. Vincent and the Grenadines has been catching close to the catch limits afforded for both the northern and southern albacore species. With the balance of quota available being less in 2015 than it was in 2014, this indicates that St Vincent and the Grenadines' vessels have the capacity to fish beyond the given quotas.

The Division is therefore requesting an increase in Northern Albacore from 200 MT to 500 MT and in Southern Albacore from 1OOMT to 300 MT.

Assessments for the SCRS stock 2016 indicated that both Albacore Species are not being overfished with no indication of overfishing taking place. Therefore, with the current management measures in place, there is no viable reason why St. Vincent and the Grenadines should be denied an increase quota.

Appendix 9 to ANNEX 9

Statement by Pew to Panel 4

This year CPCs in Panel 4 should work to implement stronger protections for vulnerable and threatened shark species and ensure that all catch of sharks within the Convention Area is sustainable. Sharks are an integral part of nearly all marine ecosystems, and a number of the shark stocks continue to be at risk of overfishing, with inadequate management measures in place.

Pew applauds the Commission's action last year to ensure the release of live porbeagle sharks (*Lamna nasus*), with the adoption of Recommendation 15-06. This year, we are hopeful the Commission can build on this momentum, by prioritizing the adoption of science-based catch limits of blue shark and shortfin mako, in line with advice from the SCRS and the second independent performance review, which recommended applying the precautionary principle when confronted with scientific uncertainty.

Blue shark (*Prionace glauca*) remains a widely caught species across the Convention Area. While the 2015 stock assessment suffered from high levels of uncertainty because of poor data, and concluded that the South Atlantic population may have been overfished and that overfishing may have occurred in recent years, no consensus could be reached on management advice for the Northern population. Pew therefore supports the introduction of precautionary catch limits that would safeguard these populations from overfishing. We thank the European Union for tabling the draft proposals, and look forward to working with other CPCs in securing progress on this important issue during this meeting.

Shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus)* is one of the most vulnerable shark stocks caught in the Convention Area, based on results of the 2012 ecological risk assessment. This species is characterized by low productivity and high susceptibility to catch. The SCRS has recommended to not increase fishing mortality of these sharks above recent levels until a more reliable estimate of stock status is available. Until these assessments are conducted, implementing precautionary catch limits can safeguard the Northern and Southern stocks.

Appendix 10 to ANNEX 9

Statement by EU to Panel 4

In view of the urgency to remedy the poor situation of the Mediterranean swordfish stock, the European Union is asking CPCs to voluntarily implement the Recovery plan (draft recommendation by ICCAT replacing the Recommendation [13-04] and establishing a multi-annual recovery plan for Mediterranean swordfish) as of 1st January 2017.

Appendix 11 to ANNEX 9

Joint Statement by the Shark Advocates International, Project AWARE, EAC, Shark Trust, Humane Society International and Defenders of Wildlife to Panel 4

Sharks are among the most vulnerable animals taken in high seas fisheries for tuna and swordfish. ICCAT has led the world's Regional Fishery Management Organizations in adoption of shark conservation measures, but has yet to agree basic, science-based limits for key shark species or to align its finning ban with best practices.

At the 2016 annual meeting, we urge ICCAT to:

- establish caps on blue shark *(Prionace glauca)* catches;
- require that sharks be landed with all fins still naturally attached; and
- expand the Convention scope for enhanced elasmobranch conservation.

Appendix 12 to ANNEX 9

Statement by Oceana to Panel 4

Oceana calls on the Honorable Delegates to support a multi-annual recovery plan for Mediterranean swordfish as the only option to rebuild this stock in line with the ICCAT Convention objective.

Mediterranean swordfish is the stock under ICCAT's purview with lowest biomass level. Since 2007 the SCRS has been repeatedly advising the Commission on the need to adopt a plan to rebuild this stock to levels that are consistent with the ICCAT Convention objective (**Table 1**).

However, ICCAT inaction has brought us today to a point where, in order to recover the stock by 2022 - the deadline established for Eastern Bluefin tuna recovery plan - the fishing mortality of Mediterranean swordfish would have to be reduced today by 71%.

Not adopting this recovery plan today will certainly mean closing the fishery tomorrow. Lowering the ambition of the recovery plan to a set of technical measures should be ruled out completely. Since 2007, a series of technical measures were put in place expected to recover the stock in the medium-term but this has not been the case. Technical measures alone, without a proper recovery plan with TAC and catch reduction, would not improve anything and would bring the stock to a point of no return.

This ICCAT meeting cannot conclude without a lifeline for this species. We reiterate the urgency to Panel 4 to reach an agreement on the recovery plan for this stock. Not doing so this year will compromise the status of Mediterranean swordfish for good. It will also call into question ICCAT's credibility once again and set a dangerous precedent for double standards in stock management within ICCAT.

Inaction is not an option any more: this year is a make or break for Mediterranean swordfish.

Table 1. Lack of coherence between scientific advice and management recommendations adopted in ICCAT for Mediterranean swordfish.

Year	*Stock status*	*Advice*	*Management measure adopted*	*Rec.*
2007	The stock is both overfished and undergoing overfishing	The Commission should adopt a Mediterranean swordfish fishery management plan with the goal of rebuilding the stock to levels that are consistent with the ICCAT Convention objective.	1 month closure in 2008 (Oct. 15 – Nov. 15); 1 month permanent closure (Oct. 1 - Nov. 30).	07-01 08-03
2010	The stock is overfished and subjected to overfishing	The Commission should adopt a Mediterranean swordfish fishery management plan which ensures that the stock will be rebuilt and kept at levels that are consistent with the ICCAT Convention objective.	Records of vessels authorised to catch Mediterranean swordfish; Two seasonal closures; Minimum landing size (90cm LJFL).	11-03 and 13-04
2016	The stock is overfished and subjected to overfishing	The stock requires rebuilding and fishing mortality has to be reduced in accordance with Rec. 11-13 and through a substantial reduction in catches.		

Appendix 13 to ANNEX 9

Statement by WWF to Panel 4

Mediterranean Swordfish – WWF Recommendations to improve the state of the stock

WWF is calling for a recovery action plan to be put in place immediately to bring the swordfish stock in the Mediterranean back to sustainable levels. Three decades of overfishing and mismanagement are threatening the future of this highly migratory and iconic species in the Mediterranean Sea.

The action plan should:

- Guarantee recovery of the stock to levels that can deliver MSY by 2020
- Be based on scientific advice and deliver an ecosystem-based management approach
- Establish a Total Allowable Catch limit that reduces fishing mortality
- Limit the use of certain fishing gears and include provisions for gear modifications to allow the protection of juveniles and reduce unwanted catches
- Review the minimum conservation reference size according to the best scientific advice
- Include measures to enhance monitoring, control and surveillance in order to prevent illegal catches.

Background

Mediterranean swordfish is a highly valuable species for many countries in the Mediterranean. Since the 1970s there has been an increase in reported catches, reaching a peak in 1988 (20,365t). Until 2011 reported catches of swordfish in the Mediterranean fluctuated between 12,000 and 16,000t. Based on the available information, catches in 2015 amounted to 9,966t.

The countries with the largest reported catches between 2003-2015 were Italy (45%), Morocco (14%), Spain (13%), Greece (10%) and Tunisia (7%). Algeria, Cyprus, Malta and Turkey also have fisheries targeting swordfish in the Mediterranean. Albania, Croatia, France, Portugal, Japan, Libya and Syria have reported incidental catches of swordfish to ICCAT[3].

Following the ban on the use of driftnets for highly migratory species in 2003, drifting longlines have predominantly been used to catch swordfish in the Mediterranean (on average, representing 84% of the annual catch). Despite the ban, there is still concern about the ongoing illegal use of driftnets in some countries.

Harpoons and traps are also used to catch swordfish. Swordfish are also by-catch in other fisheries where techniques are not selective enough (longlines targeting albacore, purse seines) and do not distinguish between adult and juvenile fish. Young swordfish up to 5kg are often caught between October and December, mainly as a by-catch of albacore.

Mediterranean swordfish stock has been assessed as overfished

In July 2016 the ICCAT working group on Mediterranean swordfish carried out a stock assessment for this species. The assessment confirms that the stock is overfished and has suffered overfishing for the last three decades. Very few measures have been put in place, and there is currently no plan for the sustainable management of this stock. Too many immature fish are caught, with the greatest mortality suffered by fish aged 3 years or less, which currently represent about 70% of current catches. This has resulted in declining recruitment over the last 15 years.

Swordfish stock spawning biomass (SSB) is about 90% lower than the levels considered to be safe to maintain the stock. Specifically, SSB in 2015 was less than 15% of BMSY, while fishing mortality is almost twice the estimated FMSY.

Based on the results of the stock assessment and the ICCAT objectives, management advice requires rebuilding of the stock and a substantial reduction in fishing mortality.

Despite actions already undertaken, no recovery plans have been implemented, and there is considerable concern about the sustainability of Mediterranean swordfish fisheries. Of particular concern are the high fishing mortality rate of juveniles and the adoption of an inaccurate Minimum Conservation Reference Size, which does not correspond to the scientifically-recognized size at first maturity.

WWF believes that a recovery plan for Mediterranean swordfish should be put in place immediately. The new management framework for the rebuilding of the stock to MSY levels by 2020 should:

1. Ban the use of all drifting longlines from 1 October to the end of February

Adult swordfish are found in spawning grounds throughout the year, except in January and February. Spawning in the Mediterranean is most intensive from the end of June to August. Eggs of this species are found from June to September, and young swordfish up to 5kg are often caught from October to December[4]. To mitigate the impact of fisheries on juveniles, the use of all drifting longlines must be prohibited in the Mediterranean from 1 October to the end of February.

2. Establish a total allowable catch (TAC) limit

The swordfish recovery plan needs to include measures for a substantial reduction in catches to ensure the reduction of fishing mortality and the increase of the spawning stock biomass, to drive the stock to MSY levels by 2020. Catch limits should be put in place for all fishing segments and agreed upon each year according to the best scientific advice.

[3] Report of the 2016 ICCAT Mediterranean swordfish stock assessment meeting (Casablanca, Morocco, July 11-16, 2016).
[4] ICCAT Manual -Chapter 2.1.9 SWO.

By-catch should be limited to 5% of the TAC for those vessels catching Mediterranean swordfish as by-catch of other pelagic species.

Fishing opportunities should be allocated using transparent and objective criteria, including those of an environmental, social and economic nature; they should also endeavor to fairly distribute national catch limits between the various fleet segments, including traditional and small-scale fisheries, and to provide incentives to fishing vessels deploying selective fishing gear or using fishing techniques with reduced environmental impact.

3. Fight illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing

The management framework should include measures to enhance monitoring, control and surveillance to prevent illegal catches.

Illegal fishing should be discouraged with the introduction of a Vessel Monitoring System on board all fishing vessels, and a mandatory requirement for all vessels to report their catch to the competent authority immediately upon landing.

To ensure the full traceability of swordfish, the captains of all vessels authorized to catch Mediterranean swordfish – including sport and recreational vessels – as a minimum requirement, must maintain a fishing logbook reporting their operations and catches. Contracting Parties, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) should also ensure that all vessels adopt an electronic catch documentation system.

4. Review the Minimum conservation Reference Size

Minimum Conservation Reference Size for swordfish is now set at 90cm LJFL (Lower Jaw Fork Length), according to ICCAT Recommendation 13-04. This size does not correspond to the initial sexual maturity size for females (142cm LJFL indicated by ICCAT's Standing Committee on Research and Statistics)[5].

To ensure appropriate levels of recruitment, the SCRS should review the Minimum Conservation Reference Size based on sexual maturity of swordfish in the Mediterranean, according to the best scientific advice available.

5. Explore the use of circle hooks for drifting longlines to reduce unwanted catches

It is well-documented[6] that the use of circle hooks reduces the by-catch of endangered species such as sea turtles by 30% in long-line fisheries without significantly impacting the Catch Per Unit Effort for target species. Several studies suggest that the use of circle hooks results in lower mortality rates of target and non-target species, as these hooks often lodge in the fish in places other than the deep jaw or gut, enabling undersized or unwanted specimens to be released alive.

The use of circle hooks for longliners should be further explored and encouraged, taking into account the results of various Mediterranean projects concerning undersized and unwanted catches (MINOUW, Del.Ta., TartaNet, Sharklife, Circle hook, TartaLife)[7].

[5] ICCAT Manual -Chapter 2.1.9 SWO.
[6] Piovano *et al.* 2008; D.W. Kerstetter, J.E. Graves, 2006.
[7] See http://minouw.icm.csic.es/;http://www.ismar.cnr.it/progetti/progetti-internazionali/progetti-conclusi/progetto-tartanet-1?set_ language=it&cl=it and http://www.sharklife.it/il-progetto; http://www.tartalife.eu/en

ANNEX 10

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 by the Chair, Mr. Derek Campbell (United States).

2 Appointment of Rapporteur

Ms. Maeve White (European Union) was appointed Rapporteur.

3 Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair suggested the addition of a new item 4 "follow up actions to the COC intersessional." This is intended to allow for the presentation of proposals to the Compliance Committee, such as the *Draft Resolution by ICCAT to facilitate an effective and efficient Compliance process*, the *Draft Resolution establishing an ICCAT schedule of actions to improve Compliance and cooperation with ICCAT measures*, the *Draft Resolution by ICCAT for the development of an online reporting system* and the *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to amend ICCAT reporting deadlines in order to facilitate an effective and efficient compliance process,* that seek to advance work done at the Compliance Committee intersessional in Madrid in March 2016.

The revised agenda was adopted (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 10**).

4 Follow up actions to the COC intersessional meeting in Madrid, March 2016

The Chair noted that this meeting was very constructive and mainly focused on improving COC processes, making the review of compliance information more efficient, and facilitating more effective CPC reporting.

The United States introduced three proposals it had developed in furtherance of discussions at the intersessional meeting:

(a) *Draft Resolution by ICCAT to facilitate an effective and efficient compliance process*
(b) *Draft Resolution establishing an ICCAT schedule of actions to improve compliance and cooperation with ICCAT measures*
(c) *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for the development of an online reporting system*

Norway and Iceland expressed concerns about one compliance action included in the *Draft Resolution establishing an ICCAT schedule of actions to improve compliance and cooperation with ICCAT measures*, the 100% payback of overharvest, on the grounds that it is inconsistent with their national legislation that requires landing of all catches. Other CPCs noted that the 100% overharvest payback rule already exists as a binding obligation under ICCAT recommendations and that the *Resolution establishing an ICCAT schedule of actions to improve compliance and cooperation with ICCAT measures* is a non-binding resolution.

After some amendments to two of the proposals, all three proposals were approved by the Committee and were forwarded to the Commission for final adoption.

The Chair presented a proposal to accelerate the deadlines for CPCs to submit certain compliance data to the Secretariat due to the large number of compliance-related documents that must be analysed and summarized prior to the Annual Meeting, as outlined below:

1. The deadline in paragraph 1 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Clarify the Application of Compliance Recommendations and for Developing the Compliance Annex* [Rec. 11-11], shall be amended to 15 August (Compliance Reporting Tables and associated forms, currently due 15 September).

2. Deadlines in the following ICCAT instruments shall be amended to 1 October, as follows:

   (a) *Revised Guidelines for the Preparation of Annual Reports* [Ref. 12-13], paragraph 2, last sentence (complete Annual Report, comprising Part I and Part II, currently due 16 October);

   (b) *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 13-07 by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 14-04], paragraph 101 (report on implementation of 14-04, currently due 15 October).

3. The Commission shall review this Recommendation at the 2018 meeting of the Commission to consider further modifying the deadline for the Compliance Reporting Tables and, as appropriate, other deadlines relevant to the Compliance Committee's work.

These deadline changes were approved by the COC as *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to amend ICCAT reporting deadlines in order to facilitate an effective and efficient compliance process*. This proposal was forwarded to the Commission for final adoption.

5 Review of actions taken by CPCs in response to letters of concern and Chair letters arising from the 2015 meeting

The Chair expressed disappointment with the response rate to letters on compliance issues sent out from the Chair to certain CPCs following the 2015 meeting, for which responses are requested no later than 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting. Twenty-three letters were issued and only six CPCs responded by the deadline. The Chair reminded CPCs that a timely response is essential to enable the COC to effectively carry out its work and this response rate is unacceptable. Some CPCs suggested that reminder letters should be issued. The Executive Secretary stated that the Secretariat already sends out many reminders concerning CPC obligations, noting that CPCs should take responsibility for meeting deadlines. Nevertheless, it was ultimately agreed that a reminder would be issued three months prior to the Annual Meeting.

6 Review of implementation of and compliance with the ICCAT requirements

6.1 Compliance tables

The Chair expressed great concern that many CPCs continue to submit their compliance tables to the Secretariat well past the deadline. Only 25 CPCs made the deadline of the 15 September, and a number of CPCs only submitted compliance tables at the Annual Meeting itself. It was noted that late or incomplete compliance tables result in significant additional work by the Secretariat staff and Chair in the form of repeated follow-up requests for submission of late tables as well as a considerable amount of time spent at the Annual Meeting working with individual CPCs to complete or correct their tables so that the resulting Compliance Annex reflects the proper application of ICCAT's management and compliance rules for each CPC. This impedes the ability of the Compliance Committee to effectively and efficiently carry out its core responsibilities at the Annual Meeting.

The United States informed the Compliance Committee that it had developed a spreadsheet for calculating catch figures for the compliance tables, as the compliance table format can be confusing. They have agreed to make this spreadsheet available to other CPCs for ease of accurate completion of compliance tables.

The Compliance Annex was agreed by the COC and is attached to this report as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10**.

6.2 CPC Annual Reports, Statistical data summaries, Compliance summaries

There were also timing issues with the Annual Reports as many were submitted late, including several submitted during the Annual Meeting. This delay leads to incomplete data for the SCRS, which can hamper its work. In addition, late reporting can undermine the work of other ICCAT bodies, impacting their effectiveness and the effectiveness of ICCAT more generally.

This concern was discussed further during the CPC-by-CPC review.

6.3 Inspection and observer reports

The Chair recommended that individual CPC issues raised in inspection and observer reports be taken up for the respective CPC during the CPC-by-CPC review, and that the present Agenda item focus on discussion of thematic issues reflected in these reports. To that end, one CPC noted that there is a recurring issue of observers not getting access to logbooks. Observers have noted missing pieces or pages in bound logbooks only for the CPC to reveal at a later date that the vessel is using an electronic logbook. It was agreed that the observer should be notified at the time of the inspection if a vessel is using an electronic logbook, and that this matter should be referred to the PWG given the technical and operational considerations.

With respect to inspections carried out pursuant to the Joint International Inspection provisions of Recommendation 14-04, the European Union expressed concern that three CPCs whose vessels were inspected by the European Union did not respond to alleged infractions found during inspection. The Chair encouraged these CPCs to follow up with the European Union and also suggested that the Compliance Committee could pay greater attention to information on inspections under the Joint International Inspection Program at future meetings.

The European Union presented a *Response on Possible Non-Compliances Detected by the ICCAT-ROP on EU Vessels, Farms and Traps*[*], which contained a number of proposed amendments or revisions to how information from observer programs is reported or compiled. It was agreed that a column to confirm a reported potential non-compliance issue with "yes or no" was ambiguous and should be removed.

6.4 Other relevant information

This Agenda item focused on illegal transshipment at sea between the Liberian carrier vessel New Bai I No. 168 and fishing vessels from Chinese Taipei and China, as stated in the information contained in the document *Information Submitted by a Contracting Party in Accordance with Rec. 08-09* (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**). The transshipments were detected in October 2015 by Senegalese authorities during a port inspection of the New Bai I No. 168, which was not on ICCAT's 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, as required under Rec. 12-06. The fishing vessels had not received prior authorization from their respective flag States as required under Rec. 12-06.

The Chair noted that Liberia indicated in its official investigation report that its "2010 Fisheries Regulations mainly address fishing activities within the national jurisdiction and does not cover Liberia's fishing vessels' activities (transshipment) beyond national jurisdiction." In addition to the transshipment activities of the New Bai I No. 169, which occurred beyond Liberian waters in Senegal's waters, the Chair noted that other Liberian carrier vessels accounted for a large portion of the at sea transshipment of ICCAT species and that much of that activity likely takes place outside Liberian waters. Therefore, in light of the limited scope of the 2010 Fisheries Regulations, concern was expressed about Liberia's ability to effectively carry out its obligations to control its vessels engaged in transshipment outside Liberian waters.

[*] To be published in Volume 4.

The Chair also raised concerns about Liberia's apparent lack of meaningful efforts to exercise its jurisdiction over the vessel to inspect and take appropriate enforcement actions. According to documentation provided by Liberia, the vessel continued to operate, without inspection or sanction by Liberia, for eight months following Senegal's report on illegal transshipment, until Liberia deleted the vessel from its register without taking enforcement action against the vessel.

Liberia expressed its intention to amend its national fisheries legislation to remove existing control gaps and to strengthen laws concerning transshipment at sea. Liberia also submitted a position statement on the New Bai I No. 168 incident and its intentions to address these issues in the future (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 10**), as well as background information on notices provided by Liberia's international registry to vessels informing them of RFMO requirements.

Senegal proposed that the New Bai I No. 168 be added to the draft IUU list, supported by Liberia and other CPCs. The Chair referred this proposal to the PWG, which has responsibility over the development of the ICCAT IUU list.

The Chair also raised an issue of procedure with respect to implementation of paragraph 25 of ICCAT's *Recommendation by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection In Port* [Rec. 12-07]. He expressed concern that the New Bai I No. 168 had not been automatically added to the draft IUU list in accordance with paragraph 25 of Recommendation 12-07 following Senegal's report in February 2016 of the illegal transshipments it had detected through port inspection. The COC concurred with the Chair's understanding of paragraph 25 as requiring automatic inclusion in the draft IUU list upon provision of such information to the Secretariat, regardless of whether or not the inspecting CPC formally requests such inclusion. The issue was referred to the PWG for further consideration given its competence over this matter.

China and Chinese Taipei both provided information on sanctions applied to their vessels and persons involved in illegal transshipment with the Liberian carrier vessel, as described in detail in **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**.

Prompted by discussion of illegal transshipment between Liberian, Chinese, and Chinese Taipei vessels, Japan noted that there has been a longstanding rumour about illegal carrier vessels taking onboard fish other than tuna. Japan expressed concern that there are more vessels like the New Bai I No. 168 in the Atlantic Ocean and requested parties to strengthen inspections to detect this. In this regard, Japan also drew attention to Table 1 of the Secretariat *Report on the Implementation of the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (ROP) for Transhipment 2015/16*[*], which contains transshipment information reported by longline fishing parties that participate in the at sea transshipment programme, including the number of species that are transshipped. Japan reported transshipping 30 species; China reported transshipping 15 species; Chinese Taipei, even while catching significant amounts of tuna, reported transshipping only eight species; and Belize, St. Vincent and Grenadines and Korea reported only three. Japan asked that these CPCs investigate the destination of other species not listed in the *Report on the Implementation of the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (ROP) for Transhipment 2015/16**.

6.5 CPC-by-CPC review of compliance with ICCAT requirements

The Chair suggested a new method for the CPC-by-CPC review that focused on major compliance issues rather than compliance with reporting deadlines, consistent with recommendations in the most recent performance review report of ICCAT. Items identified for focus at the meeting include IMO numbers, potential over harvest, potential non-compliance issues identified by ICCAT observers in the *Issues of potential non-compliance reported by observers under the ICCAT regional observer programmes**, retroactive vessel listing, transshipment issues, and VMS. The issues that were discussed can be seen in greater detail in the Compliance Summary Tables (**Appendix 5 to ANNEX 10**).

[*] To be published in Volume 4.

On the basis of recommendations developed by the Chair with input from the Friends of the Chair group, the Compliance Committee agreed that letters on compliance issues will be sent to 29 CPCs and that 4 CPCs are to be identified under ICCAT's Trade Measures Recommendation 06-13; namely, Liberia, São Tomé e Principe, Sierra Leone, and Trinidad and Tobago. Decisions regarding letters and identifications, along with a summary of rationale for these decisions, are reflected in the Compliance Summary Tables (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**). All the proposed actions therein were forwarded to the Commission for its approval.

It was agreed that the revised process for the CPC-by-CPC review was more efficient and should be utilised in future. Additionally, a more in-depth CPC-by-CPC review will be performed every three years, as agreed in the revised compliance process established in the *Draft Resolution by ICCAT to facilitate an effective and efficient compliance process*, which was adopted by consensus and forwarded to the Commission for final adoption.

6.6 Review of information relating to NCPs

The Chair drew attention to Gibraltar's participation in ICCAT fisheries and its response to a letter from the Chair of ICCAT expressing concern regarding Gibraltar's involvement in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery as it is occurring outside ICCAT's management program and noting that cooperation by ICCAT members and non-members alike in the conservation and management of this stock is essential. Gibraltar stated that they are not bound by the ICCAT Convention and did not submit information on management measures or catches. They continue to fish for bluefin tuna with an autonomous quota of 10 t or more each year. It was agreed that the Chair of ICCAT will send another letter to Gibraltar on these issues that encourages Gibraltar to participate in ICCAT, including by sending information about its involvement in ICCAT fisheries and how it is regulating these fisheries in accordance with ICCAT rules.

St Lucia, St Kitts & Nevis, Grenada, and Dominica were discussed at the 2015 Annual Meeting due to the significant harvest of billfish and certain tuna species, which, combined with the low levels of cooperation with ICCAT in recent years, resulted in letters being sent to encourage their participation in ICCAT meetings and submission of relevant fishery information. Blue marlin was one of the main stocks concerned, with the combined catches being higher than the quota limits of a number of CPCs. These countries had previously participated in ICCAT activities through CARICOM, but they did not attend the 2016 ICCAT Annual Meeting and have had no recent contact with ICCAT. The Committee noted, however, that Task I data were received from St Kitts & Nevis and St. Lucia. In light of that, the COC recommended that a letter be sent to these two countries encouraging them to enhance their cooperation with ICCAT. The COC noted that no data had been received from Grenada or Dominica for 2015, although both had reported significant catches in 2014. Further, no response had been received from these two countries to previous Commission letters. It was agreed that Dominica and Grenada should, therefore, be identified under ICCAT's trade measures recommendation (Rec. 06-13) as diminishing the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. Dominica and Grenada will receive a letter explaining ICCAT's decision, asking them to rectify their situations, requesting a response at least 30 days prior to the 2017 Annual Meeting. Under Rec. 06-13, failure to rectify the situation could result in a Commission recommendation for the application of non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures when it reviews the situation in November 2017.

The Chair noted that the proposed identifications of Dominica and Grenada pursuant to Recommendation 06-13 and the COC recommendation that ICCAT send letters to Gibraltar, St Kitts & Nevis, and St Lucia would be forwarded to the Commission for approval.

7 Review of implementation of and compliance with the ICCAT requirements

In 2015 the Secretariat reformatted its *ICCAT Secretariat Report to the Compliance Committee Regarding Compliance with ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures Currently in force*[*], which covers all relevant recommendations and resolutions, but not all are relevant to a review of CPC compliance. The Chair recommended that the information not relevant to the CPC compliance review be removed from the main body of the Secretariat Report and put into an annex for 2017 with an explanation of why they are not relevant to the compliance review process. The Chair also informed the Committee that he would work with the Secretariat on the redundant requirements of some recommendations.

8 Review of requests for Cooperating status

On the basis of information provided, the Committee agreed to recommend that the Commission approve Costa Rica's request to become a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity, and that the Commission renew cooperating status for Chinese Taipei, Bolivia, Suriname, and Guyana.

