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

**R E P O R T
for biennial period, 2018-19
PART I (2018) - Vol. 1
English version COM**

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

CONTRACTING PARTIES

(at 31 December 2018)

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

COMMISSION OFFICERS

Commission Chairman

R. DELGADO, PANAMA
(since 21 November 2017)

First Vice Chair

S. DEPYPERE, EU
(since 17 November 2015)

Second Vice Chair

Z. DRIOUICH, MOROCCO
(since 21 November 2017)

Panel No.

PANEL MEMBERSHIP

Chair

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

SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COMMISSION

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION (STACFAD)

Chair

H. A. ELEKON, Turkey
(since 21 November 2017)

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH & STATISTICS (SCRS)

Sub-Committee on Statistics: G. DÍAZ (United States), Convener

Sub-Committee on Ecosystems: A. DOMINGO (Uruguay), A. HANKE (Canada), Conveners

G. MELVIN, Canada
(since 5 October 2018)

CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT MEASURES COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE (COC)

D. CAMPBELL, United States
(since 25 November 2013)

PERMANENT WORKING GROUP FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF ICCAT STATISTICS AND CONSERVATION MEASURES (PWG)

N. ANSELL, European Union
(since 21 November 2017)

STANDING WORKING GROUP TO ENHANCE DIALOGUE BETWEEN FISHERIES SCIENTISTS AND MANAGERS (SWGSM)

R. DELGADO, Panama
(since 21 November 2017)

ICCAT SECRETARIAT

Executive Secretary: MR. C.J.P. MANEL

Assistant Executive Secretary: DR. M. NEVES DOS SANTOS

Address: C/Corazón de María 8, Madrid 28002 (Spain)

Internet: www.iccat.int - E-mail: info@iccat.int

FOREWORD

The Chairman of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas presents his compliments to the Contracting Parties of the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (signed in Rio de Janeiro, May 14, 1966), as well as to the Delegates and Advisers that represent said Contracting Parties, and has the honor to transmit to them the "**Report for the Biennial Period, 2018-2019, Part I (2018)**", which describes the activities of the Commission during the first half of said biennial period.

This issue of the Biennial Report contains the Report of the 21st Special Meeting of the Commission (Dubrovnik, Croatia, 12-19 November 2018) and the reports of all the meetings of the Panels, Standing Committees and Sub-Committees, as well as some of the Working Groups. It also includes a summary of the activities of the Secretariat and the Annual Reports of the Contracting Parties of the Commission and Observers, relative to their activities in tuna and tuna-like fisheries in the Convention area.

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

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

RAÚL DELGADO
Commission Chairman

Please note that the section

OTHER DOCUMENTS DISCUSSED IN 2018

7.1 AGREED WORKPLAN TO FINALIZE THE PROPOSALS FOR CONVENTION AMENDMENT

In the opening session of Plenary, the Commission adopted the report of the 6th Meeting of the Convention Working Group (**ANNEX 4.5**) and its recommendations. The Commission agreed to take the output of the Working Group forward for finalization and adoption, including the proposed text to amend the ICCAT Convention, the associated draft Resolution Regarding Participation by Fishing Entities under the Amended ICCAT Convention, and the amended draft Recommendation on Species Considered to be Tuna and Tuna-Like Species or Oceanic, Pelagic, and Highly Migratory Elasmobranchs (**Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.5**). The Commission agreed that these constitute a package, and the texts are final and not subject to any further substantive negotiation and discussion.

Should read:

OTHER DOCUMENTS DISCUSSED IN 2018

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In the opening session of Plenary, the Commission adopted the report of the 6th Meeting of the Convention Working Group (**ANNEX 4.5**) and its recommendations. The Commission agreed to take the output of the Working Group forward for finalization and adoption, including the proposed text to amend the ICCAT Convention, the associated draft Resolution Regarding Participation by Fishing Entities under the Amended ICCAT Convention, and the ~~amended~~ draft Recommendation on Species Considered to be Tuna and Tuna-Like Species or Oceanic, Pelagic, and Highly Migratory Elasmobranchs (**Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.5**), as amended by the Commission in 2018 and attached below. The Commission agreed that these constitute a package, and the texts are final and not subject to any further substantive negotiation and discussion.

[The rest of the text remains the same].

Attachment 1 to ANNEX 7.1

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON FISHES CONSIDERED TO BE
TUNA AND TUNA-LIKE SPECIES OR OCEANIC, PELAGIC,
AND HIGHLY MIGRATORY ELASMOBRANCHS**

(Proposal by the Chair of the WG of the Convention Amendment)

RECALLING the work of the Working Group on Convention Amendment to clarify the scope of the Convention through the development of proposed amendments to the Convention;

FURTHER RECALLING that the proposed amendments developed by the Working Group on Convention Amendment included defining “ICCAT species” to include tuna and tuna-like fishes and elasmobranchs that are oceanic, pelagic, and highly migratory;

NOTING the work of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) to determine which modern taxonomic groupings correspond to the definition of “tuna and tuna-like fishes” in Article IV of the Convention, and which elasmobranch species would be considered “oceanic, pelagic, and highly migratory”;

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

1. Upon the entry into force of the amendments to the Convention as developed by the Working Group on Convention Amendment, the term “tuna and tuna-like fishes” shall be understood to include the species of the family Scombridae, with the exception of the genus *Scomber*, and the sub-order Xiphiioidei.
2. Upon the entry into force of the amendments to the Convention as developed by the Working Group on Convention Amendment, the term “elasmobranchs that are oceanic, pelagic, and highly migratory” shall be understood to include the species as follows:

Orectolobiformes

Rhincodontidae

Rhincodon typus (Smith 1828) – Whale shark, Requin baleine, Tiburón ballena

Lamniformes

Pseudocarchariidae

Pseudocarcharias kamoharai (Matsubara 1936) – Crocodile shark, Requin crocodile, Tiburón cocodrilo

Lamnidae

Carcharodon carcharias (Linnaeus 1758) – Great white shark, Grand requin blanc, Jaquetón blanco

Isurus oxyrinchus (Rafinesque 1810) – Shortfin mako, Taupe bleue, Marrajo dientuso

Isurus paucus (Guitart Manday 1966) – Longfin mako, Petite taupe, Marrajo carite

Lamna nasus (Bonnaterre 1788) – Porbeagle, Requin-taupe commun, Marrajo sardinero

Cetorhinidae

Cetorhinus maximus (Gunnerus 1765) – Basking shark, Pélerin, Peregrino

Alopiidae

Alopias superciliosus (Lowe 1841) – Bigeye thresher, Renard à gros yeux, Zorro ojón

Alopias vulpinus (Bonnaterre 1788) – Thresher, Renard, Zorro

Carcharhiniformes

Carcharhinidae

Carcharhinus falciformis (Müller & Henle 1839) – Silky shark, Requin soyeux, Tiburón jaquetón

Carcharhinus galapagensis (Snodgrass & Heller 1905) – Galapagos shark, Requin des Galapagos, Tiburón de Galápagos

Carcharhinus longimanus (Poey 1861) – Oceanic whitetip shark, Requin océanique, Tiburón oceánico

Prionace glauca (Linnaeus 1758) – Blue shark, Peau bleue, Tiburón azul

Sphyrnidae

Sphyrna lewini (Griffith & Smith 1834) – Scalloped hammerhead, Requin marteau halicorne, Cornuda común

Sphyrna mokarran (Rüppell 1837) – Great hammerhead, Grand requin Marteau, Cornuda gigante

Sphyrna zygaena (Linnaeus 1758) – Smooth hammerhead, Requin marteau commun, Cornuda cruz

Myliobatiformes

Dasyatidae

Pteroplatytrygon violacea (Bonaparte 1832) – Pelagic stingray, Pastenague violette, Raya-látigo violeta

Mobulidae

Manta alfredi (Krefft 1868) – NA, NA, NA

Manta birostris (Walbaum 1792) – Giant manta, Mante géante, Manta gigante

Mobula hypostoma (Bancroft 1839) – Lesser devil ray, Mante diable, Manta del Golfo

Mobula japonica (Müller & Henle 1841) – NA,* NA, NA

Mobula mobular (Bonnaterre 1788) – Devil fish, Diable de mer méditerranéen, Manta mobula

Mobula tarapacana (Philippi 1892) – Chilean devil ray, NA, NA

Mobula thurstoni (Lloyd 1908) – Smoothtail mobula, Mante vampire, Diablo chupasangre

* NA – Common name not available

3. The species set forth in paragraphs 1 and 2 above will be reviewed periodically and may be amended, as appropriate, upon the receipt of advice from the SCRS.

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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 21ST SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT)**
(Dubrovnik, Croatia, 12-19 November 2018)

1. Opening of the meeting

The Commission Chair, Mr. Raul Delgado, opened the 21st Special Meeting of the Commission. He welcomed all the participants and introduced Mr. Mato Franković, Mayor of Dubrovnik, Nikola Dobrosravić, Prefect of Dubrovnik-Neretva County; and Mr. Tomislav Tolušić, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Croatia who honoured the opening ceremony with their presence and welcomed all the participants to Croatia, with its long history of tuna fishing, and in particular to the beautiful city of Dubrovnik, paradise on earth, and wished them all a successful meeting.

Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel, the Executive Secretary, also welcomed the participants to his first meeting as Executive Secretary and thanked the Croatian authorities for their hospitality and for the excellent meeting arrangements, as well as the European Union for the financial assistance which made the meeting possible.

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

2. Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements

Honduras informed the Commission that they intended to offer some information on the United Nations process on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) under item 15, Other matters. With this proviso, the Agenda was adopted as attached in **ANNEX 1**. The Secretariat served as Rapporteur.

3. Introduction of Contracting Parties

The Executive Secretary introduced the following 45 Contracting Parties that attended the meeting: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Belize, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Curacao, Egypt, El Salvador, European Union, France (St. Pierre and Miquelon), Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea Bissau, Honduras, Iceland, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Russian Federation, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, South Africa, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

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

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).

One non-Contracting Party, Fiji, attended the meeting as an observer. Observers from the following non-governmental organisations were also in attendance: Asociación Nacional de Acuicultura de Atún Rojo (ANATUN), Asociación de Pesca, Comercio y Consumo Responsable del Atún Rojo (APCCR), Associação de Ciências Marinhas e Cooperação (SCIAENA), Association euro-méditerranéenne des pêcheurs professionnels de thon (AEPPT), Blue Water Fisherman's Association (BWFA), Confédération Internationale de la Pêche Sportive (CIPS), Defenders of Wildlife, Ecology Action Centre (EAC), Européche,

Federation of Maltese Aquaculture Producers (FMAP), FEDERCOOPESCA, International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), Organisation for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries (OPRT), Organisation for Regional and Inter-Regional Studies (ORIS), Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW), Stockholm Resilience Centre (SRC), The International Pole & Line Foundation (IPNLF), The Ocean Foundation, The Shark Trust, and the World Wildlife 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 3.3**.

5. Review of the report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)

The SCRS Chair presented the work of the SCRS during the year which included nine intersessional meetings, as well as the work carried out by the various research programmes. Dr David Die indicated that more details relating to individual species would be presented to the various Panels, but as an overview presented work carried out on MSE with a possible future roadmap, as well as some proposed changes to the SCRS organisation, in terms of structure (inclusion of a Vice-Chair) and presentation of reports.

The delegates congratulated Dr Die and the SCRS scientists on their work during the year and expressed satisfaction on the work carried out on MSE to date. Notwithstanding, while not wishing to lose the momentum gained to date, many delegations were of the view that the process need to be slowed slightly to give time for all involved to become fully conversant with the process and to gain experience from a stock by stock approach.

The Commission also expressed its appreciation for the work being undertaken within the framework of the various research programmes, and thanked the former Coordinator of the GBYP, Dr Antonio Di Natale for his tireless work, while wishing every success to the current Coordinator for continued progress.

The Commission approved, in principle, the establishment of a position of Vice-Chair for the SCRS, as well as the possibility of funding for Species Group rapporteurs/convenors from developing countries, pending further discussion in STACFAD (see below item 10).

Dr Die also requested input from the Commission regarding a revised presentation of Executive Summaries of the Species Working Group. Several delegations offered input and suggestions, and it was agreed that a revised draft would be considered at the next meeting of the SCRS, and that any final decisions would be taken at the next Commission meeting.

The Commission thanked Dr Die for his work over the last years and welcomed Dr Gary Melvin as new Chair of SCRS. The 2018 SCRS report was adopted by the Commission.

6. Review of the reports of the 2018 Intersessional Meetings, and consideration of any necessary actions

The reports of the intersessional meetings of Panel 1, Panel 2, the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures, the Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity Building and Assistance and the Online Reporting Technology Working Group had all been referred to the relevant subsidiary bodies for review and consideration any necessary actions and were adopted by the Commission.

The Chair of the Commission, Mr. Raul Delgado presented the findings of the Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM). Dr Die, the Co-chair of the SWGSM noted that the progress on north albacore would have implications for all MSE processes, and that it was important to define the criteria to be used as evidence to determine if certain circumstances occur, and that the Commission needed to determine what actions should be taken in such circumstances. Delegates noted the good progress which had been made on several species and hoped that the work on conceptual management objectives and management evaluation strategy would continue. The Chair noted that more detailed species-specific discussions could take place in the relevant Panels. The Commission adopted the report of the SWGSM which is contained in **ANNEX 4.4**.

Ms. Deirdre Warner-Kramer, Chair of the Working Group on Convention Amendment, presented the findings of the last meeting of the Working Group. The Working Group had agreed the proposed text to amend the ICCAT Convention, the associated “Draft Resolution by ICCAT Regarding Participation by Fishing Entities under the Amended ICCAT Convention” contained in **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.5**, and the “Draft Recommendation on Species Considered to be Tuna and Tuna-like Species or Oceanic, Pelagic, and Highly Migratory Elasmobranchs”.

The Commission agreed that these documents should be considered as a package and that the procedure proposed by the Working Group Chair regarding the next steps of the process be followed. The “Proposed Workplan to Finalize the Proposals for Convention Amendment” was adopted and is contained in **ANNEX 7.1**

Statements by Contracting Parties in relation to the process are attached in **ANNEX 3.4**. The Commission also adopted the Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment. The report is included in **ANNEX 4.5**.

All delegates expressed their appreciation for the work of Ms. Warner-Kramer whose dedicated chairing of the Working Group has led to this satisfactory conclusion.

7. Review of progress on follow up on the Second Performance Review and consideration of any necessary actions.

It was noted that many of the recommendations of the Panel carrying out the second ICCAT performance review had been discussed in the subsidiary bodies. It was agreed that the findings be compiled and monitored in the future. Progress to date made on the follow-up of the Second performance review is included in **ANNEX 7.2**.

8. Assistance to developing coastal States and capacity building

This item was deferred to STACFAD for discussion, please see item 10 below and **ANNEX 8**.

9. Cooperation with other organisations

The Executive Secretary presented a document outlining the collaboration with other international organizations which had taken place during 2018. He highlighted the contact with WECAFC, as a result of which discussions are ongoing to establish a Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations. The importance of monitoring activities in OSPAR and continued exchange of information relating to the proposed marine protected area (MPA) was noted. Continued collaboration with other organisations with possible overlapping competences, such as GFCM was also advised.

Mr. Manel also summarized the work which had been undertaken in the context of the ABNJ/Common Oceans Programme. The coordinator of the Common Oceans ABNJ Tuna Project, Mr. Alejandro Anganuzzi, confirmed the ongoing collaboration and drew the attention of all delegates to the projected Phase II of the Common Oceans Programme. He reminded Parties that the start up of phase two would be starting early in 2019 to determine a basis framework based on a theory of change. The Commission thanked Mr. Anganuzzi and echoed the importance of ICCAT becoming involved at an early stage of the process.

The first Vice-Chair of the Commission, Mr. Stefaan Depypere, gave a presentation on the future of the Kobe process and possible future actions, in his capacity as Chair of the Kobe Process Steering Committee. He noted that there was a definite need for t-RFMO to communicate and work together and suggested that this work could be structured by type of cooperation resting on three pillars. Pillar 1 consists of practical exchange of information amongst RFMO secretariats; Pillar 2 consists of thematic working groups with RFMO staff, CPC staff and representatives of stakeholders. More strategic and conceptual work would be a third pillar and could possibly be undertaken during a general large-scale all-inclusive meeting (a “Kobe 4”). CPCs endorsed the Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 cooperation but made more qualified comments on a possible large-scale meeting. While there had been some support for such a general “Kobe 4” type meeting, it was also

noted that smaller more technical theme related meetings had, in general, been more productive. Regarding the large-scale meeting, Mr. Depypere particularly noted the importance of a concerted approach in international fora such as the United Nations Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) process, from which the fisheries world was notably absent, in some cases due to a lack of communication between agencies at national level. Somehow it would be good if the t-RFMOs had a forum to discuss common strategic challenges. There was general agreement that a united approach to such fora could be beneficial. While the idea of a “Kobe 4” was not universally rejected, there was, in general, a preference for smaller thematic meetings. A suggestion was made that even strategic challenges could be discussed at a smaller meeting. Furthermore, some were of the view that such meetings could be more inclusive and not limited to only tuna RFMOs, given that some topics could be of wider interest to fisheries bodies.

It was agreed that coordination between ABNJ and the Kobe process would continue, in order to draw up a more concrete plan of action and possible joint meeting(s). Meanwhile, the Commission expressed its thanks to Mr. Depypere for his presentation and work to date, and endorsed the further involvement by the Secretariat in the so-called pillar 1 and pillar 2 activities. Mr. Depypere’s document is attached in **ANNEX 7.3**.

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

The STACFAD Chair, Mr. Hasan Alper Elekon (Turkey) reported that the Committee adopted the 2018 Administrative Report, the 2018 Financial Report and the Revised ICCAT Budget for Financial Year 2019. These were all adopted by the Commission and the revised budget is attached as (**Table 1-5 to ANNEX 8**).

The Chair of the eBCD Technical Working Group had put forward a “Draft Proposed Addition to ICCAT Financial Regulation 4 for an eBCD System Funding Scheme”, which was adopted by the Committee. Accordingly, funding of the eBCD System shall be financed by additional annual contributions made by those members of the Commission that catch and/or trade Atlantic bluefin tuna. This addition was adopted by the Commission and is contained **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 8**. It was agreed that the regulations would be revised accordingly.

STACFAD had agreed that the Secretariat could select the auditors for the next five-year period (2018-2022) from among the offers received, and this decision was endorsed by the Commission.

Mr. Elekon reported that the Committee has expressed some concern about the high level of outstanding arrears, representing 51% of the 2018 budget, as well as the overall poor financial situation of the Working Capital Fund. STACFAD proposed establishing an intersessional correspondence group on the sustainable financial position for ICCAT, open to all CPCs. The Commission endorsed this suggestion. The financial implications of ICCAT conservation and management measures and of the SCRS requests have been reviewed and the STACFAD Chair indicated that both voluntary contributions and external funding sources would be required.

It was agreed that travel of the SCRS Species Group rapporteurs from developing CPCs will be financed through the Working Capital Fund in 2019. Starting in the next biennial budget period (2020-2021), the Secretariat will include an appropriate chapter for travel expenses of the SCRS Vice-Chair and Rapporteurs and the necessary changes will be made to reflect SCRS Vice-Chair’s role in Rule 13 of ICCAT Rules of Procedure.

It had been noted that a good level of attendance to ICCAT scientific and non-scientific meetings by the representatives of developing CPCs is a crucial target and that an effective use of the special Meeting Participation Fund should be insured by way of finding alternative funding resources to alleviate the pressure on the current capacity building funds of ICCAT. The Committee has also addressed the importance of observance by beneficiaries of the required procedures and deadlines set, as to their travel arrangements in the context of requests for travel assistance to attend the meetings. To this end, a new Rules of Procedure for the Administration of the Special Meeting Participation Fund has been adopted by the Committee. The revised rules are contained in **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 8**.

STACFAD also adopted the procedure contained in the document on Streamlining of ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures. This procedure is contained in **ANNEX 7.4**.

With respect to follow up of the ICCAT performance review, the Secretariat Report on the recommendation to review staffing profile and workload of the Secretariat was considered. Several CPCs had requested the Secretariat to provide more details regarding the scope of the offers for independent Human Resources Consultancy. The Secretariat has submitted by e-mail to CPC Head Delegates all information, methodology and budget details of the offers received, but no decision had been reached during STACFAD.

Although STACFAD had discussed some items on the list of ICCAT Performance Review recommendations, it was agreed that further work was required on several of these. The updated list and status of discussion is attached in **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 8**.

The STACFAD report was adopted by correspondence as is contained in **ANNEX 8**.

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

Panel 1

Mr. Helguilé Shep (Côte d'Ivoire), Chair of Panel 1, regretted that the Panel had been unable to reach consensus on a revised management plan for tropical tunas, despite the best efforts of several CPCs and the hard work of the South African delegation. Following considerable discussion, it was agreed that while no intersessional meeting would be held, delegations should continue to try to work towards consensus in order to reach agreement at the 2019 Commission meeting.

Panel 1 put forward for adoption a continuation of the current scheme, with some modifications. The *Recommendation by ICCAT Supplementing and Amending Recommendation 16-01 on a Multi Annual Conservation and Management Programme Tropical Tunas*, following minor change, was adopted by the Commission and included in **ANNEX 5**.

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

Panel 2

The Chair of Panel 2, Mr. Shingo Ota (Japan), reported on the deliberations of Panel 2. The Panel put forward one draft recommendation and one draft resolution for consideration.

The Commission adopted the *Resolution by ICCAT on Development of Initial Management Objectives for Eastern and Western Bluefin Tuna* (Rec. 18-03) and, with minor changes, the *Recommendation by ICCAT establishing a Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea* (Rec. 18-02). These are contained in **ANNEX 5**.

Panel 2 had requested two intersessional meetings for 2019; one for the endorsement of fishing plans and a second to progress on the management strategy evaluation process for bluefin tuna. It was agreed that one meeting would be held to cover both topics (see item 14 below).

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

Panel 3

Mr. Asanda Njobeni (South Africa) informed the Plenary that no new measures had been considered in Panel 3. The Compliance Tables had been reviewed and revised to reflect the measure currently in force for South Atlantic albacore, and this was adopted by the Commission (see item 12 below).

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

Panel 4

The Chair of Panel 4, Mr. Fabio Hazin (Brazil), informed the Plenary that six proposals had been presented to Panel 4 in total, but only one had been adopted to prolong the current measures on marlins as no consensus had been reached on a revised management plan. The Panel had also discussed a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT”, “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on By-catch of Marine Mammals in ICCAT Fisheries, in particular the Intentional Encirclement of Cetaceans” and a “Draft Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT on the By-Catch of Sea Turtles Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries” but no consensus had been reached on these areas.

The Commission adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Replace Rec. 15-05 to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Stocks* (Rec. 18_04) which is included in **ANNEX 5**.

The report of Panel 4 was adopted by correspondence and is contained in **ANNEX 9**.

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

The Chair of the Compliance Committee, Mr. Derek Campbell (United States) reported that this was the first year of the Compliance Committee holding two full day sessions at the beginning of the annual meeting pursuant to Rec. 16-22, which will happen every two years in accordance with that recommendation, in order to allow for more in-depth compliance review. He noted the very collaborative and positive approach taken by CPCs, as well as the substantial contributions of the Friends of the Compliance Chair which had contributed to the success of the meeting.

The Committee recommended that the identification of Sierra Leone under the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures* (06-13) be lifted in light of ongoing work with the Secretariat to improve its data submissions. The Committee agreed that identification should be maintained for Dominica. It was also proposed that the COC Chair send letters on compliance matters to 48 CPCs, including letters of prohibition as appropriate in the absence of Task I, as well as letters to Gibraltar, Santa Lucia, and St. Kitts & Nevis, encouraging greater cooperation with ICCAT in light of information on these NPC's fisheries' interactions with certain ICCAT species. The Commission agreed that these actions be taken.

Pursuant to ICCAT Recommendation 03-20, the COC recommended renewal of Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity status for all CPCs that currently enjoy this status: Bolivia, Chinese Taipei, Costa Rica, Guyana, and Suriname. In the case of Costa Rica, the COC recommended that its renewal letter notes the Commission's concern about non-reporting, overharvest, and non-attendance at the annual meeting. With no objection from the Commission, cooperating status was renewed for all these CPCs.

The Compliance Committee put forward three draft Recommendations for approval by the Commission:

- *Recommendation by ICCAT on Improvement of Compliance Review of Conservation and Management Measures Regarding Billfish Caught in the ICCAT Convention Area* (Rec. 18_05);
- *Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 16-13 on Improvement of Compliance Review of Conservation and Management Measures Regarding Sharks Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries* (Rec. 18_06) and;
- *Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend ICCAT Reporting Deadlines in Order to Facilitate an Effective and Efficient Compliance Process* (Rec. 18_07).

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

The Committee reviewed the Report of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group and approved the recommendations contained therein. The Commission adopted the Report, which is contained in **ANNEX 4.2**.

The Compliance tables were reviewed, but not all were adopted pending some finalization of work in the Panels. The tables for North albacore, South swordfish, eastern bluefin, and western bluefin were endorsed by the Committee, and following work by Panel 3 a revised table for South albacore was forward for approval in plenary. The Commission adopted these six tables but agreed that the tables for North Atlantic swordfish, white marlin, blue marlin and bigeye tuna would be adopted by correspondence. The Compliance Tables are included in **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10**.

The COC also committed to a number of actions or work items to improve its functioning in the future, including adding a standing agenda item to discuss technical and capacity building needs of CPCs that have a bearing on fulfilment of ICCAT obligations; and consideration of a strategic plan that would prioritize certain conservation measures for more in-depth review in certain years, thereby reducing the workload of the COC during annual meetings and allowing it to better prioritize matters as it considers appropriate.

The Compliance Committee also reviewed progress made with respect to the recommendations emanating from the Second Performance Review. The table showing progress to date is contained in **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 10**.

The Report of the Compliance Committee will be adopted by correspondence and is contained in **ANNEX 10**.