9 Recommendations to the Commission to improve compliance

Japan presented its *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on improvement of Compliance review of shark conservation and management measures*, which is intended to improve the Compliance Committee's review of the implementation of conservation and management measures regarding sharks caught in association with ICCAT species. While there were some concerns that this recommendation would lead to an increase in paperwork, it was agreed that the increase would be a onetime only incidence as few changes would need to be made to the form in future years unless there were changes to the fisheries in which sharks were being caught. The Chair also noted that this reporting format could be considered for application to other measures in the future. The proposal was agreed by the Compliance Committee and forwarded to the Commission for final adoption.

10 Other matters

No other matters were discussed.

11 Adoption of Report and adjournment

The Chairman thanked the CPCs and the Friends of the Chair for their efforts in the difficult but necessary work of the Compliance Committee. Improvements to the ICCAT compliance evaluation process have been made possible because of the hard work of the CPC delegates and this has strengthened the Commission for the benefit of all CPCs. The Chairman also thanked the Secretariat for its continuing hard work in preparing all the necessary COC material and assisting CPCs in fulfilling their obligations.

The Report of the Committee was adopted by correspondence. The meeting was adjourned.

[*] To be published in Volume 4.

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 and Chair letters arising from 2015 meeting
5. Review of implementation of and compliance with the ICCAT requirements

    5.1 Compliance tables

    5.2 CPC Annual Reports, Statistical data summaries, Compliance summaries

    5.3 Inspection and observer reports

    5.4 Other relevant information

    5.5 CPC-by-CPC review of compliance with ICCAT requirements

    5.6 Review of information relating to NCPs
6. Actions to address issues of non-compliance by CPCs and issues relating to NCPs arising from items 4 and 5
7. Review of requests for Cooperating status
8. Recommendations to the Commission to improve compliance
9. Other matters
10. Adoption of Report and adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10

2016 Compliance Tables
(Compliance in 2015, reported in 2016)

NORTH ALBACORE (All quantities are in metric tons)

Initial catch limits						*Current catches*				*Balance*				*Adjusted quota/catch limit*					
YEAR	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*
TAC	*28000.00*	*28000.00*	*28000.00*	*28000.00*	*28000.00*														
BARBADOS	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	**20.30**	**22.20**	**12.80**	**15.90**	**179.70**	**177.80**	**227.20**	**224.10**	**200.00**	**200.00**	**240.00**	**240.00**	**240.00**	
BELIZE	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	**155.00**	**230.00**	**79.20**	**0.74**	**125.00**	**50.00**	**120.80**	**449.26**	**280.00**	**280.00**	**418.00**	**450.00**	**450.00**	
BRAZIL	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**
CANADA	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	**34.00**	**31.90**	**47.10**	**32.20**	**216.00**	**218.10**	**202.90**	**217.80**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	
CHINA	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	**21.00**	**81.08**	**34.87**	**20.96**	**229.00**	**168.92**	**165.13**	**229.04**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**200.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	**145.87**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**104.13**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**		
EU	21551.30	21551.30	21551.30	21551.30	21551.30	**21935.47**	**18607.00**	**23544.56**	**20891.80**	**5003.66**	**8323.13**	**2990.40**	**6047.33**	**26939.13**	**26939.13**	**26534.96**	**26939.13**	**24541.70**	***tbc***
FRANCE (St. P&M)	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	**0.00**	**0.27**	**0.08**	**0.00**	**250.00**	**249.73**	**249.92**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	
JAPAN	638.88	573.68	**503.81**	**407.19**		**1822.10**	**266.40**	**305.20**	**329.80**	**-1183.22**	**307.28**	**198.61**	**77.39**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**		
KOREA	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	**191.00**	**184.40**	**63.87**	**4.54**	**59.00**	**65.60**	**186.13**	**211.06**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**215.60**	**250.00**	**250.00**
MAROC	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	
ST V & G.	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	**304.50**	**286.00**	**326.91**	**305.00**	**16.40**	**30.40**	**3.49**	**-1.51**	**320.90**	**316.40**	**330.40**	**303.49**	**298.50**	
TR. & TOBAGO	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	**46.80**	**66.70**	**71.10**	**94.80**	**203.20**	**183.30**	**178.90**	**155.20**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	
UK-OT	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	**0.20**	**0.30**	**0.63**	**5.38**	**249.80**	**249.70**	**249.37**	**244.62**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**		
USA	527.00	527.00	527.00	527.00	527.00	**417.70**	**598.84**	**572.60**	**247.70**	**241.05**	**59.91**	**14.31**	**293.61**	**658.75**	**658.75**	**586.91**	**541.31**	**658.75**	
VANUATU	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	**171.92**	**257.60**	**195.32**	**64.55**	**78.08**	**-7.60**	**54.68**	**185.45**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	**250.00**	
VENEZUELA	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	**312.00**	**180.70**	**284.71**	**350.90**	**-680.90**	**-549.60**	**-584.31**	**-665.21**	**-306.90**	**-368.90**	**-299.60**	**-314.31**	**-415.21**	
CHINESE TAIPEI	3271.70	3271.70	3271.70	3271.70	3271.70	**1180.00**	**2393.63**	**947.00**	**2857.00**	**2609.62**	**1395.99**	**2842.62**	**932.62**	**3789.62**	**3789.62**	**3789.62**	**3789.62**	**3789.62**	
TOTAL CATCH						**26757.86**	**23207.02**	**26485.95**	**25971.17**										
Rec No.	*11-04*	*11-04*	*13-05*	*13-05*	*13-05*									*11-04*	*11-04*	*13-05*	*13-05*	*13-05*	*13-05*

BELIZE: intends to use 50 t of its underages from 2014 in 2016 (Rec. 13-05, para. 5); receiving a transfer of N-ALB from Chinese Taipei: 200 t in 2014, 2015 and 2016 (Rec. 13-05).
JAPAN is to endeavour to limit North albacore catches to no more than 4% of its total bigeye tuna catch.
JAPAN: all 2015 figures are provisional.
SVG: 2013-2015 data for adjusted quota were not adopted by the Commission in 2015. In March 2016, the above data were submitted by correspondence to CPCs in the event of any objection.
CHINESE TAIPEI: 2016 adjusted quota is 3789.62 t (=3271.7+3271.7*25%-100-200) due to the underage of 2014 exceeding 25% of 2016 catch quota and transfer of 100 t to St. V&G and 200 t to Belize.

SOUTH ALBACORE

	Initial quota /catch limit					*Current catches*				*Balance*				*Adjusted quota (only applicable in case of overharvest)*					
YEAR	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*	*2017**
TAC	*24000*	*24000*	*24000*	*24000*	*24000*														
ANGOLA			50.00	50.00	50.00	**168.00**			**0.00**										
BRAZIL		3500.00	2160.00	2160.00	2160.00	**1856.58**	**1720.30**	**438.45**	**424.52**	**20330.58**	**1757.00**	**1621.55**	**1635.50**		**3500.00**	**2060.00**	**2700.00**	**2700.00**	**2700.00**
NAMIBIA	**TAC share 21000.00**	10000.00	3600.00	3600.00	3600.00	**2265.00**	**990.00**	**1044.00**	**1070.00**								**4329.17**	**4500.00**	
S. AFRICA			4400.00	4400.00	4400.00	**3553.00**	**3526.10**	**3719.00**	**4030.00**			**681.00**						**5500.00**	
URUGUAY		1200.00	440.00	440.00	440.00	**12.00**	**209.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**				**440.00**			**70.00**	**660.00**	**550.00**	**550.00**
CH. TAIPEI		13000.00	9400.00	9400.00	9400.00	**12812.00**	**8519.00**	**6675.00**	**7157.00**		**4481.00**	**2725.00**	**4349.75**			**9400.00**	**11506.75**	**11750.00**	**11750.00**
BELIZE	300.00	300.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	**171.00**	**87.00**	**98.36**	**0.00**	**129.00**	**163.00**	**226.64**	**325.00**		**250.00**	**325.00**	**325.00**	**312.50**	
CHINA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	**61.02**	**65.12**	**33.82**	**124.41**	**38.98**	**34.88**	**66.18**	**4.60**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**125.00**	**125.00**	**125.00**
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	**50.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**									**100.00**	
CURAÇAO			50.00	50.00	50.00		**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**									**50.00**	
EU	1540.00	1540.00	1470.00	1470.00	1470.00	**521.99**	**455.00**	**335.36**	**472.71**	**1018.01**	**1085.00**	**1502.14**	**1246.29**			**1470.00**	**1719**	**1837.50**	***tbc***
JAPAN	415.68	342.28	**1355.00**	**1355.00**	**1355.00**	**3550.60**	**1713.80**	**1198.90**	**1392.90**	**-3134.92**	**-1372.12**	**526.10**	**162.10**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**1725.00**	**1555.00**	**1693.75**	
KOREA	150.00	150.00	140.00	140.00	140.00	**98.00**	**33.22**	**3.42**	**3.47**	**52.00**	**116.78**	**146.58**	**174.03**	**37.00**	**150.00**	**150.00**	**177.50**	**175.00**	**175.00**
PANAMA	100.00	100.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	**12.00**	**3.00**	**0.30**	**23.73**	**88.00**	**97.00**	**24.70**	**1.27**			**25.00**	**25.00**	**25.00**	
PHILIPPINES	150.00	150.00	140.00	140.00	140.00	**293.00**	**495.00**	**18.00**	**0.00**	**-143.00**	**-345.00**	**2.00**	**40.00**			**20.00**	**40.00**	**140.00**	
ST V & G	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	**92.10**	**97.40**	**109.83**	**100.00**	**13.90**	**16.50**	**6.67**	**6.67**	**106.00**	**113.90**	**116.50**	**106.67**	**106.67**	
UK-OT	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	**2.00**	**2.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**78.00**	**98.00**	**100.00**	**100.00**		**80.00**	**100.00**	**116.00**	**125.00**	
USA	100.00	100.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	**0.00**	**0.05**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**100.00**	**99.95**	**25.00**	**25.00**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	
VANUATU	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	**35.11**	**53.11**	**91.00**	**5.01**	**64.89**	**46.89**	**9.00**	**94.99**	**100.00**	**100.00**	**100.00**	**100.00**	**100.00**	
TOTAL CATCH						**25553.40**	**17969.10**	**13765.44**											
Rec. number	*11-05*	*11-05*	*13-06*	*13-06*	*13-06*									*11-05*	*11-05*	*11-05*	*13-06*	*13-06*	*13-06*

**As the Compliance Annex was adopted at the 2016 annual meeting without the application of the carry-forward rules under para 4c) of Rec. 13-06, 2017 adjusted quota figures for southern albacore may be subject to further adjustment and approval at the 2017 Annual Meeting.*

BELIZE: intends to use 62.5 t of its underages from 2014 in 2016 (Rec. 13-06, para. 4.b).

BRAZIL: in December 2015 informs the Commission that it will transfer 100 t in 2015 to Japan.

JAPAN: all 2015 figures are provisional.

JAPAN: 2015 adjusted limit included 100 t transferred from Brazil and 100 t transferred from South Africa.

JAPAN: 2016 adjusted limit included 25% of the original limit as carry-over from 2014 [Rec. 13-06].

JAPAN: informed in 2015 of an additional transfer in 2014 of 120 t from Uruguay.

JAPAN: according to paragraph 4 b) of Rec. 13-06 for the period 2014 to 2016, Japan expresses its intention to carry over the underage in 2014 to 2016.

The amount of the underage to be used in 2016 is 338.75 t which is 25% of its original quota.

JAPAN: in accordance with paragraph 4 b) of ICCAT Rec. 13-06 on the southern albacore catch limits for the period 2014 to 2016, Japan would like to express its intention to use the underage in 2015 for 2017.

The amount of the underage to be used in 2017 is 163 t which is less than 25% of our original quota.

PHILIPPINES: the multi-year payback plan presented at the 2014 Commission meeting was pending the adoption of the Panel 3 and the Commission reports by correspondance.

SOUTH AFRICA: transfers 100 t of its 2015 southern Atlantic albacore quota to Japan, Rec. 13-06.

SOUTH AFRICA: notified in 2014 the Commission of its request to transfer the 2013 underage of 1250 t to be caught and landed in 2015, Rec. 13-06.

SOUTH AFRICA: notified in 2016 the Commission of its request to transfer the 2015 underage of 1110 t which is equivalent to 25% of its 2015 allocation of 10 000 t shared with Namibia to be caught and landed in 2017.

URUGUAY: notified in 2014 a transfer of 100 t to Japan in 2014. In 2015, Uruguay notified a transfer of 120 t to Japan in 2014.

URUGUAY: notified in 2015 a transfer in 2014 of 150 t of its quota to South Africa.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2016 adjusted quota is 11750 (=9400+2350), which was approved by the Commission at its 24th Regular meeting.

NORTH SWORDFISH

	Initial quota					*Current catches*				*Balance*				*Adjusted quota*					
YEAR	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*
TAC	*13700*	*13700*	*13700*	*13700*	*13700*														
BARBADOS	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	**21.00**	**16.10**	**21.10**	**29.00**	**46.50**	**48.30**	**46.40**	**38.50**	**67.50**	**64.40**	**64.40**	**67.50**	**67.50**	**67.50**
BELIZE	130.00	130.00	130.00	130.00	130.00	**141.00**	**142.00**	**75.61**	**8.40**	**75.00**	**63.00**	**54.39**	**259.60**	**216.00**	**205.00**	**270.00**	**268.00**	**254.39**	
BRAZIL	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**75.00**	**75.00**	**50.00**	**50.00**	**75.00**	**75.00**	**75.00**	**75.00**	**50.00**	**50.00**
CANADA	1348.00	1348.00	1348.00	1348.00	1348.00	**1488.50**	**1505.50**	**1604.20**	**1579.34**	**172.40**	**176.80**	**278.30**	**578.36**	**1660.90**	**1682.30**	**1882.50**	**2157.70**	**2040.20**	
CHINA	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	**59.00**	**95.95**	**60.29**	**140.78**	**46.30**	**4.05**	**39.71**	**-36.73**	**105.30**	**100.00**	**100.00**	**104.05**	**137.50**	
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	**6.60**	**1.37**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**68.40**	**73.63**	**75.00**	**75.00**	**75.00**	**75.00**	**75.00**	**75.00**		
EU	6718.00	6718.00	6718.00	6718.00	6718.00	**6604.08**	**5567.90**	**5020.43**	**5449.08**	**1793.42**	**2829.60**	**2867.07**	**2448.42**	**8397.50**	**8397.50**	**7927.50**	**7897.50**	**7390.70**	***tbc***
FRANCE (St. P&M)	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	**0.00**	**17.85**	**3.02**	**0.00**	**100.00**	**82.15**	**96.98**	**100.00**	**100.00**	**100.00**	**100.00**	**100.00**	**100.00**	
JAPAN	842.00	842.00	842.00	842.00	842.00	**437.50**	**438.70**	**392.90**	**452.10**	**2357.73**	**2676.03**	**3015.13**	**2895.03**	**2795.23**	**3114.73**	**3114.73**	**3408.03**	**3391.62**	
KOREA	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	**0.00**	**64.40**	**34.66**	**0.00**	**10.00**	**-4.40**	**15.34**	**45.60**	**10.00**	**60.00**	**50.00**	**45.60**	**65.34**	**75.00**
MAROC	850.00	850.00	850.00	850.00	850.00	**770.00**	**1062.00**	**1062.50**	**850.00**	**492.50**	**0.50**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**1262.50**	**1062.50**	**1062.50**	**850.00**		
MAURITANIA								**0.00**				**100.00**							
MEXICO	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	**40.00**	**32.00**	**32.00**	**31.00**	**260.00**	**268.00**	**268.00**	**269.00**	**300.00**	**300.00**	**300.00**	**300.00**	**300.00**	
PHILIPPINES	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**25.00**	**37.50**	**25.00**	**25.00**	**37.50**	**37.50**	**25.00**	**25.00**		
SENEGAL	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	**30.10**	**43.20**	**48.79**	**45.86**	**344.90**	**387.92**	**436.21**	**542.94**	**375.00**	**431.12**	**485.00**	**588.80**		
ST V & G.	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	**8.30**	**4.21**	**39.80**	**102.00**	**104.20**	**108.29**	**72.70**	**10.50**	**112.50**	**112.50**	**112.50**	**85.50**		
TR. & TOBAGO	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	**14.10**	**15.90**	**26.40**	**16.80**	**98.40**	**96.60**	**86.10**	**95.70**	**112.50**	**112.50**	**112.50**	**112.50**	**112.50**	
UK-OT	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	**1.40**	**14.40**	**0.98**	**1.40**	**51.10**	**38.10**	**51.52**	**51.10**	**52.50**	**52.50**	**52.50**	**52.50**		
USA	3907.00	3907.00	3907.00	3907.00	3907.00	**3610.00**	**2955.00**	**1945.20**	**1721.80**	**1123.75**	**1778.75**	**2913.55**	**2746.25**	**4733.75**	**4733.75**	**4858.75**	**4468.05**	**4468.05**	
VANUATU	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	**15.48**	**1.75**	**43.67**	**0.61**	**15.52**	**29.25**	**-12.67**	**24.39**	**31.00**	**31.00**	**31.00**	**25.00**		
VENEZUELA	85.00	85.00	85.00	85.00	85.00	**24.95**	**24.10**	**23.85**	**28.52**	**102.55**	**103.40**	**103.65**	**98.98**	**127.50**	**127.50**	**127.50**	**127.50**	**127.50**	
CHINESE TAIPEI	270.00	270.00	270.00	270.00	270.00	**166.00**	**114.82**	**78.00**	**115.00**	**204.00**	**255.18**	**292.00**	**255.00**	**370.00**	**370.00**	**370.00**	**370.00**	**370.00**	
Recommendation nº	*11-02*	*11-02*	*13-02*	*13-02*	*13-02*									*11-02*	*11-02*	*11-02*	*13-02*	*13-02*	*13-02*
DISCARDS																			
CANADA						**111.00**													
USA																			
TOTAL DISCARDS																			
TOTAL CATCH							**12117.2**	**10513.40**											

BELIZE: intends to use 54.39 t of its underages from 2014 in 2016 (Rec. 13-02, par. 6); receiving a transfer of N-SWO from Trinidad & Tobago: 75 t (Rec. 13-02).
BRAZIL: according to Rec. 13-02, for the year 2014, transfer of 25 t to Mauritania.
CANADA: new balances and adjusted quotas for 2011-2013 presented in November 2015 due to recalculation of historic dead discards as submitted to SCRS.
EU: allowed to count up to 200 t against its uncaught southern SWO.
EU: quota transfer in 2016 from EU-Spain to Canada of 295 t.
JAPAN: all 2015 figures are provisional.
JAPAN: adjusted limit in 2014, 2015 and 2016 excluded 50 t transfered to Morocco, and 35 transferred to Canada, and 25 transferred to Mauritania. (Rec. 13-02).
JAPAN: 400 t of its swordfish catch taken from the South Atlantic management area was counted against its uncaught catch limits in 2015. (Rec.13-02)
MAURITANIA: Brazil, Japan, Senegal and United States transfer 25 t each for a total of 100 t per year.
SENEGAL: transfer of quota in 2014 of 125 t to Canada and of 25 t to Mauritania.
USA: 2015 adjusted limit includes 25 t transfer from U.S. to Mauritania.
CHINESE TAIPEI: 2016 adjusted quota is 370 t (=270+270*50%-35) due to the underage of 2014 exceeding 50% of 2016 catch limit and a transfer of 35 t to Canada.

SOUTH SWORDFISH

	Initial quota					*Currrent catches*				*Balance*				*Adjusted quota*					
YEAR	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*
TAC	*15000*	*15000*	*15000*	*15000*	*15000*														
ANGOLA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00				**0.00**										
BELIZE	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	**197.00**	**136.00**	**45.29**	**103.56**	**-40.50**	**-11.00**	**79.71**	**135.44**	**156.50**	**125.00**	**205.00**	**239.00**	**287.50**	
BRAZIL	3940.00	3940.00	3940.00	3940.00	3940.00	**2832.60**	**1395.11**	**2892.02**	**2587.53**	**2999.90**	**3726.89**	**1047.98**	**2534.47**	**5832.50**	**5122.00**	**5048.00**	**5122.00**	**5122.00**	**5122.00**
CHINA	263.00	263.00	263.00	263.00	263.00	**315.50**	**195.96**	**205.89**	**327.70**	**61.99**	**67.04**	**119.10**	**2.34**	**377.49**	**263.00**	**324.99**	**330.04**	**341.90**	
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	**81.76**	**108.98**	**53.42**	**41.90**	**105.74**	**78.52**	**134.08**	**145.60**	**187.50**	**187.50**	**187.50**	**187.50**		
EU	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	**5061.40**	**4308.60**	**4364.64**	5295.02	**317.70**	**871.40**	**777.06**	**400.38**	**5379.10**	**5180.00**	**5141.70**	**5695.40**	**5601.06**	***tbc***
GHANA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	**54.00**	**37.00**	**26.00**	**56.06**	**-4.14**	**50.72**	**23.30**	**43.94**	**49.86**	**87.72**	**49.30**			
JAPAN	901.00	901.00	901.00	901.00	901.00	**840.70**	**958.20**	**790.10**	**569.80**	**447.56**	**-532.50**	**508.46**	**148.70**	**1288.26**	**425.70**	**1298.56**	**318.50**	**1359.46**	
KOREA	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	**42.00**	**47.30**	**52.63**	**5.45**	**8.00**	**10.70**	**-2.63**	**55.25**	**50.00**	**58.00**	**50.00**	**60.70**	**47.37**	**65.00**
NAMIBIA	1168.00	1168.00	1168.00	1168.00	1168.00	**404.70**	**421.80**	**392.80**	**516.97**	**1276.75**	**1330.20**	**1359.20**	**1235.03**	**1681.45**	**1752.00**	**1752.00**	**1752.00**	**1752.00**	
PHILIPPINES	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	**51.00**	**44.00**	**71.80**	**0.00**	**24.00**	**31.00**	**2.20**	**50.00**	**75.00**	**74.00**	**74.00**	**50.00**		
S.T. & PRINCIPE	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	**84.10**	**60.20**	**94.30**	**145.00**	**15.90**	**39.80**	**29.58**	**-5.20**	**100.00**	**100.00**	**115.90**	**139.80**		
SENEGAL	417.00	417.00	417.00	417.00	417.00	**161.83**	**178.40**	**143.33**	**97.43**	**463.67**	**400.60**	**357.42**	**385.09**	**625.50**	**579.00**	**500.75**	**482.52**		
SOUTH AFRICA	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	**50.20**	**171.40**	**152.39**	**218.00**	**1550.80**	**1429.60**	**848.61**		**1601.00**	**1601.00**				
UK-OT	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	**0.00**	**5.00**	**6.41**	**0.00**	**37.50**	**32.50**	**31.09**		**37.50**	**37.50**	**37.50**	**37.50**		
URUGUAY	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	**40.00**	**103.50**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**2104.00**	**1774.50**	**1202.00**	**1252.00**	**2144.00**	**1878.00**	**1202.00**	**1596.00**	**1627.60**	**1627.60**
USA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	**0.00**	**0.06**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**100.00**	**99.94**	**99.94**	**99.94**	**100.00**	**100.00**	**99.94**	**99.94**	**99.94**	
VANUATU	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	**2.74**	**0.10**	**8.00**	**0.00**	**26.26**	**28.90**	**17.00**	**29.00**	**29.00**	**29.00**	**29.00**	**29.00**	**29.00**	
CHINESE TAIPEI	459.00	459.00	459.00	459.00	459.00	**379.00**	**582.10**	**406.00**	**511.00**	**199.00**	**75.90**	**128.90**	**76.90**	**578.00**	**658.00**	**534.90**	**587.90**	**535.90**	
TOTAL						**10598.53**	**8753.71**	**9705.02**											
Rec. nº	*12-01*	*12-01*	*13-03*	*13-03*	*13-03*									*06-03*	*12-01*	*12-01*	*12-01*	*13-03*	*13-03*

BELIZE: intends to use 37.5 t of its underages from 2014 in 2016 (Rec. 13-03, para. 2); receiving a transfer of N-ALB from the United States: 25 t, Brazil: 50 t and Uruguay: 50 t (Rec. 13-03).
EU: allowed to count up to 200 t against its uncaught northern SWO.
JAPAN: all 2015 figures are provisional.
JAPAN: adjusted limit in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 excluded 50 t transfered to Namibia. [Rec.09-03][Rec.12-01][Rec.13-03][Rec.15-03]
JAPAN: Japan's underage in 2014 was carried over to the 2016 initial limit [Rec. 13-03][Rec. 15-03]
JAPAN: 400 t of its swordfish catch taken from the part of the South Atlantic management area was counted against its N-SWO uncaught quota in 2015. [Rec.13-02]
USA: adjusted quota for 2015 reflects transfers to Namibia (50 t), Belize (25 t) and Côte d'Ivoire (25 t) under Rec. 13-03.
CHINESE TAIPEI: 2016 adjusted quota includes 76.9 of 2015 underage.

EAST BLUEFIN

	Initial quota					*Current catch*				*Balance*				*Adjusted quota*				
YEAR	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*
TAC	*12900*	13400	13400	16142	*19296*													
ALBANIA	32.3	33.58	33.58	39.65	47.40	**0.00**	**8.59**	**33.55**	**40.75**	**0.00**	**24.99**	**0.03**	**-1.10**	**0.00**	**33.58**	**33.58**	**39.65**	**46.30**
ALGERIE	138.46	143.83	143.83	169.81	202.98	**69.00**	**243.80**	**243.80**	**370.20**	**69.46**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**-0.39**	**138.46**	**243.83**	**243.83**	**369.81**	**451.88**
CHINA	36.77	38.19	38.19	45.09	53.90	**36.04**	**38.14**	**37.62**	**45.08**	**0.73**	**0.05**	**0.58**	**0.01**	**36.77**	**38.19**	**38.19**	**45.09**	**53.90**
EGYPT	64.58	67.08	67.08	79.20	94.67	**64.25**	**77.10**	**77.08**	155.19	**0.33**	**-0.02**	**0.00**	0.01	**64.58**	**77.08**	**77.08**	**155.20**	**99.67**
EU	7266.41	7548.06	7938.65	9372.92	11203.54	**5715.60**	**7841.00**	**7795.98**	**9120.82**	**40.81**	**97.65**	**142.67**	**252.10**	**5756.41**	**7548.06**	**7938.65**	**9372.92**	**11203.54**
ICELAND	29.82	30.97	30.97	36.57	43.71	**5.07**	**3.80**	**30.24**	**37.43**	**24.75**	**27.17**	**0.73**	**-0.86**	**29.82**	**30.97**	**30.97**	**36.57**	**42.85**
JAPAN	1097.03	1139.55	1139.55	1345.44	1608.21	**1092.60**	**1128.97**	**1134.47**	**1385.92**	**4.43**	**10.58**	**5.08**	**4.52**	**1097.03**	**1139.55**	**1139.55**	**1390.44**	**1583.21**
KOREA	77.53	80.53	80.53	95.08	113.66	**77.04**	**80.50**	**80.52**	**0.00**	**0.49**	**0.03**	**0.01**	**95.08**	**77.53**	**80.53**	**80.53**	**0.08**	**163.66**
LIBYA	902.66	937.65	937.65	1107.06	1323.28	**761.26**	**933.20**	**932.64**	**1153.45**	**141.40**	**4.45**	**5.01**	**3.61**	**902.66**	**937.65**	**937.65**	**1157.06**	**1373.28**
MAROC	1223.07	1270.47	1270.47	1500.01	1792.98	**1223.00**	**1269.90**	**1270.46**	**1498.10**	**0.07**	**0.57**	**0.01**	**1.91**	**1223.07**	**1270.47**	**1270.47**	**1500.01**	**1792.98**
MAURITANIA				5.00	5.00				**0.00**				**5.00**				**5.00**	**5.00**
NORWAY	29.82	30.97	30.97	36.57	43.71	**0.00**	**0.31**	**0.12**	**8.29**	**29.82**	**30.66**	**30.85**	**28.28**	**29.82**	**30.97**	**30.97**	**36.57**	**43.71**
SYRIA	32.33	33.58	33.58	39.65	47.40	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**39.65**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**33.58**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**33.58**	**39.65**	**47.40**
TUNISIE	1017.56	1057.00	1057.00	1247.97	1491.71	**1017.40**	**1056.60**	**1056.60**	**1247.83**	**0.16**	**0.40**	**0.40**	**0.14**	**1017.56**	**1057.00**	**1057.00**	**1247.97**	**1491.71**
TURKEY	535.89	556.66	556.66	657.23	785.59	**535.55**	**551.45**	**555.08**	**1091.10**	**0.34**	**5.21**	**1.58**	**131.86**	**535.89**	**556.66**	**556.66**	**1222.96**	**1461.82**
CH. TAIPEI	39.75	41.29	41.29	48.76	58.28	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**39.75**	**31.29**	**31.29**	**38.76**	**39.75**	**31.29**	**31.29**	**38.76**	**48.28**
TOTAL CATCH						**10596.81**	**######**	**13248.16**										
Rec. number	*10-04*	*12-03*	*13-07*	*14-04*	*14-04*									*10-04*	*12-03*	*13-07*	*14-04*	*14-04*

ALGERIA : may catch up to 200 t, 250 t and 300 t in 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively. This adjustment shall continue until the Algeria combined quota reaches 5% of the TAC [Rec. 14-04].

JAPAN: all 2015 figures are provisional.

JAPAN: adjusted quota in 2015 included 45 t transferred from Korea. [Rec.14-04]

JAPAN: adjusted quota in 2016 excluded 25 t transfered to Korea. [Rec. 14-04]

MAURITANIA: may catch up to 5 t for research in each year until the end of 2017 (Rec. 14-04, paragraph 5).

TURKEY: Turkey has lodged a formal objection to Rec. 14-04 and, consistent with Res. 12-11, has submitted measures to be taken.

TURKEY: the adjusted quota for 2015 indicating 1222.96 metric tons is the independent catch limit announced for 2015 by Turkey in its objection to Rec. 14-04.

TURKEY: the adjusted quota for 2016 indicating 1461.82 metric tons is the independent catch limit announced for 2016 by Turkey in its objection to Rec. 14-04.

KOREA: transfers in 2015 50 t of its quota to Egypt and 45 t of its quota to Japan.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2016 adjusted quota is 48.28 t (=58.28-10) due to the transfer of 10 t to Eygpt in 2016.

WEST BLUEFIN

	Initial quota					*Current catches*				*Balance*				*Adjusted quota/limit*					
YEAR	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*
TAC	*1750*	*1750*	*1750*	*2000*	*2000*														
CANADA	396.66	396.66	396.66	437.47	437.47	**487.40**	**480.40**	**462.90**	**530.59**	**1.40**	**4.10**	**24.40**	**-1.71**	**488.80**	**484.50**	**487.30**	**528.88**		
FRANCE (St. P & M)	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.51	4.51	**0.00**	**0.31**	**0.17**	**9.34**	**8.00**	**7.69**	**7.83**	**-0.83**	**8.00**	**8.00**	**8.00**	**8.51**	**3.68**	
JAPAN	301.64	301.64	301.64	345.74	345.74	**303.60**	**306.26**	**302.63**	**345.52**	**2.48**	**1.86**	**0.87**	**1.09**	**306.06**	**304.12**	**303.50**	**346.61**	**346.83**	
MEXICO	95.00	95.00	95.00	108.98	108.98	**50.60**	**22.00**	**51.00**	**53.00**	**80.90**	**67.40**	**24.90**	**28.90**	**131.50**	**89.40**	**75.90**	**81.90**	**137.88**	
UK-OT	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.51	4.51	**0.40**	**0.80**	**0.01**	**0.21**	**7.60**	**7.20**	**7.99**	**8.30**	**8.00**	**8.00**	**8.00**	**8.51**	**8.00**	
USA	948.70	948.70	948.70	1058.79	1058.79	**919.00**	**658.90**	**810.29**	**896.30**	**124.57**	**384.7**	**233.3**	**282.4**	**1043.57**	**1043.57**	**1043.57**	**1178.66**	**1192.17**	
TOTAL LANDING						**1761.00**	**1468.67**	**1627.00**	**1834.96**										
Discards																			
CANADA																			
JAPAN																			
USA																			
TOTAL DISCARDS																			
TOTAL REMOVAL																			
Rec. number	*10-03*	*12-02*	*13-09*	*14-05*	*14-05*									*10-03*	*12-02*	*12-02*	*14-05*	*14-05*	*14-05*

JAPAN: all 2015 figures are provisional.

JAPAN: the underharvest may be added to next year to 10% of the initial quota allocation [Rec.13-09, 14-05].

MEXICO: requests to transfer to Canada 86.5 t (para 19, Rec. 12-02).

MEXICO: the 2014 balance is explained by the 2014 adjusted quota after 86.5 t transfer to Canada (for 2014) - [Rec. 13-09].

MEXICO: the transfer to Canada for 2015 was of 51.98 t.

MEXICO: for 2016: 108.98+ 29.9-transfer to Canada to be determined by Rec. 14-05.

BIGEYE

	Initial catch limit						*Current catches*				*Balance*				*Adjusted catch limits*					
YEAR	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*	*1999 (SCRS 2000)*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*
TAC	*85000*	*85000*	*85000*	*85000*	*65000*															
ANGOLA						0.00	**4069.00**			**0.00**										
BARBADOS						0.00	**14.80**	**11.10**	**25.70**	**30.40**										
BELIZE						0.00	**1242.00**	**1336.00**	**1501.60**	**1877.30**										
BRAZIL						2024.00	**1399.70**	**1134.99**	**3475.12**	**3561.10**										
CANADA						263.00	**166.40**	**197.30**	**185.90**	**257.32**										
CAP VERT						1.00	**713.00**	**1333.00**	**2271.00**	**2913.92**										
CHINA	5572	5572	5572	5572	5376.00	7347.00	**3231.00**	**2371.30**	**2231.75**	**4941.85**	**6942.00**	**6130.70**	**7941.85**	**5232.12**	**10342.00**	**8502.00**	**10173.60**	**10173.60**	**7182.40**	
CÔTE D'IVOIRE						0.00	**506.58**	**635.40**	**440.90**	**12.14**										
CURACAO						0.00	**2890.00**	**1964.00**	**2315.00**	**2573.00**										
EL SALVADOR				3500.00	1575.00					**992.00**										
EU	22667.00	22667.00	22667.00	22667.00	16989.00	21970.00	**20798.23**	**18652.00**	**18152.90**	**15741.23**	**9068.77**	**10815.10**	**11314.20**	**13725.87**	**29867.00**	**29467.10**	**29467.10**	**29467.10**	**23789.10**	**20389.10**
FRANCE (SP&M)						0.00	**0.00**	**0.31**	**0.10**	**0.00**										
GABON						184.00														
GHANA	4722.00	4722.00	4722.00	4722.00	4250.00	11460.00	**2913.80**	**2786.00**	**4369.00**	**5749.68**	**1983.20**	**3637.20**	**583.00**	**864.92**	**4897.00**	**6423.20**	**4952.00**	**6614.60**		
GUATEMALA						0.00	**261.70**	**163.10**	**651.80**	**340.50**										
JAPAN	23611.00	23611.00	23611.00	23611.00	17696.00	23690.00	**15971.90**	**14342.00**	**12595.20**	**10179.80**	**11652.40**	**13282.30**	**15029.10**	**17444.50**	**27624.30**	**27624.30**	**27624.30**	**27624.30**	**23709.30**	
KOREA	1983.00	1983.00	1983.00	1983.00	1486.00	124.00	**1908.00**	**1150.90**	**1038.83**	**670.70**	**76.00**	**881.10**	**1319.07**	**1887.20**	**1984.00**	**2039.00**	**2357.90**	**2557.90**	**2080.90**	
MAROC						700.00	**300.00**	**308.00**	**300.00**	**308.50**										
MEXICO						6.00	**1.00**	**2.00**	**1.00**	**2.00**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a.**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a.**
NAMIBIA						423.00	**918.40**	**129.59**	**224.09**	**434.90**										
PANAMA	3306.00	3306.00	3306.00	3306.00		26.00	**1994.00**	**2774.00**	**2315.00**	**1285.00**	**2206.45**	**532.00**	**991.00**	**2021.00**	**4200.45**	**3306.00**	**3306.00.**	**3306.00.**	**3306.00.**	
PHILIPPINES	1983.00	1983.00	1983.00	1983.00	286.00	943.00	**531.00**	**1323.00**	**1963.00**	**0.00**	**1452.00**	**660.00**	**615.00**	**1983.00**			**2578.00**	**1983.00**		
RUSSIA						8.00	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**							
S. TOME & PRIN						0.00	**103.30**	**106.60**	**110.05**	**633.10**										
SENEGAL						0.00	**225.00**	**639.00**	**361.00**	**1031.00**										
SOUTH AFRICA						41.00	**47.20**	**293.80**	**331.50**	**200.00**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**		**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**		
St. V. & GR.							**24.70**	**15.03**	**29.70**	**496.00**										
TRIN & TOBAGO						19.00	**33.30**	**36.60**	**58.90**	**76.50**										
UK-OT						8.00	**51.30**	**25.70**	**17.70**	**44.10**										
URUGUAY						59.00	**2.00**	**29.90**	**0.00**	**0.00**										
USA						1261.00	**867.50**	**880.40**	**859.40**	**838.40**										
VANUATU						0.00	**22.84**	**8.82**	**4.00**	**0.70**										
VENEZUELA						128.00	**97.70**	**93.70**	**169.10**	**132.00**										
CH. TAIPEI	15583.00	15583.00	15583.00	15583.00	11679.00	16837.00	**10805.00**	**10315.55**	**13272.00**	**16453.00**	**9382.90**	**9872.35**	**6915.90**	**3734.90**	**20187.90**	**20187.90**	**20187.90**	**20187.90**	**16353.90**	
GUYANA																				
TOTAL CATCH							**72110.35**	**63059.09**	**69271.24**											
Rec. number	*11-01*	*11-01*	*11-01*	*14-01*	*15-01*										*10-01*	*11-01*	*11-01*	*14-01*	*15-01*	*15-01*

GHANA: in 2012-2015, annual transfers of China (70 t), Korea (20 t), Ch. Taipei (70 t) and Japan (70 t) have been authorised, Rec. 14-01.

GHANA: committed to payback the overharvest of 2006 to 2010 from 2012 until 2021 with 337 t by year.

GHANA: adjusted 2015 quota is the addition of 30% of initial quota for 2013, balance of 2014, initial quota for 2015 and transferred quotas and less the payback for overharvesting (337t).

JAPAN: all 2015 figures are provisional.

JAPAN: the 2015 adjusted limit included 30% of the initial limit as carry-over from 2014 underage and excluded 3000 t transferred to China and 70 t transferred to Ghana [Rec. 14-01].

JAPAN: the 2016 adjusted limit included 30% of the initial limit as carry-over from 2015 underage and excluded 1000 t transferred to China and 70 t transferred to Ghana [Rec. 14-01][Rec.15-01].

SAO TOME E PRINCIPE:catches are artissanal.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2016 adjusted quota is 16353.9 t (=11679+15583*30%) due to the underage of 2014 exceeding 30% of 2016 catch limit (refer Rec. 14-01 and Rec. 15-01).

BLUE MARLIN

	Landings limit					*Reference years (landings)*		*Current landings*				*Balance*				*Adjusted landings*		
	2012	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*	*1996*	*1999*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*	*2018*
						(PS+LL)	*(PS+LL)*	*LL+PS*				*LL+PS*						
		2000.00	*2000.00*	*2000.00*	*1985.00*													
BELIZE								**47.00**	**19.00**	**8.47**	**4.70**	**-47.00**	**-9.00**					
BRAZIL	254.40	190.00	190.00	190.00	190.00	308.00	509.00	**70.79**	**16.30**	**19.77**	**0.63**							
CHINA	100.50	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	62	201	**35.00**	**44.85**	**39.66**	**44.41**	**65.50**	**0.15**	**5.34**	**0.58**	**50.34**	**45.58**	
CÔTE D'IVOIRE		150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00			**22.76**	**26.32**	**43.84**	**29.90**	**-22.76**	**123.68**	**106.16**	**120.10**			
EU	103.00	480.00	480.00	480.00	480.00	206.00	200.00	**88.30**	**357.07**	**552.37**	**658.51**	**14.70**	**122.93**	**-72.37**	**-130.51**	**407.63**	**414.75**	**414.75**
GHANA		250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00			**234.00**	**163.00**	**235.57**	**87.92**		**87.00**	**14.43**				
JAPAN	839.50	390.00	390.00	390.00	390.00	1679.00	790.00	**156.50**	**231.50**	**288.80**	**261.50**	**683.00**	**158.50**	**101.20**	**167.50**	**429.00**	**429.00**	
KOREA	72.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	144.00	0.00	**34.00**	**23.77**	**9.78**	**3.07**	**38.00**	**11.23**	**25.22**	**31.93**	**42.00**	**42.00**	
MEXICO	17.50	70.00	70.00	70.00	70.00	13.00	35.00	**105.00**	**85.00**	**67.00**	**72.00**	**-87.50**	**-15.00**	**3.00**	**-14.00**			
S. TOME & PRINCIPE		45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00			**59.50**	**73.10**				**-41.90**					
SÉNÉGAL		60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00			**10.00**	**21.84**	**11.65**	**9.87**		**38.16**	**48.35**	**50.13**			
SOUTH AFRICA			10.00	10.00				**0.27**	**0.43**	**0.05**		**-0.27**						
T & TOBAGO	9.90	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	13.90	19.70	**45.00**	**47.60**	**48.10**	**34.90**	**-35.10**	**-27.60**	**-48.10**	**-84.90**	**-98.10**		
VENEZUELA	30.40	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	60.74	29.99	**50.38**	**47.56**	**40.77**	**60.46**	**-19.98**	**52.44**	**59.23**	**39.54**	**110.00**	**110.00**	
CHINESE TAIPEI	330.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	660.00	486.00	**133.00**	**77.84**	**62.00**	**61.00**	**197.00**	**72.16**	**88.00**	**104.00**	**165.00**		
TOTAL								**1091.50**	**1235.18**	**1427.83**								
USA(# of bum+whm)	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00			**97.00**	**105.00**	**98.00**	**125.00**	**153.00**	**145.00**	**152.00**				
Rec. number	*11-07*	*11-07*	*12-04*	*12-04*	*15-05*											*12-04*	*12-04*	*15-05*

GHANA: catch is from artisanal fisheries-gillnet.
JAPAN: all 2015 figures are provisional.
JAPAN: the 2015 adjusted limit included 10% of the initial limit as carry-over from 2013 underage [Rec.12-04]
JAPAN: the 2016 adjusted limit included 10% of the initial limit as carry-over from 2014 underage [Rec.12-04] [Rec.15-05].
CHINESE TAIPEI: 2016 adjusted quota is 165 t=(150+150*10%) due to the underage of 2014 exceeding 10% of 2016 catch limit.
USA: total marlin landings for 2015 include 60 BUM, 55 WHM and 10 RSP.
EUROPEAN UNION: the quota overharvest for 2014 and 2015 are payed back as decided by Panel 4.
VENEZUELA: transfer of 10% of the underage of its 2015 catch to its 2017 adjusted quota.

WHITE MARLIN

	Landing					*Referenc*		*Current*				*Balance*				*Adjusted*	*Adjusted*	
	2012	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*	*1996*	*1999*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*	*2018*
		400.00	*400.00*	*400.00*	*355.00*													
						PS+LL	*PS+LL*	*LL+PS*				*LL+PS*						
BARBADOS		10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00			**4.00**	**5.00**	**5.30**	**9.50**		**5.00**	**4.70**	**0.50**	**12.00**		
BRAZIL	51.81	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	70.00	158.00	**48.37**	**33.16**	**49.24**	**115.43**							
CANADA	2.60	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	8.00	5.00	**2.30**	**2.70**	**4.60**	**3.10**	**0.30**	**7.30**	**5.40**	**6.90**			
CHINA	9.9	10	10	10	10.00	9	30	**0.21**	**2.12**	**0**	**0.34**	**9.69**	**7.88**	**10.00**	**11.65**	**12.00**	**12.00**	
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	2.31	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	1.00	7.00	**0.00**	**0.63**	**0.91**	**1.19**	**2.31**	**9.37**	**9.09**	**8.81**			
EU	46.50	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	148.00	127.00	**58.40**	**47.50**	**102.21**	**119.69**	**-11.90**	**2.50**	**-52.21**	**-67.19**	**23.90**	**23.90**	**27.60**
JAPAN	37.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	112.00	40.00	**49.60**	**16.90**	**5.70**	**9.90**	**-16.00**	**18.10**	**29.30**	**32.10**	**42.00**	**42.00**	
KOREA	19.50	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	59.00	0.00	**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.15**	**0.00**	**19.50**	**20.00**	**19.85**	**20.00**	**24.00**	**24.00**	
MEXICO	3.63	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	11.00	**36.00**	**30.00**	**20.00**	**26.00**	**-32.37**	**-5.00**	**5.00**	**-1.00**			
S. TOME & PRINCIPE		20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00													
SOUTH AFRICA			2.00	2.00				**0.00**	**0.00**	**0.00**								
TRIN & TOBAGO	4.30	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	8.20	13.00	**38.50**	**32.50**	**38.30**	**31.90**	**-34.20**	**-17.50**	**-38.30**	**-74.30**	**-80.70**		
VENEZUELA	50.04	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	152.00	43.00	**63.52**	**44.30**	**73.74**	**104.33**	**-13.48**	**5.70**	**-23.74**	**-54.33**	**31.26**		
CHINESE TAIPEI	186.80	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	586.00	465.00	**15.00**	**6.72**	**10.00**	**12.00**	**171.80**	**43.28**	**40.00**	**43.00**	**55.00**		
TOTAL								**315.90**	**221.53**	**310.15**								
USA (# of bum+whm)	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00			**97.00**	**105.00**	**98.00**	**125.00**	**153.00**	**145.00**	**152.00**				
Recommendation number	*11-07*	*12-04*	*12-04*	*12-04*	*15-05*											*12-04*	*12-04*	*15-05*

JAPAN: all 2015 figures are provisional.

JAPAN: Figures from 2013 are for both White Marlin and Spearfish[Rec.12-04]

JAPAN: the 2015 adjusted limit included 20% of the initial limit as carry-over from 2013 underage[Rec.12-04]

JAPAN: the 2016 adjusted limit included 20% of the initial limit as carry-over from 2014 underage[Rec.12-04][Rec.15-05]

SAO TOME E PRINCIPE: catch data not available.

USA: total marlin landings for 2015 include 60 BUM, 55 WHM and 10 RSP.

EUROPEAN UNION: the quota overharvest for 2014 and 2015 are payed back as decided by Panel 4.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2016 adjusted quota is 55 t=(50+50*10%) due to the underage of 2014 exceeding 10% of 2016 catch limit.

Compliance with size limits in 2015

Species	***SWO***			***BFT***						
Area	*AT.N*	*AT.S*	*Medi*	*AT.E*	*AT.E*	*Adriatic*	*Medi*	*AT.E*	*Medi*	*AT.W*
Rec. No.	*13-02 § 9-10*	*13-02 § 9-10*	*13-04 § 7-8*	*14-04 § 27*	*14-04 Annex I, §2*	*14-04 § 27*	*14-04 § 27*	*14-04 § 28*	*14-04 § 28*	*14-05 §9*
Gear/fishery	*all*	*all*	*all*	*BB, TROL; >17 m**	*BB <17 m***	*Adriatic catches taken for farming purposes****	*coastal artisanal fisheries*****	*14-04 all other gears*	*all other gears*	*all gears*
Min. weight (kg)	A=25 kg LW or B= 15 kg/ 15 kg DW	A=25 kg LW or B= 15 kg/ 15 kg DW	10kg RW or 9 kg GG or 7.5 kg DW	8 kg	6.4 kg	8 kg	8 kg	30 kg	30 kg	30 kg
Min. size (cm)	A=125 cm LJFL/ 63 cm CK or B= 119 cm LJFL/ 63 cm CK	A=125 cm LJFL/ 63 cm CK or B= 119 cm LJFL/ 63 cm CK	90 cm LJFL	75 cm FL	70 cm FL	75 cm FL	75 cm FL	115 cm FL	115 cm FL	115 cm FL
Atl-SWO: Option chosen A or B			Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
EBFT: Amount allocated. To be introduced for: *, **, *** and ****	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable					Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Max. tolerance	A=15% 25kg/125 cm; B= 0% 15kg/119cm		5%	0%	100 t**	0%	0%	5% between 8-30 kg; 75-115 cm FL	5% between 8-30 kg; 75-115 cm FL	10%
Tolerance calculated as	number of fish per total landings		weight or number of fish per total landings	weight or number of fish per total landings of allocation	weight per allocation of max 100t	weight or number of fish per total catch	weight or number of fish per total landings of allocation	number of fish per total landings	number of fish per total landings	weight of the total quota of each CPC
PERCENTAGE (%) OF TOTAL CATCH UNDER MINIMUM SIZE										
Albania				**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Algérie										
Angola										
Barbados	**0**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**
Belize										
Brazil										
Canada	**2.7% <125cm**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**<0.0001%**
Cabo Verde										
China	**0**	**0**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**0**	**n.a**	**n.a**
Côte d'Ivoire		**0%**								
Curaçao										
Egypt										
El Salvador										
EU	**15%**	**13.40%**	**3.50%**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1.51%**	**0.16%**	**na**
France (SPM)	**0**									**0**
Gabon										
Ghana										
Guatemala										
Guinea Ecuatorial										
Guinée République										
Honduras										
Iceland								**0**		
Japan	**0.8%**	**0.0%**	**Not applicable**	**Not applicable**	**Not applicable**	**Not applicable**	**Not applicable**	**0%**	**Not applicable**	**0%**
Korea	**<1%**	**<1%**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**0%**	**n.a**
Liberia										
Libya										
Maroc	**0%**	**na**	**0%**	**na**	**na**	**na**	**0%**	**0%**	**na**	**na**
Mauritanie	**0**			**0**	**0**		**0**			
México	**0**									**0**
Namibia	**n.a.**		**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**
Nicaragua										
Nigeria										
Norway								**0%**		
Panama										
Philipinnes										
Russia										
Sao Tome										
Sénégal	**1.55%**	**5.30%**								
Sierra Leone										
South Africa	**n.a.**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**
St. Vincent & G										
Syria										
Trinidad & Tobago	**0**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**	**n.a**
Tunisie										
Turkey	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**2.60%**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**0**	**n.a.**
UK-OT										
USA	**8.4**									**2.4**
Uruguay										
Vanuatu										
Venezuela										
Bolivia										
Chinese Taipei	**0%(<125cm); 0%(<119cm)**	**0.17%(<125cm) ; 0%(<119cm)**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**	**n.a.**
Guyana										
Suriname										

Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10

Information submitted by a Contracting Party in accordance with Rec. 08-09

Information from Senegal concerning apparent unauthorized transshipment activities in October 2015 in Senegal's waters among Liberian, Chinese, and Chinese Taipei vessels in violation of ICCAT rules, which were detected through port inspection by Senegal.

1. Information from Senegal

2. Response from China

3. Response from Chinese Taipei

4. Letter from the Secretariat to Liberia and response from Liberia

1. Information from Senegal

MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND MARITIME ECONOMY

Dakar, 5 November 2015

THE MINISTER
SUBJECT: Vessel inspection "NEW BAI I, No. 168"

Hon. Minister,

The vessel New Bai I No. 168, (Ex Tai Yuan 227), certified with provisional Liberian nationality, was inspected several times, from 17 to 22 October 2015 by the Fishery Protection and Surveillance Department services (*Direction de la protection et de la surveillance des pêches - DPSP*).

The vessel arrived in Dakar on 16 October 2015, and is currently moored to dock 10 (*Mole 10*) of the Autonomous Port of Dakar (*Port Autonome).* This vessel is suspected of conducting illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities and would also seem to be the Samudera Pacific 8, flagged Indonesian vessel, investigated by the Republic of South Africa.

These inspections proved that on 15 September 2015 to 16 October 2015, the vessel New Bai I, No. 168, carried out transhipment operations of tuna-like species in the Convention area of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), without complying with the terms established under the provisions of Section 3 of Recommendation 12-06 of this Organisation.

In fact, in accordance with this section, transhipment of tuna and tuna-like species, can only be allowed on authorised carrier vessels. This should result in the inclusion of the vessel in the ICCAT list.

Moreover, Section 4 of this same Recommendation has been violated as no authorization to tranship fishery products by the flag State of the vessel was previously obtained.

Under the light of abovementioned information, the vessel New Bai I, No. 168, has committed fishing infringements outside the waters under Senegalese jurisdiction, in contravention with ICCAT regulations, namely:

- Non-inclusion in the authorised List of Carrier Vessels;
- Lack of transhipment authorisation issued by the Liberian authorities.

Apart from the port State measures, which have not yet been implemented by Senegal, it is up to the flag State of the vessel to enforce the appropriate sanctions and, if necessary, for ICCAT to include it to the IUU vessel list.

Therefore, following the measures you decide to implement, I would appreciate it if you could transmit the attached documents to the competent Liberian authorities in order for them to provide information on these infringements and, if applicable, carry out the necessary procedures in accordance with Article 117 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea that stipulates that "*all States have the duty to adopt, or to cooperate with other States in adopting, such measures for their respective nationals as may be necessary for the biological conservation of resources of the high seas*".