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

Mr. Neil Ansell, Chair of the PWG, informed the Commission that the PWG had reviewed and endorsed the Report of the 12th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM). This report was adopted by the Commission and is contained in **ANNEX 4.3**.

Building on the work carried out at the aforementioned IMM meeting, the PWG reached consensus on four recommendations and one resolution which were being submitted to the Commission for adoption. An additional two recommendations had been agreed in principle, pending possible changes resulting from the work of Panel 2. The following were adopted by the Commission and are included in **ANNEX 5**:

- *Recommendation by ICCAT on Establishing a List of Vessels Presumed to have Carried out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities (Rec. 18-08)*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (Rec. 18-09)*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for Vessel Monitoring Systems in the ICCAT Convention Area (Rec. 18-10)*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Four Recommendations and One Resolution (Rec. 18-14)*
- *Resolution by ICCAT Establishing a Pilot Program for the Voluntary Exchange of Inspection Personnel in Fisheries Managed by ICCAT (Rec. 18-11)*

Following review of the work of Panel 2, and with minor change, the Commission also adopted:

- *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 15-10 on the Application of the eBCD System (Rec. 18-12)*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 11-20 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program (Rec. 18-13).*

These are also contained in **ANNEX 5**.

The PWG had also discussed a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Protecting the Health and Safety of Observers in ICCAT’s Regional Observer Programs”, but consensus had not been reached and the measure was not adopted.

Mr. Ansell also reported that the PWG had endorsed the findings of the IMM in relation to the follow up of the recommendations of the Second ICCAT performance review. The table with the findings is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 11**.

The PWG also put forward the provisional IUU list, which was adopted by the Commission without change and is contained in **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 11**. In this regard the delegate of Honduras requested the cooperation of all CPCs in tracking down one of the vessels on the IUU list flagged to Honduras, the Wisdom Sea Reefer, as the vessel had no license to fish and Honduras intended to impose sanctions on the vessel.

The PWG had also reviewed the ongoing work of the Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity Building and Assistance including the recommendations from its last meeting in April 2018. They agreed for the Expert Group to continue their work including the on-site in country assessments and also endorsed the Call for Tenders for an external expert to develop a specialized ICCAT training program built upon ongoing training programs. The report of the Meeting of the Port Inspection Expert group for Capacity and Assistance was adopted as in contained in **ANNEX 4.7**.

The PWG Chair reported on the work of the of the eBCD Technical Working Group and noted the continued smooth and full implementation of the system, as well as the efforts of the group to develop a fair and equitable scheme for its future financing, which is reflected in a proposed addition to ICCAT Financial Regulation 4 agreed by STACFAD (**see Appendix 3 to ANNEX 8**). PWG supported the ongoing work of the group into 2019 including to steer future developments and changes to the system.

The PWG had recalled that the statistical programs adopted for swordfish and bigeye adopted in 2001 may no longer be addressing the needs that they were originally adopted to address and that there was a desire to revisit those measures. It agreed that these issues together with a need to review and evaluate the need for, and if appropriate, expand Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) Programs in ICCAT, amongst other issues, can be further discussed at an intersessional meeting.

The PWG Report will be adopted by correspondence and is contained in **ANNEX 11**.

14. Inter-sessional meetings in 2019

It was noted that a meeting of technical and legal experts would be needed to finalise the amended text of the Convention to ensure coherence and parity between the three languages, and that such meeting should take place early in the year.

It was agreed that Panel 2 should meet intersessionally in early March 2019 to endorse the fishing plans for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna and to further develop a Management Evaluation Strategy for bluefin tuna.

The Commission also decided to hold a meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures, date and place to be determined.

Following considerable discussion, it was agreed that Panel 1 would not meet intersessionally, but that further work should be carried out through correspondence during the intersessional period.

An open-ended virtual Working Group to consider options for a sustainable financial position for the Commission, which would work intersessionally through correspondence, was also established.

15. Other matters

15.1 Farewell to the former Executive Secretary

The ICCAT Chair reminded all CPCs that, as had been agreed in 2017, the Commission had organized a farewell ceremony for Mr. Driss Meski, who had retired at the end of his mandate in June 2018 after fourteen years as Executive Secretary of ICCAT. Mr. Delgado recalled Mr. Meski's long history in fisheries management and his many achievements, including being awarded the Order of Merit by the Spanish authorities.

The Second Vice Chair of the Commission, Ms. Z. Driouich (Morocco) stated that this event was particularly emotional for her as Driss had formerly been the Director of Fisheries in Morocco, as well as Head Delegate to ICCAT for the Kingdom of Morocco and had brought his expertise and experience to the Secretariat. She noted the evolution of the Commission, and the increase in number of CPCs which had occurred under the leadership of Mr. Meski, and paid tribute to the work of the Secretariat which had made such efforts under his leadership.

The First Vice Chair, Mr. S. Depypere recalled that the proper management of common goods required well-functioning organisations with good management and leadership, and, as former Chair of the Commission, thanked Mr. Meski for his excellent cooperation and his personal commitment which had contributed so much to the good functioning of ICCAT.

Several delegates intervened on behalf of the membership to recall the excellent work and guidance which Mr. Meski had provided, and especially regarding his assistance to developing countries. It was recognized that he had steered ICCAT through times of transition, and all delegates appreciated the impact that his contribution had made.

His successor, Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel, indicated that he was honoured to succeed Driss and greatly appreciated the quality of Driss' legacy, in the form of an excellent Secretariat. He wished Driss every happiness in his retirement.

The Commission, as a tribute to his career and by way of thanking Mr. Meski for the fourteen years of dedicated work, presented a plaque to Mr. Meski. The former Executive Secretary expressed his gratitude and his pleasure to have been of service to the Commission. He wished every success to Mr. Manel and to the Commission in its future work.

15.2 Streamlining of Recommendations and Resolutions

It was noted that the procedure had been discussed in STACFAD. The specific issues submitted to the plenary had already been discussed by Panels 2 and 4, and hence no action was required by the plenary for 2018.

15.3 Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction

The Delegate of Honduras drew the attention of the delegates to a cycle of intergovernmental conferences on an international legally binding instrument under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ). The Conference will meet for four sessions, with the first session having been convened from 4 to 17 September 2018. The second and third sessions will take place in 2019, and the fourth session in the first half of 2020. He urged all Contracting Parties to note the importance of this Conference and stressed that RFMO participation could help to ensure that RFMOS were strengthened, and not weakened, by the process. The delegates thanked Honduras for the information.

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

It was agreed that the next Commission meeting would be held in Curaçao, 18-25 November 2019.

17. Adoption of the report and adjournment

It was agreed that the report would be adopted by correspondence. The Chair thanked the delegates, the Executive Secretary, the Secretariat and the interpreters for their work and closed the meeting.

COMMISSION AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
3. Introduction of Contracting Party Delegations
4. Introduction of Observers
5. Review of the report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
6. Review of the reports of the 2018 Intersessional Meetings, and consideration of any necessary actions
7. Review of progress on follow up on the Second Performance Review and consideration of any necessary actions
8. Assistance to developing coastal States and capacity building
9. Cooperation with other organisations
10. Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
11. Reports of Panels 1 to 4 and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
12. Report of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
13. Report of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
14. Inter-sessional meetings in 2019
15. Other matters
16. Date and place of the next meeting of the Commission
17. Adoption of the report and adjournment

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

CONTRACTING PARTIES**ALBANIA****Palluqi, Arian ***

Responsible in charge of sector, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Fisheries Directorate, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Blv. "Dëshmoret e Kombit", Nr.2, kp.1001, Tiranë, Shqipëri
Tel: + 355 695 487 657; +355 4223 2796, Fax: +355 4223 2796, E-Mail: Arian.Palluqi@bujqesia.gov.al

ALGERIA**Kaddour, Omar ***

Directeur du Développement de la Pêche, Ministère de l'Agriculture, du Développement Rural et de la Pêche, Route des Quatre Canons, 16001
Tel: +213 21 43 31 97, Fax: +213 21 43 38 39, E-Mail: dpmo@mpeche.gov.dz; kadomar13@gmail.com

Benboulaïd, Charif

Armateur, 315, établissement Tounsi, Ain Temouchent
Tel: +213 672 399 595, E-Mail: benboulaïd@gmail.com

Mostefa, Farid

Armateur, cité semmar bir khadem alger, 16029
Tel: +213 550 313 070, Fax: +213 277 78697, E-Mail: faridmostefa@yahoo.fr

ANGOLA**Soares Gomes, Venancio ***

Director do Gabinete de Intercambio, Ministério das Pescas e do Mar, Avenida 4 de fevereiro Nº 30, Edifício Atlantico - Caixa Postal 83, Luanda
Tel: +244 923 806 488; +34 91 235 45 74, E-Mail: venanciogomes68@gmail.com

BELIZE**Lanza, Valarie ***

Director of High Seas Fisheries, Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit, Ministry of Finance, Government of Belize, Marina Towers - Suite 204, P.O. Box 1765, Newtown Barracks
Tel: +501 223 5026, Fax: +501 223 5048, E-Mail: valerie@immarbe.com; director@bhsfu.gov.bz

Pinkard, Delice

Senior Fisheries Officer, Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit, Ministry of Finance, Government of Belize, Suite 204 Marina Towers, Newtown Barracks
Tel: +1 501 22 34918, Fax: +1 501 22 35026, E-Mail: fishingadmin@immarbe.com; sr.fishofficer@bhsfu.gov.bz

BRAZIL**Franklin de Souza, Dayvson ***

Secretário, Aquaculture and Fisheries Secretariat - SAP, Ministry of Industry, Foreign Trade and Services, Setor Bancário Norte, Qd. 1, Bl. D, 5o. Andar, Ed. Palácio do Desenvolvimento, CEP: 70057-900 Brasília-DF
Tel: +55 61 2027 7000, E-Mail: dayvson.souza@presidencia.gov.br

Alves Ferreira, Benedito Roberto

Camara Deputado Federal, Praça dos Três Poderes - Câmara dos Deputados - Gabinete 946 - Anexo IV, 9º andar, 70057-900 Brasília
Tel: +55 613 2155 946, E-Mail: dep.robertoalves@gmail.com

Bulhoes, Pablo

North Banking Sector - SBN- QD 01, Bl D, 5th floor- Palace of Development Building - INCRA, 70057-900 Brasília
Tel: +55 619 963 03530, E-Mail: pablo.bulhoes@presidencia.gov.br

Camargo, Nilson

Av. Sen. Salgado Filho, 2860, Lagoa Nova - Edf. Eng. Fernando Bezerra, 59075-900 Rio Grande do Norte Natal
Tel: +55 84 991 520 088, E-Mail: nilson.navemar@hotmail.com

* Head Delegate

Cirilo da Silva, José Airton Felix

Praça dos Três Poderes - Câmara dos Deputados - Gabinete 319 - Anexo IV, 3º andar, 70160-900 Brasília D.F.
Tel: +85 995 88 006, Fax: +061 321 55 319, E-Mail: agendajoseairton@gmail.com

Da Silva Sales, Roberto

Praça dos Três Poderes - Câmara dos Deputados Gabinete 332 - Anexo IV, 3º andar, 70160-900 Brasília D.F.
Tel: +55 61 3215 5332, E-Mail: thaiz.reis@presidencia.gov.br

De Sousa, Luisa Patricia

Historiadora SAP, Ministerio de Agricultura, Brasília
Tel: +99 106 6831, E-Mail: lupapatricia@hotmail.com

Espogeiro, Alexandre

CONPEPE, SRTVS Qd 701, Ed. Novo Centro Multiempresarial, Bl. O, nº 110, salas 186/187, 70340-905 Brasília D.F.
Tel: +55 613 323 5831; +55 21 99971 8085, E-Mail: alexandre_espogeiro@hotmail.com

Figueiredo de Oliveira Reis, Thaiz

Coordinación General de Monitorización y Control de la Agricultura y Pesca (CGMCAP/DRMC/SEAP), Ministerio de Industria, Comercio Exterior y Servicios, Setor Bancário Norte, Qd. 1 Bloco D, 5º andar, Ed. Palácio do Desenvolvimento, CEP: 70057-900 Brasília - DF Prédio Incra - Asa Norte
Tel: +55 61 2027 7000; +55 61 98177 0257, E-Mail: thaiz.reis@mdic.gov.br; thaiz.reis@presidencia.gov.br

Hazin, Fabio H. V.

Universidade Federal Rural de Pernambuco - UFRPE / Departamento de Pesca e Aqüicultura - DEPAq, Avenida Conselheiro Rosa e Silva, 1241, Apto. 1302, CEP: 52.050-225 Recife Pernambuco
Tel: +55 81 999 726 348, Fax: +55 81 3320 6512, E-Mail: fabio.hazin@ufrpe.br; fhvhazin@terra.com.br

Leonardi, Renato

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office for Ocean, Antarctic and Outer Space Affairs, Esplanada dos Ministerios, Bloco H Sala 736, 70170-900 Brasília DF
Tel: +55 61 9996 78330; +55 61 2030 8625, E-Mail: renato.leonardi@itamaraty.gov.br; dmae@itamaraty.gov.br

Martins de Bulhoes, Antonio Carlos

Praça dos Três Poderes - Câmara dos Deputados - Gabinete: 327 - Anexo IV, 3º andar, 70160-900 Brasília DF
Tel: +55 61 3215 5327, E-Mail: bpbulhoes@yahoo.com.br

Mendes, Samya Vanessa

Aduogada - Autônoma, Brasília DF
Tel: +55 61 981 856 634, E-Mail: samyaverde@hotmail.com

Padilha, Everton

Av. Sen. Salgado Filho, 2860, Lagoa Nova - Edf. Eng. Fernando Bezerra, 59075-900 Rio Grande do Norte Natal
Tel: +55 843 201 5442, E-Mail: padilhaep@hotmail.com

Ramos, Henrique Anatole

SQN 316, bloco I, apartamento 101, 70775090 Brasília DF
Tel: +55 619 599 2828, E-Mail: hanatole@gmail.com

Rapozo de Carvalho, Vinicius

Praça dos Três Poderes - Câmara dos Deputados - Gabinete: 356 - Anexo IV, 3º andar, 70160-900 Brasília D.F.
Tel: +55 61 3215 5356, E-Mail: thaiz.reis@presidencia.gov.br

Verde Cordeiro Mendes, Cléber

Deputado Federal, Praça dos Três Poderes - Câmara dos Deputados - Gabinete710 - Anexo IV, 7º andar, 70160-900 Brasília DF
Tel: +55 619 8124 5886; +55 61 3215 5710, Fax: +61 3215 4710, E-Mail: deputadocleberverde@gmail.com

Villaça, Carlos Eduardo

Coletivo Nacional de Pesca e Aquicultura - CONPEPE - SRTVS, Quadra 701, Bloco O nº 110, sl. 186/187, Ed. Novo Centro Multiempresarial, CEP: 70340-905 Brasília DF Asa Sul
Tel: +55 61 3323 5831, E-Mail: caduvillaça1964@gmail.com

Webber, Elder José

SINDIPI, Rua Lauro Muller, 386, 88301-400 Itajaí Santa Catarina
Tel: +55 613 215 5327, E-Mail: thaiz.reis@presidencia.gov.br

Wigner Gimenes, Carlos José

Rua Eugênio Pezzini, Nº 500 - Cordeiros, CEP:88311-000 Itajaí - SC
Tel: +55 47 3241 8800, E-Mail: carlogimenes@gomesdacosta.com.br

CABO VERDE**Monteiro, Carlos Alberto ***

Technical researcher, Instituto Nacional de Desenvolvimento das Pescas, INDP SV Vicente, C.P. 132, Mindelo Sao Vicente
Tel: +238 986 48 25, Fax: +238 232 1616, E-Mail: monteiro.carlos@indp.gov.cv

CANADA**Lapointe, Sylvie ***

Assistant Deputy Minister, Fisheries and Harbour Management, Department of Fisheries & Oceans, 200 Kent Street
13W092, Ottawa Ontario K1A 0E6
Tel: + 1 613 990 9864, E-Mail: sylvie.lapointe@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Blinn, Michelle

Manager Marine Resources, Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture 173 Haida Street, Cornwallis, NS, B0S
1H0
Tel: +902 250 0268, Fax: +902 638 2389, E-Mail: michelle.blinn@novascotia.ca

Chen, Lirui

Amos and Andy Fisheries Ltd, 50 Willow Road Sambro, Halifax Nova Scotia B3V 1L1
Tel: +1 902 456 7950, E-Mail: amosandandyfisheries@gmail.com

Drake, Kenneth

Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Associations, P.O. Box 154, 43 Coffin Road, Charlottetown Prince Edward Island COA
ISO
Tel: +1 902 626 6776, Fax: +1 902 961 3341, E-Mail: kendrake@eastlink.ca

Duprey, Nicholas

Science Advisor, Fisheries and Oceans Canada - Fish Population Science, Government of Canada 200-401 Burrard Street,
Vancouver, BC V6C 3S4
Tel: +604 499 0469, E-Mail: nicholas.duprey@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Elsworth, Samuel G.

South West Nova Tuna Association, 228 Empire Street, Bridgewater Nova Scotia B4V 2M5
Tel: +1 902 543 6457, Fax: +1 902 543 7157, E-Mail: sam.fish@ns.sympatico.ca

Fraser, James Douglas

Prince Edward Island Fishermen's Association, 1600 Union Road, Huntley R.R.#2 - Alberton, Prince Edward Island C0B
1B0
Tel: +1 902 853 2793; +1 902 853 6774, Fax: +1 902 853 8479, E-Mail: dougfraser@bellaliant.net

Hanke, Alexander

Scientist, St. Andrews Biological Station/ Biological Station, Fisheries and Oceans Canada 125 Marine Science Drive, St.
Andrews New Brunswick E5B 0E4
Tel: +1 506 529 5912, Fax: +1 506 529 5862, E-Mail: alex.hanke@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Haque, Azra

Legal Officer, Oceans and Environmental Law Division, 125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa Ontario K1A 0G2
Tel: +33 613 793 9028, E-Mail: Azra.Haque@international.gc.ca

Henneberry, Mark

Amos and Andy Fisheries Ltd., 50 Willow Road Smabro, Nova Scotia Mahoney Bay B3V 1L1
Tel: +1 902 456 7950, E-Mail: mc.henneberry@hotmail.com

Lavigne, Elise

Assistant Director, International Fisheries Management Bureau, Ecosystems and Fisheries Management, 200 Kent
Street, 14E212, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6
Tel: +1 613 993 6695, Fax: +1 613 993 5995, E-Mail: elise.lavigne@dfo-mpo.gc.ca; elise.lavigne@mobile.gc.ca

Lester, Brian

Manager, Fisheries Management Plans, 200 Kent Street, Station 13S011, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6
Tel: +1 613 993 5045, Fax: +1 613 990 7051, E-Mail: brian.lester@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

MacDonald, Carl

Senior Advisor, Resource and Aboriginal Fisheries Management, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Acting Regional Manager - Resource Management1 Challenger Drive, PO Box 1006, Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Dartmouth, NS B2Y 4A2
Tel: +1 902 293 8257, Fax: +1 902 426 7967, E-Mail: carl.macdonald@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Mahoney, Derek

Senior Advisor - International Fisheries Management and Bilateral Relations, Conseiller principal- Gestion internationale des pêches et relations bilatérales, Fisheries Resource Management/Gestion des ressources halieutiques Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 200 Kent St. Station 13S022, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6
Tel: +1 613 993 7975, E-Mail: derek.mahoney@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Mallet, Pierre

Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, P.O BOX 5030, Moncton, New Brunswick E1C 9B6
Tel: + 506 851 7792, Fax: +506 851 7732, E-Mail: malletp@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Melvin, Gary

St. Andrews Biological Station - Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Department of Fisheries and Oceans 531 Brandy Cove Road, St. Andrews, New Brunswick E5B 1B8
Tel: +1 506 651 6020, E-Mail: gary.d.melvin@gmail.com; gary.d.melvin@gmail.com

Richardson, Dale

2370 West Sable Road, Sable River Nova Scotia B0T 1V0
Tel: +1 902 656 2411, Fax: +1 902 656 2271, E-Mail: dalemaryr@eastlink.ca

Walsh, Jerry

Chief of International Programs, Conservation and Protection, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 80 East White Hills Road St. John's, NL, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6
Tel: +1 709 685 9926; +1 709 697 0419, E-Mail: jerry.walsh@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Yang, Xizi

Amos and Andy Fisheries Ltd., 50 Woilow Road Smabro, Nova Scotia Halifax B3V 1L1
Tel: +1 902 456 7950, E-Mail: amosandandyfisheries@gmail.com

CHINA

Zhao, Liling *

Director Division of Deep-Sea Fishing, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Bureau of Fisheries, N° 11 Nongzhanguan Nanli, Chaoyang District, 100125 Beijing
Tel: +86 10 5919 2966, Fax: +86 10 5919 3056, E-Mail: liling.zhao@hotmail.com; bofdwf@agri.gov.cn

Chen, Xinyao

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chao yang men south street, 100020 Beijing
Tel: +86 131 219 66336, E-Mail: chen_xinyao@mfa.gov.cn

Li, Xiang Feng

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chao yang men South Street, 100020 Beijing
Tel: +86 131 219 66336, E-Mail: li_xiangfeng@mfa.gov.cn

Lin, Hui

President, Fujian Yaoxiang Marine Fisheries Co., LTD, B-2 Room, 8/F, 1 Building, Hongyangxincheng, Yangqiao Road, Gulou District, Fuzhou, 350000 Fu Jian
Tel: +886 591 8365 8752; +886 139 069 31213, Fax: +86 591 8365 8752, E-Mail: agentlinhui@163.com

Liu, Ce

Deputy Director, Department of High Seas Fisheries, China Overseas Fisheries Association, Room No. 1216 Jingchao Mansion, No. 5, Nongzhanguannanlu, Chao yang district, Beijing Chaoyang District
Tel: +86 10 6585 7057, Fax: +86 10 6585 0551, E-Mail: liuce1029@163.com; admin1@tuna.org.cn

Liu, Xiaobing

Advisor, China Overseas Fisheries Association, N° 5 Nongzhanguannanlu, Chaoyang District, 100125 Beijing
E-Mail: xiaobing.liu@hotmail.com; Xiaobing.Liuc@163.com

Sui, Heng Shou

General Manager, CNFC Overseas Fisheries Co., Ltd, No. 31 Minfeng Lane. Xicheng District, 100125 Beijing
Tel: +86 10 8806 7139; +86 10 13621074385, Fax: +86 10 8806 7572, E-Mail: suihengshou@cnfc.com.cn

Xiong, Jun
 Chaoyangmen South street, 100020 Beijing
 Tel: +86 131 219 66336, E-Mail: xiong_jun@mfa.gov.cn

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Shep, Helguilè *
 Directeur de l'Aquaculture et des Pêches, Ministère des Ressources Animales et Halieutiques de Côte d'Ivoire, Rue des Pêcheurs; B.P. V-19, Abidjan
 Tel: +225 21 35 61 69; Mob: +225 07 61 92 21, E-Mail: shelguile@yahoo.fr; shep.helguile@aviso.ci

Aka, Allou Jacques
 Coordonnateur du Programme d'Appui à la Gestion Durable des Ressources Halieutiques (PAGDRH), Direction de l'Aquaculture et des Pêches, BP V 19, Abidjan
 Tel: +225 08 37 89 17, E-Mail: aka.allou@yahoo.fr; akaallou10@gmail.com

Diaha, N'Guessan Constance
 Chercheur Hydrobiologiste au Centre de Recherches Océanologiques, Ministère l'enseignement supérieur et recherche scientifique, 29, Rue des Pêcheurs - B.P. V-18, Abidjan 01
 Tel: +225 2135 5880, Fax: +225 2135 1155, E-Mail: diahaconstance@yahoo.fr; constance.diaha@cro-ci.org

Djobo, Anvra Jeanson
 Inspecteur Technique au MIRAH, Ministère des Ressources Animales et Halieutiques, BP V 185, Abidjan
 Tel: +225 07930 344, Fax: +225 2022 9919, E-Mail: jeanson_7@hotmail.com

Djou, Kouadio Julien
 Statisticien de la Direction de l'Aquaculture et des Pêches, Chef de Service Etudes, Statistiques et Documentation, Direction de l'Aquaculture et des Pêches (DAP), Ministère des Ressources Animales et halieutiques (MIRAH) 29 Rue des pêcheurs, BP V19, Abidjan 01
 Tel: +225 79 15 96 22, E-Mail: djoujulien225@gmail.com

Fofana, Bina
 Sous-directeur des Pêches Maritime et Lagunaire, Ministère des Ressources Animales et Halieutiques de la République de Côte d'Ivoire, 29 Rue des Pêcheurs, BP V19, Abidjan 01
 Tel: +225 07 655 102; +225 21 356 315, Fax: +225 21 356315, E-Mail: binafof@yahoo.fr; binafof3@gmail.com

Hema, Cathérine
 Coordinatrice Adjointe de Projet de Développement Durable des Ressources Halieutiques
 Tel: +225 49 924 593, E-Mail: hemacathy@yahoo.fr

Kouadio, Germain
 Chargé d'études au cabinet du Ministère des Ressources Animales et Halieutiques (MIRAH)
 Tel: +225 079 66409, Fax: +225 202 29919, E-Mail: ger.kouadio@gmail.com

Kouakou-Phieny, Denis
 Mission de la Côte d'Ivoire auprès de l'Union européenne, 234 avenue Franklin Roosevelt, 1050 Bruxelles, Belgium
 Tel: +32 470 170 359, E-Mail: phyenyd@yahoo.fr

Lepry Née, Amatcha Epse Yobouet Charlotte
 Coordonnateur du Projet de Relance de la Production Piscicole Continentale (PREPRICO)
 Tel: +225 589 70918, E-Mail: ch.lepry@gmail.com

N'da, Atché Hugues Pacôme
 Ingénieur Agronome, Assistant, Comité d'Administration du Régime Franc, Ministère des Ressources Animales et Halieutiques BP V 19, Abidjan 01
 Tel: +225 08 16 89 56, E-Mail: ndapacome@gmail.com

Ouattara, Bamoussa
 Responsable du Terminal à pêche au Port Autonome d'Abidjan
 Tel: +225 21 23 81 28, E-Mail: ouatbamoussa@gmail.com

Sika, Mambo
 28 BP 1126 ABJ 28, Abidjan Lagunes
 Tel: +225 053 05364, E-Mail: dattejacques@gmail.com

Sombo, Chokou Quetoura

Directeur Adjoint du Port de Pêche d'Abidjan, Abidjan

Tel: +225 0424 1289, Fax: +225 21 238080, E-Mail: sombolis@yahoo.fr; choquetou@gmail.com

Yao, Jacques Datté

Secrétaire Exécutif, Comité d'Administration du Régime Franc (CARF), Rue des Pêcheurs 20, Box 947, Abidjan 20

Tel: +225 242 54666; +225 053 05364, Fax: +225 212 46324, E-Mail: dattejacques@gmail.com; dattejy@gmx.net

CURAÇAO

Chong, Ramon *

President of the Fishery, Ministry of Economic Development of Curaçao, International Fisheries Commission, Directorate of Economic Affairs, Amidos Building, Pletterijweg 41, Willemstad

Tel: +5999 529 7290; +5999 462 1444, Fax: +5999 462 7590, E-Mail: ramon.chong@gobiernu.cw; ramon_chong@hotmail.com

Alonso Olano, Borja

Overseas Tuna Company N.V., Poligono Industrial Landabaso, s/n - Edificio Albacora, 48370 Bermeo Bizkaia, Spain

Tel: +34 946 187 000, Fax: +34 946 186 147, E-Mail: borja.alonso@albacora.es

Mambi, Stephen A.