Yours sincerely,
(Stamped and sealed)
Oumar Gueye

Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Senegalese Abroad – Dakar

Attachments:
- Inspection Report
- List of vessels involved
- Notification of final entry
- Copy of provisional nationality act

Formulaire du Rapport d'inspection au port ICCAT

1. N° du rapport d'inspection 0005242		**SENEGAL**	**2. État du port**			
3. Autoritéchargée de l'inspection		**Direction Protection et Surveillance des Pêches**				
4. Nom de l'inspecteur principal		**OusmanaeNiang SEYE**	ID			
5. Port d'inspection		**DAKAR**				
6. Début de l'inspection		2015	10	19	09HAM	
7. Fin de l'inspection		2015	10	22	09H AM	
8. Notification préalable reçue		Oui. DENONCIATION				
9. Objet de l'accès au port	LAN					
10. Nom du port et de l'État et date dernière escale					MM	JJ
11. Nom du navire	NEW BAI 1 N 169					
12. Etat de pavillon	LIBERIA					
13. Type de navire	FISH CARRIER					
14. IRCS (indicatif international d'appel radio)	YGMY					
15. ID certificatd'immatriculation	83310					
16. ID navire OMI, si disponible	NO					
17. ID externe, le cas échéant	NEW BAI 1 N 168					
18. Port d'attache	MONROVIA					
19. Propriétaire(s) du navire	**SHIN Pao K ONG WinnirTsengi 100%**					
20. Propriétaire(s) bénéficiaire(s) du navire, si connu(s) et différent(s) du propriétaire du navire						
21. Opérateur(s) du navire, si différent(s) du propriétaire du navire						
22. Nom et nationalité du capitaine du navire	YU XIN FENG					
23. Nom et nationalité du capitaine de pêche	CHINESE					
24.Agent du navire	CBA					
25. VMS	Non		Type :			

26. Statut au sein de l'ICCAT, y compris toute inscription sur une liste de navires IUU

Identifiant du navire	ORGP	Statut de l'État du pavillon Partie Contractante	Navire sur liste des navires autorisés NON	Navire sur liste des navires IUU

27. Autorisations de pêcheappropriées

Identifiant	*Délivrée par*	*Validité*	*Zone de pêche*	*Espèce*	*Engin*
NEANT					

28. Autorisations de transbordementappropriées

Identifiant		*Délivrée par*		*Validité*	
Identifiant *NEANT*		*Délivrée par*		*Validité*	

29. Information sur le transbordement intéressant les navires donateurs

Nom :	*Etat de pavillon*	*Numéro ID*	*Espèce*	*Produit*	*Zone(s) de pêche*	*Quantité (Tonnes)*
YU YOU 236			*Blue shark Misk*		N1/W2	**10,858**
Yun Hong 2			*Blue shark Misk shark*		N2/W10	**22,022**
Kuan Li			*Blue shark* Dry Fin		S1/E2	**34,1**
Liao Yuan Yu 98			*Misk shark*		N2/W10	**23?37**
						90,32

30. Évaluation des captures débarquées (quantité)

Espèce	*Produit*	*Zone(s) de pêche*	*Quantité déclarée*	*Quantité débarquée*	*Différence éventuelle entre quantité déclarée et quantité déterminée*
Blue shark			*50, 863*	*50,863*	*NEANT*
Misk			*20, 322*	*20,322*	
shark			*16,035*	*16,035*	
Dry fin			*3,1*	*3,1*	

31. Captures restées à bord (quantité)

Espèce	*Produit*	*Zone(s) de pêche*	*Quantitédéclarée*	*Quantitérestée à bord*	*Différence éventuelle entre quantité déclarée et quantité déterminée*

32. Examen des registres de pêche et d'autres documents	*Oui*		*Aucun document de capture à bord*
33. Respect du/des système(s) de documentation des captures applicable(s)		*Non*	
34. Respect du/des programme(s) de document statistique applicable(s)		*Non*	
35. Type d'enginutilisé	Aucun		
36. Enginexaminé		*Non*	

37. Conclusions de l'inspecteur **Navire ayant procédé à un transbordement en mer sans autorisation car n'étant pas inscrit sur la liste des navires de l'ICCAT autorisés**

38. Infraction(s) apparente(s) détectée(s), y compris renvoi aux instruments juridiques pertinents
- Navire non inscrit sur la liste des navires de charge autorisés par ICCAT **(Section 3, recommandation 12-06)**
- Transbordement en mer sans autorisation **(Section 4, recommandation 12-06)**

39. Observations du capitaine **NEANT**

40. Mesures prises **Saisine de l'Etat du pavillon – Transmission du rapport d'inspection à l'ICCAT**

41. Signature du capitaine*

42. Signature de l'inspecteur

*La signature du capitaine ne sert que comme accusé de réception d'une copie du rapport d'inspection.

Ousmane NIANG SEYE

REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND MARITIME AFFAIRS
Fishery Protection and Surveillance Department Services (DPSP)

DPSP

VESSEL INSPECTION REPORT NEW BAI I, NO. 168

The Fishery Protection and Surveillance Department Services (*Direction de la protection et de la surveillance des pêches - DPSP*), within the framework of its inspection and control missions to fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, conducted a series of visits, from 16 to 22 October 2015, on board the vessel New Bai 1 No. 168, suspected to have conducted illegal fishing activities.

The following information was collected:

1. Vessel characteristics;
2. Nationality and crew;
3. Transshipment positions, composition and tonnage of species landed in the port of Dakar;
4. List of vessels that carried out the catches transshiped;
5. Destination of the products landed at the port of Dakar.

1. Vessel characteristics

The vessel characteristics are included in the following table:

Length	49,30m
Width	9,42m
Gross tonnage	505 tons
Net tonnage	184 tons
Home port	Monrovia

2. Nationality and vessel crew

Following the verification of a certificate of provisional nationality among other documents presented and, the inquiry of the captain and the vessel consigner, it appears that the vessel New Bai No. 168 has provisional Liberian nationality and would be the former Tai Yuan No. 227. It transports fishing products, consigned by the company CONSULTING BUSINESS AGENCY SARL, based in Dakar.

The vessel crew includes (25) people. Of these (14) are Indonesian, (4) Chinese, (2) Vietnamese and (5) Philippines (Crew list attached).

The consigner stated that the passports of all the members of the crew had been retained by the police of the port.

3. Transshipment positions, composition and tonnage of the species landed in the port of Dakar

According to the consigner, the vessel was moored at the fishing port of Dakar from April 2014, during a legal dispute between the vessel owner and ANAM. It left the port on 15 September 2015 to carry out a transhipment with other fishing vessels in the positions 01°N/02°W; 02°N/10W; 01°S/02°E (see: Transshipment declaration attached).

It went into the port of Dakar on 17 October 2015 carrying of 92.32 t of sharks and fins (see: Transshipment declaration attached).

4. List of vessels that carried out the transshipped catches

The list of four (04) vessels that carried out the catches are include in the transshipment declaration attached. Given that it refers to the characteristics and other information related to these fishing vessels, the consigner stated that he did not have this information.

5. Destination of the landed products

The vessel landed its products on 20 October 20145. According to the consigner the final destination of the landed products is Singapore.

Conclusion

As regards the information collected, the vessel NEW BAI No. 168 has not carried out any infringements in waters under Senegalese jurisdiction. However, in contravention with ICCAT Recommendation 12-06, the consigner has not presented an ICCAT transshipment authorisation. Furthermore, the vessel is not included in the ICCAT list of authorised transport vessels.

Moreover, with the lack of information as regards the vessels that fished and transshipped the product constitutes sufficient evidence in bad faith to initiate the investigations concerning the vessel.

Attachments:

- Certificate of provisional nationality
- Crew List
- Transshipment declaration
- Inspection reports

Dakar, 26 October 2016

The inspectors
(signed):

- Ousmane Niang SEYE
- Amadou Moussa BAD
- Moussa CISSE

THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

Liberia Maritime Authority

DOMESTIC PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION

Certificate No: C/N-0310-15

Vessel Name: NEW BAI I # 168

Official Number: 81310 Call Sign: YGMY Home Port: Monrovia

IMO Number:

VESSEL PARTICULAR

Vessel Type:	Fish Carrier	Number of Masks:	2	Year Built:	1973
Place Built:	Japan	Number of Decks:	1	Hull Material:	Steel
Length Overall:	49.3	Length:	49.30	Propelling Power (KW):	1650HP
Breadth:	9.42	Depth:	4.42	NO. and Type of Engine:	Hanshin 1650 HP
Net Tons:	184	Gross Tons:	505	Name of Manufacturing:	Miho Shipyard Akasaka, Japan

Acc: International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ship (1969)

OWNERSHIP DECLARATION

This is to ceritify that pursuant to the provisions of Chapter II SECTION 371 of Title 21 of the Liberia Code of Laws 1956 as amended, Djibril Diallo, having submitted the required declaration of ownership, does depose and say that:

Owner Name: Shin Pao K ONG Winnie Tsengi Citizenship: Taiwanese Proportion: 100%

is (are) the sole owner (s) of the herein Named and describe vessel.

And whereas the Liberia Maritime Authority, on behalf of the Government of Liberia, approved the application of the aforesaid owner for registration of the vessel and whereas the owner has complied with the requirements for registration and submitted same, the vessel is therefore duly registered under the Laws and the flag of the Republic of Liberia.

This Provisional Certificate Registry and all rights and privileges accorded hereunder, shall expire on the 4th of December 2015

Issue by the Authority of the Government of the Republic of Liberia at Monrovia this 5th of October 2015

Approved:

Deputy Commissioner - DDYRS

CREW LIST

Name of ship: NEW BAI I # 168

Nationality: Liberian

Number of crews on board: 25

NO	NAME	NATIONALITY	DUTY
1	YU XIN FENG	CHINA	CAPTAIN
2	LUO XIANG KUANG	CHINA	CHIEF ENGINEER
3	YEH WEN PING	P.R.C. (CHINA)	SECOND CHIEF.ENG.
4	CALATA NOEL CALLUENG	PHILIPPINE	BOSCO
5	SUKENDI	INDONESIA	CREW
6	SOLEMAN KLENNA	INDONESIA	CREW
7	GLEN RIKUMAHA	INDONESIA	CREW
8	FALDI NGINDAAN	INDONESIA	CREW
9	SOLEMAN	INDONESIA	CREW
10	ARDI WANTO	INDONESIA	CREW
11	DEDI RISTIAWAN	INDONESIA	CREW
12	ALMAZAN GLENN MACCALI	PHILIPPINE	CREW
		En transbordement	
13	AQUINO RODRIGO	PHILIPPINE	CREW
14	NITURA DOMER SARMAC	PHILIPPINE	CREW
15	SISWANTO	INDONESIA	CREW
16	SETO KADARUSMAN	INDONESIA	CREW
17	AHMARUDDIN	INDONESIA	CREW
18	MISBAH NURULOH	INDONESIA	CREW
19	AGUS SUSANTO	INDONESIA	CREW
20	CAPILAR DENNES JAY AR BATALLA	PHILIPPINE	CREW
21	YU HE DA	CHINA	CREW
22	HO VAN HONG	VIETNAM	CREW
23	NGUYEN HUU LINH	VIETNAM	CREW
24	MELKIAS BERHITU	INDONESIA	CREW
25	YERMIAS INU MANGGUALI	INDONESIA	CREW

THE MASTER

鑫百鎰168會船計劃 / New Bai I 168 transhipment

No. 序	Vessel 船名	Position 船位	Blue shark 劍旗	Misc 雜魚	Shark 水鯊	Wet fin 濕翅	Dry fin 乾翅	Sub-total 小計
1	Yu You 236/豈友236	N1/W2	9,577	1,251				10,828
2	Shin Lung 216/信隆216	N1/W2	0	0	0	0		0
3	Yun Hong 2/允宏2	N2/W10	10,286	8,146	3,59			22,022
4	Hung Yao 2/鴻耀2	N3/W13						
5	YI Fu / 益富	N3/W17						
6	Shin Yu 16/信友16	N3/W21						
7	Kuan Li/光利	S1/E2	31				3,1	34,1
8	Chun Fa 888/春發888	N2/W17	0	0				0
9	Hong Chin/虹進	N2/W17	0	0	0	0		0
10	Hong Sheng/虹昇	N3/W18	0	0	0			0
11	Liao Yuan Yu 98/遼遠漁98	N2/W10	0	10,925	12,445			23,37
12	Chin Hsun Kuo/金順國	N2/W10	0	0	0	0	0	0
13								
14								
15								
16								
17								
18								
			50,863	20,322	16,035	0	3,1	90,32

2. Response from China

From: Zhao liling [mailto:liling.zhao@hotmail.com]
Sent: martes, 12 de julio de 2016 6:47
To: Jenny Cheatle
Cc: info; admin1@tuna.org.cn
Subject: Fwd: 回复: Fwd: Report of transhipments in Senegalese waters

Dear Colleagues,

Reference is made to the below email regarding Chinese fishing vessel involved in transshipment at sea in Senegalese waters which was not consistent with ICCAT conservation and management measures. After receiving your email we immediately initiated the investigation on the vessel. Right now we wish to report the outcomes and the actions taken by us as follows:

Firstly, I wish to advise that only one Chinese fishing vessel, namely Liao Yuan Yu 98, is flagged to China, the fish product transshipped to Liberia-flagged carrier vessel NEW BAI I No.168 included 12445kg of sharks and 10925 miscellaneous fish. Liao Yuan Yu 98 is duly authorized by China to conduct fishing activities in Atlantic Oceans and registered in ICCAT record of vessels, but the fishing vessel owner did not apply this transshipment before it is occurred, meanwhile, the Liberia-flagged carrier vessel NEW BAI I No.168 is neither registered in the ICCAT record of vessels nor authorized by China to receive transhippment from Chinese fishing vessels, thus violate the provisions of ICCAT Recommendation 12-06.

Through investigation we were advised by the fishing vessel owner that it was the captain himself of Liao Yuan Yu 98 who personally decide to transship some sharks and miscellaneous fish to NEW BAI I No.168 given the fishing season is approaching while the hold capacity is very shortage but without report such behaviour to his company.

In view of the severity of this incident and according to Chinese Fisheries Law, we take the following punishment:

1. Suspend the issuance of statistical document for the fish caught by Liao Yuan Yu 98 from the date receiving your email until now, and expect to continue to extend the date until the case be settled appropriately.
2. Suspend the authorization of at-sea transshipment of Liao Yuan Yu 98 to any other carrier vessels until now.
3. Permanently revoke the captain's certificate of Liao Yuan Yu 98 and impose a penalty to him. And now the fishing vessel owner has teriminated the contract with the captain of Liao Yuan Yu 98, he will be sent back to China when Liao Yuan Yu 98 call at port of Senegal for vessel inspection during August or September this year. Currently, the chief engineer will replace him to assume the position of captain.
4. Impose the maximum fine to Liao Yuan Yu 98, equivalent to around 300 thousand US dollars.
5. Deduct three month salary to the principal staff of this company for dereliction of duty.

In addition to above punishment, we asked the company to conduct internal rectification, learn carefully ICCAT conservation and management measures, especially the at-sea transshipment recommendation (Rec.12-06), make sure that the captains of all the fishing vessel must know about the regulation and procedure on at-sea transshipment, avoid such incident in the future.

Please transmit the above information to the relevant authority of Senegal for their reference.

I hope the above information could make you satisfaction and if you have any other queries please feel free to let me know.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Regards.
Liling ZHAO
Director, Division of Deep sea Fishing, Bureau of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, China.

From: Zhao liling [mailto:liling.zhao@hotmail.com]
Sent: jueves, 26 de mayo de 2016 9:48
To: Jenny Cheatle
Cc: info
Subject: Fwd: ??: Fwd: Report of transhipments in Senegalese waters

Dear Colleagues,

This is to acknowledge with many thanks receipt of your below email regarding the alleged transshipment of Chinese fishing vessel to a Liberia carrier vessel.

We take note of the donor vessels in the last page of your attachment, but kindly be advised that only one fishing vessel, namely Liao Yuan Yu 98 is flagged to China. We attach high importance to this incident and now the internal investigation over this vessel is under way, I wish to inform you that we decided to suspend issuing the BET catch certificate and authorization letter for transshipment for this vessel as an initial response.

We will keep you updated with any investigation result, thanks for your cooperation and consideration.

Best regards.

Liling ZHAO
Director
Division of Deep Sea Fishing,
Bureau of Fisheries,
Ministry of Agriculture China.

3. Response from Chinese Taipei

行政院農業委員會漁業署
FISHERIES AGENCY
Council of Agriculture, Executive Yuan
8F, No.100, Sec. 2, Heping W. Rd., Taipei, Taiwan
TEL: 886-2-2383-5833 FAX: 886-2-2332-7395 http://www.fa.gov.tw

October 14, 2016
No.16/37

Dr. Driss Meski
Executive Secretary
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic tunas
C/ Corazón de María, 8-6th floor,
28002 Madrid, Spain

Subject: Response from Chinese Taipei on the Liberian Carrier Vessel New-Bai-I 168 Case

Dear Dr. Meski,

Regarding the port inspection report No. 5242 on the Liberian Carrier Vessel New-Bai-I 168 made by Senegal, please find attached the information on this case provided by Chinese Taipei.

Sincerely yours,

Ding-Rong Lin

Ding-Rong Lin
Head of Chinese Taipei Delegation to ICCAT

Enclosure: as the attachment

C.C.
Mr. Derek Campbell, COC chair
Mr. Cheikh Sarr, Head of Senegal

Response from Chinese Taipei on the Liberian Carrier Vessel New-Bai-I 168 Case

The purpose of this response is to provide additional information on the Liberian carrier vessel New-Bai-I 168 Case.

According to the inspection report submitted by Senegal dated 26 October 2015, the Senegal authority conducted a port inspection on the Liberian carrier vessel New-Bai-I 168 in the port of Dhaka from 19 to 22 October 2015. The carrier vessel had engaged in transshipment activities in the ICCAT Convention area without authorization, was not on the ICCAT Record of vessel lists, and thus was in contravention of the ICCAT Recommendation 12-06. The inspection report indicated that the carrier vessel is registered under the flag of the Republic of Liberia, and owned by a Chinese Taipei national. Based on its transshipment plan, the carrier vessel was scheduled to conduct transshipment at sea with 12 fishing vessels. Finally, the report confirmed that the carrier vessel received transshipment from four of those 12 fishing vessels, three of which were under the flag of Chinese Taipei, namely Yu You No. 236, Yun Hong No.2 and Kuan Li.

After receiving relevant information in July 2016, an investigation on the Case was promptly conducted by Chinese Taipei in order to clarify any possible violations of fishing vessels under its flag. Results of the investigation and actions taken are provided as follows:

1. In accordance with the report submitted by Senegal and other relevant information, Chinese Taipei investigated and cross-checked relevant information regarding these three fishing vessels to verify if violations were conducted, including vessel positions reported by Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), the record of transshipment application and authorization, data from e-logbook and trade date, etc. In addition, owners of these three fishing vessels were required to submit official reports on relevant fishing activities and present in person at the office of Chinese Taipei's fishery authority for further interrogation.

2. After detailed investigations, it was confirmed that these three fishing vessels had engaged in transshipment with the said carrier vessel without authorization in early October 2015. Consequently, on 26 August 2016 Chinese Taipei ordered those three fishing vessels to stop fishing immediately in the Atlantic Ocean and return to their home port, Kaohsiung. Severe sanctions have been imposed on these three vessels, including 1) fishing licenses of these vessels are suspended for one year; 2) during the period of their license suspension, these vessels will be closely monitored by relevant authorities to ensure that they will not have the opportunity to leave their home port; 3) the Fishing Vessel Crew Identification and the Certificate of Fishing Vessel Officers of the captains of these three vessels are also suspended for one year; and 4) catch quota allocated to these fishing vessels are confiscated.

3. As regards to the Chinese Taipei owner of the carrier vessel, based on the "Act to Govern Investment in the Operation of Foreign Flag Fishing Vessels" any Chinese Taipei national engaging in business in the operation of a foreign flag fishing vessel without authorization and violating relevant regulations is liable to imprisonment for a period of not exceeding three years, and may be liable to an additional fine up to ten millions New Chinese Taipei Dollars (about 300 thousand USD). We would be very grateful if Liberia could provide us with further information on this for further investigations.

Chinese Taipei would like to reiterate its commitment to fulfill the responsibility in this organization, and its intention to cooperate with all the parties concerned to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, which has undermined joint efforts made by all ICCAT CPCs to ensure the sustainable utilization of marine living resources. To this end, Chinese Taipei warmly welcomes every CPC to provide us relevant information to enhance international fisheries enforcement. Meanwhile, Chinese Taipei will also continue its efforts to enhance its conservation and management measures for marine fisheries resources.

4. Letter from the Secretariat to Liberia and response from Liberia

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

ICCAT CICTA CICAA

COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA CONSERVATION DES THONIDES DE L'ATLANTIQUE

COMISION INTERNACIONAL PARA LA CONSERVACION DEL ATUN ATLANTICO

1 August 2016

Mr. W. Boeh,
Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)
Bureau of National Fisheries (BNF)
P.O. Box 10-90100
Monrovia 10
LIBERIA

ICCAT-SALIDA
N.º 5156
FECHA 1 AGO. 2016

Dear Mr. Boeh,

I have the honour to inform you that the Secretariat received a copy of the attached letter from the authorities of Senegal, referring to the report of an inspection of a Liberian flagged carrier vessel.

We have been informed by Senegal that no response has been received to date. Given that the report contains possible non-compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures, we are enclosing a translation into English of the letter from Senegal, and should be grateful if you could respond to them, with a copy to the ICCAT Secretariat.

We should also be grateful if you could assist us in determining the flag of the donor vessels which made transhipments to this carrier. The People's Republic of China has confirmed that one of their vessels was involved, and that this vessel has been sanctioned. However, from the report, the flag of the remaining vessels is not clear.

We thank you in advance for your explanations and assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

COMISION INTERNACIONAL ICCAT Conservación ATUN

Driss Meski
Executive Secretary

Corazón de María, 8 – 28002 MADRID – Spain, Espagne, España – Tel: +34 91 416 5600 – Fax+34 91 415 2612 – *http://www.iccat.int- info@iccat.int*

REPORT
M/V New Bai I No. 168

Documented
By
The Bureau of National Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture
February 29, 2016

Introduction

On November 16, 2015, the Senegalese Fisheries Authorities reported unauthorized transshipment conducted by M/V New Bai I No. 168, a reefer, off the Senegalese waters. New Bai I No. 168 was issued a two (2) month (October-December 2015) DOMESTIC PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION (see **Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**) by the Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA). Prior to that, M/V New Bai No. 168 had also submitted a fishing license application to the Bureau of National Fisheries (BNF) in 2015 which was being evaluated through the due diligence process.

On October 15-16, 2015 according to the Senegalese Authorities, the refer transshipped tuna & tuna related species at sea, off the Senegalese waters, without the required Authorizations from Liberia (BNF) and the Senegalese fisheries Authorities. Since the transshipment at sea occurred off the Senegalese waters, appropriate steps were taken by the Senegalese fisheries and maritime authorities and reports shared with Liberia. The vessel's details are provided in Table 1 below:

Table 1. Vessel's Details	
Present Name	New Bai I No. 168
Former Name	SAMUDRA
Call Sign	YGGM
Port of Registry	BITUNG
Former Flag	Indonesia
GRT	505
Year Built	1973

This report documents all activities of New Bai I No. 168 in relations to the transshipment conducted off the Senegalese waters on October 15-16, 2015. The report includes method, findings, conclusion and recommendations.

Method

The method used to document the transshipment at sea (suspected breach) of M/V New Bai I No. 168 off the Senegalese waters included cooperation and exchange of information between the Liberian and the Senegalese Fisheries Authorities, the West Africa Task Force (WATF)[1] and inter-agency sharing of information (i.e. sharing of information between the BNF and the Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA)). To verify some of the information received concerning the vessel, separate communications were sent to the vessel's Agent to provide information clarification as required. The information and the reports received were reviewed, verified and analyzed by the technical team of the BNF.

Findings

1. Based on the 2015 industrial fishing vessel list/registry of the BNF, it is established that the M/V New Bai I No. 168 was not registered and licensed as a fishing vessel by the BNF in 2015.
2. The BNF 2010 Fisheries Regulations mainly address fishing activities within the national jurisdiction and does not cover Liberia's fishing vessels' activities (transshipment) beyond national jurisdiction. Nevertheless, Liberia must apply ICCAT's recommendation on transshipment since it is a member of ICCAT and the transshipment occurred in ICCAT's management area.
3. It is established that the M/V New Bai I No. 168 was provisionally registered (flagged) to Liberia by the LiMA for a two (2) month period (October-December 2015). The provisional registration which expired on December 4, 2015 was done under the LiMA's domestic registration.
4. It is established that after the issuance of the Domestic Provisional Registration Certificate of M/V New Bai I No. 168 by the LiMA, the October 15-16, 2015 transshipment off the Senegalese waters is the first reported unauthorized transshipment.

[1] A regional project that uses a platform called Basecamp for the purpose of information sharing in relations to the fight against Illegal unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities within the West African Region.

5. Based on the inspection report provided by the Senegalese Authorities, M/V New Bai I No. 168 transshipped at sea on October 15-16, 2015 without satisfying the required conditions of section (3) of International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) recommendation 12-06[2]. According to paragraph 8 and 9 of that section, 'Transhipment 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. […]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.'. New Bai I No. 168 is not a licensed and registered carrier on the BNF's 2015 list of industrial fishing vessels. Also, section (4) of the same recommendation has been violated; this requires obtaining a transshipment authorization of tuna from the vessel flag state. The fishing vessels involved in the transshipment and the species transshipped are provided in Table 2 below: On the list of the fishing vessels involved in the transshipment, it is not specified which of the twelve vessels are longliners or purse seiners. The four longliners that transshipped 90 tons of tuna to the New Bai I No. 168 did not have ICCAT's authorization[3].

Table 2. New Bai I No. 168 Transshipment.

No.	Vessel	Position	Blue shark	Misc	Shark	Wet fin	Dry fin	Sub-total
序	船名	船位	劍旗	雜魚	水鯊	濕翅	乾翅	小計
1	Yu You 236/堉友236	N1/W2	9,577	1,251				10 828
2	Shin Lung 216/信隆216	N1/W2	0	0	0	0		0
3	Yun Hong 2/允宏2	N2/W10	10,286	8,146	3,59			22,012
4	Hung Yao 2/鴻耀2	N3/W13						
5	Yi Fu / 益富	N3/W17						
6	Shin Yu 16/信友16	N3/W21						
7	Kuan Li/光利	S1/E2	31				3,1	34,1
8	Chun Fa 888/春發888	N2/W17	0	0				0
9	Hong Chin/虹進	N2/W17	0	0	0	0		0
10	Hong Sheng/虹昇	N3/W18	0	0	0			0
11	Liao Yuan Yu 98/遼遠漁98	N2/W10	0	10,925	12,445			23,37
12	Chin Hsin Kuo/金興國	N2/W10	0	0	0	0	0	0
13								
14								
15								
16								
17								
18								
			50,863	20,322	16,035	0	3,1	90,32

6. The New Bai I No. 168 is not on the list of ICCAT's registered vessels.
7. There was no transshipment authorization issued by the BNF[4].
8. There was no proven link between New Bai I No. 168 & Samudera Pasific 8. According to the Owner of New Bai I No. 168 'there is absolutely no relationship between New Bai I No. 168 & TAI YUAN # 227' (see **Addendum 2 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**). This result corroborates with the findings of WATF (WATF October 19, 2015).
9. The New Bai I No. 168 former name was SAMUDRA and was formerly flagged to Indonesia.

[2] http://www.iccat.int/Documents/Recs/compendiopdf-e/2012-06-e.pdf accessed on 02/26/2016.
[3] The names of four longliners that transshipped to the New Bai I No. 168 were not specified in the Senegalese inspection report.
[4] The BNF did not issue a transshipment authorization to the New Bai I No. 168 since the vessel was not registered and licensed by the BNF.

Conclusion & Recommendation

1. Considering that the 2015 industrial fisheries registry (or list of industrial fishing vessels) does not include New Bai I No. 168, it can be concluded that the BNF was not aware of the vessel and its operations in Senegal. Furthermore, by regulations *inter-alia* all registered and licensed fishing vessels[5] are required to have Mobile Transceiver Units (MTUs) installed on board the vessel before commencement of fishing activities.

   Since the vessel was provisionally registered for two months (i.e. October-November 2015) by the LiMA and probably preparing to register the vessel for 2016, thus, it is recommended that the BNF and LiMA work closely together to ensure that the vessel is flagged (LiMA's Certification), registered and licensed (BNF) as a Liberian fishing vessel.