Policy Adviser/Secretary of the Fishery Commission, Ministry of Economic Development of Curaçao, Directorate of Economic Affairs, Amidos Building, 4th floor Pletterijweg 43 A, Willemstad

Tel: +5999 4621444 ext 173; +5999 5606038, Fax: +5999 462 7590, E-Mail: stephenmambi@yahoo.com; stephen.mambi@gobiernu.cw

Pedro, Xiomar

The Minister's Cabinet, Policy Advisor, AmiDos Building 5th floor, Willemstad Pletterijweg 43

Tel: +599 9 569 9821, E-Mail: xiomar.pedro@gobiernu.cw

Uribe, Iñigo

NICRA 7, S.L., C/ Txibitxiaga, Nº 16, Entreplanta, 48370 Bermeo, Vizcaya, Spain

Tel: +34 94 618 64 09; +34 629 452 923, E-Mail: iuribe@nicra7.com

EGYPT

Ammar, Ayman Anwar *

Chairman of the General Authority for Fish Resources Development (GAFRD), 4 Tayaran St., Nasr City, Cairo

Tel: +202 226 20118, Fax: +202 226 20117, E-Mail: ayman59_ammam@yahoo.com; gafrd_eg@hotmail.com

Abdelmessih, Magdy Kamal Mikhail

14 Aly Abn Aby Taalep, Abo qir, Alexandria

Tel: +203 5625700, Fax: +203 5626070, E-Mail: info@elkamoush.com; m.mahmoud@elkamoush.com

Abdelnaby Kaamouh, Mohamed Ibrahim

General Authority for Fish Resources Development, 14 Aly Abn Aby Taalep, Abo Qir, Alexandria

Tel: +203 5625700, Fax: +203 5626070, E-Mail: info@elkamoush.com; m.mahmoud@elkamoush.com

Amoruso, Francesco

Chief Executive Officer, Pesca Pronta Import Export S.R.L., Via Giovanni Durli, 45, 00054 Fiumicino (RM), Italy

Tel: +39 066 587 7203; 39 335 811 5410, Fax: +39 066 587 7207, E-Mail: franco.amoruso@pescapronta.it

Ibrahim Gaber, Mohamed Mahmoud

14 Aly Abn Aby Taalep, Abo qir, Alexandria

Tel: +203 5625700, Fax: +203 5626070, E-Mail: info@elkamoush.com; m.mahmoud@elkamoush.com

EL SALVADOR

De Paz Martínez, Celina Margarita *

Técnico de Investigación pesquera, Dirección General de Desarrollo de la Pesca y la Acuicultura (CENDEPESCA), Final 1ª Av. Norte, 13 calle Poniente y Av. Manuel Gallardo, Santa Tecla

Tel: +503 2210 1913, E-Mail: celina.depaz@mag.gob.sv; celinam.dpaz@gmail.com

Mejía Arteaga, Sara Anabel

CENDEPESCA - Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería, Dirección de CENDEPESCA, Inspector de Monitoreo Control y Vigilancia Pesquera y Acuícola, Santa Tecla, La Libertad, Final Avenida Manuel Gallardo

Tel: +503 221 01961, Fax: +503 221 01700, E-Mail: saraarteaga.sm@gmail.com; sara.mejia@mag.gob.sv

Pérez Palao, Daniel

Gerente técnico de flota, Calvopesca, Plaza Carlos Trías Bertrán 7, 6ª Planta, 28020 Madrid, Spain
Tel: +34 94 782 33 00, Fax: +34 91 782 3312, E-Mail: daniel.perez@calvo.es

Ubis Lupion, Macarena

Calvopesca El Salvador, S.A., Vía de Poblados, 1 - 5ª Planta - Edificio A/B, 28042 Madrid, Spain
Tel: +34 617 068 486, E-Mail: macarena.ubis@calvo.es

EUROPEAN UNION**Jessen, Anders ***

Director, Head of Unit - European Commission, DG Mare B 2, Rue Joseph II, 99, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 299 24 57, E-Mail: anders.jessen@ec.europa.eu

Aguilera García, Clara Eugenia

Eurodiputada, Parlamento Europeo, Rue Wierzt, 60, 1047 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 222 845 783, Fax: +32 222 849 783, E-Mail: claraeugenia.aguilera@europarl.europa.eu

Aláez Pons, Ester

International Relations Officer, European Commission - DG MARE - Unit B2 - RFMOs, Rue Joseph II - 99 03/057, 1049 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 296 48 14, E-Mail: ester.alaez-pons@ec.europa.eu

Biagi, Franco

Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG-Mare) - European Commission, Rue Joseph II, 99, 1049 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +322 299 4104, E-Mail: franco.biagi@ec.europa.eu

Gulam Lalic, Anita

European Parliament, Rue Wiertz ATR 01-K-33, B-1047 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 479 910 092, E-Mail: anita.gulam@europarl.europa.eu

Hellwig, Dirk

Council of the European Union, Office JL-40-GH-20 Rue de la Loi 175, B-1048 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +322 281 6958; +32 475 953 577, Fax: +322 281 6031, E-Mail: dirk.hellwig@consillium.europa.eu

Khalil, Samira

European Commission, DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Unit B-1 "International Affairs, Law of the Sea and RFMOs "J II - 99 3/74, Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 298 03 39, E-Mail: samira.khalil@ec.europa.eu

Kuhn, Werner

European Parliament - Fisheries Committee, PECH European Parliament, Belgium
Tel: +322 284 7215, E-Mail: werner.kuhn@europarl.europa.eu

Lamplmair, Franz

Permanent Representation of Austria to the European Union, Council of the European Union, Avenue Cortenbergh 30, 1040, Belgium
Tel: +32 478 788 837, E-Mail: franz.lamplmair@bmeia.gv.at

Marot, Laura

99 Rue Joseph II, 1000 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 29 82243, E-Mail: laura.marot@ec.europa.eu

Mato Adrover, Gabriel

Chair of the Fisheries Committee, Member of the European Parliament, Rue Wiertz 60, ASP 11E-102, B-1047 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +322 284 5237, Fax: +322 284 9237, E-Mail: gabriel.mato@europarl.europa.eu

Milius, Saulius

European Parliament, SQM 06Y021 Rue Wiertz 60, B-1047 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +322 283 2795, Fax: +322 284 4909, E-Mail: saulius.milius@europarl.europa.eu

Moya Díaz, Marta

European Commission DG MARE, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 476 401073, E-Mail: marta.moya-diaz@ec.europa.eu

Peyronnet, Arnaud

Directorate-General, European Commission _ DG MARE - UNIT B2 - RFMOs, Rue Joseph II - 99 03/33, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 2991 342, E-Mail: arnaud.peyronnet@ec.europa.eu

Quaranta, Claudio

Chef d'Unité, Parlement Européen, Commission de la Pêche - DG IPOL, SQM 6Y40, Rue Wiertz 60, 1050 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 473 526059, E-Mail: claudio.quaranta@ep.europa.eu

Sadowska, Agnieszka

European Commission DG MARE - B2, 1049 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 2957906, E-Mail: Agnieszka.SADOWSKA@ec.europa.eu

Spezzani, Aronne

Head of Sector, Fisheries control in International Waters - DG MARE-B3 J79-2/214, European Commission, Rue Joseph II, 99, 1049 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +322 295 9629, Fax: +322 296 3985, E-Mail: aronne.spezzani@ec.europa.eu

Tomasic, Ruza

European Parliament, Member - ECR, Parlement européen Bât. Willy Brandt 04M075 60, rue Wiertz / Wiertzstraat 60, B-1047 Brussel, Belgium
Tel: +385 993 382 377, E-Mail: ruza.tomasic@europarl.europa.eu

Tyulekov, Lyuben

Council of the European Union, Office JL-40-GH-41, Secrétariat General du Conseil Rue de la Loi 175, B-1048 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 495 273 252, E-Mail: lyuben.tyulekov@consilium.europa.eu

Vázquez Álvarez, Francisco Javier

European Commission DG Maritime B2 Affairs and Fisheries, Rue Joseph II - 99, 1049 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 295 83 64; +32 485 152 844, E-Mail: francisco-javier.vazquez-alvarez@ec.europa.eu

Alajbeg, Tonci

ILOVICA 1, 21226 Vinisce, Hrvatska, Croatia
Tel: +385 951 989 320, E-Mail: blanka.alajbeg@gmail.com

Ansell, Neil

European Fisheries Control Agency, Avenida García Barbón 4, 36201 Vigo, Spain
Tel: +34 986 120 658; +34 698 122 046, E-Mail: neil.ansell@efca.europa.eu

Arrizabalaga, Haritz

AZTI - Tecnalia /Itsas Ikerketa Saila, Herrera Kaia Portualde z/g, 20110 Pasaia Gipuzkoa, Spain
Tel: +34 94 657 40 00; +34 667 174 477, Fax: +34 94 300 48 01, E-Mail: harri@azti.es

Artime García, Isabel

C/ Velázquez, 144, 28006 Madrid, Spain
Tel: +34 91 347 60 30, Fax: +34 91 347 60 32, E-Mail: iartime@mapama.es; drpesmar@mapama.es

Avallone, Jean-Marie

Représentant palangrier, OP SATHOAN, Route du Sucre, 34300 Le Grau d'Agde Agde, France
Tel: +33 4 67 210034, Fax: +33 4 67 210034, E-Mail: armement.avallone@hotmail.fr

Azkue Mugica, Leandro

Director, Gobierno Vasco, Dirección de pesca y Acuicultura, Calle Donostia-San Sebastián, Nº 1, 01010 Vitoria - Gasteiz Gipuzkoa, Spain
Tel: +34 945 01 96 50; +34 683 774 022, Fax: +34 945 019 702, E-Mail: l-azcuemugica@euskadi.eus

Azzopardi, Charles

Managing Director, Malta Federation of Aquaculture Producers, Mosta Road, St. Paul's Bay, SPB 3111 Valletta, Malta
Tel: +356 2157 1148; móvil: +356 9949 6706, Fax: +356 2157 6017, E-Mail: cazzopardi@azzopardifisheries.com.mt

Azzopardi, Carmel

AJD Tuna Ltd Mosta Road, Tuna Farming – Aquaculture, SPB3111 St. Paul's Bay, Malta
Tel: +356 994 96706, Fax: +356 215 76017, E-Mail: cazzopardi@azzopardifisheries.com.mt

Balfegó Brull, Pere Vicent

Tio Gel, S.L., Pol. Ind. Edificio Balfegó, 43860 L'Ametlla de Mar Tarragona, Spain
Tel: +34 977 047700, Fax: +34 977 457812, E-Mail: perevicent@grupbalfego.com

Balfegó Laboria, Manuel Juan

APCCR, Polígono Industrial - Edificio Balfegó, 43860 L'Ametlla de Mar Tarragona, Spain
Tel: +34 977 047700, Fax: +34 977 457812, E-Mail: manel@grupbalfego.com

Batista, Emilia

Direcção Geral dos Recursos Naturais, Segurança e Serviços Marítimos, Av. De Brasilia, 1449-030 Lisbon, Portugal
Tel: +351 21 303 5850, Fax: +351 21 303 5702, E-Mail: ebatista@dgrm.mm.gov.pt

Belmonte Hernández, Juan

ASOPECA, C/ San Antonio, 17, 04140 Carboneras - Almería, Spain
Tel: +34 696 497 408, E-Mail: belmontequiles@gmail.com; carbopesca@hotmail.com

Belmonte Rincón, Ignacio

ARESTRECHO (Asociación Armadores del Estrecho), Embarcación Bárbara y Sandra, Muelle Pesquero, 18 Tarifa, Cádiz, Spain
Tel: +34 650 248 354, E-Mail: raton_ny@hotmail.com; ignacio.belmonte.rincon@gmail.com

Bezmalinovic, Mislav

Sardina d.o.o., Ratac 1, 21410 Postira, Croatia
Tel: +385 91 355 5443, Fax: +385 21 632 236, E-Mail: m.bezmalinovic@sardina.hr; info@sardina.biz

Borg, Sarah

Ministry for Sustainable Development, Environment and Climate Change Fort San Lucjan, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Triq il-Qajjenza, BBG1283 Marsaxlokk, Malta
Tel: +356 2292 6918, E-Mail: sarah.c.borg@gov.mt

Bosko, Edison

UDRUGA PLIVARIČARA TUNOLOVACA AUGUSTA ŠENOJE 20, OIB:48326286024, 23000 Zadar, Croatia
Tel: +385 95 2532 845, Fax: +385 23 701 831, E-Mail: udruga.plivaricara.tunolovaca@gmail.com

Bozanic, Tonci

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, Ulica Grada Vukovara, 78, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia
Tel: +385 91 634 91 91, E-Mail: tonci.bozanic@mps.hr; tonzi.boz@gmail.com

Brull Cuevas, M^a Carmen

Panchilleta, S.L.U.; Pesqueries Elorz, S.L.U., ASOCIACION ARMADORES ATUN ROJO AMETLLA DE MAR, Ctra. de la Palma, Km. 7, Paraje Los Marines, 30593 Cartagena, Murcia, Spain
Tel: +34 639 185 342, Fax: +34 977 456 783, E-Mail: carme@panchilleta.es

Buono, Luc

SARL Armement des Gerard-Luc, 3 Chemin de la Charrue, 34300 Agde, France
Tel: +33 0623000341, E-Mail: buono.gerardluc4@gmail.com

Cadilla Castro, Joaquín

Presidente, ORPAGU, C/ Manuel Álvarez, 16 Bj., 36780 A Guarda Pontevedra, Spain
Tel: +34 986 61 13 41; +34 606 339 965, Fax: +34 986 61 16 67, E-Mail: direccion@orpagu.com

Cambon, Yannick

OP Sathoan, 20 qu'au aspirant Herbert, 34200 Hérault, France
Tel: +33 068 811 7014, E-Mail: jean7.av@gmail.com

Campos Uclés, Jorge Luis

Secretario, FACOPE - Federación Andaluza de Cofradías de Pescadores, Prolongación Muelle Pesquero, 261-262, 11201 Algeciras, Spain
Tel: +34 606 939 689, Fax: +34 956 66 67 98, E-Mail: secretario@and-cofrad-pesca.com; info@and-cofrad-pesca.com

Capela, Pedro

APASA - Associação de Produtores de Atum e Similares dos Açores, Cais de Santa Cruz - Edifício Lotaçor, 9900-172 Horta, Portugal
Tel: +351 913 842 342; +351 292 392 139, E-Mail: apasa_op@hotmail.com

Cappuccio, Mauro

Op Della Pesca Thunnus Thynnus Societa Coop, Via Velia, 96, 84122 Salerno, Italy
Tel: +39 089 995 5905, E-Mail: ophunnusthynnus@gmail.com

Carnevali, Oliana

Universita Politecnica Delle Marche - Ancona, Department of Environment and Life Science Via Breccie Bianche, 60131 Ancona, Italy
Tel: +39 338 264 2235; +39 71 220 4990, Fax: +39 071 220 46 50, E-Mail: o.carnevali@univpm.it

Carré, Pierre-Alain

Compagnie Francaise du Thon Oceanique (CFTO), 11 Rue des sardiniers, 29900 Concarneau, Cedex, France
Tel: +33 298 60 52 52, Fax: +33 298 60 52 59, E-Mail: pierrealain.carre@cfto.fr

Caruana, Joseph

Permanent Secretary, Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change, Office of the Permanent Secretary, MSDEC Offices, 6 Triq Hal Qormi, SVR1301 Santa Venera, Malta
Tel: +356 2292 6201, E-Mail: joseph.caruana@gov.mt

Cioffi, Rebekah

JNCC, Monkstone House City Road, Cambridgeshire Peterborough PE1 1JY, United Kingdom
Tel: +44 797 083 0851, E-Mail: bekah.cioffi@jncc.gov.uk

Coelho, Rui

Portuguese Institute for the Ocean and Atmosphere, I.P. (IPMA), Avenida 5 de Outubro, s/n, 8700-305 Olhão, Portugal
Tel: +351 289 700 504, E-Mail: rpcoelho@ipma.pt

Consiglio, Vincenzo

Consiglio pesca Società D'Armamento, Via Ligea, 36, 84121 Salerno, Italy
Tel: +39 089 795 145; +39 349 847 9452, Fax: +39 089 795 145, E-Mail: matteoconsiglio@tiscali.it; optonnierisalerno@gmail.com

Consiglio, Matteo

Consiglio Pesca Società Di Armamento, Via Ligea, 36, 84121 Salerno, Italy
Tel: +39 3933 330 6913, E-Mail: matteoconsiglio@tiscali.it

Conte, Fabio

Dipartimento delle Politiche Europee e Internazionali, Ministero delle Politiche Agricole Alimentari, Forestali e Del Turismo, Direzione Generale della Pesca Marittima e dell'Acquacoltura - PEMAC III, Via XX Settembre, 20, 00187 Rome, Italy
Tel: +39 06 4665 2838, Fax: +39 06 4665 2899, E-Mail: f.conte@politicheagricole.it

Correia Vairinhos, Rui Manuel

CPA- Atunera, Avenida Republica, Ed. Guadiana Foz, LT2, R/C B, 8900-201 St. António V. Real, Portugal
Tel: +351 289 715 821, Fax: +351 289 715 821, E-Mail: geral.atunara@hotmail.com

Crespo Márquez, Marta

Directora Gerente, Org. Prod. Pesqueros de Almadra (OPP-51), C/ Luis de Morales 32 - Edificio Forum - Planta 3; mod 31, 41018 Seville, Spain
Tel: +34 954 98 79 38, Fax: +34 954 98 86 92, E-Mail: opp51@atundealmadraba.com; almadrabacp@atundealmadraba.com

Da Silva Afonso, Inmaculada

Islatuna, Darsena Pesquera, 1ª Transversal, Parcela 47, CP 38180 Canarias Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain
Tel: +34 922 54 97 19; +34 609 604 803, Fax: +34 922 54 93 36, E-Mail: macu@islatuna.com

D'Alessio, Giuseppe

Associazione Produttori Tonnieri del Tirreno Soc. Coop., Via del Principati, 66, 84122 Salemo, Italy
Tel: +39 348 7409 289, E-Mail: giuseppepadre@libero.it; optonnierisalerno@gmail.com

De Guindos Talavera, Leticia

Jefe de Servicio, Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación. Secretaría General de Pesca, S.G. CONTROL E INSPECCIÓN, C/ Velázquez, 147 - 3ª planta, 28006 Madrid, Spain
Tel: +34 676 550 515, E-Mail: Lguindos@mapama.es

De la Figuera Morales, Ramón

Subdirector General de Acuerdos y Organizaciones Regionales de Pesca, Secretaría General de Pesca, Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente, C/ Velázquez, 144, 28006 Madrid, Spain
Tel: +34 91 347 6041, Fax: +34 91 347 6049, E-Mail: rdelafiguera@mapama.es

De Virgilio, Nicoletta

Ministero delle Politiche Agricole Alimentari, Forestali e Del Turismo - Direzione Generale della Pesca Marittima e dell'Acquacoltura, Via XX Settembre, 20, 00144 Rome, Italy
Tel: +39 392 149 4779; +39 646 652 914, Fax: +39 06 466 52899, E-Mail: n.devirgilio@politicheagricole.it

Del Zompo, Michele

Senior Coordinator for Control Operations, Operational Coordination Unit, European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA), Edificio Odriozola, Avenida García Barbón, 4, 36201 Vigo, Spain
Tel: +34 986 120 610, E-Mail: michele.delzompo@efca.europa.eu

Della Monica, Fortunato

Flag Approdo di Ulisse, Corso Umberto I, 84010 Cetara, Italy
Tel: +39089262913, E-Mail: fortunato.dellamonica@giustizia.it

Delsaut, Clotilde

Chargée de mission, Bureau du contrôle des pêches, Fisheries Control Unit Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture, Directorate for Sea Fisheries and Aquaculture, Ministère de l'Environnement, de l'Energie et de la Mer, Ministry of the Environment, Energy and the Sea, Tour Séquoia, 1 place Carpeaux, 92800 La Défense Puteaux, France
Tel: +33 140 817 194; +33 699 009 043, E-Mail: clotilde.delsaut@agriculture.gouv.fr

Demicoli, Joseph

Ghaqda Koperattiva tas-Sajd, Id-Dwana Xatt is-Sajjieda, ZTN09 M'Xlokk, Malta
Tel: +356 796 94517, E-Mail: jdemicoli55@gmail.com

Di Natale, Antonio

Dipartimento di Scienze Biologiche, Geologiche ed Ambientali (BIGEA), University of Bologna, Piazza Porta San Donato 1, Bologna, 40126 Italy
Tel: +39 336333366, E-Mail: adinatale@acquariodigenova.it

Di Rosa, Rocco Alessio

Azzurra Pesca SRL, Via Cairoli, 182, 93012 Sicily GELA (CL), Italy
Tel: +39 0933901116; +39 3484386362, E-Mail: alessio.azzurrapesca@gmail.com

Dragas, Tanja

Kali d.o.o., Put Vele Luke 70, 23272 Kali, Croatia
Tel: +385 23 28 28 00, Fax: +385 23 28 28 10, E-Mail: tanja@kali-tuna.hr; kali-tuna@kali-tuna.hr

Elduayen Eizaguirre, Eugenio

Organización de Productores de pesca de bajura de Guipúzcoa, Paseo Miraconcha, 9 BAJO, 20007 San Sebastian, Gipuzkoa Donostia, Spain
Tel: +34 94 345 17 82, Fax: +34 94 345 58 33, E-Mail: opegui@opegui.com

Eliassen, Peter Jørgen

Senior consultant, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Fisheries Policy, Asiatisk Plads 2, M5, DK-1448 København K, Denmark
Tel: +452 261 5937, E-Mail: peteel@um.dk

Ellul, Giovanni

MFF, Triq it-Trunciera, MXK1522 Marsaxlokk, Malta
Tel: +356 224 75000, E-Mail: gellul@ebcon.com.mt

Ellul, Salvu

MFF Limited Hangar, Triq it-Trunciera, MXK1522 Marsaxlokk, Malta
Tel: +356 224 75000, E-Mail: ellul@ebcon.com.mt

Esposito, Barbara

Dipartimento Pesca Legacoop Agroalimentari, V.G.A. Guattani 9, 00161 Rome, Italy
Tel: +39 331 624 83 25; +39 064 403 147, Fax: +39 183 730 266, E-Mail: barbara.esposito@legaliguria.coop

Fenech Farrugia, Andreina

Director General, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change, Ghammieri, Ngiered Road, MRS 3303 Marsa, Malta
Tel: +356 229 26841; +356 994 06894, Fax: +356 220 31246, E-Mail: andreina.fenech-farrugia@gov.mt

Fernández Asensio, Pablo Ramón

Xefe Territorial de Lugo, Xunta de Galicia, Consellería do Mar, Avda. Gerardo Harguindey Banet, 2, 27863 Celeiro-Viveiro Lugo, Spain
Tel: +34 982 555 002; móvil 650 701879, Fax: +34 982 555 005, E-Mail: pablo.ramon.fernandez.asensio@xunta.es; pablo.ramon.fernandez.asensio@xunta.gal

Fernández Belmonte, Manuel

Presidente, Federación Andaluza de Cofradías de Pescadores, Prolongación Muelle Pesquero, 261-262, 11201 Algeciras, Spain
Tel: +34 609 643 018, Fax: +34 956 666 798, E-Mail: presidentefacope@gmail.com

Fernández Beltrán, José Manuel

Presidente, Organización de Productores Pesqueros de Lugo, Muelle del Berbés s/n - Edif Lonxa 1º, 27880 Burela Lugo, Spain
Tel: +34 982 57 28 23; +34 606 394 252, Fax: +34 982 57 29 18, E-Mail: info@opplugo.com; josebeltran@opplugo.com

Fernández Muñoz, Nicolás

Federación Cofradías de Pescadores de Cádiz - FECOPECA, C/ Puerta de Cádiz, 5, 11140 Conil de la Frontera, Spain
Tel: +34 666 400 680, Fax: +34 956 442 748, E-Mail: federacioncofradiaspescadiz@gmail.com

Ferreira, Carlos

Head of department, Direção-Geral de Recursos Naturais, Segurança e Serviços Marítimos, Direção de Serviços de Inspeção, Monitorização e controlo das Atividades Marítimas, Av. Brasília, 1449-038 Lisbon, Portugal
Tel: +351 961 344 057, Fax: +351 213 025 185, E-Mail: carlosferreira@dgrm.mm.gov.pt

Ferreira de Gouveia, Lidia

Técnica Superior, Direção Regional das Pescas, Direção Serviços de Investigação – DSI, Estrada da Potinha, 9004-562 Funchal, Madeira, Portugal
Tel: +351 291 203281, Fax: +351 291 229856, E-Mail: lidia.gouveia@madeira.gov.pt

Fiume, Gennaro

Flag Approdo di Ulisse, Corso Umberto I, 84010 Cetara, Italy
Tel: +39089262913, E-Mail: fortunato.dellamonica@giustizia.it

Folque Socorro, Miguel Raul

Real Atunara, SA, Av. Da República, Ed. Guadiana Foz, Lote 2 R/C B, 8900-201 St. António V. Real, Portugal
Tel: +351 289 715 821, Fax: +351 2897 15821, E-Mail: m.r.f.socorro@hotmail.com; geral.atunara@hotmail.com

Fortassier, Sébastien

Représentant senneur, 48 chemin du sucre, 34300 Agde, France
Tel: +33 062 479 7145, E-Mail: sebsfortassier@gmail.com

Frejafond, Renaud

Longliner, OP SATHOAN, France
Tel: , Fax: , E-Mail:

Gaertner, Daniel

IRD-UMR MARBEC, CRH, CS 30171, Av. Jean Monnet, 34203 Sète Cedex, France
Tel: +33 4 99 57 32 31, Fax: +33 4 99 57 32 95, E-Mail: daniel.gaertner@ird.fr

Gallo, Ferdinando

Associazione Produttori Tonnieri del Tirreno Soc. Coop., Via dei Principati, 66, 84122 Salerno, Italy
Tel: +39 348 7409 289, Fax: +39 089 795 145, E-Mail: federpesca@federpesca.it; optonnierisalerno@gmail.com

Ganesio, Pietro

Euromar di Ganeiso Pietro & C. SNC, Via Dietro Chiesa, 48, 95021 Acicastello, Italy
Tel: +39 329 467 8983, E-Mail: euromar.valgan@yahoo.it

García García, Víctor

Gobierno de Canarias, Avenida José Manuel Guimerá, nº 10 Edificio Servicios Múltiples II, planta 4ª, 38071 Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Canarias, Spain
Tel: +34 922 47 51 86, Fax: +34 922 47 49 18, E-Mail: vgargarw@gobiernodecanarias.org

Gatto, Stephane

Ministère de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation, Direction des pêches maritimes et de l'aquaculture, France
Tel: +33 760 623 392, E-Mail: stephane.gatto@agriculture.gouv.fr

Giachetta, Marco María

Associazione Produttori Tonnieri del Tirreno, Via dei Principati 66, 84122 Salerno, Italy
Tel: +39 348 7409 289, Fax: +39 089 795 145, E-Mail: mar_giac@hotmail.com; optonnierisalerno@gmail.it

Gioacchini, Giorgia

Universita Politecnica delle Marche ANCONA, Via Breccie Bianche 131, 60131 Ancona, Italy
Tel: +39 071 220 4990, E-Mail: giorgia.gioacchini@univpm.it

Giovannone, Vittorio

Ministero delle Politiche Agricole Alimentari, Forestali e Del Turismo, Direzione Generali della Pesca Marittima e dell'Acquacoltura - PEMAC VI, Via XX Settembre, 20, 00144 Rome, Italy
Tel: +39 646 652 839, Fax: +39 646 652 899, E-Mail: v.giovannone@politicheagricole.it

Gonzalez Dieguez, Idoia

AZTI, Idorsolo 1, 48160 Derio, Bizkaia País Vasco, Spain
Tel: +34 605 776 053, Fax: +34 94 497 70 10, E-Mail: idoia.gonzalez@zunibal.com

Gordoa, Ana

Centro de Estudios Avanzados de Blanes (CEAB - CSIC), Acc. Cala St. Francesc, 14, 17300 Blanes Girona, Spain
Tel: +34 972 336101, E-Mail: gordoa@ceab.csic.es

Gouder, Charlon

Head Executive, Federation of Maltese Aquaculture Producers (FMAP), 89, Level 4, St. John Street, Valletta, Malta
Tel: +356 212 42776, E-Mail: goudercharlon@gmail.com

Goujon, Michel

ORTHONGEL, 5 Rue des Sardiniers, 29900 Concarneau, France
Tel: +33 2 9897 1957; +33 610 627 722, Fax: +33 2 9850 8032, E-Mail: mgoujon@orthongel.fr

Greco, Pier Paolo

Carloforte Tonnare Piam SRL, Consorzio Tonnare Sardegna, Contrada La Punta, Isola di San Pietro, 09014 Carloforte, Italy
Tel: +39 078 185 0126, E-Mail: segreteria@carlofortetonnare.it

Greco, Andrea

Carloforte Tonnare P.I.A.M. S.r.l., Contrada La Punta, Isola di San Pietro, 09014 Carloforte (CI), Italy
Tel: +39 078 185 0126, Fax: +39 078 185 0039, E-Mail: segreteria@carlofortetonnare.it

Greco, Giuliano

Carloforte Tonnare P.I.A.M. srl, Tuna Fisheries, Contrada La Punta, Isola di San Pietro, 09014 Carloforte, Italy
Tel: +39 078 185 0126, Fax: +39 078 185 0039, E-Mail: segreteria@carlofortetonnare.it

Grubisic, Leon

Institute of Oceanography and fisheries in Split, Setaliste Ivana Mestrovica 63 - P.O. Box 500, 21000 Split, Croatia
Tel: +385 214 08000; +385914070955, Fax: +385 21 358 650, E-Mail: leon@izor.hr

Gutiérrez Hernández, Fernando

Federación Regional de Cofradías de Pescadores de Canarias, Explanada del muelle, s/n 38917 La Restinga (El Hierro), 38917, Spain
Tel: +34 922 55 70 97, Fax: +34 922 55 70 46, E-Mail: cofradiaelhierro@gmail.com

Hashimoto, Shigeo

Vladimira Popovica 40, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia
Tel: +381 60 0598 852, Fax: +381 11 612 81 23, E-Mail: s.hashimoto@itochu.co.rs

Hernández Sáez, Pedro

CARBOPESCA, C/ Bailen, 3 - Bajo, 04002 Carboneras Almería, Spain

Tel: +34 950 130 050; +34 607 714 112, Fax: +34 950 454 539, E-Mail: cepesca@cepesca.es; carbopesca@hotmail.com

Horvat, Nenad

Pelagos Net Farma d.o.o., Gazenicka cesta 28 b, 23000 Zadar, Croatia

Tel: +385 099 273180, Fax: +385 23 638229, E-Mail: nenad.horvat@pelagos-net.hr

Jones, Sarah

Marine and Fisheries, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Room 8A Millbank c/o Nobel House, Smith Square, London SW1P 4DF, United Kingdom

Tel: +0208 0264575, E-Mail: Sarah.Jones@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Kafouris, Savvas

Fisheries and Marine Research Officer, Department of Fisheries and Marine Research (DFMR); Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment, 101, Vithleem Street, Strovolos, 1416 Nicosia, Cyprus

Tel: +357 228 07825, Fax: +357 2231 5709, E-Mail: skafouris@dfmr.moa.gov.cy; skafouris80@gmail.com

Kalogirou, Stefan

Department for fisheries management, Unit for Fisheries Policy, Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, Gullbergs Strandgata 15, 41104 Göteborg, Sweden Postal address: Box 11 930, 40439 Gothenburg, Sweden

Tel: +46 765386178, E-Mail: stefan.kalogirou@havochvatten.se

Katavic, Ivan

KLASTER MARIKULTURA OBALA A., TRUMBIĆA 4, 21000 Split, Croatia

Tel: +385 984 049 39, E-Mail: Katavic@izor.hr

Klarin, Paula

Pelagos net farma d.o.o., Gaženička cesta 28 B, 23000 Zadar, Croatia

Tel: +385 99 2731 181, Fax: 023 638 229, E-Mail: paula.klarin@pelagos-net.hr

Koenig-Jusufi, Gabriela

Council, Stubenbastei 5, 1010 Vienna, Austria

Tel: +431 711 006 11312, E-Mail: gabriela.koenig-jusufi@bmnt.gv.at

Lanza, Alfredo

Ministero delle Politiche Agricole Alimentari, Forestali e Del Turismo, Direzione Generali della Pesca Maritima e dell'acquacoltura - PEMAC VI, Via XX Settembre, 20, 00144 Rome, Italy

Tel: +39 331 464 1576, Fax: +39 646 652 899, E-Mail: a.lanza@politicheagricole.it

Larzabal, Serge

Président, Commission Thon Rouge, CNPMM Syndicat Marins CGT, 12 Quai pascal Elissalt, 64500 Pays Basque, Spain

Tel: +33 1 727 11 800, Fax: +33 1 727 11 850, E-Mail: serge.larzabal@yahoo.fr

Le Bars, Nolwenn

Criée aux poissons d'Agde, Quai commandant Méric, 34300 Agde, France

Tel: +33 631 390 520, E-Mail: nolwenn.opdusud.med@gmail.com

Le Galloudec, Fabien

Ministère de l'Agriculture, Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture, Tour Séquoia, 92055 La Défense, Cedex, France

Tel: +33 1 40 81 91 78; +33 674 924 493, Fax: +33 1 40 81 86 58, E-Mail: fabien.le-galloudec@developpement-durable.gouv.fr

Lizcano Palomares, Antonio

Subdirector Adjunto de la Subdirección General de Acuerdos y Organizaciones Regionales de Pesca, Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente, Secretaría General de Pesca, C/ Velázquez, 144 2ª Planta, 28006 Madrid, Spain

Tel: +34 91 347 6047, Fax: 91 347 60 42, E-Mail: alizcano@mapama.es

Lo Bosco, Mario Angelo

Azzurra Pesca SRL, Via Cairoli, 182, 93012 Sicily Gela (CL), Italy

Tel: +39 0933901116; +39 3484386362, E-Mail: alessio.azzurrapesca@gmail.com

Lopes, Luís

Chefe de Divisao, Direção de Serviços de Recursos Naturais, Divisao de Recursos Externos, Av. Brasilia, 1449-030
Lisbon, Portugal
Tel: +351 213035720; +351 963 909 957, Fax: +351 213035922, E-Mail: llopes@dgrm.mm.gov.pt

Lopes Santos, Rita

European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA), Avenida García Barbón 4, 36201 Vigo, Spain
Tel: +34 674 784 382; +34 98 612 06 95, E-Mail: rita.santos@efca.europa.eu

López Rodríguez, Isabel

Avenida José Manuel Guimerá, nº 10 Edificio Servicios Múltiples II, planta 4ª, 38071 Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain
Tel: +34 922 47 51 86, Fax: +34 922 47 49 18, E-Mail: iloprodn@gobiernodecanarias.org

Lubrano, Martial

Min de Saumaty, Chemin du littoral, 13016 Marseille, France
Tel: +33 0622 38 56 16, E-Mail: lubrano.martial@yahoo.fr

Lubrano, Jean-Gérald

Comité National des Pêches (CNPMM), 460 Chemin de la bergerie, 34540 Balaruc les Bains, France
Tel: +33 06 26 34 08 78, E-Mail: jg.lubrano@hotmail.fr

Lukin, Mate

UDRUGA PLIVARIČARA TUNOLOVACA AUGUSTA ŠENOJE 20 OIB:48326286024, 23000 Zadar, Croatia
Tel: +385 95 2532 845, Fax: +385 23 70 831, E-Mail: udruga.plivaricara.tunolovaca@gmail.com

Magnolo, Lorenzo Giovanni

Ministero delle Politiche Agricole Alimentari, Forestali e Del Turismo, Direzione Generale della pesca Marittima e dell'Acquacoltura, Via XX Settembre, 20, 0187 Roma, Italy
Tel: +39 659 084 446; +39 646 652 819, Fax: +39 646 652 899, E-Mail: lorenzo.magnolo@politicheagricole.it

Males, Josip

Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Šetalište I. Meštrovića 63, 21000 Split, Croatia
Tel: +385 214 08065, Fax: +385 213 58650, E-Mail: males@izor.hr

Mandic, Leo

Jadran tuna d.o.o., Vukovarska 86 23210, 23210 Biogra, Croatia
Tel: 091 3853 558, Fax: 023 385 359, E-Mail: leo@jadran-tuna.hr

Mangalo, Caroline

Comité National des Pêches Maritimes et des Élevages Marins, 134, Avenue Malakoff, 75116 Paris Ile de France, France
Tel: +33172711814, Fax: +33172711850, E-Mail: cmangalo@comite-peches.fr

Markovic, Bozica

Croatian Chamber of Economy, Rooseveltov trg 2, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia
Tel: +385 (0)1 4826 066, Fax: +385 (0)1 456-1545, E-Mail: poljoprivreda@hgk.hr

Martín-Borregón Gómez, Marta

Secretaría General de Pesca, Calle Velázquez, 144, 28006 Madrid, Spain
Tel: +34 91 347 60 40; +34 91 347 37 74, E-Mail: bec_sgaorp02@mapama.es; martambg91@gmail.com

Martínez González, Jose Ramón

Mare Blue Tuna Farm, 74, Liesse Hill, VLT1940, Valetta, Malta
Tel: +356 212 23015, Fax: +35 621 22 73 26, E-Mail: ramon.martinez@ricardofuentes.com

Maza Fernández, Pedro

Federación Andaluza de Asociaciones pesqueras - FAAPE, Doctor Fleming, nº 7-2º derecha, 28036 Madrid, Spain
Tel: +34 91 432 34 89, Fax: +34 91 435 52 01, E-Mail: cepesca@cepesca.es

Mihanovic, Marin

Ministry of Agriculture - Directorate of Fishery, Ulica Grada Vukovara 78, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia
Tel: +385 981 858 182; +385 214 44053, Fax: +385 16 44 3200, E-Mail: marin.mihanovic@mps.hr

Milakovic, Mladen

Croatian Chamber of Economy, Rooseveltov Trg 2, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia
Tel: +385 98 287 752, Fax: + 385 21 712 205, E-Mail: mladen.milakovic@conex-trade.com

Mirète, Guy

"Criée aux poissons des pays d'Agde" quai commandant Méric, 43 Rue Paul Iscir, 34300 Le Grau d'Agde, France
Tel: +33 631 390 540, Fax: +33 4 6721 1415, E-Mail: prudhomie.grau.agde@orange.fr; opdusud.med@gmail.com

Mirkovic, Miro

Sealight d.o.o., Polj. Pape Aleksandra III, 7, 23000 Zadar, Croatia
Tel: +385 99 321 1116, Fax: +385 233 12112, E-Mail: miro.mirkovic@zd.t-com.hr

Misura, Ante

Ministry of Agriculture, Directorate of Fisheries, Ulica grada Vukovara 78, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia
Tel: +385 164 43185, Fax: +385 644 3200, E-Mail: ante.misura@mps.hr

Molina Schmid, Teresa

Subdirectora General de Control e Inspección, Ministerio de Agricultura y Pesca, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente, Secretaría General de Pesca, C/ Velázquez, 147, 28071 Madrid, Spain
Tel: +34 679 540 595; +34 91 347 19 49, E-Mail: tmolina@mapama.es; inspecpm@mapama.es

Morales Rodríguez, Abel

Gobierno de Canarias, Avenida José Manuel Guimerá, nº 10 Edificio Servicios Múltiples II, planta 4ª, 38071 Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Canarias, Spain
Tel: +34 922 47 51 86, Fax: +34 922 47 49 18, E-Mail: asosart@gobiernodecanarias.org

Morikawa, Hirofumi

TUNIPEX, Porto de Pesca de Olhao, Armazén Nº 2, Apartado 456, 8700-914 Olhão, Portugal
Tel: +351 28 972 3610, Fax: +351 28 972 3611, E-Mail: info@tunipex.eu

Morón Ayala, Julio

Organización de Productores Asociados de Grandes Atuneros Congeladores - OPAGAC, C/ Ayala, 54 - 2ªA, 28001 Madrid, Spain
Tel: +34 91 575 89 59; +34 616 484 596, Fax: +34 91 576 1222, E-Mail: julio.moron@opagac.org

Muniategi Bilbao, Anertz

ANABAC-OPTUC, Txibitxiaga, 24 - Entreplanta Apartado 49, 48370 Bermeo - Bizkaia, Spain
Tel: +34 94 688 28 06, Fax: +34 94 688 50 17, E-Mail: anertz@anabac.org; anabac@anabac.org

Murphy, Patrick

Irish South and West Fish Producer Organisation, The Pier Castletownbere Co., P75WY42 Cork Castletownbere, Ireland
Tel: +353 862 360 001, E-Mail: patrick@irishsouthandwest.ie

Murua, Hilario

AZTI - Tecnalia /Itsas Ikerketa Saila, Herrera Kaia Portualde z/g, 20110 Pasaia Gipuzkoa, Spain
Tel: +34 667 174 433, E-Mail: hmurua@azti.es

Musulin, Ivona

Ul. grada Vukovara 78, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia
Tel: +385 987 99912, Fax: +385 016 109 200, E-Mail: ivona.musulin@mps.hr

Nader, Gelare

Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, Department of European Fisheries Policy, Beznidenhoutseweg 73, 2594 AC, The Hague, The Netherlands
Tel: + 316 388 25305, E-Mail: g.nader@minlnv.nl

Navarro Cid, Juan José

Grupo Balfegó, Polígono Industrial - Edificio Balfegó, 43860 L'Ametlla de Mar Tarragona, Spain
Tel: +34 977 047700, Fax: +34 977 457 812, E-Mail: jnavarro@grupbalfego.com

Nekic, Vesna

Jadran tuna d.o.o., Vukovarska 86, 23210 Hrvatska Biograd na moru, Croatia
Tel: +385 23 385 211, Fax: +385 23 385 359, E-Mail: jadran.tuna1@jadran-tuna.hr

Novella, Matteo

Associazione Produttori Tonniere del Tirreno S.C.A.R.L., Via dei Principati, 66, 84122 Salerno, Italy
Tel: +39089795145, E-Mail: pescanovella@tiscali.it; optonniereisalerno@gmail.com

Nunes, Maria

TUNIPEX, Porto de Pesca de Olhao, Armazén N° 2, Apt 456, 8700-914 Olhao, Portugal
Tel: +351 289 723 610, Fax: +351 289 723 611, E-Mail: info@tunipex.eu

Olaskoaga Susperregui, Andrés

Federación de Cofradías de Pescadores de Guipúzcoa, Paseo de Miraconcha, 9, 20007 Donostia, Gipuzkoa San Sebastian, Spain
Tel: +34 94 345 1782, Fax: +34 94 345 5833, E-Mail: fecopegui@fecopegui.net; opegui@opegui.com

Ordoñez Rubio, David

Astilleros Zamakona, S.A., P.O. Box 24, 48980 Santurtzi Vizcaya, Spain
Tel: +34 94 493 7030, Fax: +34 94 461 2580, E-Mail: david@zamakona.com

Ortiz de Zárate Vidal, Victoria

Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación y Universidades, Instituto Español de Oceanografía, C.O. de Santander, Promontorio de San Martín s/n, 39004 Santander Cantabria, Spain
Tel: +34 942 291 716, Fax: +34 942 27 50 72, E-Mail: victoria.zarate@ieo.es

Otero Rodríguez, José Basilio

Federación Nacional de Cofradías de Pescadores, C/ Barquillo, 7 - 1º Derecha, 28004 Madrid, Spain
Tel: +34 91 531 98 04; +34 667 668 128, Fax: +34 91 531 63 20, E-Mail: fncp@fncp.e.telefonica.net; presidente@cofradiaslugo.com

Pappalardo, Luigi

OCEANIS SRL, Vie Maritime 59, 80056 Ercolano (NA), Italy
Tel: +39 081 777 5116, E-Mail: oceanissrl@gmail.com

Pappalardo, Alfonso Junior

OP Della Pesca Thunnus Thynnus Societa Coop, Via Velia, 96, 84122 Salerno, Italy
Tel: +39 089 995 5905, E-Mail: ophunnusthynnus@gmail.com

Pappalardo, David Sebastien

OP Della Pesca Thunnus Thynnus Societa Coop, Via Velia, 96, 84122 Salerno, Italy
Tel: +39 089 995 5905, E-Mail: ophunnusthynnus@gmail.com

Pappalardo, Gilles Alphonse

OP Della Pesca Thunnus Thynnus Societa Coop, Via Velia, 96, 84122 Salerno, Italy
Tel: +39 089 995 5905, E-Mail: gillespappalardo@gmail.com; ophunnusthynnus@gmail.com

Pappalardo, Alfonso

OP Della Pesca Thunnus Thynnus Societa Coop, Velia, 96, 84122 Salerno, Italy
Tel: +39 089 995 5905, E-Mail: ophunnusthynnus@gmail.com

Paz Setién, Enrique

Federación Fecopesca, C/ Andrés del Río, 7 - P2-B, 39004 Santader, Spain
Tel: +34 942 215970; 609465581, Fax: +34 942 212487, E-Mail: federacion@fecopesca.es

Pérez Martín, Margarita

Directora General de Pesca y Acuicultura, Dirección General de Pesca y Acuicultura, Consejería de Agricultura y Pesca - Junta de Andalucía, C/ Tabladilla, s/n, 41071 Seville, Spain
Tel: +34 95 503 2262, Fax: +34 95 503 2142, E-Mail: margarita.perez.martin@juntadeandalucia.es

Petrina Abreu, Ivana

Ministry of Agriculture - Directorate of Fishery, Ulica Grada Vukovara 78, Planiska 2a, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia
Tel: +385 164 43171, Fax: +385 164 43200, E-Mail: ipetrina@mps.hr

Piccione, Andrea Giovanni

Mareblu Tuna Farm Ltd., 74 Liesse Hill, 1940 Valletta, Malta
Tel: +356 212 23015, Fax: +356 212 27326, E-Mail: andreapiccione51@gmail.com; tunafarm@mareblumalta.com; dcappitta@mareblumalta.com

Pignalosa, Paolo

Scientific Technical Consultant, Oceanis srl, Via Marittima, 59, 80056 Naples Ercolano, Italy
Tel: +39 33 566 99324; +39 81 777 5116, E-Mail: oceanissrl@gmail.com

Pignalosa, Cirgianni

Oceanis Srl, Via Marittima, 59, 80056 Ercolano (NA), Italy
Tel: +39 081 777 5116, E-Mail: oceanissrl@gmail.com

Pilz, Christiane

Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft, Wilhelmstrabe 54, 10117 Berlin, Germany
Tel: +49 301 8529 3236, Fax: +49 228 99 529 4084, E-Mail: Christiane.Pilz@bmel.bund.de

Piton, Aldwin

Représentant palangrier, OP SATHOAN, Pêcheur, Route Du Sucre, 34300 Le Grau d'Agde Agde, France
Tel: +33 786 045 681, E-Mail: alwinpiton@gmail.com

Portelli, Susan

Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development & Climate Change MESDC Offices 59, White Rose, Ta Mellu Street, MST 3784 Santa Verera, Malta
Tel: +356 998 54067, E-Mail: susan.a.portelli@gov.mt

Refalo, John

Executive Secretary, Federation of Maltese Aquaculture Producers, 61, St. Paul Street, VLT 1462 Valletta, Malta
Tel: +356 21 22 35 15, Fax: +356 21 24 11 70, E-Mail: john.refalo@bar.com.mt

Reyes, Nastassia

Musée de l'Homme - UMR 7206 Ecoanthropologie et Ethnobiologie, Direction des relations internationales et européennes, 17 Place du Trocadéro, 75116 Paris, France
Tel: +3301 440 57344; +33 642 355655, E-Mail: nastassia.reyes@mnhn.fr

Rigillo, Riccardo

Ministero delle Politiche Agricole Alimentari, Forestali e Del Turismo, Direzione Generale della Pesca Marittima e dell'Acquacoltura, Via XX Settembre, 20, 00187 Rome, Italy
Tel: +39 06 466 52803, Fax: +39 06 466 52899, E-Mail: r.rigillo@politicheagricole.it; pamac.direttore@politicheagricole.it

Rita, Gualberto

Federação das Pescas dos Açores, Rua Sao Salvador, 2, 9760-541 Praia da Vitória, Azores, Portugal
Tel: +351 962 524 244; +351 295 513 053, Fax: +351 295 512 135, E-Mail: gualberto.rita@sapo.pt; federacaopescasacores@sapo.pt; geral@federacaopescasacores.pt

Riva, Yvon

ORTHONGEL, 5, Rue des Sardiniers, 29900 Concarneau, France
Tel: +33 298 97 19 57; +33 608 765 794, Fax: +33 2 9850 8032, E-Mail: orthongel@wanadoo.fr; yriva@orthongel.fr

Rodrigues, Luis

Diretor Regional das Pescas, Secretaria Regional do Mar, Ciência e Tecnologia, Rua Cónsul Dabney - Colónia Alema, 9900-014 Horta - Azores, Portugal
Tel: +351 292 202 400; +351 91 413 1674, Fax: +351 292 293 166, E-Mail: luis.m.rodrigues@azores.gov.pt

Rodríguez Verdú, Juan José

Viera y Clavijo N° 52 Piso 1, 35003 Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain
Tel: +34 609 887 484, Fax: +34 92 893 70 75, E-Mail: juanjose.rodriguezverdu@gmail.com

Rogotic, Mario

Ministry of Agriculture, Directorate of Fisheries, Ulica grada Vukovara 78, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia
Tel: +385 164 43174, E-Mail: mario.rogotic@mps.hr

Romiti, Gérard

Président du Comité National des Pêches Maritimes et Aquaculture, 134 Avenue Malakoff, 75116 Paris, France
Tel: +33172711808, Fax: +33172711850, E-Mail: gromitipdt@comite-peches.fr; cnpmem@comite-peches.fr

Sainz-Trápaga, Susana

Departament d'Agricultura, Ramaderia, Pesca i Alimentació Generalitat de Catalunya, Avinguda Diagonal, 523-525, 08029 Barcelona, Spain
Tel: +34 93 444 50 02, Fax: +34 93 419 32 05, E-Mail: ssainztrapaga@gencat.cat