2. Since LiMA provisionally registered/certificated New BaI I No. 168 and that the provisional certification was to basically allow the vessel to sail from its position to Liberia to begin official registration processes with the BNF & the LiMA, it can be concluded that the provisional certification was done by LiMA without the involvement

   Based on the fact that BNF and the LiMA are two key agencies of government interacting with owners of fishing vessels (investors) before commencement of fishing business in Liberia, it is therefore recommended that the two agencies improve their working relations and coordination to avoid the reoccurrence of missteps.

3. Considering that the 2010 Fisheries Regulations is not clear on Liberia's fishing vessels transshipment activities beyond national jurisdiction and since Liberia is a contracting party (CPC) to ICCAT and that the transshipment occurred off the Senegalese waters which is within ICCAT jurisdiction, It can be concluded that ICCAT's 'recommendation 12-06' sections (3) & (4) was breached.

   Therefore, it is recommended that BNF invite New BaI I No. 168 to Liberia to conduct the necessary inspection(s) of the vessel and complete the due diligence processes probably leading to registration and licensing of the vessels for 2016. Besides, as and when the BNF completes all corrective actions of New BaI I No. 168, the name and technical details of the vessels must be communicated to ICCAT for inclusion on its list of authorized vessels. Furthermore, the BNF should immediately, upon completion of its remedial actions, communicate to ICCAT on actions taken against the vessel.

4. Although the Senegalese inspection report on the vessel's transshipment activities on Oct 15-16, 2015 reported that about 90 tons of tuna were transshipped by four long-line vessels, Table 2 above (i.e. list of species transshipped) provides details on the fish species transshipped, therefore, it can be cautiously concluded that only Shark species were transshipped to New Bai I No. 168. Nevertheless, miscellaneous species are included on the list of species transshipped which needs to be clarified. Also the list and name of the supply vessels to New Bai I No. 168 need to be verified. Thus, it is recommended that the BNF communicates with the Senegalese Fisheries Authorities to possibly provide the list of the four long-liners that transshipped to the New BaI I No. 168 on said date at least to communicate to the flag states and ICCAT for possible corrective actions.

5. Since there is no established link between New BaI I No. 168 and Samudura Pasific 8 and that New BaI I No. 168 agent reported that the former name of the vessel was SAMUDRA formerly flagged to Indonesia, it can be concluded that completing the due diligence process is necessary to authenticate the facts surrounding the vessel's past and present history. Since the vessel is still interested in obtaining fishing license from the BNF, it is recommended that the vessel be immediately called to Liberia for the conduct of physical inspections and pre-licensing processes.

[5] Reefers or fish carriers are also fishing vessels according to the 2010 fisheries regulations.

6. The findings of the BNF regarding the New BaI I No. 168 should be communicated to the Senegalese fisheries authorizes after final physical inspections of the vessel at the Free Port of Monrovia.

References

1. Ministry of Fisheries, Economic & Maritime, Dakar, Senegal (2015). *Direction de La protection et de La Surveillance des Pêches (DPSP)* inspection report NEW BAAII II No 168.

2. West Africa Task Force (WATF) INTREP (2015). Intelligence report. Preliminary report, response to request for assistance from Liberia.

Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10

LiMA Domestic Provisional Certificate of Registration

THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA
Liberia Maritime Authority

DOMESTIC PROVISIONAL CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION

Certificate No: C/N-0310-15

Vessel Name: NEW BAI I # 168

Official Number: 81310 Call Sign: YGMY Home Port: Monrovia

IMO Number:

VESSEL PARTICULAR

Vessel Type:	Fish Carrier	Number of Masks:	2	Year Built:	1973
Place Built:	Japan	Number of Decks:	1	Hull Material:	Steel
Length Overall:	49.3	Length:	49.30	Propelling Power (KW):	1650HP
Breadth:	9.42	Depth:	4.42	NO. and Type of Engine:	Hanshin 1650 HP
Net Tons:	184	Gross Tons:	505	Name of Manufacturing:	Miho Shipyard Akasaka, Japan

Acc: International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ship (1969)

OWNERSHIP DECLARATION

This is to ceritify that pursaunt to the provisions of Chapter II SECTION 371 of Title 21 of the Liberia Code of Laws 1956 as amended, Djibril Diallo, having submitted the required declaration of ownership, does depose and say that:

Owner Name: Shin Pao K ONG Winnie Tsengi Citizenship: Taiwanese Proportion: 100%

Is (are) the sole owner (s) of the herein Named and describe vessel.

And whereas the Liberia Maritime Authority, on behalf of the Government of Liberia, approved the application of the aforesaid owner for registration of the vessel and whereas the owner has complied with the requirements for registration and submitted same, the vessel is therefore duly registered under the Laws and the flag of the Republic of Liberia.

This Provisional Certificate Registry and all rights and privileges accorded hereunder, shall expire on the 4th of December 2015

Issue by the Authority of the Government of the Republic of Liberia at Monrovia this 5th of October 2015

Approved:
Deputy Commissioner - DDYRS

Addendum 2 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10

Response the vessel's Agent

CONSULTING BUSINESS SHIPPING AGENCY CO. LTD
Shipping Agency - Fish Stevedoring Hauling
Shipchandler - Forwarder
E-mail : cbashipping@hotmail.com

N/Ref: DD/BNF/172016/06

February 18, 2016

Mr. William Y. Boeh
Coordinator
Bureau of National Fisheries
Ministry of Agriculture
1000 Monrovia, 10 Liberia

Dear Mr. Boeh:

In response to your inquiries about carrier NEW BAI #168, please note the below responses to address your concerns:

1. There is absolutely no relationship between NEW BAI #168 and TAI YUAN #227
2. NEW BAI # 168 former name was SAMUDRA
3. NEW BAI # 168 former flag is Indonesia

I hope the above responses adequately addressed you inquiries as we anticipate the issuance of the New Bai # 168 permit to commence operations.

We want to thank you for your usual cooperation and kind consideration.

Kind regards,

Djibril Diallo
Associate Directeur

Consulting Business Shipping Agency Quai de Pêche Môle 10 Directeur

Boite Postale : 12463 - Quai de Pêche Mole 10 - Dakar Port Sénégal - Tél : +221 33 842 82 02
NINEA : 00539147.RC : SN DKR 1015 B 2950

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 10

Position Statement of Liberia on New Bai I No.168

Mr. Driss Meski
Executive Secretary
ICCAT
Calle Corazón de María, 8, Sixth Floor,
28002 Madrid, Spain

Dear Mr. Meski:

Liberia, a Contracting Party (CPC) to the 20th Special Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT); by and through the Bureau of National Fisheries (BNF), Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the Competent Authority responsible for the regulation, conservation and sustainable management of the fisheries resources in Liberian waters seizes this great opportunity to present to this August body its Position Statement with reference to Record 08-09 as indicated in Doc COC-307/2016 of ICCAT, as follow:

That, Liberia expresses thanks and appreciation to all contracting parties most especially Senegal, Chinese Taipei and China as well as ICAAT for the level of cooperation exhibited on the subject matter;

That, Liberia commits itself fully to the method, findings and recommendations outlined in its investigative report referenced above;

That, based on the 2015 industrial fishing vessel list/registry of the Bureau of National Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture (BNF/MOA), it is established that the M/V New Bai I No. 168 was not registered and licensed as a fishing vessel by the BNF/MOA in 2015;

That, M/V New Bai No 168 was not licensed and or authorized by BNF to transship tuna and tuna like species in Liberian waters or waters beyond national jurisdiction;

That, it is established that the M/V New Bai I No. 168 was provisionally registered to Liberia by the Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA) for a two (2) month period (October 5 - December 4, 2015). The provisional registration was done under the LiMA's domestic registration;

That, although, M/V New Bai No. 168 was issued domestic provisional certificate of registration by the Liberia Maritime Authority (LiMA), it had not completed the process to fully qualify as Liberian fishing vessel with the Bureau of National Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture;

That, it is established that after the issuance of the Domestic Provisional Registration Certificate to M/V New Bai I No. 168 by the LiMA, the October 15-16, 2015 transshipment off the Senegalese waters is the first reported unauthorized transhipment;

That, based on the inspection report provided by the Senegalese Authorities, M/V New Bai I No. 168 transshipped at sea on October 15-16, 2015 without satisfying the required conditions of section (3) of International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) recommendation 12-06. According to paragraph 8 and 9 of that section, '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. […]';

That, Liberia as a CPC has displayed high level of responsibility through cooperation and exchange of information with the Senegalese fisheries authority as indicated in its investigative report;

That, upon receiving information from the Senegalese fisheries authorities relative to the activities of illegal transshipment in the Senegalese waters by M/V New Bai No 168, the Coordinator of BNF sent an e-mail communication to the vessel Agent in Dakar not to sail M/V New Bai No 168 to Monrovia for pre-licensing inspection. *Copy of letter in response to the Coordinator email message hereto attached*;

That, although the M/V New Bai No 168 had applied for licence from BNF, the application had not been approved and in accordance with the Liberian law, fishing vessel had to obtain fishing licence or authorization before conducting fishing or fishing related activities. Therefore, the action by the vessel is considered illegal and unauthorized by the Competent Fisheries Authority in Liberia, BNF;

That, the Provisional Certificate issued by LiMA was intended for M/V New Bai No 168 to sail to Liberia to conduct physical inspection, but no to get involve in transshipment; notwithstanding, our Principals both at MOA and LiMA are committed to resolve this issue as soon as possible. ICCAT will be officially informed about the final solution in this regard;

That, the vessel New Bai No. 168 had been delisted from the LiMA's registry as at July 29, 2016*. Copy of the delisted certificate hereby attached;*

That, Liberia shall take punitive measures against all person (including non-citizen), all vessels (including foreign vessel) that contravenes the Fisheries Regulation of Liberia; *Application of Regulation;* [Part I; 2 (d) (ii) and (e)] pp 8-9.; Part V: 35 (1) (iii) (b);

That, Liberia shall implement to the fullest, 'The Republic of Liberia, Liberia Maritime Authority, Liberian Maritime Regulations – Safety, Documentation and Identification of Vessels; *Non Compliance with International Convention and Agreements; Penalty Revised Version RLM-108 Series 2/2013* Chapter II 2.35 (1)(2)(3)(4) p 7;

That, the BNF has revised its Fisheries Regulation and currently awaiting Executive Gazette; and that, the Liberia Fisheries Act (Bill) is currently before the legislature for concurrence and Liberia shall not hesitate to exercise applicable laws to fishing vessels that may contravene the Liberia fisheries law and international fisheries law upon enactment of the Bill;

That, Liberia conversant of its responsibility as a flag state shall provide account of all vessels conducting fishing and fishing related activities under its registry in its bid to uphold the goals, objectives and principles of ICCAT, other RFMOs as well as international binding and non-binding fisheries instruments;

That, Liberia continues to work with all the CPCs (Senegal, Chinese Taipei and China) involved to provide detail information that will assist in the investigation process in order to ensure total resolution of the issue of M/V New Bai No 168 and any other IUU related case;

That, Liberia continues its investigation and shall not hesitate to forward unfolding information to ICCAT in due course;

That, the vessel New Bai No 168 be listed as an illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) vessel under ICCAT Convention.

Thank you so much for your kind consideration.

Kind regards,

WILLIAM Y. BOEH
COORDINATOR, BNF/Head of Delegation
Monrovia, Liberia

Compliance Summary Tables

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
ALBANIA	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** No Task II Catch & Effort or size data received. The annual report presents data of 2014.	Albania is working to improve its data collection.	Commission to send letter on reporting issues, including a request for clarification and updates, as necessary, to ensure 2015 Annual Report contains information required for 2015.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** No Annual Report submitted (Parts 1 and 2). No task I T1FC fishing fleet form received. No STATS of any kind for 2015 were reported during 2016. Only summary table part 1 submitted late in November.	Albania has restructured duties recently. Next year will be on time.	Letter on reporting issues and lack of response to 2015 COC letter.
	Conservation and Management Measures: 14-04: Fishing plan received after the deadline.		***Actions taken by CPC:*** no reply to COC letter reporting deficiencies.	**Conservation and Management Measures:** No submission of MED-SWO list of authorised vessels and no closure report (Rec. 13-04)**;** Rec. 14-04, paras 19 & 52: late submission of E-BFT catching vessel; late submission of 14-04 implementation report. BCD annual report submitted late, Rec.11-20.		
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late.			**Quotas and catch limits:** Compliance tables received late. E-BFT overcatch in 2015.		
	Other issues: No reply to letter of concern. PNC reports contained in COC-305.			**Other issues:** PNCs under ROP-BFT contained in COC-305. EU informed that no reply to the inspection report (Rec. 14-04, Annex 7) was received.		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
ALGERIA	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:**	Algeria investigates all PNCs and takes necessary measures every time there is an incident in order to prevent reoccurence.	No action necessary.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** Task II size (ST04) for 2015 (BFT only and require correction).		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			**Conservation and Management Measures:** Rec. 13-13, paras 5bis/5tris: missing IRN number (IMO or other) for 1 vessel.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			**Quotas and catch limits:** E-BFT overcatch in 2015.		
	Other issues: PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305.			**Other issues:** PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305.		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
ANGOLA	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** No Annual Report submitted. No Task I Fleet Characteristics or size data submitted.	Artisanal data were submitted. Full information will be submitted later. No vessels over 20 m.	Letter on reporting issues.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** Summary table Part 1 and summary table Part II are missing from Annual Report.	In November Angola informed the Secretariat of the following: We have not sent the compliance tables previously as we do not have Angolan vessels for tuna fisheries. Therefore, our catches are considered (0.0). Tuna species in Angola were caught by contracted vessels with foreign flags.	Letter on reporting issues and lack of response to 2015 COC letter.
	Conservation and Management Measures:		***Actions taken by CPC:*** no reply to COC letter reporting deficiencies.	**Conservation and Management Measures:**		
	Quotas and catch limits: No compliance tables received.			**Quotas and catch limits:** No Compliance tables received.		
	Other issues: No reply to letter of concern. Response to letter of prohibition regarding 2013 catches received late/during the meeting.			**Other issues**:		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
BARBADOS	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** Part I of Annual Report received late.	Not present at the meeting.	Letter on N. SWO management plan and lack of response to 2014 letter on prohibition of retention of certain species in 2015 under Rec. 11-15.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:**		Letter on BUM overharvest, N SWO development /management plan, and lack of response to 2015 COC letter.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 13-02: No N. Swo management plan received in 2015.		***Actions taken by CPC:*** no reply to COC letter reporting deficiencies.	**Conservation and Management Measures:** No N-SWO plan received (Rec. 13-02).		
	Quotas and catch limits:			**Quotas and catch limits:** overharvest of BUM: 33 t.		
	Other issues: No response to letter of prohibition regarding 2013 catches.			**Other issues:**		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
BELIZE	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** Reporting summary Part II received late. Task II size data submitted in incorrect format.		Letter on retroactive vessel authorization request, reporting, and to request information regarding potential fishing by vessel with expired authorization.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:**		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 13-13/14-10 & Rec. 12-06: Vessels reported for changes/updates on P20m & Carriers lists with start dates more than 45 days prior to notification. No N. Swo management plan received in 2015.	Belize informed that its process for licence renewal is currently being modified.	**Actions taken by CPC:** Belize did reply to the COC letter reporting deficiencies.	**Conservation and Management Measures:**		
	Quotas and catch limits:			**Quotas and catch limits:**		
	Other issues: ROP_transhipment: PNC report contained in COC-305.	Belize explained that the logbook was not in the vessel and that it had been an administrative problem.		**Other issues:**		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
BRAZIL	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** Part I summary table of Annual Report received late. Reporting table of Part II received late. No Task I Fleet Characteristics or size data submitted.	Brazil informed that it first had to clarify its data and will then send them to the SCRS.	Letter on reporting (but noting improvement) and retroactive vessel authorization request.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** Summary table (section 3) missing from Annual Report; Annual Report summary tables contain several blanks or "N/A" without explanation.		Letter on reporting and retroactive vessel authorization submission.
	Conservation and Management measures: 13-13/14-10 & 14-01: Retroactive registration of vessels (P20m lists and/or TROP list), including one inactive of one year prior. Rec. 13-02: No N. Swo management plan received in 2015.	Brazil acknowledged that not submitting the N-SWO plan had been recurrent.	***Actions taken by CPC:*** Reply to COC letter reporting deficiencies.	**Conservation and Management measures:** 13-13/14-10 & 14-01/15-01: retroactive registration of "+20m & TROP"-vessels; No N-SWO plan received (Rec. 13-02).	Brazil went through profound restructuring and down sizing of fisheries department. Comitted to not be late in the future.	
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late.			**Quotas and catch limits:**		
	Other issues: No summary report received on chartering (Rec. 13-14).	Brazil informed that the summary had not been submitted since the vessels were in port and not active.		**Other issues:**		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
CABO VERDE	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:**		No action necessary.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** Annual Report summary tables contain several blanks or "N/A" without explanation.		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			**Conservation and Management Measures:**		
	Quotas and catch limits:			**Quotas and catch limits:**		
	Other issues:			**Other issues:**		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
CANADA	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:**		No action necessary.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** Late submission of Annual Report (Part 2, received after reminder/4 days late)		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Compliance tables received late. Incomplete data in the BCDs and incorrect unique identification number, Rec. 11-20.			**Conservation and Management Measures:**		
	Quotas and catch limits:			**Quotas and catch limits:**		
	Other issues:			**Other issues:**		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
CHINA, People's Rep.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:**		No action necessary.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:**		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			**Conservation and Management Measures:**		
	Quotas and catch limits:			**Quotas and catch limits:** Possible overharvest NSWO.	Will follow payback rules and make effort to avoid overharvest in future.	
	Other issues: ROP_transhipment: PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305.	China explained that training to fulfill the logbooks and to identify shark species are now in place.		**Other issues:** ROP_transhipment: PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305. Japan requested information about the species landed under Rec. 12-06. Senegal informed the Secretariat in February 2016 of a port inspection report of October 2015 with apparent infringement (refer to doc. COC_307/16).		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:**		Letter regarding requirement to present N. SWO management plan.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** Late submission of Part 2 of Annual Report and without summary table for Part 2; Part 1 summary tables contain several blanks or "N/A" without explanation.		Letter on no N SWO development/ management plan and reporting issues.
	Conservation and Management Measures: No N. Swo management plan received in 2015.	Côte d'Ivoire explained that having artisanal fishing they consider not having to present a N-SWO management plan.	***Actions taken by CPC:*** did-reply to COC letter reporting deficiencies (refer to COC_309A).	**Conservation and Management Measures:** No N-SWO plan received (Rec. 13-02)**.** Late submission of statistical document data, Rec. 01-22.		
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late.			**Quotas and catch limits:** Compliance tables received late.		
	Other Issues: Response to letter of prohibition regarding 2013 catches received during the meeting.			**Other Issues:**		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
CURAÇAO	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** Reporting summary not received with Part I of Annual Report.		No action necessary.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** Annual Report Part 1 summary table not submitted; Part 2 summary table contains several blanks or "N/A" without explanation**.**		Letter on reporting issues.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			**Conservation and Management Measures:**		
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late.			**Quotas and catch limits:**		
	Other issues:			**Other issues:**		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
EGYPT	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** Task I data received but with formatting problems. No Task II Catch & Effort or size data received. No information on shark by-catch in the Annual Report.	Egypt explained that they needed more time to improve data submission. Egypt also informed that they had no by-catch and no sharks data to be reported.	Letter on reporting issues requesting timely and complete reporting in the future.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** No Annual Report submitted (Parts 1 and 2). No Task I T1FC fishing fleet form received (catches were sent).		Letter on reporting issues and lack of response to 2015 COC letter.
	Conservation and Management Measures:		***Actions taken by CPC:*** no reply to COC letter reporting deficiencies.	**Conservation and Management Measures:** No BCD annual report submitted, Rec.11-20; No submission of MED-SWO list of authorised vessels and no closure report (Rec. 13-04); No report on the implementation of Rec. 14-04.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			**Quotas and catch limits:** no Compliance tables submitted.		
	Other issues: PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305. EU requested some explanation on the vessel Samur Lifti inspected under the JIIS (inspection report presented in Annex 3 to COC-303/2015).			**Other issues:**		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
EL SALVADOR	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:**		No action necessary.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** Annual Report Part 1 and 2 summary tables contain several blanks and "N/A" without explanation.		Letter on reporting issues.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			**Conservation and Management Measures:**		
	Quotas and catch limits:			**Quotas and catch limits:** Compliance tables received late.		
	Other issues: Reply to letter of concern received late.			**Other issues:**		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
EUROPEAN UNION	**Annual Reports/Statistics:** Task II Catch & Effort and size data missing for 2 Member States (all others received).		No action necessary.	**Annual Reports/Statistics:** clarification is requested for EU-Denmark, EU-Estonia, EU-Germany, EU-Latvia, EU-Lithuania and EU-Sweden for some historical Task I catches in the last decade (refer to doc. PLE_105/16, Table 2)	EU explained that it refered to by-catches previous to 2015 that were nor reporteed in PLE 105/16.	Letter on BUM/WHM overharvest
	Conservation and Management Measures: Some EU Member States submit their BCDs well after the 5 working days validation. Rec. 14-01: No FAD management plan received in 2015. Rec. 12-07: Port inspection reports not received.	Explained FAD management plan for 2014 applied in 2015 as there is no update. No port inspection reports since no first landings from foreign flag vessels.		**Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 14-04, para 52:** Retroactive registry (2+months) of 37 EU-GREECE-flagged "E-BFT catching"-vessels, not in accordance with curent regulation. BCD annual report submitted late for EU-Portugal, Rec. 11-20. Rec. 13-13, paras 5bis/5tris: missing IRN numbers (IMO or others) for 2 EU-Croatian vessels. No VMS messages from EU_Portugal received in 2016.	EU-Greece sent registration info on time to DG MARE who, due to an IT error, did not receive it on time. EU explained that a new process has been introduced to ensure this doesn't happen again. One Croatian vessel is wooden and does not require IMO number and the IMO number of the other vessel was submitted. EU-Portugal does not send VMS messages because it has no vessel targeting BFT.	
	Quotas and catch limits:			**Quotas and catch limits:** BUM/WHM overharvest.		
	Other issues: Rec. 13-07: 1) ROP-BFT: PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305. 2) One vessel reported by Turkey for inclusion on draft IUU list but removed from provision following response from EU.	Turkey confirmed that the information received from the EU concerning the vessel sighted was sufficient.		**Other issues:** PNCs under ROP-BFT contained in COC-305.		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
FRANCE (St. Pierre & Miquelon)	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** No Task II size data submitted.	France SPM indicated that the information was not submitted due to an administrative error and would be sent.	No action necessary.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:**		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			**Conservation and Management Measures:** BCD Annual Report submitted late, Rec. 11-20.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			**Quotas and catch limits:**		
	Other issues:			**Other issues:**		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
GABON	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** Annual Report Part II comprises only the reporting summary/received late during the meeting.		Letter requesting timely and improved reporting, but noting improvements.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** No Annual Report submitted (Parts 1 and 2).		Letter on reporting issues and lack of response to 2015 COC letter.
	Conservation and Management Measures:		***Actions taken by CPC:*** no reply to COC letter reporting deficiencies however informed in an e-mail message that they had no catches in 2015.	**Conservation and Management Measures:**		
	Quotas and catch limits:			**Quotas and catch limits:**		
	Other issues:			**Other issues:**		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	Actions taken in 2015	Potential issues of non-compliance-2016	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2016
GHANA	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** Task II size data submitted in incorrect format.		No action necessary.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** In annual report parts 1, 2, summary tables: several N/As without explanation.		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 14-01: Comprehensive and detailed capacity management plan not received. Data from observer trips received for 2014, but no reports for 2015 closure received.			**Conservation and Management Measures:** late submission of statistical document data, Rec. 01-21 & Rec. 01-22.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			**Quotas and catch limits:**		
	Other issues:			**Other issues:**		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
GUATEMALA	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:**		No action necessary.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** Annual Report submitted late (following Secretariat reminder, Parts 1 and 2). In annual report summary tables, several N/As without explanation.		Letter on reporting issues.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			**Conservation and Management Measures:**		
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late.			**Quotas and catch limits:** Compliance tables received late.		
	Other issues:			**Other issues:**		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
GUINEA ECUATORIAL	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** No Task I Fleet Characteristics, no Task II Catch & Effort or size data received.		Letter requesting timely and improved reporting, but noting improvements. Equatorial Guinea may request assistance from Secretariat, but details of requirements and difficulties should accompany such a request.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** Annual Report summary tables (part 1 and 2) missing.	Part I and Part II summary tables have been submitted on 18 November 2016. On the other hand Equatorial Guinea explained that they did not have a national fishing fleet and that they find it impossible to complete many of the forms such as CP 13/COC tables. Therefore, Equatorial Guinea requires assistance as it has many deficiencies.	Letter on reporting issues.
	Conservation and Management Measures:		***Actions taken by CPC:*** no reply to COC letter reporting deficiencies.	**Conservation and Management Measures:**		
	Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables received.			**Quotas and catch limits:** No Compliance tables received.		
	Other issues:			**Other issues:**		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
GUINEA Rep.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** Part I of Annual Report received late. No reporting summary received with Part II. No Task I Fleet Characteristics.		Letter requesting timely and improved reporting, but noting improvements.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** No Annual Report submitted (Parts 1 and 2).	Since 2015, the Republic of Guinea did not issue any tuna fishing licenses for vessels flying a Guinean flag. Moreover, within the framework of the EU fishing agreements, there have been no cases. Thus, no tuna statistics are available between 2015 and 2016. The reasons to explain the absence of tuna fishing vessels flying Guinean flag are explained in the 2015 Annual Report of the Republic of Guinea. On the other hand, it should be noted that Guinea issued three fishing licenses to vessels flying a Senegalese flag: Granada, Western Kim, Solevant. These vessels do not land their catches in Guinea.	Letter on reporting issues.
	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:			**Other issues:**		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
HONDURAS	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** Annual Report received late.		Letter requesting complete and timely reporting, but noting improvement.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** Annual Report submitted (Parts 1 and 2) late during the Commission meeting. No Task I or standard format zero catch report received.	In November Honduras informed the Secretariat that in 2015 there was no fishing activity targeting species managed by ICCAT in the ICCAT Convention area.	Letter on reporting issues.
	Conservation and Management Measures:		***Actions taken by CPC:*** Reply to COC letter reporting deficiencies late during the Commission meeting.	**Conservation and Management Measures:**		
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late.			**Quotas and catch limits:** Compliance tables received late during the Commission meeting.		
	Other issues: Reply to letter of concern received late.			**Other issues:**		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
ICELAND	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:**		No action necessary.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:**		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			**Conservation and Management Measures:** BCD annual report submitted late, Rec. 11-20.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			**Quotas and catch limits:** E-BFT overcatch in 2015.		
	Other issues:			**Other issues:**		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
JAPAN	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:**		No action necessary.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:**		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			**Conservation and Management Measures:**		
	Quotas and catch limits:			**Quotas and catch limits:**		
	Other issues: ROP_transhipment: PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305.	Japan has provided explanations including Japanese commitment to improve compliance with logbook requirements.		**Other issues:** PNCs reported under transhipment programmes and explanations contained in COC-305.	In August 2016, Japanese vessels have started to use bound logbooks or e-logbooks.	