Santiago Burrutxaga, Josu

Head of Tuna Research Area, AZTI-Tecnalia, Txatxarramendi z/g, 48395 Sukarrieta (Bizkaia) País Vasco, Spain
Tel: +34 94 6574000 (Ext. 497); 664303631, Fax: +34 94 6572555, E-Mail: jsantiago@azti.es; flarrauri@azti.es

Santos Padilla, Ana

Org. Prod. Pesqueros de Almadraba (OPP-51), Avda. Luis de Morales, 32 - Edificio Fórum, Planta 3ª - Módulo 31, 41018 Seville, Spain

Tel: + 34 954 987 938; 672 134 677, Fax: +34 954 988 692, E-Mail: anasantos@atundealmadraba.com; almadrabacp@atundealmadraba.com

Scannapieco, Raphaël

Vice-Président de la Commission Thon rouge du CNPMM, Organisation des producteurs SATHOAN, Société coopérative maritime des Pêcheurs de Sète-Mole 7, quai Cdt. Samary, 34200 Sète, France

Tel: +33 4 67 51 95 58, Fax: +33 4 67 53 73 79, E-Mail: raphael.scannapieco@wanadoo.fr

Scotti, Zina

Euromar di Ganesio Pietro & C. SNC, Via Dietro Chiesa, 48, 95021 Acicastello (CT), Italy

Tel: +39 329 467 8983, E-Mail: euromar.valgan@yahoo.it

Seguna, Marvin

Chief Fisheries Protection Officer, Ministry for the Environment Sustainable Development, and Climate Change, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Ngiered Road, MRS 3303 Marsa, Malta

Tel: +356 2292 6857, E-Mail: marvin.seguna@gov.mt

Segvic-Bubic, Tanja

Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, Setaliste I. Mestrovica 63, 21000 Split Splitsko-dalmatinska county, Croatia

Tel: +385 959 022 955, Fax: +385 213 58650, E-Mail: tsegvic@izor.hr

Sekula, Maro

POD KALE 8, 20000 Dubrovnik, Hrvatska, Croatia

Tel: +385 987 65685, E-Mail: diving@apnea.hr

Serigot Senent, Francisco Javier

Mare Blu Tuna Farm, 74 Liesse Hill, 1940 Valletta, Malta

Tel: +34 609 984 342, Fax: 212 27326, E-Mail: jserigot@ricardofuentes.com

Skorjanec, Mario

Ministry of Agriculture, Directorate of Fisheries, Trg Hrvatske bratske zajednice 8, 21000 Split, Croatia

Tel: +385 444 069, E-Mail: mario.skorjanec@mps.hr

Soroo, Borja

Pesquería Vasco Montañesa, S.A. (PEVASA), Polígono Landabaso S/N, 48370 Bermeo, Spain

Tel: +34 946 880 450, Fax: +34 946 884 533, E-Mail: pevasa@pevasa.es

Sperandeo, Pietro

Associazione Produttori Tonnieri del Tirreno Soc. Coop., Via del Principati, 66, 84122 Salerno, Italy

Tel: +39 327 495 5145, E-Mail: pietrosperandeo@yahoo.it

Stipetic Medek, Lavinija

Ministry of Agriculture Directorate of Fisheries, Alexander von Humboldtta 4b, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia

Tel: +385 164 73078, E-Mail: lavinija.s-medek@mps.hr

Testa, Giuseppe

OP Della Pesca Thunnus Thynnus Societa Coop, Via Velia, 96, 84122 Salerno, Italy

Tel: +39 089 995 5905, E-Mail: ophunnusthynnus@gmail.com

Tudela Casanovas, Sergi

Departament d'Agricultura, Ramaderia, Pesca i Alimentació Generalitat de Catalunya, Avinguda Diagonal, 523-525, 08029 Barcelona, Spain

Tel: +34 93 444 50 02, Fax: +34 93 419 32 05, E-Mail: dg05.daam@gencat.cat

Tudisco, Alfio Giacomo

MFF, Triq it-Trunciera, Marsaxlokk, Malta

Tel: +39 348 397 2560, E-Mail: tudisco57@libero.it

Ulloa Alonso, Edelmiro

ANAPA/ARPOAN Puerto Pesquero, Edificio Cooperativa de Armadores Ramiro Gordejuela S/N - Puerto Pesquero, 36202 Vigo Pontevedra, Spain
Tel: +34 986 43 38 44; 618175687, Fax: +34 986 43 92 18, E-Mail: edelmiro@arvi.org

Urrutia, Xabier

ANABAC - Asociación Nacional de Armadores de Buques Atuneros Congeladores, Txibitxiaga, 24 - Entreplanta Apartado 49, 48370 Bermeo Bizkaia, Spain
Tel: +34 94 688 0450; +34 656 708 139, Fax: +34 94 688 4533, E-Mail: xabierurrutia@pevasa.es; anabac@anabac.org

Ursic, Boni

Ratac 1, 21410 Postira, Croatia
Tel: +385 91 504 5438, Fax: +385 21 632 236, E-Mail: boni.ursic@sardina.hr

Van de Kerk, Auke

Compagnie Francaise du Thon Oceanique (CFTO), II Rue des Sardiniers, 29900 Concarneau, Cedex, France
Tel: +02 98 60 52 52; +31 646 006 859, Fax: +02 98 60 52 59, E-Mail: secretariat@cfto.fr; aukevandekerk@cfto.fr

Ventura, Isabel

Av de Brasilia, 1449-030 Lisboa, Portugal
Tel: +351 213 035 880, Fax: +351 213 035 702, E-Mail: isabelv@dgrm.mm.gov.pt

Vesnic, Milos

Vladimira Popovica 40, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia
Tel: +381 63 598 851, Fax: +381 11 612 81 23, E-Mail: m.vesnic@itochu.co.rs

Vidov, Klaudio

Kali Tuno doo, Put Vele Luke 70, 23272 Kali, Croatia
Tel: +385 98 98 111 48, Fax: +385 23 28 28 11, E-Mail: klaudio@kali-tuna.hr

Vinzant, Michel

Armement Scannapieco, 7, quai Cdt. SAMARY, F-34200 Sète, France
Tel: +33 4 6751 95 58, Fax: +33 467 53 73 79, E-Mail: vinzant@wanadoo.fr

Vivas Prada, José Manuel

C/ Velázquez, 147, 28071 Madrid, Spain
Tel: +34 91 347 19 49, E-Mail: inspecpm@mapama.es

Vujevic, Ante

Ulica grada Vukovara 78, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia
Tel: +385 1 6443 195, Fax: +385 1 6443 200, E-Mail: ante.vujevic@mps.hr

Wendling, Bertrand

SaThoAn - Cap St. Louis 3B, 29 Promenade JB Marty, 34200 Sète, France
Tel: +33 6 0332 8977, Fax: +33 4 6746 0513, E-Mail: bwen@wandoo.fr

White, Maeve

Seafisheries Policy and Management Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, National Seafood Centre, Clogheen, Clonakilty, P85 TX47 Co Cork, Ireland
Tel: +35 323 885 9490, E-Mail: maeve.white@agriculture.gov.ie

Zanki, Kristijan

Sardina d.o.o., Ratac 1, 21410 Postira, Croatia
Tel: +385 21 420 605, Fax: +385 21 632 236, E-Mail: kristijan.zanki@sardina.hr; kristijan.zanki@gmail.com

Zulueta Casina, Jon

Director Gerente, ATUNSA, C/ Lamera, nº 1- 2º, 48370 Bermeo Bizkaia, Spain
Tel: +34 94 618 62 00, Fax: +34 94 618 61 28, E-Mail: jon@atunsa.com

FRANCE (ST. PIERRE & MIQUELON)

Tourtois, Benoit *

Chargé de mission Affaires Internationales, Bureau des Affaires Européennes et Internationales, Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture, Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation, Tour Sequoia, Place Carpeaux, 92055 Cédex Paris-La Défense
Tel: +33 1 40 81 89 86; +33 7 60 15 22 12, Fax: +33 1 40 81 89 86, E-Mail: benoit.tourtois@agriculture.gouv.fr

Granger, Arnaud

Chef du Service des Affaires Maritimes et Portuaires, Adjoint au directeur de la Direction des Territoires, de l'Alimentation et de la Mer, 1 Rue Gloanec, 97500
Tel: +33 505 411 530, E-Mail: arnaud-j.granger@equipement-agriculture.gouv.fr

Laurent-Monpetit, Christiane

Chargée de Mission Pêche au Ministère des Outre-mer, Délégation Générale à l'Outre-mer, Ministry for french overseas territories, Département des politiques agricoles, rurales et maritimes, 27 Rue Oudinot, 75358 Paris SP07
Tel: +331 53692466, Fax: +33 1 53692995, E-Mail: christiane.laurent-monpetit@outre-mer.gouv.fr

GABON**Schummer Gnandji, Micheline ***

Directeur Général des Pêches et de l'Aquaculture du Gabon, Immeuble des Eaux et Forêts, Boulevard Triomphal Omar BONGO, BP 9498 Libreville
Tel: +241 0 661 0033, E-Mail: schmiche@yahoo.fr; dgpechegabon@netcourrier.com

Angueko, Davy

Chargé d'Etudes du Directeur Général des Pêches, Direction Générale des Pêche et de l'Aquaculture, BP 9498, Libreville Estuaire
Tel: +241 0653 4886, E-Mail: davyangueko@yahoo.fr; davyangueko83@gmail.com

Bibang Bi Nguema, Jean Noël

Chef de service des Evaluations et de l'Aménagement des Ressources Marines, Direction Générale des pêches et de l'Aquaculture (DGPA), BP. 9498, Libreville Estuaire
Tel: +241 047 37881, E-Mail: mamienejnb@gmail.com

Louembe, Pierre Joël

Aide de Camp de Madame le Ministre, BP 9498 Libreville Estuaire
Tel: +241 06561190, E-Mail: rekomba@yahoo.fr

Loupdy Matiga, Clémence

Ministre de la Pêche et de la Mer, BP 9498 Libreville
Tel: +241 06561190, E-Mail: rekomba@yahoo.fr

Mba-Asseko, Georges Henri

Directeur Général, Agence Nationale des Pêches et de l'Aquaculture (ANPA), BP. 9498, Libreville
Tel: +241 0661 140, E-Mail: dgpechegabon@netcourrier.com; gmbaasseko@anpagabon.org; gmbasseko@yahoo.com

Ogandagas, Carole

Conseiller, Pêche et Aquaculture du Ministre de la Pêche et de la Mer, BP: 9498 Libreville Estuaire
Tel: +241 06232472, E-Mail: caroleogans@yahoo.fr; dgpechegabon@netcourrier.com

GHANA**Arthur-Dadzie, Michael ***

Director of Fisheries, Fisheries Commission, Ministry of Fisheries & Aquaculture Development, P.O. Box GP 630, Accra
Tel: +233 244 735 506, E-Mail: michyad2000@yahoo.com

Amarfio, Richster Nii Amarah

Ghana Industrial Trawlers Association/Laif Fisheries, P.O. Box TT 416, Tema New Town
Tel: +233 5013 99220; +233 2479 62122, E-Mail: niirichster@gmail.com

Ampem-Kesseie, Ohenenana

P. O Box CO 2155, Tema Greater Accra
Tel: +233 578 890 360, E-Mail: ohenenanaa2@gmail.com

Baidoo-Tsibu, Godfrey

Ministry of Fisheries, Fisheries Commission, P.O. Box GP 630, Accra
Tel: +233 244 544 204, E-Mail: godfreytsibu@yahoo.com; godfreytsibu.gbt@gmail.com

Boye-Ayertey, Samuel

Secretary, Trust Allied Fishing Ventures LTD, P.O. Box CO-1384, Tema
Tel: +233 208 132660, Fax: +233 302 207826, E-Mail: trustallied@yahoo.co.uk

Danso, Emmanuel

Secretary, Ghana Tuna Association GTA, D-H Fisheries Co. LTD, P.O. Box SC 102, 4869 Tema, New Town
Tel: +233 244 382 186, Fax: +233 303 216 735, E-Mail: danso_2@yahoo.com

Davidson, John Benjamin Kwasi

Treasurer, Ghana Tuna Association / BSK Marine LTD, P.O. Box SC 102, Tema
Tel: +233 556 607070, Fax: +233 22 206218, E-Mail: john.davidson@nwbrand.com; j davidson@gmail.com

Farmer, John Augustus

President, Ghana Tuna Association, Managing Director Agnespark Fisheries, Agnes Park Fisheries, P.O. Box CO 1828, Tema
Tel: +233 202 113230, Fax: +233 303 301 820, E-Mail: Johnebus63@gmail.com

Kessie, Oscar

Treasurer, Ghana Industrial Trawlers Association (GITA), P. O. Box Co 2155, Tema Accra
Tel: +233 243 658 025, E-Mail: oskessie@gmail.com

Kim, Anthony

PMB 85, GAFCO Industrial Park, Main Harbour Area, 85 Tema, Great Accra
Tel: +233 265 718 765, E-Mail: anthony.kim@cosmoseafoods.com

Kwame Nketsia, Joseph

Ghana Tuna Association / World Marine Co. Ltd, P.O. Box SC 102, Tema
Tel: +233 208 239 126, E-Mail: worldmarinegh@gmail.com

Kwesi Aihoon, Frank

Member, Ghana Tuna Association / Panofi Company Limited, P.O. Box SC 102, Tema
Tel: +233 501 335 447, Fax: +233 303 206 101, E-Mail: faihoon@gmail.com

Lee, Tse Yeol

Member, Ghana Tuna Association, D-H Fisheries Co. LRD, P.O. Box TT 531, Tema
Tel: +233 303 216 733, Fax: +233 303 216 735, E-Mail: danso_2@yahoo.com

Lee, Jae Weon

D-H Fisheries Company LTD, P.O. Box TT 531, Tema
Tel: +233 243 419 054, Fax: +233 303 216 735, E-Mail: dhfjwlee@naver.com

Maa Afuah Asomani Asamoah, Mimi Magdalene

Paralegal intern, Fisheries Commission
Tel: +233 558 486 776, E-Mail: maaafuahasamoah@yahoo.com

Mantey-Mensah, Emmanuel

Fisheries Commission and Board Chairman
Tel: +233 244 37396, E-Mail: mantmensfisheries@yahoo.com

Ofori-Ani, Edwin Kelly

Ghana Industrial Trawlers Association / Global Marine Consult LTD, SSNIT Greda Estates Hse. No. 30 A, Teshie - Nungua Estates, Accra
Tel: +233 244 566 986, E-Mail: oyemanoforiani@yahoo.com

Ofori-Ani Jr., Edwin Kelly

SSNIT Greda Estate Hse. No 30 A, Teshie Nungua Estates, Accra
Tel: +233 244 566 986, E-Mail: oyemanoforiani@yahoo.com

Okai, Sammy Nii Quaye

Coordinator, Ghana Industrial Trawlers Association (GITA), Plot 40/1 Community 10 Tema, P.O. Box 866, Tema
Tel: +233 208 117160, Fax: +233 303 204667, E-Mail: bossgie@yahoo.com; sammynoquaye@gmail.com

Okyere, Nicholas

Executive Member, Panofi Company LTD, President, Ghana Tuna Association, P.O. Box SC-102, Tema
Tel: +233 202 113 330, Fax: +233 22 206101, E-Mail: nkokyere@yahoo.co.uk

Owusu, Sampson

Ghana Tuna Association / PFC Limited (Thaiunion), P.O. Box SC 102, Tema
Tel: +233 545 642 831, E-Mail: sampson.owusu@thaiunion.com

Paintsil, Frank
Dong Sheng Co. Ltd, P.O. BOX CO 4869
Tel: +233 244 121 221, E-Mail: dir.ekpsshipping@yahoo.com

Park, Kwanghwi
P.O. Box TT 581
E-Mail: sltdamien@gmail.com

Selorm Deamesi, Jerome
P.O. Box Ce 11884, Tema Greater Accra
Tel: +233 245 813 3208, E-Mail: deamesi.jerome@gmail.com

GUATEMALA

Acevedo Cordón, Byron Omar *
Viceministro de Sanidad Agropecuaria y Regulaciones, Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación, Dirección de Normatividad de la Pesca y Acuicultura (DIPESCA), Km. 22 Carretera al Pacífico, edificio La Ceiba, 3er. Nivel, Bárcena, Villa Nueva
Tel: +502 580 82053; Whatsapp, E-Mail: byron.acevedo@gmail.com; visar.agenda@gmail.com

Almagia, Igor
ARIT BIDEA, 48900 Munguia
Tel: +34 618 881 311, E-Mail: i.almagia@thsa.com

Cifuentes Marckwordrt, Manoel José
Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación, Investigación y Desarrollo, Dirección de Normatividad de la Pesca y Acuicultura – DIPESCA, Km. 22.5 Carretera al Pacífico, Guatemala, Villa Nueva Bárcenas
Tel: +502 57 08 09 84, Fax: +502 66 40 93 34, E-Mail: manoeljose@gmail.com

Franco Durán, Vasco
Entidad Pesquera Reina de la Paz S.A.
Tel: +507 678 13085, E-Mail: vascofrancoduran@yahoo.com

Miletic, Diego
Entidad Pesquera Reina de la Paz, S.A.
Tel: +507 606 481, E-Mail: diegomiletic@yahoo.com

Romero Morales, Manuel Odilo
Administrador Único y Representante Legal, Atunera Sant Yago, S.A.
Tel: +34 981 845 400, E-Mail: moromero@jealsa.com

GUINEA BISSAU

Dos Santos Cunha, Euclides *
Secretaria de Estado das Pescas e Economia Marítima, Avenida Amilcar Cabral, 102
Tel: +245 955 262 200, E-Mail: euclidesabel@hotmail.com

Barri, Iça
Ministério das Pescas, Centro de Investigaçao Pesqueira Aplicada (CIPA), Avenida Amilcar Cabral, C.P. 102
Tel: +245 95 545 3226, E-Mail: barry.baary@hotmail.com

HONDURAS

Osorio Medina, Jose Luis *
Director General, Dirección General de Pesca y Acuicultura de Honduras, Boulevard Miraflores, Ave. La FAO, Tegucigalpa M.D.C.
Tel: +504 629 270251, E-Mail: jlosoriov@yahoo.com; jlosorio.sag.hn@gmail.com

Chavarría Valverde, Bernal Alberto
Dirección General de Pesca y Acuicultura, Secretaría de Agricultura y Ganadería Boulevard Centroamérica, Avenida la FAO, Tegucigalpa
Tel: +506 882 24709, Fax: +506 2232 4651, E-Mail: bchavarria@lsg-cr.com

ICELAND

Helgason, Kristján Freyr *
Ministry of Industries and Innovation, Skulagata 4, 101 Reykjavik
Tel: +354 849 4861, E-Mail: kristjanf@anr.is

JAPAN

Ota, Shingo *

Councillor, Resources Management Department, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100-8907
Tel: +81 3 3502 8460, Fax: +81 3 3504 2649, E-Mail: shingo_ota810@maff.go.jp

Aoki, Tomohiro

Technical Official, International Affairs Division, Resources Management Department, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100-8907
Tel: +81 3 3502 8460, Fax: +81 3 3504 2649, E-Mail: tomohiro_aoki810@maff.go.jp

Hiruma, Shinji

Assistant Director, Fisheries Management Division, Resources Management Department, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Tokyo Chidoya-ku 100-8907
Tel: +81 3 3502 8460, Fax: +81 3 3504 2649, E-Mail: shinji_hiruma150@maff.go.jp; hirufish@gmail.com

Hosokawa, Natsuki

Adviser, Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Association, Koto-ku, Tokyo 135-0034
Tel: +81 3 5646 2382, Fax: +81 3 5646 2652, E-Mail: gyojyo@japantuna.or.jp

Izumi, Hiroyuki

Chief Manager, International Division, Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Association, Tokyo Koto-ku 135-0034
Tel: +81 3 5646 2382, Fax: +81 3 5646 2652, E-Mail: gyojyo@japantuna.or.jp

Katsuyama, Kiyoshi

Special Advisor, International Division, Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Association, 2-31-1, Koto-ku, Tokyo 135-0034
Tel: +81 3 5646 2382, Fax: +81 3 5646 2652, E-Mail: katsuyama@japantuna.or.jp

Miura, Nozomu

Manager, International Division, Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Association, 2-31-1 Eitai Koto-ku, Tokyo 135-0034
Tel: +81 3 5646 2382, Fax: +81 3 5646 2652, E-Mail: miura@japantuna.or.jp; gyojyo@japantuna.or.jp

Miwa, Takeshi

Assistant Director, International Affairs Division, Resources Management Department, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8907
Tel: +81 3 3502 8460, Fax: +81 3 3504 2649, E-Mail: takeshi_miwa090@maff.go.jp

Ogawa, Shun

Deputy Director, Agricultural and Marine Products Office, Trade Control Department, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, 1-3-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8901
Tel: +81 3 3501 0532, E-Mail: ogawa-shun@meti.go.jp

Satoh, Keisuke

Head, Tuna Fisheries Resources Group, Tuna and Skipjack Resources Division, National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries, Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency, 5-7-1, Chome Orido, Shizuoka-Shi Shimizu-Ku 424-8633
Tel: +81 54 336 6045, Fax: +81 54 335 9642, E-Mail: kstu21@fra.affrc.go.jp

Shimizu, Satoru

Staff, National Ocean Tuna Fishery Association, 1-1-12 Uchikanda, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0047
Tel: +81 3 3294 9633, Fax: +81 3 3294 9607, E-Mail: mic-shimizu@zengyoren.jf-net.ne.jp

Takagi, Yoshihiro

Interpreter, Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Association, Higashikanda 1-2-8, Chiyoda-ku, Chiba Kashiwa 277-0903
Tel: +81 4 7193 1086; +81 80 2038 0774, E-Mail: gyojyo@japantuna.or.jp; ytakagi8@yahoo.co.jp

Uetake, Hideto

Vessel Owner, Kanzaki Suisan Co., Ltd., 2-31-1, Koto-Ku, Tokyo 135-0034
Tel: +81 3 5646 2382, Fax: +81 3 5646 2652, E-Mail: gyojyo@japantuna.or.jp

KOREA REP.

Park, Chansoo *

Deputy Director, International Cooperation Division, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF), Government Complex Building 5, 94, Dasom 2-ro, Sejong Special Self-governing City, 30110
Tel: +82 44 200 5339, Fax: +82 44 200 5349, E-Mail: parkchansoo@korea.kr

Choi, Bongjun

Assistant Manager, Korea Overseas Fisheries Association (KOSFA), 6th floor Samho Center Building, "A" 83, Nonhyeon-ro, Seocho-gu, Seoul
Tel: +82 2 589 1615, Fax: +82 2 589 1630, E-Mail: bj@kosfa.org

Na, Il Kang

Policy Analyst, International Cooperation Division, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, Government Complex Sejong, 94 Dasom 2-ro, Sejong Special Self-governing City, 30110 Sejong city
Tel: +82 44 200 5347, Fax: +82 44 200 5349, E-Mail: ikna@korea.kr

Park, Minjae

Assistant Director, National Fishery Product Quality Management Service (NFQS), 8, Jungang-daero 30beon-gil, jung-gu, Busan
Tel: +82 51 602 6035; +82 103 439 8469, Fax: +82 51 602 6088, E-Mail: acepark0070@korea.kr

Song, Junsu

Manager, SAJO INDUSTRIES CO. LTD., 107-39, TONGIL-RO, SEODAEMUN-GU, Seoul
Tel: +82 10 4535 8269, Fax: +82 2 365 6079, E-Mail: jssong@sajo.co.kr

Sun, Kyungwon

Assistant Director, National Fishery Product Quality Management Service (NFQS), 47, Gonghang-ro 424beon-gil, Jung-gu, 22382 Incheon
Tel: +82 01026797980, E-Mail: skw2325@korea.kr

Yang, Jae-geol

Policy Analyst, Korea Overseas Fisheries Cooperation Center, 6th FL, S Building, 253, Hannuri-daero, 30127 Sejong
Tel: +82 44 868 7364, Fax: +82 44 868 7840, E-Mail: jg718@kofci.org

LIBERIA**Metieh Glassco, Emma ***

Director General, National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA)
Tel: +231 778 170 145, E-Mail: metiehemma@yahoo.com

Boeh, William Y.

Deputy Director General for Technical Services, National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA), P.O. Box 10-90100, 1000 Monrovia 10 Montserrado
Tel: +231 888198006; +231 770 251 983, E-Mail: w.y.boeh@liberiafisheries.net; williamboeh92@gmail.com

Clinton, Yvonne

Deputy Commissioner, Liberia Maritime Authority C/O LISCR UNITED STATES, LLC 99 Park Avenue Suite 1830, New York NY 10016, United States
Tel: 3472827092; 2126733894, Fax: 2126975655, E-Mail: yvonne.clinton@liscr.com; kaulah2002@yahoo.com

Daryoue, Solomon Nyebaayou

Director-Marine & Environment, National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA), P.O. Box 1384, 1000 Monrovia, Montserrado Bushrod Island
Tel: +231 777 660 069, E-Mail: daryoue@gmail.com

Pelham, E. Cosby

Controller, National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA), P.O. Box 1384, Monrovia, Montserrado Bushrod Island
Tel: +231 886 552 520, E-Mail: cosbypelham@gmail.com

Sidifall, Ruphene

Associate Manager & Associate General Counsel, Investigations, Liberia International Shipping & Corporate Registry, 8619 Westwood Center Dr. Ste. 300, Vienna VA 22182, United States
Tel: +1 (703) 790 1116, Fax: +1 (703) 790 5655, E-Mail: rsidifall@liscr.com

Togba, Glasgow B.

Director of MCS, Division of MCS, Bureau of National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA), Ministry of Agriculture, P.O. Box 10-1384, 10-1000 Monrovia 10
Tel: +231 888 835 144; +231 777 098 224, E-Mail: glasgowtogba@yahoo.com; gbtogba@liberiafisheries.net

Vannie, Siekula Theophilus
Human Resource Director, National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA), P.O. Box 1384, 1000 Monrovia,
Montserrado Bushrod Island
Tel: +231 777 002 217, E-Mail: stvannie@gmail.com

Wehye, Austin Saye
Director-Research & Statistics, National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA), Fisheries Researchers, 1000
Monrovia, Montserrado Bushrod Island
Tel: +231 886 809 420; +231 775 717 273, E-Mail: austinwehye@yahoo.com; awehye@liberianfisheries.net

Yowo, Richmond
Administrative Assistant DG, National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA), P.O. Box 1384, Monrovia Bushrod
Island
Tel: +231 886 692 366, E-Mail: richyowo@gmail.com

LIBYA

Alghawel, Mussab. F. B. *
Coordinator in Charge, Director of Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Zawiet Adde
H'mani, Tripoli
Tel: +218 213 400 425/28; +218 911 750 811, Fax: +218 213 402 900, E-Mail: ceo@lfa.org.ly; mfl.dir-doic@mofa.gov.ly;
cpc.libya.2017@gmail.com

Almilade, Mohamed Eseid M.
Amwaj Shamal Africa Company, Tripoli
Tel: +218 913 201 337, E-Mail: middlemediterranean@gmail.com

Duzan, Rida Ibrahim Ashour
Chairman, General Authority for Marine Wealth
Tel: , Fax: , E-Mail:

Eljawadi, Belnur Elaiadi Mbarak
Nawasi Alkir Fishing Company, Tripoli
Tel: +218 912 150 842, E-Mail: khalfon2009@yahoo.com

ElKharraz, Sami Muftah Othman
Responsible of Tuna Fishing Process, Follow-up committee of Tuna and Swordfish at the General Union of Fishermen
and Sponges, Zawiet Addehmani, Tripoli
Tel: +218 91 375 28 54, E-Mail: samielkharraz@gmail.com; libya5728@gmail.com

Emlitan, Mahamoud Ali Ali
Alamwaj Alhadira Fishing Maritime Investment Company, Qaser ahmed, Misurata
Tel: +218 912 156 602, E-Mail: mahmudmletan@yahoo.com

Enhaysi, Omar Mustafa Yousef
Albahr Elhader Company for maritime investment, Qaser Ahmed, Misurata
Tel: +218 913 207 799, E-Mail: albahralhadr@yahoo.com

Fenech, Joseph
66 West Street, VLT 1538 Valletta, Malta
Tel: +356 9944 0044, Fax: +356 21 230 561, E-Mail: ffh@ffh2.com

Fhema, Marwan Tarek H.
Scientific Adviser, General Authority for Marine Wealth, Tripoli
Tel: +218 913 741 702, E-Mail: marwan_fhema@yahoo.com

Giaroush, Mohamed Ali
Al Najma Al Baidha Fishing Company, Hax Dimshq 57, 0021821 Tripoli
Tel: +218 913 71 60 34, Fax: +218 213 60 66 77, E-Mail: dr_cap2003@yahoo.com

Koiba, Ahmed Salem Mohamed
Alamwaj Alhadira Fishing Maritime Investment Company, Qaser Ahmed, Misurata
Tel: +218 912 156 602, E-Mail: aahmed7799@yahoo.com

Nashnosh, Mahmoud Ramadan Altoumi

Chair of the General Union of Fishermen and Sponges, Zawiet Addehmani, Tripoli
Tel: +218 917 599 303, Fax: +218 213 615 209, E-Mail: libya5728@gmail.com

Ouz, Khaled Ahmed M.

Head of follow-up committee of Tuna and Swordfish, General Union of Fishermen and Sponges, Zawiet Addehmani, Tripoli
Tel: +218 91 215 35 79, Fax: +218 21 334 4929, E-Mail: libya5728@gmail.com; khaledouz300@gmail.com

Rabeie, Mohamed Noor Hilal M.

General Authority for Marine Wealth, Tripoli
Tel: +218 913 462 440, E-Mail: mohamed.elrabeie@gmail.com

Wefati, Aladdin Mohamed A.

Responsible of Swordfish Fishing Process, General Union of Fishermen and Sponges, Member of the Follow-up Committee of Tuna and Swordfish at the General Union of Fishermen and Sponges, Zawiet Addehmani, Tripoli
Tel: +218 91 210 48 56, Fax: +218 21 361 5209, E-Mail: a_wefati@yahoo.co.uk; awefati@gmail.com; libya5728@gmail.com

Zgozi, Salem Wniss Milad

Scientific expert, Marine Biology Research Center, Fisheries Stock Assessment Division, P.O. Box 30830, Tajura, Tripoli
Tel: +218 92 527 9149, Fax: +218 21 369 0002, E-Mail: salemzgozi1@yahoo.com; info@gam-ly.org

MAURITANIA**Camara**, Lamine *

Directeur/DARE/MPEM, Direction de l'Aménagement des Ressources et des Études, Ministère des Pêches, BP : 137, NKTT/R.I.
Tel: +222 45 29 54 41; +222 46 41 54 98, E-Mail: laminecam2000@yahoo.fr

Bouzouma, Mohamed Elmoustapha

Directeur Adjoint, Institut Mauritanien des Ressources, de l'Océanographie et des Pêches (IMROP), B.P 22, Cansado, Nouadhibou
Tel: +222 224 21 027, Fax: +222 45 74 51 42, E-Mail: bouzouma@yahoo.fr

Braham, Cheikh Baye

Halieute, Géo-Statisticien, modélisateur; Chef du Service Statistique, Institut Mauritanien de Recherches Océanographiques et des Pêches (IMROP), BP 22 Nouadhibou
Tel: +222 2242 1038, E-Mail: baye_braham@yahoo.fr; baye.braham@gmail.com

Ould Sidi Boubacar, Sidi Ali

Directeur Général d'Exploitation des Ressources Halieutiques
Tel: +222 464 11705, Fax: +222 452 54 607, E-Mail: sidiali09@yahoo.fr

Taleb Moussa, Ahmed

Directeur Adjoint de l'Aménagement, des Ressources et des Études, Ministère des Pêches et de l'Économie, Direction de l'Aménagement des Ressources, BP 137, Nouakchott
Tel: +222 452 952 141, E-Mail: talebmoussaa@yahoo.fr

MEXICO**Aguilar Sánchez**, Mario *

Comisionado Nacional de Pesca y Acuicultura, Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Desarrollo Rural Pesca y Alimentación, SAGARPA Comisión Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca (CONAPESCA), Av. Municipio Libre No 377, Col Santa Cruz Atoyac, Delg. Benito Juarez, CP03310 Mazatlán, Sinaloa
Tel: +55 317 810 00, Ext 33534; 669 9 156900, E-Mail: mariogaguilars@aol.com; mario.aguilar@conapesca.gob.mx

MOROCCO**Driouich**, Zakia *

Secrétaire Générale du Département des Pêches Maritimes, Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche Maritime, Département de la Pêche Maritime; Quartier Administratif, Place Abdellah Chefchaouni; B.P. 476 Agdal, Rabat
Tel: +212 5 37 688 2461/62, Fax: +2125 3768 8263, E-Mail: driouich@mpm.gov.ma

Abid, Noureddine

Chercheur et ingénieur halieute au Centre Régional de recherche Halieutique de Tanger, Responsable du programme de suivi et d'étude des ressources des grands pélagiques, Centre régional de L'INRH à Tanger/M'dig, B.P. 5268, 90000 Drabed Tanger
Tel: +212 53932 5134, Fax: +212 53932 5139, E-Mail: noureddine.abid65@gmail.com

Aichane, Bouchta

Directeur des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture, Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture, Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche Maritime, Département de la Pêche Maritime, Nouveau Quartier Administratif, BP 476, Haut Agdal Rabat
Tel: +212 5 37 68 8244-46, Fax: +212 5 37 68 8245, E-Mail: aichane@mpm.gov.ma

Ben Bari, Mohamed

Directeur du Contrôle des Activités de la Pêche Maritime (DCAPM), Nouveau Quartier Administratif, BP 476, Haut Agdal Rabat
Tel: +212 537 688210, Fax: +212 5 3768 8196, E-Mail: benbari@mpm.gov.ma

Benmoussa, Mohamed Karim

Vice Président de l'Association Marocaine des Madragues, Maromadriba/Maromar, Concessionnaire de madragues, BP 573, Larache
Tel: +212 661 136 888, Fax: +212 5 39 50 1630, E-Mail: mkbenmoussa@gmail.com

Bennouna, Kamal

Président de l'Association Nationale des Palangriers, Membre de la Chambre des Pêches Maritimes de la Méditerranée (CPMM)/Tanger, JMP Maroc - Fédération de la Pêche Maritime et de l'Aquaculture, Port de Pêche, Agadir
Tel: +212 561159580, Fax: +212 528843025, E-Mail: lamakes@yahoo.es

Boulaich, Moustapha

Société les Madragues du Sud, Concessionnaire de Madragues, Avant-port de Mehdiya, 23 Rue Moussa Ibonou Nouceir, 1er étage n°1, Tanger
Tel: +212 537388 432, Fax: +212 537388 510, E-Mail: boulaich-1@menara.ma

Boulaich, Abdellah

Société les Madragues Du Sud, 23, Rue Moussa Ibnou Nouceir, 1er étage n° 1, Tanger
Tel: +212 39322705, Fax: +212 39322708, E-Mail: a.boulaich@hotmail.fr; madraguesdusud1@hotmail.com

El Aroussi, Mohammed Yassine

Chef de la Division de la Coopération à la Direction de la Stratégie et de la Coopération, Ministère de l'Agriculture, de la Pêche Maritime, du Développement Rural et des Eaux et Forêts
Tel: +212 660 112 878, E-Mail: elaroussi@mpm.gov.ma

El Bakkali, Mohamed Aziz

Représentant du groupe Oualit, Société Atuneros del Norte, Zone Portuaire Larache, BP 138, Larache
Tel: +212 539 914 249, Fax: +212 539 914314, E-Mail: ma.elbalekali@gmail.com; exploitation@ansa.net.ma

Elbattah, Brahim

Tel: +212 608 877 200, E-Mail: brahimelbattah@yahoo.fr

Gheziel, Youness

Membre de la Chambre des Pêches Maritimes de la Méditerranée (CPMM)
Tel: +212 661 373 045, E-Mail: younessghz@gmail.com

Grichat, Hicham

Chef de Service des espèces marines migratrices et des espaces protégés à la DDARH/DPM, Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche Maritime, Département de la Pêche Maritime, Direction des Pêches Maritimes, B.P 476 Nouveau Quartier Administratif, Haut Agdal Rabat
Tel: +212 537 68 81 15, Fax: +212 537 68 8089, E-Mail: grichat@mpm.gov.ma

Haoujar, Bouchra

Ingénieur principal à la Division de la Protection des Ressources Halieutiques, Cadre à la Division de Durabilité et d'Aménagement des Ressources Halieutiques à la DPM, Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche Maritime, Service de l'Application de la Réglementation et de la Police Administrative, Nouveau Quartier Administratif, BP 476, Haut Agdal, Rabat
Tel: +212 666 155999, Fax: +212 537 688 134, E-Mail: haoujar@mpm.gov.ma

Hassouni, Fatima Zohra

Chef de la Division de Durabilité et d'Aménagement des Ressources Halieutiques à la DPM, Division de la Protection des Ressources Halieutiques, Direction des Pêches maritimes et de l'aquaculture, Département de la Pêche maritime, Nouveau Quartier Administratif, Haut Agdal, Rabat
Tel: +212 537 688 122/21; +212 663 35 36 87, Fax: +212 537 688 089, E-Mail: hassouni@mpm.gov.ma

Hmiddane, Abdellatif

Chef de service à la DCAPM
Tel: +212 678 509 929, E-Mail: hmidane@mpm.gov.ma

Hoummia, Mbarek

Dakhla
Tel: +212 661 163 058, E-Mail: mbarekhoummia@gmail.com

Kamel, Soumia

Chef de service de la Réglementation et du Suivi des Conventions et Accords, IMM Youssef APP, 17 Dayet Belarbi Souissi, Rabat
Tel: +212 537 688200; +212 614208342, E-Mail: Kamel@mpm.gov.ma

Kamel, Mohammed

Cadre à la DPM de Tanger, Délégation des Pêches Maritimes de Tanger, B.P.263, Tanger
Tel: +212 670 448 111, Fax: +212 537 688 089, E-Mail: kamelmed@gmail.com; m_kamel@mpm.gov.ma

Kandil, Faouzi

Chef de service à la DDARH/DPM, Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche, Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture, Département de la Pêche Maritime, BP 476, Agdal, Rabat
Tel: +212 660 192889, E-Mail: kandil@mpm.gov.ma

Kecha, Youssef

Chef de la Division de Suivi des Opérations de Contrôle et d'Inspection à la DCAPM, Délégation des Pêches Maritimes - DPM- de Tanger, Tanger
Tel: +212 539 932090, Fax: +212 539 932 093, E-Mail: youssef.kecha@mpm.gov.ma

Lamoudni, Abdelali

Directeur, Exploitation et Animation Commerciale - Ports et VDP, 15, Rue Lieutenant Mahroud, B.P.16243, 20300 Casablanca
Tel: +212 619 000 866, Fax: +212 522 243 694, E-Mail: a.lamoudni@onp.ma

Mazaroua, Mustapha

Membre Assesseur de la Chambre des Pêches Maritimes de la Méditerranée (CPMM)
Tel: +212 661 061 407, E-Mail: puerto-laou@hotmail.com

Oncina, Nadia

Production manager, Société El Leon del Desierto III Sarl
E-Mail: leon@gmail.com

Oria, Diego

Sales manager, Société El Leon del Desierto III Sarl, Douar Lamnacer Temara
E-Mail: nadiaoncine.leon@gmail.com

Oukacha, Mohamed Ali

Président, Société Marocoturc Tuna Fisheries SA, Agadir Port Agadir
Tel: +212 663 476 313, E-Mail: manuload@iam.net.ma; alioukacha@gmail.com

Oumouloud, Mohamed

Président de la Fédération des Chambres des Pêches Maritimes
Tel: +212 662 989 456, E-Mail: moumouloud@gmail.com

Ribeiro, Luis

Représentant du groupe Alta Pêche-Portusud-Carmen Poisson
Tel: +351 963 045 092, E-Mail: luis.atlantida@gmail.com

Rouchdi, Mohammed

Secrétaire Général de l'Association Marocaine des Madragues (AMM), Nouvelle Zone Portuaire Larache BP 138, Larache
Tel: +212 537 754 927, Fax: +212 537 754 927, E-Mail: rouchdi@ylaraholding.com; madrague.tr@gmail.com

Sabbane, Kamal

Cadre à la Direction de Contrôle des Activités de la Pêche Maritime, Ministère de l'Agriculture de la Pêche Maritime
Tel: +212 537 688 196, E-Mail: sabbane@mpm.gov.ma

Tahi, Mohamed

Chef de Service de la pêche industrielle à la DSP/DPM, Division des Structures de la Pêche, Direction des Pêches Maritimes, Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche Maritime, Nouveau Quartier Administratif, BP 476, Haut Agdal
Tel: +212 537 688233, Fax: +212 5 3768 8263, E-Mail: tahi@mpm.gov.ma

Tnacheri Ouazzani, Mohamed

Secrétariat Général, Département de la Pêche Maritime
Tel: +212 662 072 979, E-Mail: ouazzani@mgm.gov.ma

NAMIBIA

Kauaria, Ueritjiua *

Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Private Bag 13355, Windhoek
Tel: +264 61 205 3007, E-Mail: ueritjiua.kauaria@mfmr.gov.na

Alonso, Jorge

Tel: +264 811 651 154, E-Mail: jorge@catofishing.com

Bester, Desmond R.

Control Officer Operations, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Private Bag 394, 9000 Luderitz
Tel: +264 63 20 2912, Fax: +264 6320 3337, E-Mail: desmond.bester@mfmr.gov.na; desmondbester@yahoo.com

Dörgeloh, Emil

7 Circumferential Rd., Walvis Bay
Tel: +264 812 709 477, E-Mail: emil@dgroup.na

Gouveia, Ivo

Tel: +264 642 05163, Fax: +264 642 02591, E-Mail: ivo@beira.com.na

Hamutenya, Mathews

Tel: +264 811 280 009, Fax: +264 612 56695, E-Mail: mathews@millennium-invest.com

Hamutenya, Miguel

Director: Strategic Business Development, Millennium Investment -holdings (Pty) Ltd., Millennium House, 5th Floor, Cnr Robert Mugabe Ave & Dr. AB May St., PO Box 552 Windhoek
Tel: +264 811 455 222, E-Mail: miguel@millennium-invest.com

Iilende, Titus

Deputy Director Resource Management, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Brendan Simbwaye Square C/O Kenneth Kaunda and Goethe Streets, Private Bag 13355, 9000 Windhoek Khomas Region
Tel: +264 81 149 0234, Fax: +264 61 220 558, E-Mail: titus.iilende@mfmr.gov.na

NICARAGUA

Guevara Quintana, Julio Cesar *

Comisionado CIAT - Biólogo, INPESCA, Altos de Cerro Viento, calle Circunvalación B. Casa 187, Managua, Panama
Tel: +505 2278 0319; +505 8396 7742, E-Mail: juliocgq@hotmail.com; alemsanic@hotmail.com

Bolea, Jose Ángel

Tel: +34 686 994 346, E-Mail: joseangel@boleasaez.com

Lázaro, Roberto

Tel: +34 619 301 264, E-Mail: rlazaro@marpescae.com

LyMBEROPULOS, Panagiotis

Tel: +507 0618 1117, E-Mail: panol@marpesca.com

Sieiro, Jose Luis

Tel: +507 661 83955, E-Mail: jlsieiro@marpesca.com

NIGERIA**Okpe, Hyacinth Anebi ***

Assistant Director (Fisheries), Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Division, Area 11, Garki Abuja
 Tel: +234 70 6623 2156, Fax: +234 09 314 4665, E-Mail: hokpe@yahoo.com; Hyacinthokpe80@gmail.com

Garba, Usman

Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Victoria Island, Lagos
 Tel: +234 802 086 3461, E-Mail: garbashafa@gmail.com

NORWAY**Holst, Sigrun M. ***

Deputy Director General, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, Pistboks 8090 Dep, 0032 Oslo
 Tel: +47 91 898 733, E-Mail: Sigrun.holst@nfd.dep.no

Hillersøy, Tore

Norges Fiskarlag Havnegata 9, 7010 Trondheim
 Tel: +4748110703, E-Mail: torehillersoy@gmail.com

Mjorlund, Rune

Directorate of Fisheries, Strandgaten 229, 5804 Bergen
 Tel: +47 952 59 448, E-Mail: rune.mjorlund@fiskeridir.no

Nottestad, Leif

Principal Scientist, Institute of Marine Research, P.O. Box 1870 Nordnesgaten, 33, 5817 Bergen
 Tel: +47 99 22 70 25, Fax: +47 55 23 86 87, E-Mail: leif.nottestad@hi.no

Rodriguez Brix, Maja Kirkegaard

Directorate of Fisheries, Strandgaten 229, postboks 185 Sentrum, 5804 Bergen
 Tel: +47 416 91 457, E-Mail: mabri@fiskeridir.no

Sørdahl, Elisabeth

Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, Department for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Postboks 8090 Dep., 0032 Oslo
 Tel: +47 22 24 65 45, E-Mail: elisabeth.sordahl@nfd.dep.no

PANAMA**Pinzón Mendoza, Zuleika ***

Administradora General, Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de Panamá, Calle 45, Bella Vista Edif. Riviera Ave. Justo Arosemena
 Tel: +507 511 6057; +507 6555 0957, Fax: +507 511 6071, E-Mail: zpinzon@arap.gob.pa

Delgado Quezada, Raúl Alberto

Director General de Inspección Vigilancia y Control, Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de Panamá, Edificio La Riviera - Avenida Justo Arosemena y Calle 45, Bella Vista (Antigua Estación El Arbol), 0819-05850
 Tel: +507 511 6000, Fax: +507 511 6031, E-Mail: rdelgado@arap.gob.pa; ivc@arap.gob.pa

Díaz, María Patricia

Fundación Internacional de Pesca, Zona de Libre Proceso de Corozal, Edificio 297, Corozal
 Tel: +507 378 6640, E-Mail: mpdiaz@fipesca.com

Díaz, Luis

CLS, Area Manager / Africa & America, Sustainable Management of Fisheries
 Tel: +33 561 394 850, Fax: +33 561 751 014, E-Mail: ldiaz@grupocls.com

Etchart Miranda, Jorge Nelson

Jorge Gechart Representatives Inc., Southern Hemisphere Delegation, 6 de Abril 1394, 18000 Carrasco - Montevideo, Uruguay
 Tel: +598 605 20 65, Fax: +5982 605 20 65, E-Mail: jorge@etchart.com.uy

Ferreira Peña, Giancarlo Ernesto

Abogado, Dirección General de Marina Mercante, Departamento de Resoluciones y Consultas, Plaza Pan Canal, Albrook
 Tel: +507 501 5205, Fax: +507 501 5014, E-Mail: gferreira@amp.gob.pa

Franco, Arnulfo Luis

Asesor, Fundación Internacional de Pesca, Zona de Libre Proceso de Corozal, Edificio 297, Ancón
Tel: +507 378 6640; celular: +507 66194351, Fax: +507 317 3627, E-Mail: arnulfofranco@fipesca.com; arnulfol.franco@gmail.com

Santamaría, Aldo

Tel: +507 667 95417, E-Mail: aasanta60@hotmail.com

Velasquez, Luis

Calle 16 Oeste, El Dorado, 0819
Tel: +50767810267, E-Mail: gerencia@macosnar.com

Vergara Ballesteros, Gina

Lawyer of Compliance and Enforcement Department, Directorate of Merchant Marine, Panama Maritime Authority, Edificio Pan Canal Plaza, Oficina 403. Piso 4
Tel: +507 671 22331, E-Mail: gvergarab@amp.gob.pa

PHILIPPINES

Viron, Jennifer *

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Department of Agriculture, PCA Compound, Eliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel: +639 294 296; +63 929 95 97; +63 929 80 74, E-Mail: jennyviron@gmail.com

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Nesterov, Alexander *

Head Scientist, Atlantic Research Institute of Marine, Fisheries and Oceanography (AtlantNIRO), 5, Dmitry Donskoy Str., 236022 Kaliningrad
Tel: +7 (4012) 215645, Fax: + 7 (4012) 219997, E-Mail: nesterov@atlantniro.ru; oms@atlantniro.ru; atlantniro@atlantniro.ru

S. TOMÉ E PRÍNCIPE

Pessoa Lima, Joao Gomes *

Director Geral das Pescas, Ministério das Finanças, Comercio e Economia Azul, Direcção Geral das Pescas, Largo das Alfandegas, C.P. 59
Tel: +239 222 2828, E-Mail: pessoalima61@gmail.com; jpessoa61@hotmail.com

Aurélio, José Eva

Technicien de pêche industriel, Direcção das Pescas, C.P. 59
Tel: +239 991 6577, E-Mail: aurelioeva57@yahoo.com.br; dirpesca1@cstome.net

Quaresma Trindade Metzger, Fernando José

Directeur Cabinet du Ministre, Direcção das Pescas, Largo das Alfandegas P.O. Box N° 59
Tel: +239 990 7519, E-Mail: fernandometzger@hotmail.com

SENEGAL

Sèye, Mamadou *

Ingénieur des Pêches, Chef de la Division Gestion et Aménagement des Pêcheries de la Direction des Pêches maritimes, Sphère ministérielle de Diamniadio Bâtiment D.1, Rue Joris, Place du Tirailleur, 289 Dakar
Tel: +221 77 841 83 94, Fax: +221 821 47 58, E-Mail: mamadou.seye@mpem.gouv.sn; mdseye@gmail.com

Diedhiou, Abdoulaye

Chef de Division Pêche industrielle, Direction des pêches maritimes DAKAR - DPM, 1 Rue Joris, BP 289
Tel: +221 33 821 47 58, Fax: +221 33 823 01 37, E-Mail: layee78@yahoo.fr

Dieng, Moussa

Chef Section Statistiques, SN Port Autonome de Dakar, Dakar
Tel: +221 775 727 650, E-Mail: moussa.dieng@portdakar.sn

Diop, Aminata

Agent
Tel: +221 775 322 416, E-Mail: aminata1.diop@portdakar.sn

Faye, Adama

Directeur adjoint de la Direction de la Protection et de la Surveillance des pêches, Direction, Protection et Surveillance des Pêches, Cité Fenêtre Mermoz, BP 3656 Dakar
Tel: +221 775 656 958, E-Mail: adafaye2000@yahoo.fr

Faye, Ndeye Fatou

Assistante, YUH JAN ENTERPRISE CO. LTD, 11 Rue Malan, 22288 Dakar
Tel: +221 33 823 82 11; +221 77 618 86 92, Fax: +221 33 823 82 15, E-Mail: mmefall6@gmail.com

Kailin (Karen), Tai

Assistante, Yuh Jan, 6 Rue Malan X 22 Bld Djil Mbaye IMM Electra 2, Dakar
Tel: +221 338 422 587, Fax: +221 823 82 15, E-Mail: kltak@hotmail.com

Kandji, Sidy Mohamed

Chef d'entreprise ST, Sénégalaise de Thon SA, Port de Pêche, Mole 10, Dakar
Tel: +221 33 822 2643; +221 776 399 008, Fax: +221 33 823 9232, E-Mail: sidykandji@soperka.com

Lee, Jon Koo

Responsable d'armement, CAPSEN, Nouveau Quai de Pêche - Môle 10, BP: 782, Dakar
Tel: +221770990688, Fax: 10200, E-Mail: jklee@dongwon.com

Lee, Sun Lee

Grand Bleu SA., Mole 10 Nouveau Quai de Peche, BP 27102 DM Dakar
Tel: +221 33 823 2513, Fax: +221 33 823 2513, E-Mail: sunlee@shipland.com

Ndao, Ibra

Responsable Armt SERT, Société d'exploitation des Ressources thonières, Rond Point Jet d'eau, IMM 15, BP 5227 Dakar
Tel: + 221 775 21 7595, Fax: +221 33 824 78 28, E-Mail: ndao_ibra@hotmail.com