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
KOREA, Rep. of	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:**		No action necessary.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:**		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			**Conservation and Management Measures:** N-SWO plan received (Rec. 13-02) late, at annual meeting. BCD annual report submitted late, Rec. 11-20.		
	Quotas and catch limits:	Korea confirmed prohibition on shark retention of relevant species.		**Quotas and catch limits:**	Captains say some non-tuna species are not profitable to be landed/transshiped.	
	Other issues: ROP_transhipment: PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305.			**Other issues:** PNCs reported under transhipment programmes contained in COC-305. Japan requested information about the species landed under Rec. 12-06.		

2015				2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
LIBERIA	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** Annual Report received late, both parts after Commission deadline.		Letter requesting complete and timely reporting.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:**		Identification due to: 1) lack of sufficient actions to address unauthorized transshipment by New Bai I 168; 2) lack of clarity as to Liberia's ability to effectively control its carrier vessels to ensure respect of ICCAT requirements, including ability to impose sanctions for violations of ICCAT requirements that are adequate in severity to be effective in securing compliance and to discourage violations wherever they occur, 3) lack of effective coordination among relevant Liberian agencies.
	Conservation and Management Measures:		**Actions taken by CPC:** Liberia did reply to the COC letter reporting deficiencies.	**Conservation and Management Measures:**		
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late/during the meeting.			**Quotas and catch limits:** No Compliance tables received.		
	Other issues:			**Other issues:** Senegal informed the Secretariat in February 2016 of a port inspection report of October 2015 with apparent infringement (refer to doc. COC_307/16).	Liberia informed the COC that it would submit its law provisions and that Liberia would soon adopt a new fisheries Act. It requested that New Bai I 168 be listed in the ICCAT IUU list.	

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
LIBYA	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** Annual Report received late (during the meeting). No Task II Catch & Effort or size data received.		Letter requesting complete and timely reporting and referring to retroactive vessel authorization requests.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:**		Letter on reporting issues (SWO-Med).
	Conservation and Management Measures: 14-04, para. 52: Vessels reported for some changes/updates and inclusion (7 cases) on E-BFT-Others lists, were not in accordance with provisions requiring submission 15 days in advance of authorisation. BCD annual report was received late.		***Actions taken by CPC:*** Libya did reply to the COC letter reporting deficiencies.	**Conservation and Management Measures:** Rec. 13-04: late submission of SWO-Med vessels and no closure report; 14-04: Late submission of BFT Ports (after 1 March deadline but before fishing season). Submission of a"E-BFT Catching"-vessel in replacement to a deactivated one not sufficiently justified as *force majeure* (not documented). EU informed the COC that it would contact Libya about this issue/vessel seized.	Vessel was replaced as one was seized by Italian authorities with no further information available.	
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late.			**Quotas and catch limits:**		
	Other issues: PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305.			**Other issues:** PNCs under ROP-BFT contained in COC-305. EU informed that no reply to the inspection report (Rec. 14-04, Annex 7) was received.		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
MAURITANIA	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** No Reporting summary for Part II received. No Task I or Task II data received.	Mauritania explained that a new law and a decree has come into force, and undertook to provide the data in the future.	Letter on reporting issues, particularly recalling the need to report artisanal catches and by-catch, and requesting N. SWO development plan. Recall that all CPCs should respond to letters of concern. Prohibited from catching species under ICCAT mandate until Task I or confirmation of zero catches received.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** No Task I or standard format zero catch report received. No Task II received. Summary table (section 3) missing from Annual Report.		Letter on reporting issues (no SWO plan submitted) and lack of reply to 2015 COC letter.
	Conservation and Management Measures: No SWO development plan submitted.	Will provide it by the deadline in the future.	***Actions taken by CPC:*** no reply to COC letter reporting deficiencies nor to letter of prohibition.	**Conservation and Management Measures:** No N-SWO management plan submitted.		
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late/during the meeting.			**Quotas and catch limits:** Compliance tables received late.		
	Other issues: No reply to letter of concern received.			**Other issues:**		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
MEXICO	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:**		No action necessary.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:**		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Wrong unique identification number, Rec. 11-20.			**Conservation and Management Measures:** No BCD annual report submitted, Rec.11-20. Rec. 13-13, paras 5bis/5tris: missing IRN numbers (IMOs or others) for 11 vessels.	Mexico stated that only 6 IMO numbers are missing and that these would be submitted.	
	Quotas and catch limits:			**Quotas and catch limits:** overcatch of BUM.		
	Other issues:			**Other issues:**		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
MOROCCO	**Annual Reports/ Statistics**:		No action necessary.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics**:		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management: Rec. 11-20 BCD annual report received late. Rec. 13-04 SWO-MED closure and Rec. 13-02 N. SWO plan received late.	SWO requirements sent late due to administrative error, prepared on time but sent to wrong email.		**Conservation and Management:** Rec. 13-13, paras 5bis/5tris: missing INR numbers (IMOs or others) for 30 vessels.	Morocco transmitted its response to the ICCAT Secretariat stating that among the aforementioned 30 vessels only 6 must have an IMO No. These vessels are inactive since 2012. The other 24 vessels include wooden vessels (WOD) and/or are made of steel, however with a GRT which is less than 100 t (JUS). These 24 vessels are reported to the Secretariat in accordance with ICCAT regulations in force.	
	Quotas and catch limits:			**Quotas and catch limits:**		
	Other issues:			**Other issues:** PNCs under ROP-BFT contained in COC-305.	Morocco sent its response to the ICCAT Secretariat on 29/09/2016 indicating that this operation was repeated in accordance with the provisions of Article 76 and Annex 8 of Rec. 14-04. Thereafter, the counting and estimation of the fish was carried out successfully as there was a video recording with better quality allowing the observer to sign the ITD.	

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
NAMIBIA	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:**		No action necessary.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:**		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 12-07: Port inspection carried out and reports received.			**Conservation and Management Measures:**		
	Quotas and catch limits:			**Quotas and catch limits:**		
	Other issues:			**Other issues:**		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
NICARAGUA	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** No Annual Report received. No Task I or Task II data received.	Not present at the meeting.	Letter requesting complete and timely reporting, recalling that reply to letter of concern and Annual Report should be submitted even if no activities to report. Prohibited from catching species under ICCAT mandate until Task I or confirmation of zero catches received.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** No annual report submitted (Parts 1 and 2). No Task 1 or standard format zero catch report received. No Task II received.		Letter on continued reporting issues.
	Conservation and Management Measures:		**Actions taken by CPC:** no reply to COC letter reporting deficiencies nor to letter of prohibition.	**Conservation and Management Measures:**		
	Quotas and catch limits: No compliance tables received.			**Quotas and catch limits:** No Compliance tables received.		
	Other issues: No reply to letter of concern received.			**Other issues:**		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
NIGERIA	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** Only summary tables for Annual Report Parts I and II.		No action necessary.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** No part 2 of Annual Report submitted (the reporting table for part 2 has been submitted).	Nigeria informed the Secretariat that in 2015 it did not operate tuna fishing vessel and had no Access Agreement with any country.	No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			**Conservation and Management Measures:**		
	Quotas and catch limits:			**Quotas and catch limits:** No Compliance tables received.		
	Other issues:			**Other issues:**		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
NORWAY	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** Reporting summary of Part I received late (with Part II of Annual Report).	Requests Secretariat to be clearer in its guidelines/calendar for Annual Reports.	No action necessary.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:**		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			**Conservation and Management Measures:**		
	Quotas and catch limits:			**Quotas and catch limits:**		
	Other issues:			**Other issues:**		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
PANAMA	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** Reporting summary not received with Part I of Annual Report. No Task I Fleet Characteristics.		Letter on reporting issues and retroactive vessel authorization requests.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** No Annual Report submitted (Parts 1 and 2). No Task 1 T1FC fishing fleet form received (catches were sent).		Letter on reporting and VMS issues.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 14-04: Vessels sumbitted for E-BFT other list not in accordance with provisions requiring submission 15 days in advance of authorisation. Incorrect VMS messages received for several vessels.		***Actions taken by CPC:*** reply to COC letter reporting deficiencies.	**Conservation and Management Measures:** no reply to VMS questions of the Secretariat to NAF format issues.	Panama has had issues with IT. Several VMS messages were sent in incorrect format. The correct VMS messages will be submitted.	
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late.			**Quotas and catch limits:**		
	Other issues:			**Other issues:**		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
PHILIPPINES	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:**	Not present at the meeting.	Letter recalling that the N. SWO management plan was missing and that no reply to 2014 letter on prohibition of certain species in 2015 under Rec. 11-15 was submitted.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** No Annual Report submitted (Parts 1 and 2).		Letter on reporting issues, no N SWO management plan, no response to 2015 COC letter.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 13-02: No N. Swo management plan received in 2015.		***Actions taken by CPC:*** no reply to COC letter reporting deficiencies.	**Conservation and Management Measures:** No N-SWO plan received (Rec. 13-02).		
	Quotas and catch limits:			**Quotas and catch limits:** No active fishing vessel in the ICCAT Convention area for 2015.		
	Other issues: No response to letter of prohibition regarding 2013 catches. See COC-305, PNCs under ROPs.			**Other issues:**		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
RUSSIA	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** Task I Fleet Characteristics received late.		No action necessary.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:**		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			**Conservation and Management Measures:**		
	Quotas and catch limits:			**Quotas and catch limits:**		
	Other issues:			**Other issues:**		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
SAO TOME & PRINCIPE	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** No Annual Report received. No Task II Catch & Effort or size data received.		Letter on continued lack of timely and complete reporting, but noting some improvement.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** No annual report submitted (Parts 1 and 2).	Sao Tomé mainly conducts artisanal and subsistance fishing and it does not target ICCAT species. Industrial fishing is conducted by the foreign fleet within the framework of the agreement between the EU and Sao Tomé as well as some foreign vessels operating under private access agreements based on private licenses. Sao Tomé also explained that their catches are by-catch.	Identification due to continued significant reporting issues (5th year in a row no Ann Rpt), possible overharvest of WHM, and lack of response to 2015 COC Chair letter; letter to also inquire about BUM catches.
	Conservation and Management Measures:		***Actions taken by CPC:*** no reply to COC letter reporting deficiencies.	**Conservation and Management Measures:**		
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late.			**Quotas and catch limits:** Compliance tables received late. "N/A" on BUM/WHM table. Overharvest of S-SWO, BUM, WHM.		
	Other issues:			**Other issues:** .		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential Issues of Non compliance -2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
SENEGAL	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:**		No action necessary.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** In Annual Report parts 1 and 2 several blanks and N/As without explanations.		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			**Conservation and Management Measures:** Rec. 01-21/01-22, para 5: Late submission of statistical document data.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			**Quotas and catch limits:**		
	Other issues:			**Other issues:**		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
SIERRA LEONE	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** No Annual Report received.	Not present at the meeting.	Letter on continued lack of complete and timely reporting.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** No Annual Report submitted (Parts 1 and 2). No Task I or standard format zero catch report received. No Task II received.		Identification due to continued significant reporting issues (5th year in a row no Ann Rpt) and lack of response to 2015 COC Chair letter.
	Conservation and Management Measures:		***Actions taken by CPC:*** no reply to COC letter reporting deficiencies.	**Conservation and Management Measures:**		
	Quotas and catch limits: No compliance tables received.			**Quotas and catch limits:** No Compliance tables received.		
	Other issues: Letter received after 10.10.2015 concerning Rec. 11-15 and some issues raised in letter of concern.			**Other issues:** 5th year in row with no Annual Report submitted.		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
SOUTH AFRICA	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** Task I data submitted late. Annual Report Part II submitted late.		Letter on continued lack of complete and timely reporting.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** Late submission in November of Annual Report (Parts 1 and 2); Task I and Task II data submitted late. No task 1 T1FC fishing fleet form received (catches were sent).		Letter on continued reporting issues and lack of reply to 2015 COC letter.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 12-07: Port inspection reports not received by Secretariat.		***Actions taken by CPC:*** no reply to COC letter reporting deficiencies.	**Conservation and Management Measures:** Rec. 13-13, paras 5bis/5tris: missing IRN numbers (IMOs or others) for 16 vessels.	South Africa stated that only 3 IMOs numbers are still outstanding and will be submitted as soon as possible.	
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late/during the meeting.			**Quotas and catch limits:** Compliance tables received late.		
	Other issues: Summary report on chartering received during the meeting (Rec. 13-14). Reply to letter of concern received late during the meeting. No response to letter of prohibition regarding 2013 catches.			**Other issues:**		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
ST.VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** Annual Report received late/during Commission meeting.	SVG apologised for lateness of reporting. Not responding to the letter of concern was due to an oversight and this would be remedied.	Letter on late reporting, N SWO management plan missing, lack of response to 2014 letter on prohibition of retention of certain species in 2015 under Rec. 11-15.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** Annual report received late (at annual meeting).	SVG committed to send it on time next year.	Letter on continued reporting issues, no N SWO development/management plan, and lack of response to 2015 letter.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 13-02: No N. Swo management plan received in 2015.	SVG indicated that the swordfish management plan would be completed and submitted shortly after internal review.	***Actions taken by CPC:*** no reply to COC letter reporting deficiencies.	**Conservation and Management Measures:** No N-SWO plan received (Rec. 13-02).	Has been sent to Secretariat on 18 November 2016.	
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late.			**Quotas and catch limits:** Compliance tables received late. Overharvest N-ALB.	Stated that it would rectify in 2016 using pay-back system.	
	Other issues: No response to letter of prohibition regarding 2013 catches. See also COC-305, PNCs under ROPs.	SVG verbally informed the Committee that the two issues on PNCs relating to unbound logbooks and markings have been rectified.		**Other issues:** PNCs reported under transhipment programmes contained in COC-305.		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
SYRIA	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** No Annual Report received. No Task I Fleet Characteristics received and no Task II (catch & effort or size) data received.	Not present at the meeting.	Letter on continued lack of complete and timely reporting.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** No annual report submitted (Parts 1 and 2). No Task 1 T1FC fishing fleet form received (catches were sent).	Syria was not present at the meeting. In a message to the Secretariat it explained that fishing in Syria is traditional, and vessels traditionally operate in territorial water and not equipped to target tuna species. Only one vessel equipped to participate in BFT fishing activities (Fesal) which used to catch Syrian quota previously. Syrian quotas of BFT transferred, and no landing of BFT. Most requirements in Part I are not applicable in Syria (farming , landing, tuna caging, tuna traps, etc.).	Letter on continued reporting issues, no VMS messages.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 11-20: BCD annual report not received. Rec. 14-04: EBFT Implementation Report not received.			**Conservation and Management Measures:** No submission of MED-SWO list of authorised vessels (Rec. 13-04) and no closure report (Rec. 13-04)**;** Late submission of 14-04 implementation report. No VMS messages received in 2016.		
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late.			**Quotas and catch limits:**		
	Other issues: An e-mail message received after 10.10.2015 raising some issues referred in the concern letter.			**Other issues:** PNCs under ROP-BFT contained in COC-305.		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** No Task II catch & effort or size data received.	Not present at the meeting.	Identified due to continued and significant white marlin and blue marlin overharvests. T&T to reply informing of domestic management measures in place for these fisheries, logbook requirements, trade monitoring.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** In Annual Report Part 1, several N/As without explanation.	Not present at the meeting.	Identification for continued and significant white marlin and blue marlin overharvests.
	Conservation and Management Measures:		*Actions taken by CPC* : did reply to the COC letter of identification.	**Conservation and Management Measures:** Rec. 01-21/01-22, para 5: Late submission of statistical document data.		
	Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest plan/BUM and WHM to be checked by COC/Commission.			**Quotas and catch limits:** Continued overharvest BUM and WHM overharvest. No management plan presented.		
	Other issues: Reply to letter of concern received late.			**Other issues:**		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
TUNISIA	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:**		No action necessary.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** In Annual Report parts 1 and 2 summary tables, several blanks and N/As without explanation.		Letter on reporting issues.
	Conservation and Management Measures*:*			**Conservation and Management Measures***:* No submission of MED-SWO list of authorised vessels (Rec. 13-04). Rec. 13-13, paras 5bis/5tris: missing IRN number (IMO or other) for 1 vessel.	The missing IMO number is due to the change of ownership of the vessel: it will be submitted.	
	Quotas and catch limits:			**Quotas and catch limits:** Compliance tables received late.		
	Other issues: PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305.			**Other issues:** PNCs under ROP-BFT contained in COC-305. EU requested some explanations about 3 inspection reports under Annex 7 of Rec. 14-04.	Tunisia submitted a written response during the meeting (posted as Annex 8 to doc. COC-303/16).	

2015				2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
TURKEY	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:**		No action necessary.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:**		Letter on vessel submissions.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			**Conservation and Management Measures:** 1.) Late submission of SWO-Med vessels, Rec. 13-04; 2.) Submission of a"E-BFT other"-vessel not in accordance with Rec. 14-04, para 52; 3.) Late submission of statistical document data, Rec. 01-21 & Rec. 01-22.	1. We confirm that the authorized list of SWO-Med vessels submitted late (on 26 January 2016, with 11 days delay). A clarification was sent to the Secretariat (on 28 January) that indicates the fact that the inadvertent delay occurred in submitting the required data/information was caused by technical issues arising from the recent updating and integration works on Ministry's web-based information system. Correspondingly, vessel registrations made by Ministry's provincial directorates from different regions – including vessels those targeting Med-SWO – have sporadically been interrupted due to the said process of renovation and integration works at the system (Turkish fishery information system.) Since acquiring the data on registered vessels from regions retarded temporarily, by extension, processing and submitting these data to ICCAT had to delay as well. Necessary measures have been taken to avoid repetition of similar inconveniences. 2. Timely reporting and recording of authorized BFT Catching and Other Vessels has been made. Total number of BFT Other Vessels has been 32 in 2016. Regarding this exceptional case, we fully aware of the 15 days requirement for notification, in the first place. Our authority received an "extension of E-BFT Other vessel authorization" request from an operator. Questioning its appropriateness, and considering that the vessel in question is an already authorized vessel having no previous record of illegal fishing, and also since the vessel has no IUU fishing potential or a capacity to catch tuna, the request was conveyed to the Secretariat, as it was regarded that the operator unintentionally failed to notice informing our authority of the expired extension, for only once. Then the secretariat notified that the requested updates to the authorization was made, indicating that the issue was reported to the COC. The operation has been instructed to take much care of the required procedures, and necessary administrative measures have been taken to avoid repetition of similar incidents. 3. We confirm that the 1st April deadline for submission was missed one week since the required trade data could not be acquired in good time. Necessary administrative measures have been taken by our authority.	
	Quotas and catch limits:			**Quotas and catch limits:**		
	Other issues: PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305.			**Other issues**: PNCs under ROP-BFT contained in COC-305.	Investigation of the reported PNCs been made through a detailed examination of the related footages, information and documents. Results have been reported and shared with the related parties in a timely and transparent manner. Findings of the regional observer (ROP-BFT) missions and on-site inspections have indicated no irregularities and inconsistencies about the declared number and weight of fish transferred to cages (i.e, no unreported fish or fish exceeding the declared quantity were detected, etc..).	

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
UNITED KINGDOM (OTs)	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** No Task II size data submitted.		No action necessary.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** the Annual Report contains several dates refering to 2014 and 2015.		Letter on reporting issues.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			**Conservation and Management Measures:** No BCD Annual Report submitted, Rec. 11-20.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			**Quotas and catch limits:** Compliance tables received late.		
	Other issues:			**Other issues:**		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
UNITED STATES	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:**		No action necessary.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** In Annual Report Part 1, several N/As without explanation.		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			**Conservation and Management Measures**:		
	Quotas and catch limits:			**Quotas and catch limits:**		
	Other issues:			**Other issues:**		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
URUGUAY	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:**		No action necessary.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** In Annual Report Parts 1 and 2, several blanks and N/As without explanation.		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			**Conservation and Management Measures:**		
	Quotas and catch limits:			**Quotas and catch limits:** Compliance tables received late.		
	Other issues: Information on possible port inspection reports being issued in 2015 at Montevideo/Rec. 12-07 would be welcomed.	Uruguay explained that in the event of an infringement: a port inspection report will be submitted.		**Other issues:**		

	2015			2016		
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
VANUATU	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** Part I of Annual Report received late for SCRS without summary table. No sections 4 or 5 received. No Task I Fleet Characteristics or size data submitted.	Not present at the meeting.	Letter on continued reporting issues, no N SWO management plan, requests for retroactive vessel registrations, and lack of response to 2014 letter on prohibition of retention of certain species in 2015 under Rec. 11-15.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** In Annual Report Part 1, several blanks and N/As without explanation. No Task I or standard format zero catch report received. No Task II received.	Vanuatu was not present at the meeting. In the summary table of Part 2 Annual Report informs: "Task I and Task II: nothing to report on since there was no fishing activities carried out in 2015."	Letter on continued reporting issues, no N SWO fishing/management plan.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 13-13/14-10 & 14-01: In three cases, retroactive registration of vessels (P20m lists and/or TROP list), of several months prior. Rec. 13-02: No N. Swo management plan received in 2015.		***Actions taken by CPC:*** no reply to COC letter reporting deficiencies.	**Conservation and Management Measures:** No N-SWO plan received (Rec. 13-02). Rec.12-06: No report on transhipment received (for carrier vessels operating in 2015).		
	Quotas and catch limits:			**Quotas and catch limits:** Compliance tables received late.		
	Other issues: No reply to letter of concern. No response to letter of prohibition regarding 2013 catches.			**Other issues:** some CPCs would have liked to ask some questions to Vanuatu about its transhipment activities.		

	2015		2016			
CPC	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2015*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*	*Actions Taken*
VENEZUELA	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** No Part II Annual Report/reporting summary Part II received. Task I Fleet Characteristics not received.	Venezuela has taken steps to address these issues. These will be reported when a new law is passed.	Letter on reporting issues, no N-SWO management plan, N-ALB catches, and lack of response to 2014 COC Chair letter requesting information on actions to address overharvest of N-ALB and BUM.	**Annual Reports/Statistics:** In Annual Report Parts 1 and 2, several blanks and N/As without explanation.	IMO details have been requested from vessel owners. There has been a retructuring of fishing duties which have been taken over by the Dept of Agriculture. Will submit updated list with the 8 IMO numbers. Albacore is not targetted, are making attempts to reduce overharvest. Discard measures being added to national legislation in January 2016.	Letter on reporting issues, no N SWO development/management plan, continued N. ALB and WHM overharvest.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 13-02: No N. Swo management plan received in 2015.		**Actions taken by CPC:** Venezuela did reply to the COC letter.	**Conservation and Management Measures:** No N-SWO plan received (Rec. 13-02). Rec. 13-13, paras 5bis/5tris: missing IRN numbers (IMOs or others) for 8 vessels.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			**Quotas and catch limits:** Compliance tables received late. Continued N-ALB overharvest. Significant WHM overharvest.		
	Other issues: No reply received to Chair letter.			**Other issues:**		

	2015			2016		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2015	*Response / explanation*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
BOLIVIA	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** Only summary table of Part I of Annual Report received. No Annual Report Part I text and no Part II received.		No action necessary. Cooperating Status letter to note lack of response to 2014 COC letter, while noting improvement in certain reporting requirements.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** -Annual report submitted late. No Task 1 or standard format zero catch report received. No Task II received.	Bolivia informs that they do not account for a fleet of fishing vessels operating in the ICCAT area. Bolivia has not carried out fishing operations, therefore it reiterates that it has had "0" catches during the 2015 and 2016 management, as a result there are no scientific data.	Cooperating status letter to note late reporting issues.
	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: No reply to letter of concern.			**Other issues:**		

	2015			2016		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2015	*Response / explanation*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
CHINESE TAIPEI	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:**		Cooperating status renewed. No other action necessary.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:**		Letter on retroactive vessel submission.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			**Conservation and Management Measures:** ***Rec.*** *12-06* : Annual list of LSPLVs authorised to tranship incomplete - one vessel included retroactively.	Chinese Taipei explained that retroactivity was due to an oversight.	
	Quotas and catch limits:			**Quotas and catch limits:**		
	Other issues: PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305.			**Other issues:** PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305. Senegal informed the Secretariat in February 2016 of a port inspection report of October 2015 with apparent infringement (refer to doc. COC_307/16). EU asked what actions had been taken with the owner of the vessel New Bai I No. 168 who was from Chinese Taipei. Japan requested information about the species landed under Rec. 12-06.		

	2015			2016		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2015	*Response / explanation*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
GUYANA	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** No reporting summary for Part I and Part II received.		Cooperating status renewed, but to receive letter requesting timely and complete reporting in order to retain such status in the future.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:** Summary table (section 3) missing from Annual Report.	In 2015 Fisheries Department gave permission to one local company to use one vessel to conduct research on harvesting tuna. The total submitted to Department are as follows; Swordfish 339 pounds and 12,063 pounds of Bigeye tuna. There is no quota system in place and fishes caught were sold directly to Trinidad.	Letter on reporting issues.
	Conservation and Management Measures:		***Actions taken by CPC:*** no reply to COC letter reporting deficiencies.	**Conservation and Management Measures:**		
	Quotas and catch limits:			**Quotas and catch limits:** Compliance tables received late.		
	Other issues:			**Other issues:**		

	2015			2016		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2015	*Response / explanation*	*Actions taken in 2015*	*Potential issues of non-compliance-2016*	*Response / explanation by CPC*	*Actions taken in 2016*
SURINAME	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:**		Cooperating status renewed. No other action necessary.	**Annual Reports/ Statistics:**		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			**Conservation and Management Measures:**		
	Quotas and catch limits: Data for compliance tables received late.			**Quotas and catch limits:** no vessels targetting tuna and tuna-like species in 2015.		
	Other issues: Reply to letter of concern received late.			**Other issues:**		

ANNEX 11

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE PERMANENT WORKING GROUP FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF ICCAT STATISTICS AND CONSERVATION MEASURES (PWG)

1 Opening of meeting

The meeting of the PWG was opened by the Chair, Mr. Fabrizio Donatella (European Union) on 16 November 2016.

2 Nomination of the rapporteur

Mr. André Drapeau (Canada) was appointed to serve as Rapporteur.

3 Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda was adopted with no modification and is attached as **Appendix 1.**

4 Consideration of actions referred from the IMM Working Group

The Chair briefly reported the results of the Eleventh Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures, in particular the decisions that were taken through the proposals discussed at that meeting. This report is available as **ANNEX 4.5.** The majority of these proposals are addressed under item 5 of the Agenda.

5 Consideration of the effectiveness and practical aspects of implementation of:

5.1 Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation and Statistical Document Programmes

The Chairman requested the Secretariat to present Section 1 of the Secretariat Report to the PWG for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures*. The Secretariat started by addressing the status of the Biannual Reports of swordfish and bigeye imports for the second semester of 2015 and the first semester of 2016, carried out within the framework of the Statistical Document Programme. Twelve ICCAT CPCs are affected by these imports of which some have been carried out in areas reported as "unknown". The report also mentions export which were accepted by some ICCAT CPCs following export from two non-Contracting Parties, Tanzania and Oman, that have not submitted any information on their validation authorities.

Regarding the Bluefin Tuna Catch Document programme, the Secretariat's report also states that some CPCs have not yet submitted their annual BCD reports whilst others submitted them after the deadline. In addition, information on BCDs and re-export certificates have been submitted after the deadline of five working days following the validation date, contrary to the provisions of ICCAT Recommendation 11-20.

All these issues continue to be problematic for the Secretariat which reiterates its request to rectify these deficiencies. The Chairman of the PWG also requested CPCs to urge exporting countries to report their validation authorities.