Ndaw, Sidi

Chef du Bureau des Statistiques à la Direction des Pêches, Ministère de la Pêche et de l'Economie Maritime, Direction des Pêches Maritimes, 1, rue Joris, Place du Tirailleur, B.P. 289, Dakar
Tel: +221 775 594 914, Fax: +221 33 821 4758, E-Mail: sidindaw@hotmail.com; dopm@orange.sn; dpm@mpem.gouv.sn

Ndiaye, Abou dit Adama

Chef d'entreprise, DAKAR FISHERIES, Cité Matforce 208, RDC 1 Ouest foire B.P 4833
Tel: +221 77 144 65 69, E-Mail: abou@dakarfisheries.com

Seck, Amdy Moustapha

Direction des Industries de Transformation de la Pêche
Tel: , Fax: , E-Mail:

Shin, Patrick

Nouveau Quai de Pêche - Môle 10, BP: 782, 10200 Dakar
Tel: +221775731205, E-Mail: sjs@dongwon.com

Sow, Fambaye Ngom

Chercheur Biologiste des Pêches, Centre de Recherches Océanographiques de Dakar Thiaroye, CRODT/ISRALNERV - Route du Front de Terre - BP 2241, Dakar
Tel: +221 3 0108 1104; +221 77 502 67 79, Fax: +221 33 832 8262, E-Mail: famngom@yahoo.com

Talla, Marième Diagne

Conseiller juridique du Ministère de la Pêche et de l'Économie Maritime, Ministère de la Pêche et de l'Économie Maritime, 1, rue Joris, Place du Tirailleur, B.P. 289, Dakar
Tel: +221 33 849 8452; +221 77 270 08 86, E-Mail: masodiagne@yahoo.fr

SOUTH AFRICA**Ndudane, Siphokazi (Mpozi) ***

Chief Director: Marine Resources Management, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Private Bag X2, 8012 Rogge Bay, Cape Town
Tel: +27 21 402 3019, Fax: +27 21 421 5151, E-Mail: siphokazin@daff.gov.za

Bodenham, Clyde Jerome

Chairman, South African Tuna Association, Unit 25, Foregate Square, Heerengracht Street, Foreshore, 8000 Cape Town
Tel: +272 14 182 696, Fax: +272 14 182 689, E-Mail: clyde@molimoman.co.za; sata@mweb.co.za

Kerwath, Sven

Chairman of the Large Pelagics and Sharks Scientific Working Group, Fisheries Research and Development, Inshore Research, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Foretrust Building, 9 Martin Hammerschlag Way, Foreshore, 8000 Cape Town, Private Bag X2, Vlaeberg 8018
Tel: +27 83 991 4641; +27 214 023 017, E-Mail: SvenK@daff.gov.za; svenkerwath@gmail.com

Mullins, Pheobius

The South African Tuna Association, Unit 25 Foregate Square, Foreshore, 8001 Cape Town Western Province
Tel: +27 21 4182696, Fax: +27 21 418 2689, E-Mail: pheobius@gmail.com; sata@mweb.co.za

Njobeni, Asanda

Forestry and Fisheries, Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, 3 Martin Hammerschlag Way, Foretrust Building, Private Bag X2, Vlaeberg, 8012 Cape Town
Tel: +27 21 402 3019, Fax: +27 21 421 5252, E-Mail: asandan@daff.gov.za

Norris, Wez

Technical Advisor, 24 Hardwood Ct, 4556 Buderim, Qld, Australia
Tel: +611 411 885 566, E-Mail: wez.norris@pontus.com.au

Qayiso Kenneth, Mketsu

Deputy Director, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 3 Martin Hammerschlag Way, Foretrust Building, Foreshore, 8002 Cape Town
Tel: +27 21 402 3048, Fax: +27 21 402 3734, E-Mail: QayisoMK@daff.gov.za

Wilson, Trevor Michael

Chairman, South African Tuna Longline Association, 4 South Arm Road, Table Bay Harbour, 8001 Cape Town
Tel: +27 823 212 985, Fax: +27 21 372 1100, E-Mail: chairman@satla.co.za; trevorw@seaharvest.co.za

ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES

Ryan, Raymond *

Chief Fisheries Officer, Fisheries Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour, Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Richmond Hill, VC0100 Kingstown St. Vincent and The Grenadines
Tel: +1 784 456 1410, Fax: +1 784 457 2112, E-Mail: office.agriculture@mail.gov.vc; rayjoel3163@yahoo.com

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Martin, Louanna *

Fisheries Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Land & Fisheries, Fisheries Division, 35 Cipriani Boulevard, Port of Spain
Tel: +868 634 4504; 868 634 4505, Fax: +868 634 4488, E-Mail: louannamartin@gmail.com; lmartin@fp.gov.tt

TUNISIA

M'Rabet, Ridha *

Directeur Général de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture - DGPA, Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Ressources Hydrauliques et de la Pêche, 30 Rue Alain Savary, 1002
Tel: +216 71 892 253, Fax: +216 71 799 401, E-Mail: bft@iresa.agrinet.tn; ridha.mrabet@iresa.agrinet.tn

Ben Hmida, Jaouhar

Fédération de la Pêche du Thon en Tunisie, 11 nouveau port de Pêche SFAX, 3065 Tunes
Tel: +216 98 319 885, Fax: +216 74 497704, E-Mail: jaouharbh@gmail.com; jaouhar.benhmida@tunet.tn

Ben Romdhane, Hassen

Gérant de la Société TBFF, Nouveau Port de pêche, 3065 Mahdia Sfax
Tel: +216 73 695 110, Fax: +216 73 695 690, E-Mail: benromdhanhassen@gmail.com

Chaari, Youssef

Nouveau Port de Pêche N° 45, 3065 Sfax
Tel: +216 51 168 000, Fax: +216 74 497 316, E-Mail: toumi.amine2011@gmail.com

Chiha, Mohamed

Armateur de Pêche ou Thon et Fermier, 169 Av. Habib Bourguiba, 5170 La Chebba - Mahdia
Tel: +216 52 80 89 52, Fax: +216 73 64 23 82, E-Mail: chihamohamed@hotmail.fr

Darouich, Sajir

STE SPAC SERVICES, AV. Hédi Chaker Imm Maalej, 3021 Sfax, Sakiet Ezzit
Tel: +216 98 28 96 55, Fax: +216 74 49 83 07, E-Mail: sajirdarouich@yahoo.com; spac.services.tn@gmail.com

Hajji, Tahar

Gérant de la Société TAHAR HAJI & CIE "THC", Rue chams, 6000 La Chebba Gabes, Jara
Tel: +216 26 32 23 70, Fax: +216 74 49 83 07, E-Mail: hajji.groupe@gmail.com

Hammali, Mokhtar

Port de Pêche, 4170 Zarzis
Tel: +216 972 08930, Fax: +216 756 94504, E-Mail: abdelhafidhissam85@gmail.com

Hammami, Achref

Utap, 1003 Cité el khadra
Tel: +216 204 42268, Fax: +216 722 75636, E-Mail: sohap@hotmail.fr

Hdider, Salah

Utap, 1003 Cité el khadra
Tel: +216 984 16385, Fax: +216 749 7767, E-Mail: salah.hdidar@gmail.com

Klibi, Mohieddine

MEDISAMAK, 39 Rue de la Loge, 13002 Marseille, France
Tel: +216 226 13589,

Mejri, Hamadi

Directeur adjoint, Conservation des ressources halieutiques, Ministère de l'agriculture et des ressources hydrauliques et de la pêche, Direction Générale de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture, 32, Rue Alain Savary - Le Belvédère, 1002
Tel: +216 240 12780, Fax: +216 71 799 401, E-Mail: hamadi.mejri1@gmail.com

Mtimet, Malek

VMT, Rue du Loic Tchad, Immeuble ZEN B3.3, 1053 Les Berges du Loic
Tel: +216 71 862 344, Fax: +216 71 862 644, E-Mail: malek_mtimet.vmt@topnet.tn

Nouasria, Othmen

Port de Pêche gabes Tunisie, 6021 Ghannouch
Tel: +21654553514, Fax: +21632400161, E-Mail: noissriaothmen@yahoo.fr

Sallem, Ridha

Armateur de thon rouge
Tel: +216 222 53283, E-Mail: neji.tft@planet.tn

Sallem, Sahbi

Gérant de la Société Vivier Maritime de Tunisie, Port de Pêche Negla, Sousse
Tel: +216 984 22333, Fax: +216 73251 844, E-Mail: vmt@planet.tn; sahbi.sallem@me.com

Samet, Amor

Directeur de Tunisia Tuna, Nouveau Port de pêche, BP 140 Chihia, 3041 Mahdia Sfax
Tel: +216 73 695 110, Fax: +216 73 695 690, E-Mail: amorsamet@gmail.com

Sohlobji, Donia

Direction Générale de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture, Ministère de l'Agriculture, 32 Rue Alain Savary, 1002 Le Belvédère
Tel: +216 534 31307; +216 71 890 784, Fax: +216 71 799 401, E-Mail: sohlobji_donia@yahoo.fr; doniasohlobji@gmail.com

Toumi, Amine

Nouveau Port de Pêche N° 45, 3065 SFAX
Tel: +216 744 97316; +216 51 168 000, Fax: +216 74 497 316, E-Mail: toumi.amine2011@gmail.com

Toumi, Néji

Directeur de la Ste TUNA FARMS of Tunisia
Tel: + 216 22 25 32 83, Fax: + 216 73 251 800, E-Mail: neji.tft@planet.tn

Zarrad, Rafik

Institut National des Sciences et Technologies de la Mer (INSTM), BP 138 Ezzahra, Mahdia 5199
Tel: +216 73 688 604; +216 97292111, Fax: +216 73 688 602, E-Mail: rafik.zarrad@instm.rnrt.tn;
rafik.zarrad@gmail.com

TURKEY

Türkyılmaz, Turgay *

Deputy Director-General, Head of Fisheries and Control Department, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MoFAL), General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture (Balıkçılık ve Su Ürünleri Genel Müdürlüğü), Gıda Tarım ve Hayvancılık Bakanlığı Kampüsü, Eskişehir Yolu 9. km, 06100 Lodumlu, Ankara
Tel: +90 312 258 30 17, Fax: +90 312 258 30 39, E-Mail: turgay.turkyilmaz@tarim.gov.tr;
turgay.turkyilmaz@tarimorman.gov.tr

Adamcil, Hakan

KILIÇ DENİZ ÜRÜNLERİ A.S., Kemikler Koyu Mevkii, Milas-Bodrum Karayolu, 18. Nci Km. 48200 Milas-Bodrum/Mugla, Mugla
Tel: +90 252 559 02 83; +90 533 303 3298, Fax: +90 252 559 02 87, E-Mail: hakanadamcil@kilicdeniz.com.tr

Akgül, Sefa

Ministry of Trade Ticaret Bakanlığı SOGUTOZU YERLESKESİ (MERKEZ BINA), General Directorate of ExportSogutozu Mah. 2176. Sk. No: 63 Cankaya, 06530 Ankara
Tel: +90 312 204 7500, Fax: +90 312 204 86 32, E-Mail: akguls@ticaret.gov.tr

Anbar, Nedim

Akua-Group Su Ürünleri A.S., Akdeniz Mah. Vali Kazım Dirik Cad.; MOLA Residence, No: 32/42, Kat-3, D-5, Konak-İzmir
Tel: +90 232 446 33 06/07 Pbx; mobile: +90 532 220 21 75, Fax: +90 232 446 33 07, E-Mail: nanbar@akua-group.com

Anbar, Irfan

Akua-Group Su Ürünleri A.S., Akdeniz Mah. Vali Kazım Dirik Cad.; MOLA Residence, No: 32/42, Kat-3, D-5, 35210 Konak-Izmir
Tel: +90 533 736 5212; +90 532 242 51 68, Fax: +90 232 446 33 08, E-Mail: irfananbar@akua-group.com;
osman@kocamanfish.com.tr

Basaran, Fatih

Basaranlar Su Ürünleri Yetistiriciligi san. Ve Tic. Ltd. Sti., Merkez Mahallesi Burnaz Caddesi No 22/A Avcılar, 34310 Istanbul
Tel: +90 212 590 1121; +90 532 216 8132, Fax: +90 212 509 7255, E-Mail: fatih@basaranbalikcilik.com

Demir, Musa

Deputy Director General, Ministry of Trade Ticaret Bakanlığı SOGUTOZU YERLESKESİ (MERKEZ BINA), General Directorate of Export, Sogutozu Mah. 2176. Sk. No: 63 Cankaya, 06530 Ankara
Tel: +90 312 204 7500, E-Mail: demirm@ticaret.gov.tr

Elekon, Hasan Alper

Senior Fisheries Officer, General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture (Balıkçılık ve Su Ürünleri Genel Müdürlüğü), Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MoFAL), Gıda Tarım ve Hayvancılık Bakanlığı Kampüsü, Eskişehir Yolu 9. km, 06100 Lodumlu, Ankara
Tel: +90 312 258 30 76, Fax: +90 312 258 30 75, E-Mail: hasanalper@gmail.com; hasanalper.elekon@tarim.gov.tr

Kocaman, Osman

Kocaman Balıkçılık A.S., Balıkesir Asfaltı, Omerli Koyu Yolu 1. Km, 10534 Bandırma-Balıkesir
Tel: +90 266 733 83 51, Fax: +90 266 733 83 43, E-Mail: osman@kocamanfish.com.tr

Makridis, Konstantin

Kilic Deniz Ürünleri AS, KILIÇ A.S., Kemikler Koyu Mevkii, Milas-Bodrum Karayolu, 18. Nci Km. Milas-Mugla
Tel: +90 252 559 02 83; +90 532 415 7145, Fax: +90 252 559 02 87, E-Mail: konstantinmakridis@kilicdeniz.com.tr

Okur, Yalçın

Foreign Trade Specialist, Istanbul Exporters' Associations, Cobancesme Mevkii Sanayi Cad. Dis Ticaret Kompleksi C Blok 4. Kat Yenibosna, 34196 Istanbul Bahcelievler
Tel: +90 212 454 05 00, Fax: +90 212 454 05 01, E-Mail: suurunleri@iib.org.tr

Ozcan, Celal

Specialist, Istanbul Exporters' Association, Cobançesme Mevkii Sanayi Cad. Dis Ticaret Kompleksi C Blok 4. Kat, 34196 Bahcelievler-Istanbul Yenibosna
Tel: +90 212 454 05 00, Fax: +90 212 454 05 01, E-Mail: suurunleri@iib.org.tr; cozcان@iib.org.tr

Özgün, Mehmet Ali

Export Manager, Istanbul Exporter's Associations, Cobancesme Mevkii Sanayi Cad. Dis Ticaret Kompleksi C Blok 4. Kat Yenibosna, 34196 Bahcelievler-Istambul
Tel: +90 212 454 0500, Fax: +90 212 454 0501, E-Mail: sagun@sagun.com; suurunleri@iib.org.tr

Sagun, Ahmet Tuncay

Chairman, Istanbul Exporter's Associations, Cobancesme Mevkii Sanayi Cad. Dis Ticaret Kompleksi C Blok 4. Kat Yenibosna, 34196 Bahcelievler, Istanbul
Tel: +90 212 454 0500, Fax: +90 212 454 0501, E-Mail: sagun@sagun.com; iib@iib.org.tr; suurunleri@iib.org.tr

Topçu, Burcu Bilgin

EU Expert, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Gıda Tarım ve Hayvancılık Bakanlığı, Balıkçılık ve Su Ürünleri Genel Müdürlüğü Eskişehir yolu 9. km, 06100 Lodumlu/Ankara
Tel: +90 532 207 0632, Fax: +90 312 258 30 39, E-Mail: burcu.bilgin@tarim.gov.tr; bilginburcu@gmail.com; burcu.bilgin@tarimorman.gov.tr

Tozanli, Dogus

Deputy Secretary General, Istanbul Exporter's Associations, Cobançesme Mevkii Sanayi Cad. Dis Ticaret Kompleksi C Blok 4. Kat, 34196 Bahcelievler-Istanbul Yenibosna
Tel: +90 212 454 05 00, Fax: +90 212 454 05 01, E-Mail: suurunleri@iib.org.tr

Turan, Cem

Basaranlar Su Ürünleri Yetistiriciligi san. Ve Tic. Ltd. Sti., Merkez Mah. Burnaz Cad. No. 22, Avcılar-Istanbul
Tel: +90 212 590 1121; +90 532 377 7623, Fax: +90 212 509 7255, E-Mail: cem@basaranbalikcilik.com

Ültanur, Mustafa

Advisor, Central Union of Fishermens' Cooperatives (Su Ürünleri Kooperatifleri Merkez Birliği), SUR-KOOP, Konur Sokak No. 54/8, Kizilay, Bakanlıklar, 06640 Çankaya-Ankara
Tel: +90 312 419 22 88; +90 533 424 0827, Fax: +90 312 419 2289, E-Mail: ultanur@gmail.com; sur_koop@yahoo.com.tr

Yelegen, Yener

Engineer, General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture (Balıkçılık ve Su Ürünleri Genel Müdürlüğü), Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, Gıda Tarım ve Hayvancılık Bakanlığı Kampüsü, Eskişehir Yolu 9. km, 06100 Lodumlu, Ankara
Tel: +90 505 530 26 38, Fax: +90 312 258 3039, E-Mail: yener.yelegen@tarimorman.gov.tr; yener.yelegen@tarim.gov.tr; yeneryelegen@gmail.com

UNITED KINGDOM (OVERSEAS TERRITORIES)**Warren, Tammy M. ***

Senior Marine Resources Officer, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, #3 Coney Island Road, St. George's, CR04, Bermuda
Tel: +1 441 705 2716, E-Mail: twarren@gov.bm

Benjamin, Gerald

Senior Fisheries Officer, Environment and Natural Resources Directorate, Government of St. Helena, STHL 1ZZ Scotland Jamestown, St. Helena
Tel: +290 24724, Fax: +290 24603, E-Mail: gerald-benjamin@enrd.gov.sh

Collins, Martin

CEFAS - Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences, Pakefield Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 OHT
Tel: +44 150 252 1382, Fax: +44 150 252 1382, E-Mail: martin.collins@cefasc.co.uk

Deary, Andrew

Head of Blue Belt Compliance, MMO, Marine Management Organisation, Lutra House. Dodd Way. Walton House. Bamber Bridge. Preston Office, PR5 8BX
Tel: +44 782 766 4112, E-Mail: andrew.deary@marinemangement.org.uk

Wright, Serena

Fish Ecologist, CEFAS - Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, ICCAT Tagging programme St. Helena Pakefield Road, NR33 0HT Lowestoft, UK
Tel: +44 1502 52 1338, E-Mail: serena.wright@cefas.co.uk

UNITED STATES

Henderschedt, John *

Director, Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East West Highway, Room #10655, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910
Tel: +1 202 222 8372, E-Mail: John.Henderschedt@noaa.gov

Blankenbeker, Kimberly

Foreign Affairs Specialist, NOAA Fisheries, Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection (F/IS), National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring Maryland 20910
Tel: +1 301 427 8357, Fax: +1 301 713 1081, E-Mail: kimberly.blankenbeker@noaa.gov

Blankinship, David Randle

NOAA - National Marine Fisheries Service, 263 13th Ave South, Saint Petersburg, FL 33701
Tel: +1 727 824 5313, Fax: +1 727 824 5398, E-Mail: randy.blankinship@noaa.gov

Bogan, Raymond D.

Sinn, Fitzsimmons, Cantoli, Bogan & West, 501 Trenton Avenue, P.O. Box 1347, Point Pleasant Beach, Sea Girt New Jersey 08742
Tel: +1 732 892 1000; +1 732 233 6442, Fax: +1 732 892 1075, E-Mail: rbogan@lawyernjshore.com

Brown, Craig A.

Chief, Highly Migratory Species Branch, Sustainable Fisheries Division, NOAA Fisheries Southeast Fisheries Science Center, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami Florida 33149
Tel: +1 305 586 6589, Fax: +1 305 361 4562, E-Mail: craig.brown@noaa.gov

Campbell, Derek

Office of General Counsel - International Law, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W. HCHB Room 48026, Washington, D.C. 20032
Tel: +1 202 482 0031, Fax: +1 202 371 0926, E-Mail: derek.campbell@noaa.gov

Carney, Jack Wynn

1315 East West Highway Suite 3301, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
Tel: +1 609 423 9254; +1 301 427 8246, E-Mail: wynn.carney@noaa.gov

Devnew, Jack

Compass Insurance Solutions, 101 W Main Street. Suite 410, Norfolk Virginia VA 23510
Tel: +1 757 641 7830, Fax: +1 757 961 4906, E-Mail: jdevnew@compassnorfolk.com

Doherty, Carolyn

NOAA, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
Tel: +1 301 427 4385; +1 202 816 1991, E-Mail: carolyn.doherty@noaa.gov

Elliott, Brianna

NOAA Sea Grant Knauss Marine Policy Fellow, U.S. Department of State, Office of Marine Conservation, 2201 C Street NW, Room 2758, Washington DC 20520
Tel: +1 202 647 3464, E-Mail: elliottbw@state.gov

Engelke-Ros, Meggan

Enforcement Attorney, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, 1315 East-West Highway, SSMC3-15860, Silver Spring Maryland 20910
Tel: +1 301 427 8284, Fax: +1 301 427 2202, E-Mail: meggan.engelke-ros@noaa.gov

Ferrara, Grace

NMFS - National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East West Highway, Room 10875, Silver Spring, MD 20910
Tel: +1 301 427 8371, E-Mail: grace.ferrara@noaa.gov

Gibbons-Fly, William

Deputy Assistant Secretary (Acting), U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, NW, SUITE 3880, Washington, D.C. 20520
Tel: +1 202 647 2396, Fax: +1 202 736 7350, E-Mail: gibbons-flywh@state.gov

Goldsmith, William

Virginia Sea Grant 1363 Greate Road, Virginia Gloucester Point 23062
Tel: +1 617 763 3340, E-Mail: william.m.goldsmith@gmail.com

Graves, John E.

Professor of Marine Science, Virginia Institute of Marine Science - College of William and Mary, 1375 Great Road, P.O. Box 1346, Gloucester Point, VA Virginia 23062
Tel: +1 804 684 7352, Fax: +1 804 684 7157, E-Mail: graves@vims.edu

King, Melanie Diamond

NOAA - National Marine Fishery Service, Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection (F/IA1)1315 East West Highway (IASI), Silver Spring Maryland 20910
Tel: +1 301 427 8366, E-Mail: melanie.king@noaa.gov

Lawler, Andrew

1315 East-West Highway, Maryland Silver Spring 20910
Tel: +1 301 427 8061, E-Mail: andrew.lawler@noaa.gov

Leape, Gerald

Senior Officer, Pew Charitable Trusts, 901 E Street NW, Washington DC District of Columbia 20004
Tel: +1 202 887 1346, Fax: +1 202 540 5599, E-Mail: gleape@pewtrusts.org

Lederhouse, Terra

Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring Maryland MD 20910
Tel: +1 202 816 2059, E-Mail: terra.lederhouse@noaa.gov

Luisi, Michael

Maryland Department of Natural Resources, 580 Taylor Avenue - B2, Annapolis, MD 21401
Tel: +1 443 758 6547, E-Mail: Michael.Luisi@Maryland.gov

McLaughlin, Sarah

Fishery Management Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Highly Migratory Species Management Division 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930
Tel: +978 281 9260, Fax: +978 281 9340, E-Mail: sarah.mclaughlin@noaa.gov

Miller, Alexander

NOAA Fisheries, National Seafood Inspection Lab, 3209 Frederic Street Pascagoula, MS, 39567-4163
Tel: +1 228 549 1717, Fax: +1 228 762 7144, E-Mail: alexander.miller@noaa.gov

Moore, Katie

Living Marine Resources Program Manager, Future Operations Technical Advisor, United States Coast Guard, Atlantic Area-Response, Office of Maritime Security and Law Enforcement, 431 Crawford St., Portsmouth, Virginia VA 23704
Tel: +1 757 398 6504, E-Mail: katie.s.moore@uscg.mil

O'Malley, Rachel

Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection (F/IA1), National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway - Room 10653, Silver Spring, MD 20910
Tel: +1 301 427 8373, Fax: +1 301 713 2313, E-Mail: rachel.o'malley@noaa.gov

Ortiz, Alexis

U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street NW, Room 6422, Washington, DC 20520
Tel: +1 202 647 0835; (505) 401 1139, E-Mail: ortizaj@state.gov

Pierdinock, Michael

176 Sandy Beach Road, Plymouth, MA 02360
Tel: +1 617 291 8914, E-Mail: cpfcharters@yahoo.com

Piñeiro Soler, Eugenio

Chairman, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 723 Box Garden Hills Plaza, Guaynabo, PR 00966
Tel: +1 787 224 7399, Fax: +1 787 344 0954, E-Mail: gpsfish@yahoo.com

Schalit, David

176 Mulberry Street - 4th floor, New York 10013
Tel: +1 917 573 7922, E-Mail: dschalit@gmail.com

Schirripa, Michael

NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami Florida 33149
Tel: +1 305 361 4568; +1 786 400 0649, Fax: +1 305 361 4562, E-Mail: michael.schirripa@noaa.gov

Soltanoff, Carrie

Fishery Management Specialist, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD, 20910
Tel: +1 301 427 8503, Fax: +1 301 713 1917, E-Mail: carrie.soltanoff@noaa.gov

Villar, Oriana

1315 East-West Hwy, SSMC3, Suite 10648, Silver Spring, MD 20910
Tel: +1 301 427 8384; +1 571 457 1428, E-Mail: oriana.villar@noaa.gov

Walline, Megan J.