The European Union asked how areas where bigeye and swordfish are imported remain unknown in the current Statistical Document Programme and also requested the reason for which the Secretariat had not received responses from Tanzania and Oman. Importing CPCs of these countries should try to remedy this situation. The Secretariat recalled the discussions at the Eleventh Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures in 2016 during which some CPCs regarded this Programme to be

* To be published in Volume IV.

obsolete and suggested that it be updated, taking into account the developments experienced in the bigeye and swordfish fisheries. The EU also considered that the PWG should study this issue aimed at modernising the current Statistical Document Programme. Several CPCs expressed concern with the costs involved in the development of a new system. The Chair noted that no projects and/or proposals had been submitted this year, however this important issue could be discussed in 2017, if Parties were interested. He also asked whether the eBCD system could be used as a helpful tool with respect to this issue. Some CPCs have expressed interest in providing their contributions to the work that this would involve. With respect to the issue of catch documentation, reference was made to the study currently conducted by the FAO. It was considered necessary, however, to carry out an analysis of ICCAT needs and requirements before moving toward development of new catch documentation program.

5.2 Progress of eBCD

The Chair of the eBCD Technical Working Group (TWG), Mr. Neil Ansell (European Union), provided an update on the status of the development of the eBCD programme, pursuant to Recommendation 15-10. Mr. Ansell presented a summary report of the eBCD Technical Working Group, which is included as **Appendix 2** to this report. This document also addressed the challenges which were raised, in particular the use of paper BCD forms, issues related to the contract with the system developer, the financing of the system, and the future role of the TWG.

The TWG held five meetings in 2016 focusing on its mandate of assessing the system's readiness for full implementation by CPCs in May 2016 and its subsequent operation. The ICCAT Secretariat notified CPCs that the system was operational and ready to be used for the 2016 fishing season. However, delays in the development of some functionalities and their availability for testing resulted in the possibility to use paper through 30 June 2016 for bluefin not destined for farms, provided Parties notified this to the Secretariat in accordance with the terms of Rec. [15-10]. Afterwards, paper BCDs shall no longer be accepted except in the limited circumstances specified in paragraph 6 of Rec. [15-10]. In September 2016, the TWG reviewed the status of the implementation of the system focusing on technical issues. The TWG also addressed the issues which seemed relevant to the Commission. The TWG considered that canned bluefin tuna, the data on recreational fisheries and by-catch that are not traded are not required to be recorded in the system. The PWG endorsed the TWG's interpretation. The challenges associated with establishing a link between the product reflected on re-export certificates with the underlying BCDs, the inclusion of conversion factors and fattening rates within the eBCD system, whether or not or to what degree these aspects could or should be incorporated in the eBCD system, as well as other matters had also been noted by the TWG.

It was noted that the primary objective of the first year of eBCD system implementation was that it not impede trade of bluefin tuna. It was for this reason that a 24hr/day, 7 days a week online support service was available at peak periods of fishing activities. Subsequently, the hours of support were reduced to 16 hrs/7 days a week. The need for this help line during the summer months of 2016 had significant financial implications. Likewise, it was mentioned that the expenses associated with the first years of implementation (2012-2016) of the new system were very high. To assure the necessary technical support, the funding was effectively guaranteed until the end of December 2016 through the ICCAT Working Capital Fund. Notwithstanding, it was noted that a solution should be found as regards the long-term financing of the system.

The TWG Chair indicated that further work should be carried out and **Addendum 1 to Appendix 2 to ANNEX 11** should be discussed. It was suggested that this Addendum could subsequently become a recommendation. Given the time constraints, however, the PWG was unable to finalize revisions to the document. The Chair requested, however, that all CPCs continue working together to try to finalize the document for possible consideration at Plenary session.

The Chair urged CPCs to contribute to providing ways to finance the eBCD system, taking into account the information provided by STACFAD. Moreover, the Chair stated that it would be advisable to space out the working hours for the user support, as proposed by the United States, to cover the time differences and also take into account the language needs of users. Likewise, the PWG should focus on the priorities of the eBCD system which were adopted in 2015, as well as to consider further how to address after hours reporting needs. The delegations should work together and do it quickly, as this system has generated a lot of work and investment.

5.3 ICCAT Regional Observer Programmes

The Chair began by explaining that item 5.3 referred to the *Report on the Implementation of the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (ROP) for Transhipment 2015/16*[*] and the *Report on the Implementation of the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme for East Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna** and to the related draft recommendations.

5.3.1 ROP Transhipment

Following the presentation of the Secretariat's Report on the Implementation of the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (ROP) for Transhipment 2015/16*, Japan requested clarification on the number of vessels (LSPLVs) involved and the number of transhipments carried out by each CPC participating in the ROP-TRANS programme. The Secretariat explained that discrepancy between the time periods reported through Table 1 and the text of the report, and that this would be modified to clarify the time period to which the references relate. These explanations and clarifications were accepted by Japan.

The Chair opened a discussion on the Secretariat's report on *Issues of Potential Non-compliance Reported by Observers under the ICCAT Regional Observer Programmes**, and on several issues of non-compliance. The Chair requested the opinion of CPCs concerning the request for clarification of the ROP-Transhipment on whether the observer should or not fill out a PNC in the event that the electronic logbook is not presented in its operative form on a computer screen. The European Union explained that the information entered into the electronic log books by EU member States was stored at the Fisheries Monitoring Centre, which was the only truly valid source of data. Where information was shown on the screen, it could only be considered truly valid if printed and signed by the Captain.

It was agreed, however, that in order to be able to carry out the work, the observers must always be granted access to the electronic logbook it in its working condition so that they can verify that it is a functional electronic logbook. Failure to do so would constitute a PNC.

5.3.2 ROP-BFT

The Secretariat presented its report* providing a summary of results included in the tables of Annex 1 of its Appendix 1. A general overview, shared by all CPCs, was that the Regional Observer Programme for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna had been a valuable tool for monitoring the eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna fishery. Improved compliance with the regulations related to ICCAT Regional Observer Programmes was requested. Infringement of these regulations results in complications when deploying observers. Moreover, it was underlined that a change of port caused a lot of logistical problems when obtaining entry visas for observers, resulting in additional costs. CPCs stressed the importance of the data generated by these programmes which are not only useful for the monitoring of fishing activities but also for the SCRS in conducting assessments and analysing the state of the stocks.

The Secretariat's Report on the Implementation of the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme for East Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna* addresses a detailed status of ROP-BFT observer deployments during the 2016 bluefin tuna fishing season. Annexes 1 and 2 of the *Issues of potential non-compliance reported by observers under the ICCAT regional observer programmes** presents reports of observers deployed onboard vessels which have caught bluefin tuna by purse seine and of those deployed at farms and traps. The issues related to potential non-compliance (PNC) of ICCAT regulations in force, as stated by the observers, were summarized in Appendix 2 and 3 of this document. The response of the European Union to the PNCs concerning its vessels, farms and traps is included in Appendix 4 of the same document, including suggestions to improve the procedures regarding this issue.

There were no particular comments from the PWG on the *Secretariat's Report on the Implementation of the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme for East Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna** and the *Summary of the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (ROP-BFT) in 2016** of the Consortium responsible for the implementation of the ROP-BFT.

[*] To be published in Volume IV.

However, a proposal was presented stating that the ROP-BFT use codes to classify PNCs by category, which would also help to improve the analysis in the future. It was reported that the ROP-BFT implementing Consortium, in consultation with the Secretariat, will develop a new approach as regards to this issue.

5.3.3 Proposal on the ICCAT Scientific Observer Programme

The Chair opened the *Draft recommendation by ICCAT to establish minimum standards for fishing vessel scientific observer programmes* presented by the European Union which aims at extensively supplementing the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Minimum Standards for Fishing Vessel Scientific Observer Programmes* [Rec. 10-10]. The European Union wanted to increase the coverage of the observer programme to 20% in response to the advice of the SCRS concerning the collection of data on by-catch, yet expressed the view that 5% is the minimum for compliance monitoring. It was noted that the development of electronic observation systems, in the future, could be additional to scientific observers. Some CPCs stated that the draft Recommendation appeared to have mixed on the one hand seeking to set minimum standards for national programmes, while also referring to application on a regional basis. Some CPCs were of the opinion that the objective should be clarified as provisions that would be appropriate in regional programs might not be appropriate requirements for ICCAT to impose on domestic CPCs programmes. For some CPCs, observer data are considered confidential and cannot be shared with other Parties. It was also mentioned that some provisions covered by this draft recommendation would result in a more complex reporting procedure and that not all CPCs would have the required expertise to assess by-catch/incidental catch (such as seabirds, sea turtles, etc.) and their impact. As each CPC has the responsibility of implementing this programme, it seems that there does not exist a harmonization framework. Questions were raised as to whether the Secretariat would be ready to grant financing to develop a training course that would assist in overcoming these constraints.

Some terms in the proposal were considered too vague such as the overall status of animals and the environmental conditions. CPCs requested clarification on the information that would be transcribed by the observers. Taking into account the various elements and issues raised by the CPCs, the Chair requested that the Parties concerned continue working together.

The European Union amended their proposal, taking into account the comments by the CPCs concerned and the draft recommendation was approved by the PWG. Following the consensus, the Chair indicated that this proposal would be presented to the Plenary for adoption by the Commission.

5.3.4 Draft recommendation by ICCAT on protecting the health and safety of observers

The United States presented a *Draft recommendation on protecting the health and safety of observer*s, noting the importance of ensuring the protection of observers while at sea and highlighting recent incidents involving observer harassment and death, in particular in regional observer programs similar to ICCAT's transhipment ROP. Some CPCs stated that this new measure would imply additional cost for the monitoring of fisheries, notably due to the purchase of supplemental and specialised safety equipment. Some CPCs expressed concern that this measure could be perceived as if ICCAT gave more importance to the health and safety of the observers than that of the crew. Moreover, it was stated that issues of health and safety at sea fall under the competence of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and some CPCs questioned to what extent ICCAT should handle this issue. One CPC also asked whether ICCAT's liability would increase by adopting observer health and safety standards; other CPCs believed it would not. The United States responded that ICCAT had a responsibility to the observers deployed as part of its centrally run observer programs and that it had clear competence to take actions to protect their health and safety, given that they were deployed on behalf of ICCAT to carry out important Commission work. With respect to the costs of implementing the ICCAT transhipment ROP, it was noted that the total cost would not increase as the implementing consortium already required such gear to be provided. ICCAT would simply be reinforcing that such gear must continue to be provided even if the implementing consortium were changed. The Chair requested that the CPCs that had raised concerns continue to work with the United States with a view to finalising the proposal.

Despite U.S. efforts to address the concerns raised by some CPCs, consensus could not be reached on the draft recommendation. The United States expressed deep disappointment that such an important proposal could not find consensus and indicated its intent to continue to work intersessionally to find a way forward on this issued in time for the next PWG meeting.

5.4 At-sea and in-port transshipment requirements

The PWG did not make any specific comments on the Secretariat's *Report on the implementation of the ICCAT regional observer programme for transhipment 2015-2016*[*], with the exception of the issue raised by Japan in item 5.3 (above) and to which the Secretariat provided clarifications.

The Chairman requested the European Union to present the *Draft ICCAT Recommendation on Transhipment* to amend Rec. 12-06 and clarify that all the vessels be included in the ICCAT Record of vessels for at-sea or at port transhipments. Japan supported this proposal in finding that the provisions therein were identical to those that the IMM Working Group had provisionally approved at the Sapporo (Japan) meeting held in July 2016. However, the United States raised a possible need for clarification with respect to the minimum length of vessels referred to in Recommendations 12-06 and 13-13, i.e. 24 metres and 20 metres, respectively.

Joint work and consultation among the group of concerned CPCs was carried out as regards this draft recommendation. Consensus was reached, and it was adopted by PWG to be forwarded to the Commission as a *Draft recommendation by ICCAT on transhipment* for adoption in Plenary session.

5.5 Rules for chartering and other fishing arrangements

During the review of the report of the Secretariat, the PWG agreed that Rec. 13-14 states that the information included in the chartering agreement must be reported to the Secretariat when signing it and therefore other CPCs will be informed. Recommendation 13-14 establishes the declaration of an agreement before the actual fishing activities take place within the framework of this agreement.

The PWG once again urged CPCs to cross-check the information regarding chartering agreements, in particular, the exact duration of the agreement, before submitting it to the Secretariat and to ensure a complete, timely, and correct submission to the Commission.

5.6 At-sea vessel sighting and inspection programs (High-seas boarding and inspection)

The PWG did not make any specific comments regarding the *At-sea vessel sighting and inspection programmes* in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin fishery, presented by the Secretariat pursuant to Rec. 14-04, Annex 7.

The United States presented a *Draft recommendation on vessel sightings*, emphasising that the proposal did not create any new obligations for CPCs, but rather modernised language relating to existing provisions of Resolution 94-09 and Recommendation 97-11. It was noted that for some CPCs, it is only the armed forces who have the right to conduct observation of vessels.

An updated *Draft recommendation on vessel sightings* based on comments from CPCs was presented by the United States. One CPC continued to block consensus, and in light of this, the United States withdrew the proposal, with a view to possible re-submission in the future.

The Chair requested the United States to present their *Draft [recommendation] [resolution] by ICCAT for a [model] joint international inspection scheme*, co-sponsored by the European Union, Senegal and Panama, aimed at developing a joint international inspection scheme. In the review of the *Report of the Second Performance Review of ICCAT*, the lack of a modern high seas boarding and inspection scheme was reported as being one of ICCAT's weaknesses. It was indicated that with the improvement of the text, a resolution on vessel boarding procedures could be obtained. Some CPCs expressed that this scheme should be compatible with what had been agreed with the *Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC),* however that this first outline was a step in the right direction for ICCAT to modernize the High Seas Boarding Inspection (HSBI) programme. Some CPCs expressed that they had difficulties in monitoring their own fleets and asked in what way they would succeed in inspecting the fleets of other CPCs. It was questioned if an ICCAT and/or FAO vessel could complete this task.

[*] To be published in Volume IV.

Further to these discussions, the United States recognised that more work is required as regards this draft proposal. The United States also indicated that they wished to help move the issue forward by developing a pilot project for the voluntary exchange of inspectors as described in the concept note for a *Pilot programme for the exchange of inspectors* in **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 11**. The United States noted their intent to continue working intersessionally on this issue, highlighting that the implementation of the pilot programme of exchange of inspectors between CPCs would improve CPC's capacities to conduct high seas boarding and inspections and would support broad participation by CPCs if ICCAT does adopt a joint international inspection scheme in the future. A number of parties welcomed the U.S. initiative and expressed an interest in working to advance this idea.

5.7 Port inspection schemes and other Port state measures

The Chair expressed that the Secretariat had requested advice on the use of funds aimed at improving CPCs' port inspection capacities, and asked the United States to present their proposal regarding this issue.

The United States presented the *Draft recommendation by ICCAT to clarify and supplement the process for seeking capacity building assistance pursuant to ICCAT Recommendation 14-08* aimed at establishing an expert group focusing on port inspection capacity building matters. The United States emphasised that the Expert Group should include a balanced representation of CPCs with expertise in port inspection procedures as well as CPCs with knowledge of developing CPC needs and capabilities.

Many CPCs spoke in support of the proposal. The European Union stated that this draft recommendation complied with the FAO agreement on Port State Measures, as well as other similar measures of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC). ICCAT should be inspired by what exists already to avoid repeating the work. It should be noted that a group of actions concerning training and assistance manuals has already been developed.

The Chair concluded that this draft recommendation was approved by the PWG without change and, would be transmitted to the Commission for final adoption in Plenary.

5.8 Vessel listing requirements

The Secretariat presented the relevant sections of its report regarding CPCs implementation of the vessel listing requirements contained in Recommendations 13-13 and 14-10. The European Union acknowledged the heavy work load carried out by the Secretariat within the framework of the ICCAT Record of vessels. This effort should be noted in light of the results obtained as regards both the reduction of data deficiencies and the deletion of thousands of duplications in the ICCAT database. The European Union emphasised the interest in continued efforts to fight IUU activities such as those recently observed in the Atlantic. Furthermore, the control of vessels from other areas fishing in the ICCAT Convention area could be guaranteed. These type of problems, particularly unreported and unauthorised transhipments at sea, could be avoided with IMO numbers.

The European Union indicated the existence of significant problems to obtain IMO numbers, in particular for vessels under 100 t. Turkey expressed the same concern having faced similar problems.

The Chair noted the existence of provisions on the ICCAT web site which should assist CPCs in obtaining this information, in accordance with Rec. 13-13, paragraphs 5bis/5ter. Moreover, the Chair urged CPCs to increase the rate of barely 42% of the group of vessels of 20 m or greater (active or inactive) that have IMO numbers. The United States indicated that it had had success in working with IHS-Maritime to have IMO/LR numbers issued for all its large-scale vessels and were ready to share its experience in this field with any interested CPCs. The United States also emphasised that Recommendation 13-13 establishes an active vessel list and CPCs have an obligation to obtain IMO numbers and to report this information only for active vessels, but have no obligations to do so for inactive vessels unless they become active again.

The Chair concluded by stating that the CPCs should continue to work together to implement operational and efficient procedures to preserve the integrity of the ICCAT Record of vessels.

5.9 Requirements of the Consolidated List of Vessels (CLAV)

The Executive Secretary stated that the Consolidated List of Vessels (CLAV) is an important database which is stored on the web site http://www.tuna-org.org. The PWG took note of the SCRS Report and the Secretariat reports, in particular concerning the future of the coordination on monitoring and the maintenance of the CLAV database. The PWG expressed its support for this important initiative.

5.10 Vessel Monitoring Satellite System requirements

The United States observed that following the discussions held in the Compliance Committee, there was concern with the level of compliance with the implementation of Vessel Monitoring Systems. The Republic of Korea, for its part, indicated that it had implemented vessel monitoring system with 100% coverage of its vessels, however technical problems were encountered when the system was implemented. Korea therefore requested the Commission's indulgence while these technical issues were being resolved. Korea also noted that the Secretariat's assistance was very useful during the 2016 bluefin tuna fishing season (Rec. 14-04, para. 87). The PWG insisted that these types of issues had to be resolved by the CPCs well before their vessels entered into fishing activities.

5.11 Flag State responsibilities

The PWG noted that the Secretariat has not received specific information in accordance with Rec. 03-12 and that the only information available is that reported within the framework of the Regional Observer Programme for Transhipments. The Chair stated that the problems which were identified were related to the markings of vessels.

5.12 Other issues

No other issues were raised under agenda item 5.

6 Consideration of additional technical measures needed to ensure effective implementation of ICCAT's conservation and management measures

No additional technical measures were proposed.

7 Review and establishment of the IUU vessel list

The PWG reviewed the *Provisional IUU list 2016* prepared by the Secretariat, taking into account the decisions adopted by the Compliance Committee on the basis of the document Information submitted by a Contracting Party in accordance with Rec. 08-09, which included details of incidents of IUU fishing that were reported in 2015 in accordance with the provisions of Rec. 12-07, paragraph 25, following inspections carried out by port authorities in the port of Dakar, Senegal, in October 2015.

The United States and the European Union expressed appreciation for the inspection work carried out by Senegal, and supported the decision to record the Liberian carrier vessel, New Bai I No. 168, on the provisional IUU list. In addition, the delegations recalled that, consistent with paragraph 25 of Rec. 12-07, when CPCs conduct port inspections that provide evidence that an inspected vessel has engaged in IUU activities as referred to in Rec. 11-18, they shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat as soon as possible, including providing supporting evidence, for the purpose of inclusion of the vessel in the draft IUU list. Therefore, the New Bai I No. 168, as well as the fishing vessels reported as having participated in unauthorized transhipment that vessel could and should have been included on the 2016 draft IUU vessel list. The PWG also noted that sanctions had been imposed by the People's Republic of China and Chinese Taipei on the fishing vessels reported as having participated in unauthorised transhipments with the New Bai I No. 168.

The PWG concluded that the provisional list presented by the Secretariat should be revised to include the vessel New Bai I No. 168 and then be presented to the Commission for adoption (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 11**).

8 Recommendations to the Commission based on findings of above

The *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on transhipment* was approved in order to transmit it to the Plenary session for adoption.

The *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to clarify and supplement the process for seeking capacity building assistance pursuant to ICCAT recommendation 14-08* was approved and transmitted to the Plenary for adoption.

The *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to establish minimum standards for fishing vessel scientific observer programs* was approved and transmitted to the Plenary for adoption.

9 Other issues

No other matters were discussed.

10 Adoption of the report and adjournment

The 2016 meeting of the PWG was adjourned. The Report was adopted by correspondence.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 11

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of the Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Consideration of actions referred from the IMM Working Group
5. Consideration of the effectiveness and practical aspects of implementation of:
   - 5.1 Catch Documentation and Statistical Document Programmes
   - 5.2 Progress of eBCD
   - 5.3 ICCAT Regional Observer Programmes
   - 5.4 At-sea and in-port transhipment requirements
   - 5.5 Rules for chartering and other fishing arrangements
   - 5.6 At-sea vessel sighting and inspection programmes
   - 5.7 Port inspection schemes and other port State measures
   - 5.8 Vessel listing requirements
   - 5.9 Requirements of the Consolidated List of Vessels (CLAV)
   - 5.10 Vessel Monitoring Satellite System requirements
   - 5.11 Flag State responsibilities
   - 5.12 Other issues
6. Consideration of additional technical measures needed to ensure effective implementation of ICCAT's conservation and management measures
7. Review and establishment 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

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 11

eBCD Working Group (eBCD-TWG)

Summary Report – 2016

Introduction

This serves as a general report to the Commission on the overall status of eBCD system development and implementation and the associated activities of the eBCD Technical Working Group (TWG) undertaken in 2016. It does not detail specific technical issues discussed by the TWG which can be found in the relevant TWG meeting reports and their annexes (appended). The full list of technical issues and their status can also be found in the eBCD technical matrix made available to TWG members.

It does play particular attention to the most recent discussions of the TWG with regard to:

- General state of play of system development and implementation,
- Use of paper and self-reporting systems,
- System support and user assistance,
- Contractual issues including future financing of the system, and
- Future role of the TWG.

Throughout 2016 the TWG met on 5 occasions, the main objectivities and discussion points of the meetings are detailed:

Date	*Place*	*Objectives and main discussions points*
25-27 January 2016	ICCAT Secretariat	- Prioritization of core development items in light of the implementation provisions laid down in Rec. [15-10]
15-16 April 2016	ICCAT Secretariat	- Assessment of system readiness and associated reporting to the Commission - Issues relating to system financing including system hosting and support
19 July 2016 22 July 2016	Sapporo, Japan	- State of play of recent system development - Discussion on issues with relevance to IMM - Issues relating to system financing including system hosting and support - Specific issues related to CPC implementation and raised by TRAGSA
7-8 September 2016	ICCAT Secretariat	- System state of play including development of core items - Prioritisation of secondary issues - Settlement of issues raised by TRAGSA - Reporting to the Commission on future role of TWG and system financing

TWG meetings were attended by representatives of Algeria, Canada, EU, Japan, Morocco, Tunisia, United States, the ICCAT Secretariat and TRAGSA (with the exception of the meetings in Japan).

1. General state of play of system development and resolution of technical issues

The activities of the TWG throughout 2016 were largely driven and oriented on the provisions of Rec. [15-10], in particular on the implementation schedule and associated tasks afforded to the TWG as laid down in paragraph 2.

In general, a positive implementation was reported by Group members with no major difficulties experienced or precluding system use.

The main technical discussions were related to the development and implementation of 'core' items given their necessity for system use.

Core issues were prioritised in the January meeting and their implementation tracked and assessed in April in order that an assessment of system readiness could be undertaken as required by paragraph 2 of Rec. [15-10].

As communicated in ICCAT Circular #2274/16 and reported to the Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) Working group in July, the TWG's advice on system readiness noted that, although core functionalities had been developed, delays in the development of some functionalities and their availability for testing resulted in the possibility to use paper through 30 June for bluefin not destined for farms, provided Parties so notified the Secretariat in accordance with the terms of Rec. [15-10]. Afterwards, paper BCDs shall no longer be accepted except in the limited circumstances specified in paragraph 6 of Rec. [15-10].

The technical discussions of the TWG since July has focussed more on prioritisation of issues considered secondary by the TWG or specific issues or questions requiring guidance from the TWG (by CPCs and TRAGSA). During these discussions, the TWG noted that there are still several pending functionalities that are important for enhancing the operation and utility of the system and that work on these should continue.

The TWG noted at its September meeting that there were several issues that had been raised that touched on the question of the scope of the eBCD system and that, until these matters were resolved by the Commission, any additional action that might be needed by the TWG, the Secretariat, and/or Tragsa was not possible. Specifically, the TWG needs direction from the Commission on the following issues:

(a) Should canned bluefin tuna be included in the eBCD system;
(b) Should a functionality be developed that allows for the voluntary uploading of recreational catch data;
(c) Should there be a clearer connection between the product weight listed on a re-export certificate and how much of that weight came from each of the underlying BCDs associated with that re-export certificate. Currently, Rec [11-20] only requires that a re-export certificate include the numbers of all underlying BCDs and the total weight of the shipment to be re-exported. Weights on re-export certificates are not broken down with individual pieces associated with a relevant underlying BCD when more than one BCD is associated with the re-export certificate. Without such a clear connection, the system cannot know when the total amount of an underlying BCD has been re-exported, which limits traceability and could create a loophole in the system. Adjustment of the eBCD to require this kind of tracking would require amendment to Rec [11-20].
(d) Should conversion factors and/or fattening rates be uploaded in eBCD system and, if so, which eBCD section (e.g., catch, trade, etc.) should it apply to. In principle, developing such a functionality could help assess quota consumption and potentially assist in comparing catch amounts against farmed and traded amounts. Difficulties include that conversion factors do not exist for all product types and cannot be developed for some (e.g., head meat, fin meat, kebobs). Furthermore, SCRS has not yet made available agreed fattening rates for farmed fish.

The TWG noted that the Commission should decide how comprehensive in scope they wish the eBCD system to be.

2. Use of paper and self-reporting system

The use of paper BCDs has been extensively discussed given the importance of ensuring a common understanding of the relevant provisions of para 6c of Rec. [15-10]. Furthermore, how such procedures are accommodated in the system and, where applicable, facilitated by the Secretariat was also discussed.

On the request and guidance of the TWG, the Secretariat developed a system/table on the eBCD pages of the ICCAT website facilitating the recording of the technical difficulties and the use of paper (i.e. BCDs concerned, justification, etc.) by the Secretariat based on information sent by CPCs.

In parallel, the Secretariat was asked to analyse and develop a more detailed page allowing the direct posting of information by CPCs (e.g., at weekend when the Secretariat is closed).

To support these systems, the TWG discussed and agreed accompanying procedures and responsibilities including the conversion of the information initially included in paper BCDs to eBCD. These stated that:

- all cases preventing system access would first be dealt with at the CPC level,
- if such issue(s) cannot be resolved, they would subsequently be channelled by CPC Administrators to TRAGSA for investigation,
- following confirmation by TRAGSA (or not) that a specific issue indeed precludes system use the CPC administrator would communicate to the ICCAT Secretariat as soon as possible,
- the ICCAT Secretariat would post this information on the ICCAT website and/or it could be directly reported by the CPC on the self-reporting section of the website.

The TWG later discussed the information posted by some CPC with a view to providing solutions to technical problems and a return to eBCD as soon as possible. In parallel, the Secretariat was requested to follow up with CPCs concerned and communicate the feedback with a view to understanding better the types and nature of difficulties being experienced.

Despite having discussed and developed interim self-reporting procedures, the TWG considered in its September 2016 meeting that consideration of the issue was needed by the Commission in November in light of the existing notification requirements of Rec. 15-10. To assist Commission consideration of this issue, the TWG further elaborated a possible approach to self-reporting, which is appended in **Addendum 1 to Appendix 2 to ANNEX 11**.

In order to support such procedures, it was agreed that the list of BCD contact points provided in para 30 of Rec. [11-20] should be updated in the context of eBCD. Such contacts would be able to communicate with the Secretariat in addition to CPC Administrators in the above mentioned procedures. In this regard, the Secretariat sent a circular to all CPCs requesting eBCD contact points.

The Secretariat was also requested to facilitate the transmission of information and associated access to the eBCD system to ICCAT non-members (NCP) in the framework of the provisions laid down by para 5(i) of Rec. [15-10].

3. System support

The consortium responsible for the development, support and hosting of the eBCD system is composed of TRAGSA and Server Labs. While Server Labs provides 24/7 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week) support for system hosting on the Amazon cloud, the contract with the consortium was initially limited to European business hours.

With this in mind and taking into account the different time zones and scope of potential trade activities, the TWG agreed in their April meeting that TRAGSA would need to be available to provide as close to 24/7 support as possible, at least in the short to medium term during the transition to full implementation when the number of potential issues could be at its highest. The TWG subsequently requested the Secretariat to explore options with TRAGSA in order that a decision could be made on the most cost effective and suitable support option. The Secretariat was also asked to explore the utilization of the required resources from the Working Capital Fund following the decision of STACFAD in the 2015 Annual Meeting.

In light of the timing of E-BFT purse seine fishery and the full transition to eBCD, it was decided that a 24/7 support protocol would be sufficient until 30 June 2016. During the July TWG meeting and in light of ongoing caging and farming activities in the fishery, this support time frame was subsequently extended to 30 September 2016 and then again during the last TWG meeting in September to 30 November 2016, albeit at slightly lower time overage of 16/7.

The Executive Secretary informed the TWG that such requests would be followed up with the Chair of STACFAD prior to making the contractual adjustments with TRAGSA.

The financial impact of an extension was noted by the TWG; nonetheless, it was considered necessary in light of ongoing system development and fishing activities.

The TWG noted that the cost of having such a piecemeal approach may not be sustainable and encouraged the Commission to take up this matter in order that a more suitable long-term mechanism could be agreed.

Regarding the technical details related to the implementation of the support service provided, the number and nature of requests provided by TRAGSA (i.e. phone calls, emails, resolutions) can be found in the report provided by TRAGSA and appended to the July 2016 TWG meeting report.

4. Contractual issues including future financing of the system

Following the approval of the extension by the Commission to retain TRAGSA and ensure the continuation of system development in accordance with Rec. [13-07] the contract was extended to cover activities throughout 2016. It will expire on the 31 December 2016 and the support element, as detailed above, on 30 November 2016.

Subsequently, in view of

(a) on-going development of 'secondary' tasks,
(b) development and changes needed to the system in light of adjustments to ICCAT conservation and management measures, and
(c) ongoing system hosting and support,

a suitable solution would need to be found in order to support/finance the above activities either with the TRAGSA consortium or through another mechanism.

At the early stages of eBCD development, the TWG considered a number of options for future system financing and support. Following some proposals from members, these discussions were deferred pending a fully functional eBCD system. Although not explored in detail these included:

1. An eBCD document or other user-based fee to be collected on generation of each eBCD, although it was noted that this could result in an inequitable distribution of costs.

2. working capital fund, although it was noted that this option was likely not suitable in the long term for covering ongoing support and maintenance costs

3. main budget, which was seen as perhaps the most straightforward approach for ensuring long term funding needs were covered - recognizing that system costs would be spread amongst all members.

4. An eBCD fund managed by the ICCAT Secretariat contributed to by those CPCs based on catch and/or trade (or based on other parameters), although it was noted that the ICCAT Convention may not include flexibility to assess contributions in a manner different than that provided for in the Madrid Protocol. Without a firm legal basis to assess special contributions, some CPCs could have difficulty providing funding to support the system over the long term.

5. As point 3 but with contributions based on an initial registration fee applicable for all users together with a variable component (e.g., based on BFT quantity).

The financial breakdown and baseline information on the annual cost to maintain, host/support the system as well as the average number of users are available when considering the most suitable approach.

There were limited discussions in recent TWG meetings on system financing; however, there was a preference for extending the existing arrangement at least to cover remaining development work.

It was also noted that any user pays mechanism would create internal legal issues for some CPCs and that such approaches may not be possible even as a longer term solution. Furthermore, such an approach would likely require entering into a contract with a service provider to collect fees (such as paypal). The legal liabilities for ICCAT associated with such activities, such as if credit card information gets compromised, should be explored as should what protections would exist for users. Establishing whether or not ICCAT as an organization has a legal personality to enter into a contract for this purpose also should be looked at if this option is to be seriously considered.

Notwithstanding the views of STACAFD and the Commission, the TWG view was, therefore, that the general ICCAT budget could be used at least for the forthcoming year (2017) until such time as development work has been completed and a suitable future financing approach can be discussed and agreed.

5. Future role of the TWG

Notwithstanding the decisions of the Commission, the TWG felt that the group would need to remain in place at least through the next year [2017] and probably beyond to ensure the steering of future development work and provide a technical discussion/resolution forum; however, the group may not need to meet as frequently as in the past. One or two meetings per year could be sufficient in the future.

Addendum 1 to Appendix 2 to ANNEX 11

eBCD Reporting procedures and use of paper in case of technical difficulties

Pursuant to para 6(c) of Rec 15-10, in the event that a CPC is experiencing technical difficulties that preclude use of the eBCD system, the following procedures would apply:

A. During working hours of the Secretariat and the eBCD implementing consortium:

1. The CPC concerned must contact the implementing consortium to try to resolve the issue and ensure the Secretariat is aware of these communications.

2. In the case where a technical difficulty that has been confirmed by the implementing consortium cannot be resolved by the consortium before a trade event must occur, the CPC shall inform the Secretariat, including providing a copy of the confirmation from the developing consortium, of the nature of the technical difficulty using the attached format.

3. The Secretariat will notify other CPCs that paper BCDs may temporarily be used by the CPC in question by posting the information provided in paragraph 2 above on public part of the ICCAT website without delay.

4. A CPC encountering technical difficulties must continue to work with the developing consortium and, as appropriate, the Secretariat to resolve the issue.

5. The CPC shall report either through the self-reporting incident site or the Secretariat when the technical difficulty has been resolved for immediate posting on the ICCAT website.

[B. Outside working hours of the Secretariat and the eBCD implementing consortium:

1. The CPC concerned must immediately communicate to Secretariat and the implementing consortium via email that it is unable to use the eBCD system with an explanation of the technical difficulty encountered.

2. Using the self-reporting incident site developed by the Secretariat, the CPC shall upload the required information for automatic publication on the ICCAT website

3. If the technical difficulty is not resolved before the start of the next business day of the Secretariat and the implementing consortium, the CPC encountering the technical difficulty shall contact the implementing consortium and, as needed, the Secretariat, as soon as possible during that next business day to resolve the technical difficulty.

4. The CPC shall report either through the self-reporting incident site or the Secretariat when the technical difficulty has been resolved for immediate posting on the ICCAT website].

C. In all cases where a paper has been issued in accordance with the procedures specified in paragraphs A and B, the following also applies:

1. The CPC shall resume use of the eBCD system as soon as the technical issues are resolved.

2. All paper BCDs shall be converted into an eBCD by the flag CPC authorities, or the ICCAT Secretariat if requested to do so, as soon as possible following resolution of the technical difficulty.

3. The party that carried out the conversion of the BCD concerned shall be responsible for reporting/uploading this information on the relevant part of the ICCAT website and for the destruction of the original paper (now converted) BCD(s).

4. Once the paper BCD has been converted all subsequent trade events associated with the product with the BCDs concerned shall be carried out only in the eBCD system.

5. Paper BCDs may continue to be used until such time as the technical difficulty is resolved and the BCDs concerned are converted into eBCDs in accordance with the procedure above.

In addition the following fields should be added in the table already circulated by way of Circular #2247:

- BCD(s) concerned
- Date of resolution
- Incidence Number (if available)

Appendix 3 to ANNEX 11

U.S. Concept note on a pilot program for the exchange of inspectors in the conduct of joint international inspections at sea

For some time, the Commission has been considering modernizing its 1975 Scheme of Joint International Inspection, which was held in abeyance until it was activated for the eastern bluefin tuna fishery in 2006. As part of a revised comprehensive Scheme of Joint International Inspection (Scheme), consideration has been given in recent years to establishing a process for CPCs to exchange inspectors with a view to addressing, in particular, the special requirements of developing States. While discussion of a comprehensive Scheme continues, some CPCs are interested in exploring the establishment of a pilot program for the cooperative exchange of inspectors in the conduct of joint international inspections at sea.

A number of CPCs have had positive experiences with inspector exchanges, both within the context of schemes of joint international inspection implemented by RFMOs, and otherwise. For example, several CPCs have had such experiences in the Atlantic, within the context of the inspection scheme that have been adopted by the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization. Others have had similar experiences in other tuna RFMOs (e.g., the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission) or through bilateral arrangements. The existing partnerships and lessons learned through these experiences should enhance the collaborative opportunities set out in this pilot program.

A pilot program for the exchange of inspectors would be intended to complement ongoing efforts toward development of a revised Scheme by helping to familiarize inspectors from one CPC with the boarding and inspection processes and procedures of another, thereby enhancing understanding and building knowledge of such activities. Participation in the program would also help build capacity by providing direct experience both in the conduct of at-sea boarding and inspections, and in post-inspection cooperation and flag State follow-up. Participation would be expected to provide particular benefits to developing CPCs who may have limited capacity to directly train inspectors in such procedures or to deploy inspection vessels.

Participation in such a pilot program would be completely voluntary but broad participation would substantially strengthen cooperation and collaboration among CPCs and help inform ongoing discussions by the Commission on the structure and content of a revised Scheme.

CPCs would be free to join and leave the pilot program at any time.

Possible procedures for the exchange of inspectors under the pilot program are as follows:

1. CPCs volunteering to participate in the pilot program would submit to the Executive Secretary information on their national authorities responsible for at-sea inspection and other supporting maritime agencies as may be appropriate. CPCs would also identify a point of contact (POC) within its authority with responsibility for program implementation and notify the Executive Secretary of the name, telephone, fax numbers, and e-mail address of that POC. The Executive Secretary would make such information available on the password-protected part of the ICCAT website.

2. CPCs deploying patrol vessels in the Convention area would strive to arrange patrols that can accommodate one or more inspectors from other CPCs, provide timely notice of such patrols to other participating CPCs, and solicit other CPCs for the deployment of inspectors.

3. All CPCs would need to protect law enforcement sensitive or otherwise confidential or protected information including deployment and inspection plans, from inappropriate disclosure.

4. CPCs wishing to place an inspector on another CPC's inspection vessel would promptly contact the POC of the CPC that has notified its planned deployment under paragraph 2. The CPCs will consult to determine whether the collaborative deployment of the inspector can be accommodated, taking into consideration operational limitations as well as training, security, medical and physical requirements. CPCs deploying inspection vessel(s) would, in particular, make special efforts to accommodate collaborative inspector deployment requests from developing CPCs.

5. CPCs that have elected to accommodate or deploy an inspector following consultations under paragraph 4, would enter into a standing or *ad hoc* bilateral agreement or arrangement to address the details of such deployment, including provisions for the cooperative deployment of personnel and the use of vessels, aircraft or other resources for fisheries surveillance and control purposes.

6. CPCs deploying patrol resources, subject to having an agreement or arrangement for the exchange of inspectors as outlined in paragraph 5 above, would seek to embark authorized inspector(s) from the requesting CPC on available patrol resources and involve these inspectors in fisheries control boardings pursuant to said arrangement or agreement.

7. CPCs participating in the pilot program would report annually on their experiences under the program.

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 11

Recommendation 11-18: Provisional IUU list 2016

List of vessels presumed to have carried out IUU fishing activities

Serial No.	*Lloyds/IMO Number*	*Reporting CPC/RFMO*	*Date Informed*	*Reference #*	*Current Flag*	*Previous Flag*	*Name of Vessel (Latin)*	*Name (Previous)*	*Call Sign*	*Owner/ Operator Name*	*Owner/ Operator Address*	*Area*	*Gear*
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)		

Serial No.	*Lloyds/IMO Number*	*Reporting CPC/RFMO*	*Date Informed*	*Reference #*	*Current Flag*	*Previous Flag*	*Name of Vessel (Latin)*	*Name (Previous)*	*Call Sign*	*Owner/ Operator Name*	*Owner/ Operator Address*	*Area*	*Gear*
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	

Serial No.	*Lloyds/IMO Number*	*Reporting CPC/RFMO*	*Date Informed*	*Reference #*	*Current Flag*	*Previous Flag*	*Name of Vessel (Latin)*	*Name (Previous)*	*Call Sign*	*Owner/ Operator Name*	*Owner/ Operator Address*	*Area*	*Gear*
20060005	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. 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	

Serial No.	*Lloyds/IMO Number*	*Reporting CPC/RFMO*	*Date Informed*	*Reference #*	*Current Flag*	*Previous Flag*	*Name of Vessel (Latin)*	*Name (Previous)*	*Call Sign*	*Owner/ Operator Name*	*Owner/ Operator Address*	*Area*	*Gear*
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	Unknown	Rep. of Guinea	DANIAA	CARLOS	3X07QMC	ALPHA CAMARA (Guinean company)	NO INFO	E-ATL or MEDI	Longliner

Serial No.	*Lloyds/IMO Number*	*Reporting CPC/RFMO*	*Date Informed*	*Reference #*	*Current Flag*	*Previous Flag*	*Name of Vessel (Latin)*	*Name (Previous)*	*Call Sign*	*Owner/ Operator Name*	*Owner/ Operator Address*	*Area*	*Gear*
20080004	Not available (former ICCAT Register number AT000LIB00039)	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 AT000LIB00041)	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	
20090003	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 II			Hoom Xiang Industries Sdn. Bhd.			

Serial No.	*Lloyds/IMO Number*	*Reporting CPC/RFMO*	*Date Informed*	*Reference #*	*Current Flag*	*Previous Flag*	*Name of Vessel (Latin)*	*Name (Previous)*	*Call Sign*	*Owner/ Operator Name*	*Owner/ Operator Address*	*Area*	*Gear*
20110003	C-00545 M-00545	IATTC WCPFC	30/08/2011 09/03/2016	E11-5762 E16-02093/16	Georgia Unknown	Georgia	Neptune		4LOG Unknown	Space Energy Enterprise Company, LTD		Pacific Ocean	LL
20110011		IATTC	30/08/2011	E11-5762	Unknown	Indonesia	Bhaskara No. 10	Bhaskara No. 10				Pacific Ocean	LL
20110012		IATTC	30/08/2011	E11-5762	Unknown	Indonesia	Bhaskara No.9	Bhaskara No. 9				Pacific Ocean	LL
20110013		IATTC	30/08/2011	E11-5762	Unknown		Camelot					Pacific Ocean	LL
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 Ocean	LL
20130001	IMO 7355662	WCPFC	09/03/2016	E16-02093	Unknown	Georgia	Fu Lien nº 1		4LIN2	Fu Lien Fishery Co., Georgia			
20130002		WCPFC	14/03/2013	E13-1532	Chinese Taipei		Yu Fong 168		BJ4786	Chang Lin Pao-Chun	161 Sanmin Rd., Liouciuo Township, Pingtung County 929, Chinese Taipei		
20130003		IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 07/02	04/06/2013	E13-4010	Unknown		Fu Hsiang Fa No. 21*		OTS 024 or OTS 089	Unknown			

Serial No.	*Lloyds/IMO Number*	*Reporting CPC/RFMO*	*Date Informed*	*Reference #*	*Current Flag*	*Previous Flag*	*Name of Vessel (Latin)*	*Name (Previous)*	*Call Sign*	*Owner/ Operator Name*	*Owner/ Operator Address*	*Area*	*Gear*
20130004		IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 07/02	04/06/2013	E13-4010	Unknown		Full Rich		HMEK3	Noel International LTD			
20130005		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown		Dragon III			Reino De Mar S.A	125 metros al Oeste de Sardimar cocal de Puntarenas Puntarenas Costa Rica	Pacific Ocean	Longline
20130006		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown	Panamá	Goidau Ruey No. 1	Goidau Ruey 1	HO-2508	Goidau Ruey Industrial, S.A	1 Fl, No. 101 Ta-She Road Ta She Hsiang Kaohsiung Chinese Taipei	Pacific Ocean	Longline
20130007		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown		Jyi Lih 88					Pacific Ocean	Longline
20130008		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown	Belize	Orca	Orca				Pacific Ocean	Longline
20130009		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown	Belize	Reymar 6	Reymar 6				Pacific Ocean	Longline

Serial No.	*Lloyds/IMO Number*	*Reporting CPC/RFMO*	*Date Informed*	*Reference #*	*Current Flag*	*Previous Flag*	*Name of Vessel (Latin)*	*Name (Previous)*	*Call Sign*	*Owner/ Operator Name*	*Owner/ Operator Address*	*Area*	*Gear*
20130010		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown		Ta Fu 1					Pacific Ocean	Longline
20130011		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown	Belize, (Costa Rica)	Tching Ye No. 6	Tching Ye No. 6, (El Diria I)	V3GN		Costado Este de UCR El Cocal Puntarenas Costa Rica	Pacific Ocean	Longline
20130012	8994295	IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown	Belize	Wen Teng No. 688	Wen Teng No. 688, (Mahkoia Abadi No. 196)	V3TK4		No. 32 Hai Shan 4th Road Hsiao Kang District Kaohsiung Chinese Taipei	Pacific Ocean	Longline
20130013		ICCAT	25/11/2013	COC-303/2013 Annex 4; Plenary report Commissi on 2013	Indonesia	Uknown	Samudera Pasifik No. 18	Kawil No. 03; Lady VI-T-III	YGGY	Bali Ocean Anugrah Linger Indoenesia, PT	JL. Ikan Tuna Raya Barat IV, Pel. Benoa-Denpasar		Drifting longline
20140001		IATTC	12/08/2014	E14-06604	Fiji		Xin Shi Ji 16		3DTN	Xin Shi Ji Fisheries Limited	346 Waimanu Road, Suva, Fiji		Longline
20150001	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	ANEKA 228		No info	Unknown	Unknown		

Serial No.	*Lloyds/IMO Number*	*Reporting CPC/RFMO*	*Date Informed*	*Reference #*	*Current Flag*	*Previous Flag*	*Name of Vessel (Latin)*	*Name (Previous)*	*Call Sign*	*Owner/ Operator Name*	*Owner/ Operator Address*	*Area*	*Gear*
20150002	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	ANEKA 228; KM.		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150003	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	CHI TONG		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150004	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA 18		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150005	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO 01		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150006	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 02		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150007	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 06		No info	Unknown	Unknown		

Serial No.	*Lloyds/IMO Number*	*Reporting CPC/RFMO*	*Date Informed*	*Reference #*	*Current Flag*	*Previous Flag*	*Name of Vessel (Latin)*	*Name (Previous)*	*Call Sign*	*Owner/ Operator Name*	*Owner/ Operator Address*	*Area*	*Gear*
20150008	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 08		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150009	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 09		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150010	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 11		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150011	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 13		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150012	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 17		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150013	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 20		No info	Unknown	Unknown		

Serial No.	*Lloyds/IMO Number*	*Reporting CPC/RFMO*	*Date Informed*	*Reference #*	*Current Flag*	*Previous Flag*	*Name of Vessel (Latin)*	*Name (Previous)*	*Call Sign*	*Owner/ Operator Name*	*Owner/ Operator Address*	*Area*	*Gear*
20150014	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 21*		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150015	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 23		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150016	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 26		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150017	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 30		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150018	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Malaysia	HOOM XIANG 101		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150019	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Malaysia	HOOM XIANG 103		No info	Unknown	Unknown		

Serial No.	*Lloyds/IMO Number*	*Reporting CPC/RFMO*	*Date Informed*	*Reference #*	*Current Flag*	*Previous Flag*	*Name of Vessel (Latin)*	*Name (Previous)*	*Call Sign*	*Owner/ Operator Name*	*Owner/ Operator Address*	*Area*	*Gear*
20150020	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Malaysia	HOOM XIANG 105		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150021	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Bolivia		KIM SENG DENG 3		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150022	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	KUANG HSING 127		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150023	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	KUANG HSING 196		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150024	7322897	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Equatorial Guinea		KUNLUN (TAISHAN)		3CAG	Stanley Management Inc	Unknown		
20150025	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	MAAN YIH HSING		No info	Unknown	Unknown		

Serial No.	*Lloyds/IMO Number*	*Reporting CPC/RFMO*	*Date Informed*	*Reference #*	*Current Flag*	*Previous Flag*	*Name of Vessel (Latin)*	*Name (Previous)*	*Call Sign*	*Owner/ Operator Name*	*Owner/ Operator Address*	*Area*	*Gear*
20150026	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	SAMUDERA PERKASA 11		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150027	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	SAMUDERA PERKASA 12		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150028	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	SHUEN SIANG		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150029	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	SIN SHUN FA 6		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150030	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	SIN SHUN FA 67		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150031	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	SIN SHUN FA 8		No info	Unknown	Unknown		

Serial No.	*Lloyds/IMO Number*	*Reporting CPC/RFMO*	*Date Informed*	*Reference #*	*Current Flag*	*Previous Flag*	*Name of Vessel (Latin)*	*Name (Previous)*	*Call Sign*	*Owner/ Operator Name*	*Owner/ Operator Address*	*Area*	*Gear*
20150032	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	SIN SHUN FA 9		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150033	9319856	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Equatorial Guinea	SONGHUA (YUNNAN)		3CAF	Eastern Holdings	Unknown		
20150034	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	SRI FU FA 168		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150035	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	SRI FU FA 18		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150036	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	SRI FU FA 188		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150037	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	SRI FU FA 189		No info	Unknown	Unknown		

Serial No.	*Lloyds/IMO Number*	*Reporting CPC/RFMO*	*Date Informed*	*Reference #*	*Current Flag*	*Previous Flag*	*Name of Vessel (Latin)*	*Name (Previous)*	*Call Sign*	*Owner/ Operator Name*	*Owner/ Operator Address*	*Area*	*Gear*
20150038	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	SRI FU FA 286		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150039	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	SRI FU FA 67		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150040	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	SRI FU FA 888		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150041	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	TIAN LUNG NO.12		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150042	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Bolivia		YI HONG 106		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150043	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Bolivia		YI HONG 116		No info	Unknown	Unknown		

Serial No.	*Lloyds/IMO Number*	*Reporting CPC/RFMO*	*Date Informed*	*Reference #*	*Current Flag*	*Previous Flag*	*Name of Vessel (Latin)*	*Name (Previous)*	*Call Sign*	*Owner/ Operator Name*	*Owner/ Operator Address*	*Area*	*Gear*
20150044	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	YI HONG 16		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150045	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	YI HONG 3		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150046	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Bolivia		YI HONG 6		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150047	9042001	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Equatorial Guinea		YONGDING (JIANFENG)		3CAE	Stanley Management Inc.	Unknown		
20150048	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	YU FONG 168		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20160049	n.a	Senegal/ICCAT	25/02/2016	E16-01726	Unknown	Liberia	New Bai I No. 168	Tai Yuan No. 227	YGMY	Shin Pao K ONG Winnie Tsengi	Unknown	AT	

(*) No information from IOTC on whether the two vessels FU HSIANG FA NO. 21 are the same vessels.

Photography available: Serial number 20050001; Photography for Hoom Xuang 11; Fu Hsiang Fa No. 21 and Full Rich are available in, respectively, IOTC Reports IOTC-S14-CoC13-add1 [E]; IOTC-2013-CoC10-07 Rev 1[E] and IOTC-2013-CoC10-08a[E]; Photography for the vessel Wen Teng No. 688 is available at **http://www.iattc.org/VesselRegister/VesselDetails.aspx?VesNo=129&Lang=en**

BACKGROUND NOTES FOR IUU LIST 2016:
WCPFC IUU VESSEL LIST FOR 2016
(Effective from 7 February 2016: WCPFC12 agreed to maintain the WCPFC IUU list for 2015 as the WCPFC IUU list for 2016)

Note: Information provided in this list is in accordance with CMM 2010-06 para 19.

Current name of vessel (previous names)	Current flag (previous flags)	Date first included on WCPFC IUU Vessel List*	Flag State Registration Number/ IMO Number	Call Sign (previous call signs)	Owner/beneficial owners (previous owners)	Notifying CCM	IUU activities
Neptune	*unknown* Georgia	10 Dec. 2010	M-00545	*unknown* 4LOG	Space Energy Enterprises Co. Ltd.	France	Fishing on the high seas of the WCPF Convention Area without being on the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels (CMM 2007-03-para 3a)
Fu Lien No 1	*unknown* Georgia	10 Dec. 2010	M-01432 IMO No 7355662	*unknown* 4LIN2	Fu Lien Fishery Co., Georgia	United States	Is without nationality and harvested species covered by the WCPF Convention in the Convention Area (CMM 2007-03, para 3h)
Yu Fong 168	Chinese Taipei	11 Dec. 2009		BJ4786	Chang Lin Pao-Chun, 161 Sanmin Rd., Liouciuo Township, Pingtung County 929, Chinese Taipei	Marshall Islands	Fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of the Marshall Islands without permission and in contravention of Republic of the Marshall Islands's laws and regulations. (CMM 2007-03, para 3b)

***Supplementary note as at 8 Dec 2015:** In October 2015, at the request of TCC11 the Executive Director sent letters to: Chinese Taipei and Georgia to request information of their vessel/s on the WCPFC IUU list, specifically their last known operations and whereabouts; and to other RFMOs (CCAMLR, CCSBT, IATTC, ICCAT, IOTC, NPAFC & SPRFMO) to seek their cooperation with locating the vessels on the WCPFC IUU list underlining that they are now listed on a number of IUU lists. Georgia replied to confirm that the vessels **Neptune** and **Fu Lien No 1** are no longer flying Georgia flag. Chinese Taipei confirmed that with respect to **Yu Fong 168**, the license was revoked in 2009 the owner of the vessel has been penalized through repeated monetary punishment for violating the rules of not returning to port. Chinese Taipei further advised that the most recent information was received from Thailand's notification to IOTC that the vessel landed their catches in the port of Phuket in the year 2013. CCAMLR and NPAFC replied and confirmed that there are no updates to provide, and ICCAT confirmed that the three vessels are included on the provisional IUU list which will be considered for adoption at the forthcoming ICCAT meeting, 10-17 November 2015.

IATTC IUU LIST FOR 2016

The IATTC Secretariat has informed the ICCAT Secretariat on 8 July 2016 that the IATTC IUU Vessel List that was adopted at the 90th meeting of the Commission was identical to that adopted last year.

IOTC IUU VESSELS LIST 2016

The IOTC IUU list was approved at the 20th Session of the IOTC Commission in May 2016 (IOTC Circular 2016-056). IOTC has informed the ICCAT Secretariat that in relation to the 2015 IOTC IUU list, there has not been any new addition since the IUU list adopted in May 2015. Therefore, IOTC has no new documentation to distribute.