Attorney-Advisor, Office of the General Counsel for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1315 East-West Highway SSMC-III, Silver Spring Maryland 20910
Tel: +301 713 9695, Fax: +1 301 713 0658, E-Mail: megan.walline@noaa.gov

Warner-Kramer, Deirdre

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Marine Conservation (OES/OMC), U.S. Department of State Rm 2758, 2201 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20520-7878
Tel: +1 202 647 2883, Fax: +1 202 736 7350, E-Mail: warner-kramerdm@fan.gov

Weber, Rick

South Jersey Marina, 1231 New Jersey 109, New Jersey Cape May 08204
Tel: +1 609 884 2400; +1 609 780 7365, Fax: +1 609 884 0039, E-Mail: rweber@southjerseymarina.com

URUGUAY

Domingo, Andrés *

Director Nacional, Dirección Nacional de Recursos Acuáticos - DINARA, Laboratorio de Recursos Pelágicos, Constituyente 1497, 11200 Montevideo
Tel: +5982 400 46 89, Fax: +5982 401 32 16, E-Mail: adomingo@dinara.gub.uy; direcciongeneral@dinara.gub.uy

VENEZUELA

Evaristo, Eucaris del Carmen *

Ministerio del Poder Popular de Pesca y cuicultura, Parque Central, Torre Este, piso 17, Caracas
Tel: +58 416 883 3781, E-Mail: eucarisevaristo@gmail.com

Giménez Bracamonte, Carlos Enrique

Director Ejecutivo, Fundación para la Pesca Responsable y Sostenible de Túnidos (FUNDATUN), Avenida Francisco Miranda, Multicentro Empresarial del Este, Torre Miranda - Piso 10 - Oficina 103, 1060 Municipio Chacao Caracas
Tel: +58 212 264 7713, Fax: +58 212 267 6666, E-Mail: cegimenez@fundatun.com; cegimenezb@gmail.com

Maniscalchi, Lillo

AVATUN, Av. Miranda, Crta. Maria Teresa, Edif. Cristal Plaza Piso 3 L65, 6101 Cumana Estado Sucre
Tel: +5829 3431 0966, Fax: +5829 3431 9117, E-Mail: lillomaniscalchi@yahoo.com

Maniscalchi, Rita

AVATUN, Avenida Miranda, Quinta Maria Teresa, Cumaná-Sucre
Tel: +5829 3431 0966, Fax: +5829 3431 9117, E-Mail: debraether@gmail.com

Zaccaro Mendoza, José Gregorio

Esquina Conde a Carmelitas, Torre MRE, Piso 14, Misión Socialista Nueva Frontera de Paz, 1010 Caracas
Tel: +58 04242481085, Fax: +58 02128028000 Ext. 9600 9605, E-Mail: mision-socialista-nueva-frontera@gmail.com; coord.atae@gmail.com

OBSERVERS FROM COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES, ENTITIES, FISHING ENTITIES

CHINESE TAIPEI

Lin, Ding-Rong

Director, Deep Sea Fisheries Division, Fisheries Agency, 8F, No. 100, Sec. 2, Heping W. Rd., Zhongzheng Dist., 10037 Taipei
Tel: +886 2 2383 5833, Fax: +886 2 2332 7395, E-Mail: dingrong@ms1.fa.gov.tw

Chen, Kai-hsin

Section Chief, Agriculture, Fisheries and Economic Organizations Section, Department of International Organizations,
2 Ketagalan Blvd., 10048
Tel: +886 223 482 526, Fax: +886 223 617 694, E-Mail: khchen01@mofa.gov.tw

Chou, Shih-Chin

Section Chief, Deep Sea Fisheries Division, Fisheries Agency, 8F, No. 100, Sec. 2, Heping W. Rd., Zhongzheng District,
10037 Taipei
Tel: +886 2 2383 5915, Fax: +886 2 2332 7395, E-Mail: shihcin@ms1.fa.gov.tw

Chung, I-Yin

Secretary, Overseas Fisheries Development Council, Operation Division, 3F., No. 14, Wenzhou St., Da'an Dist., 106
Tel: +886 2 2368 0889 ext. 154, Fax: +886 2 2368 6418, E-Mail: ineschung@ofdc.org.tw

Hu, Nien-Tsu Alfred

Director, The Center for Marine Policy Studies, National Sun Yat-sen University, 70, Lien-Hai Rd., 80424 Kaohsiung City
Tel: +886 7 525 5799, Fax: +886 7 525 6129, E-Mail: omps@mail.nsysu.edu.tw

Kao, Shih-Ming

Assistant Professor, Graduate Institute of Marine Affairs, National Sun Yat-sen University, 70 Lien-Hai Road, 80424
Kaohsiung City
Tel: +886 7 525 2000 Ext. 5305, Fax: +886 7 525 6205, E-Mail: kaosm@mail.nsysu.edu.tw

Lee, Kuan-Ting

Taiwan Tuna Association, 3F-2, No 2 Yugang Middle 1st Road, Chien Chen district, 80672 Kaohsiung
Tel: +886 7 841 9606#21, Fax: +886 7 831 3304, E-Mail: simon@tuna.org.tw

Lee, Chia-Yen

Section Chief, Department of Treaty and Legal Affairs, 2 Kaitakelan Blvd., 10048
Tel: +886 2 2348 2507, Fax: +886 2 2312 1161, E-Mail: cylee01@mofa.gov.tw

Lin, Lih-Fang

Deputy Director, Economic Division, Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States, 4301
Connecticut Ave. Suite 420, Washington DC 20008, United States
Tel: +1 202 686 6400, Fax: +1 202 363 6294, E-Mail: gracelin@mail.coa.gov.tw

Lin, Yu-Chih

Taiwan Tuna Association, 3F-2 No.2 Yu-Kang Middle 1st Road, Chien Jehn District, Kaohsiung City
Tel: +886 7 841 9606, Fax: +886 7 831 3304, E-Mail: pennyvivi@gmail.com

Lin, Yu-Ling Emma

Executive Secretary, The Center for Marine Policy Studies, National Sun Yat-sen University, 70, Lien-Hai Rd., 80424
Kaohsiung City
Tel: +886 7 525 5799, Fax: +886 7 525 6126, E-Mail: lemma@nsysu.edu.tw

Lin, Yen-Ju

Specialist, International Economics and Trade Section, Deep Sea Fisheries Division, Fisheries Agency, 8F, No. 100, Sec.
2, Heping W. Rd., Zhongzheng Dist., 10037 Taipei
Tel: +886 2 2383 5912, Fax: +886 2 2332 7395, E-Mail: yenju@ms1.fa.gov.tw

Peng, Pai

Taiwan Tuna Association, 3F-2 No.2 Yu-Kang Middle 1st Road, Chien Jehn District, Kaohsiung City
Tel: +886 7 841 9606#24, Fax: +886 7 831 3304, E-Mail: penny@tuna.org.tw

Su, Nan-Jay

Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Biology and Fisheries Science, National Taiwan Ocean University,
No. 2 Pei-Ning Rd. Keelung, 20224
Tel: +886 2 2462 2192 #5046, E-Mail: nanjay@ntou.edu.tw

SURINAME, REP.**Tong Sang, Tania**

Policy Officer - Fisheries Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries, Cornelis Jongbawstraat
50, Paramaribo, Suriname
Tel: +597 476741; +597 882 7513, Fax: +597 424441, E-Mail: tareva@hotmail.com

OBSERVERS FROM INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

CONFÉRENCE MINISTÉRIELLE SUR LA COOPÉRATION HALIEUTIQUE ENTRE LES ETATS AFRICAINS RIVERAINS DE L'OcéAN ATLANTIQUE - COMHAFAT

Benabbou, Abdelouahed

Executive Secretary, Conférence Ministérielle sur la Coopération Halieutique entre les États Africains Riverains de l'Océan Atlantique/COMHAFAT, 2, Rue Beni Darkoul, Ain Khalouiya - Souissi, 10220 Rabat, Maroc

Tel: +212 669 281 822, Fax: +212 537 681 810, E-Mail: secretariat@comhafat.org; benabbou.comhafat@gmail.com

Haddad, Mohammed

Finance Responsable, Conférence Ministérielle sur la Coopération Halieutique entre les États Africains Riverains de l'Océan Atlantique/COMHAFAT, 2, Rue Ben Darkoul Ain Khalouia Souissi, 10220 Rabat, Maroc

Tel: +212 530 774 221; +212 662 237 556, Fax: +212 537 651 810, E-Mail: haddad.comhafat@gmail.com

Ishikawa, Atsushi

COMHAFAT, N° 2, Rue Beni Darkoul, Ain Khalouiya - Souissi, 10220 Rabat, Maroc

Tel: +212 642 96 66 72, Fax: +212 530 77 42 21, E-Mail: a615@ruby.ocn.ne.jp

Laamrich, Abdennaji

Advisor, COMHAFAT, 2, Rue Ben Darkoul, Ain Khalouia, Souissi, 10220 Rabat, Maroc

Tel: +212 530 77 42 21; +212 661 224 794, Fax: +212 537 681 810, E-Mail: laamrich@comhafat.org; laamrichmpm@gmail.com

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION - FAO

Anganuzzi, Alejandro

FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 0153 Rome, Italy

Tel: +39 05 5705 3313, E-Mail: alejandro.anganuzzi@fao.org

Fabra Aguilar, Adriana

International MCS Network, Girona 85, 3, 08009 Barcelona, Spain

Tel: +34 655 770442, E-Mail: afabra@yahoo.es

OBSERVERS FROM NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES

FIJI ISLANDS

Rabo, Aporosa

Fisheries Officer, Republic of Fiji Ministry of Fisheries, Takayawa Building, Toorak Suva

Tel: +679 9967007, E-Mail: rabo.aporosa@gmail.com

OBSERVERS FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

ANATUN

Martínez Cañabate, David Ángel

Anatun, C/ Uruguay, parcela 8-27 Polígono Industrial Oeste Alcantarilla, 30820 Cartagena, Murcia, Spain

Tel: +34 696 440 361; +34 968 845 265, Fax: +34 968 165 324, E-Mail: es.anatun@gmail.com

Ruipérez Martín, Ana Belén

Plaza del Rey, 8 6ª Planta, 30201 Cartagena, Spain

Tel: +34 629 861 968, Fax: +34 968 505 481, E-Mail: ruipmar@yahoo.es

ASOCIACIÓN DE PESCA, COMERCIO Y CONSUMO RESPONSABLE DEL ATÚN ROJO – APCCR

Serrano Fernández, Juan

Grupo Balfegó - Asociación de Pesca, Comercio y Consumo responsable del Atún Rojo, Polígono Industrial - Edificio Balfegó, 43860 L'Ametlla de Mar Tarragona, Spain

Tel: +34 977 047708, Fax: +34 977 457812, E-Mail: jserrano@grupbalfego.com

Giordano, Françoise

Res "Cap Saint Louis 1", 28 Promenade JB Marty, 34200 Sète, France
 Tel: +33 685 423 305; +33 687 769 470, E-Mail: jean-francois.giordano@wanadoo.fr

Marin, Fabrice

SNC Armement Cisberlande III et IV, 795, Av. Des Hesperides, 34540 Balarue les Bains, France
 Tel: +33 6 2123 5536, E-Mail: marine.fabrice@sfr.fr

ASSOCIAÇÃO DE CIÊNCIAS MARINHAS E COOPERAÇÃO - SCIAENA**Carvalho, Gonçalo**

SCIAENA, Incubadora de Empresas da Universidade do Algarve, Campus de Gambelas, Pavilhao B1, 8005-139 Faro, Portugal
 Tel: +351 936 257 281, E-Mail: gcarvalho@sciaena.org; sciaena@sciaena.org

Laborda Mora, Cristian Eugenio

Sciaena, La Concepción 81, Oficina 1507, 8320000 Providencia - Santiago de Chile
 Tel: +562 223 52973; +569 957 85269, E-Mail: cristian.laborda@celaborda.com; mblanco@celaborda.com

Weiser, Leah

Sciaena, 901 E Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20004, United States
 Tel: +1 202 591 6761, E-Mail: lweiser@pewtrusts.org

ASSOCIATION EUROMÉDITERRANÉENNE DES PÊCHEURS PROFESSIONNELS DE THON – AEPPT**Perez, Serge**

AEPPT, 39 Rue de la Loge, 13002 Marseille, France
 Tel: +33 607 793 354, Fax: +33 4 6889 3415, E-Mail: armement.sam@orange.fr; bluefintuna13@yahoo.fr

BLUE WATER FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION - BWFA**Delaney, Glenn Roger**

Blue Water Fishermen's Association, 601 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Suite 900 South Building, Washington, D.C. 20004, United States
 Tel: +1 202 434 8220, Fax: +1 202 639 8817, E-Mail: grdelaney2@aol.com

CONFEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE LA PÊCHE SPORTIVE – CIPS**Diouf, Abdoulaye**

Président, Fédération Sénégalaise de Pêche Sportive (FSPS), Viale Tiziano 70, 00196 Rome, Italy
 Tel: +221 77 639 4302, Fax: +221 33 821 4376, E-Mail: fsps@orange.sn; segreteriainternazionale@fipsas.it

DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE**Goyenechea, Alejandra**

Defenders of Wildlife, 1130 17th Street, NW, Washington DC 20036-4604, United States
 Tel: 202-772 3268, Fax: 202-6821331, E-Mail: agoyenechea@defenders.org

ECOLOGY ACTION CENTRE - EAC**Arnold, Shannon**

Marine Coordinator, Ecology Action Centre, 2705 Fern Lane, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3K 4L3, Canada
 Tel: +1 902 446 4840, E-Mail: sharnold@ecologyaction.ca

Schiller, Laurene

Ecology Action Centre, 1355 Oxford St., Nova Scotia B3H 4R2, Canada
 Tel: +1 902 414 8466, E-Mail: laurenne.schiller@dal.ca

EUROPÊCHE**Garat Perez, Javier**

Secretario General CEPESCA, Presidente Europêche, C/ Doctor Fleming, nº 7 - piso 2º, 28036 Madrid, Spain
 Tel: +34 91 432 3489; +34 605 266085, Fax: +34 91 435 5201, E-Mail: javiergarat@cepesca.es; cepesca@cepesca.es

Jourdain, Jérôme

Secretario General Adjunto, Union des Armateurs à la Pêche de France (UAPF), Rue des Senneurs, 29900 Concarneau, France
 Tel: +33 298 704 508; +33 663 981 436, E-Mail: jj@uapf.org

FEDERATION OF MALTESE AQUACULTURE PRODUCERS – FMAP

Caruana, Joseph

President of the FMAP, Federation of Maltese Aquaculture Producers, Scirocco Building, Tarxien Road, GXQ 290 Ghaxaq, Malta

Tel: +356 21 809 460, Fax: +356 21 809 462, E-Mail: joseph.caruana@ffmalta.com; josephcaruana@fishandfish.com.mt

FEDERCOOPESCA

Ferrari, Gilberto

Confcooperative - FEDERCOOPESCA, Via Torino 146, 00184 Rome, Italy

Tel: +39 06 4890 5284; +39 064 882 219, Fax: +39 6 4891 3917, E-Mail: gilberto.ferrari@confcooperarive.it; federcoopesc@confcooperative.it

Tiozzo Brasiola, Paolo

Presidente, Confcooperative - FEDERCOOPESCA, Via Torino, 146, 00184 Rome, Italy

Tel: +39 06 48 82 219, Fax: +39 06 48 91 39 17, E-Mail: tiozzo.p@confcooperative.it; presidenza.federcoopesc@confcooperative.it

INTERNATIONAL SEAFOOD SUSTAINABILITY FOUNDATION – ISSF

Restrepo, Víctor

Chair of the ISSF Scientific Advisory Committee, ISS-Foundation, 1440 G Street NW, Washington DC 20005, United States

Tel: +1 305 450 2575, Fax: +1 215 220 2698, E-Mail: vrestrepo@iss-foundation.org; vrestrepo@mail.com

MARINE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL - MSC

Martín Aristín, Alberto Carlos

Responsable de Pesquerías para España y Portugal de MSC, Marine Stewardship Council, Calle Rio Rosas, 36. 6-C, 28003 Madrid, Spain

Tel: +34 679 89 18 52, E-Mail: alberto.martin@msc.org

Montero Castaño, Carlos

Responsable de Accesibilidad, Marine Stewardship Council, Calle Ríos Rosas, 36, 6ª C, 28003 Madrid, Spain

Tel: +34 674 071 053, Fax: +34 91 831 9248, E-Mail: carlos.montero@msc.org

ORGANIZATION FOR PROMOTION OF RESPONSIBLE TUNA FISHERIES – OPRT

Kenichi, Ito

9F Sankaido Bldg. 9-13, Akasaka 1-chome, Tokyo Minato-ku 107-0052, Japan

Tel: +81 3 3568 6388, Fax: +81 3 3568 6389, E-Mail: maguro@oprt.or.jp

Kishida, Yusuke

Organization for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries, 9F Sankaido Bldg. 9-13, Akasaka 1-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-0052, Japan

Tel: +81 335 686 388, Fax: +81 335 686 389, E-Mail: yusuke.kishida@mitsubishicorp.com; maguro@oprt.or.jp

Nagahata, Daishiro

Organization for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries, 9F Sankaido Bldg. 9-13, Akasaka 1-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo Chiyoda-Ku 107-0052, Japan

Tel: +81 3 3568 6388, Fax: +81 3 3568 6389, E-Mail: nagahata@oprt.or.jp

ORGANIZATION FOR REGIONAL AND INTER-REGIONAL STUDIES - ORIS

Ishii, Atsushi

Associate Professor, Center for Northeast Asian Studies, Tohoku University, Organization for Regional and Inter-regional Studies, 1-6-1, Nishi-waseda, Shinjuku, Tokyo 169-8050, Japan

Tel: +81 22 795 6076, Fax: +81 22 795 6010, E-Mail: atsushi.ishii.b7@tohoku.ac.jp

Koyano, Mari

Professor, Organization for Regional and Inter-regional Studies, c/o Faculty of Law, Hokkaido University Kita-9, Nishi-7, Kita-ku, Sapporo-shi, Hokkaido 060-0809, Japan

Tel: +81 903 136 8248, Fax: +81 11 706 4948, E-Mail: koyano@juris.hokudai.ac.jp

Ohta, Hiroshi

Organization for Regional and Inter-regional Studies, ORIS, Waseda University 1-6-1 Nishi-Waseda, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 169-0051, Japan

Tel: +81 3 5286 1728, Fax: +81 3 3208 8401, E-Mail: h-otha@waseda.jp

PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS - PEW

Evangelides, Nikolas

The Pew Charitable Trusts, The Grove, 248A Marylebone Road, London NW1 6JZ, United Kingdom
Tel: +447450071205, E-Mail: nevangalides@pewtrusts.org

Galland, Grantly

Pew Charitable Trusts, 901 E Street, NW, Washington, DC 20004, United States
Tel: +1 202 540 6953, Fax: +1 202 552 2299, E-Mail: ggalland@pewtrusts.org

STOCKHOLM RESILIENCE CENTRE - SRC

Petersson, Matilda

Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University, Kräftriket 2B, SE-10691 Stockholm, Sweden
Tel: +46 707 126 752, E-Mail: matilda.petersson@su.se

THE INTERNATIONAL POLE & LINE FOUNDATION - IPNLF

Baske, Adam

Director, Policy and Outreach, International Pole & Line Foundation, 7-14 Great Dover St, London SE1 4YR, United Kingdom
Tel: +1 207 747 9419, E-Mail: adam.baske@ipnlf.org

Dronkers Londoño, Yaiza

International Pole & Line Foundation, 7-14 Great Dover St, London SE1 4YR, United Kingdom
Tel: +31 638 146 111, E-Mail: yaiza.dronkers@ipnlf.org

Sinan, Hussain

Marine Affairs, 1355 Oxford St. (Life Sciences Centre), Dalhousie University, NS Halifax B3H 4R2, Canada
Tel: +1 902 441 4167, E-Mail: hussain.sinan@dal.ca

THE OCEAN FOUNDATION

Fordham, Sonja V

Shark Advocates International, President, c/o The Ocean Foundation, suite 250, 1320 19th Street, NW Fifth Floor, Washington, DC 20036, United States
Tel: +1 202 436 1468, E-Mail: sonja@sharkadvocates.org; sonjaviveka@gmail.com

Miller, Shana

The Ocean Foundation, 1320 19th St, NW, 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20036, United States
Tel: +1 631 671 1530, E-Mail: smiller@oceanfdn.org

Samari, Mona

The Ocean Foundation, 1320 19th Sr, NW 5th Floor, Washington DC 20036, United States
Tel: +1 202 887 8996, E-Mail: samarimonaocean@gmail.com

THE SHARK TRUST

Hood, Ali

The Shark Trust, 4 Creykes Court, The Millfields, Plymouth PL1 3JB, United Kingdom
Tel: +44 7855 386083, Fax: +44 1752 672008, E-Mail: ali@sharktrust.org

WORLD WILDLIFE FUND – WWF

Buzzi, Alessandro

WWF Mediterranean, Via Po, 25/c, 00198 Rome, Italy
Tel: +39 346 235 7481, Fax: +39 068 413 866, E-Mail: abuzzi@wwfmedpo.org

García Rodríguez, Raúl

WWF Mediterranean, Gran Vía de San Francisco, 8, 28005 Madrid, Spain
Tel: +34 630 834 267, Fax: +34 913 656 336, E-Mail: pesca@wwf.es

Yamauchi, Aiko

WWF Japan, 3F. Mita Kousai Bldg., 1-4-28 Mita, Minato-Ku, Tokyo 108-0073, Japan
Tel: +813 3769 18718, Fax: +813 3769 1717, E-Mail: ayamauchi@wwf.or.jp

ICCAT 1st VICE-CHAIRMAN

Depypere, Stefaan

Former Director International Ocean Governance and Sustainable Fisheries, Florastraat 79, B-9840 De Pinte, Belgium
Tel: +32 498 990 713, E-Mail: stefaandepypere@gmail.com

SCRS CHAIRMAN

Die, David

SCRS Chairman, Cooperative Institute of Marine and Atmospheric Studies, University of Miami, 4600 Rickenbacker Causeway, Miami Florida 33149

Tel: +34 673 985 817, Fax: +1 305 421 4607, E-Mail: ddie@rsmas.miami.edu

ICCAT Secretariat

C/ Corazón de María 8 – 6th floor, 28002 Madrid – Spain

Tel: +34 91 416 56 00; Fax: +34 91 415 26 12; E-mail: info@iccat.int

Manel, Camille Jean Pierre

Neves dos Santos, Miguel

Moreno, Juan Antonio

Ortiz, Mauricio

Cheatle, Jenny

Campoy, Rebecca

De Andrés, Marisa

Donovan, Karen

García-Orad, María José

Peyre, Christine

Pinet, Dorothée

Fiz, Jesús

Gallego Sanz, Juan Luis

García Piña, Cristóbal

Martín, África

Moreno, Juan Ángel

Muñoz, Juan Carlos

Peña, Esther

Porto, Gisela

Vieito, Aldana

GBYP PROGRAM

Aleman, Francisco

AOTTP PROGRAM

Beare, Doug

ICCAT INTERPRETERS

Baena Jiménez, Eva J.

Faillace, Linda

Gzour, Aomar

Hof, Michelle Renée

Konstantinidi-Levenheck, Melpomene

Liberas, Christine

Linae, Cristina

Meunier, Isabelle

Tabet, Mirna

ICCAT GUEST

Meski, Driss

OPENING ADDRESSES & STATEMENTS TO THE PLENARY SESSIONS**3.1 OPENING ADDRESSES**

By Hon. Tomislav Tolušić, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Croatia

ICCAT Chairman Mr. Raul Delgado, Executive Secretary Mr. Camille Manel, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

It is my great honour to welcome you to Croatia, and to the historical city of Dubrovnik.

I am very proud that we have been given the opportunity to host the 21st Special Meeting of the Commission and thus demonstrate our respect towards its legacy and current efforts.

Croatia, as a maritime oriented country, with its long, well-indented coast and over a thousand islands, and warm, hardworking people, has always been deeply dependent on the sea, which defines its main features, shapes its character and smooths its edges. In this dominantly maritime environment, the fisheries play an important role and represent an integral part of its identity, which is reflected nationwide. I am talking here about the delicate yet unbreakable bond between the people and the resources offered by the sea. In this fragile balance, man has the power to exploit it as well as a responsibility to protect it. Although there are numerous fishing techniques, fishing gears or targeted species in this highly complex fisheries sector in the Adriatic, bluefin tuna has always held an important place. As you know, Croatia has been an ICCAT Contracting Party since 1997 and has always attached great importance and respected its work at all levels of administration, science and industry. Bluefin tuna in Croatia is not only a target species and the subject matter of an entire industry, but is also a synonym for fisheries and the Mediterranean livelihood. For this reason, I am proud to say that a bluefin tuna is a dominant motif on the two kuna coin of our national currency, which I hope you will all take home with you as a very interesting, and probably the cheapest, souvenir of this meeting.

As many of you know, this is not the first time that we have met here in Dubrovnik.

Twelve years ago, the eyes of the world were on Dubrovnik and everyone hoped that responsible decisions would be taken and that the bluefin tuna stock would be saved from complete collapse. Strong concerns existed at that time and there was enormous pressure on everyone involved in this fishery.

Today, from the same place, I believe that we can proudly say that this has been achieved!

Thanks to the work of the ICCAT Commission, and of our dear guests, we succeeded, and we are now able to tell the world the happy ending to the story about how management of the fisheries can be effective if a responsible approach is applied appropriately and persistently. We have also learnt that when we are united in our mission we can take giant steps forwards towards our ultimate goal – long-term sustainability of the fisheries.

Now, at the end of the recovery period for bluefin tuna, it is once again time for us to be wise and to ensure that we maintain this status in the long term. We need to think of the fisheries sector and the enormous sacrifice but, at the same time, we need to take a firm stand on any illegal activity that may be undermining our efforts.

I am generally familiar with the Croatian fisheries, management of the different species, their interaction with and complex dependency on environmental conditions and their exposure to climate change, and I am aware that there is a long road ahead of us until we are able to claim that we understand the workings of this fascinating blue world. To ultimately achieve this, we need to be patient and never cease to learn and explore.

I believe that you share my hopes and that you will manage to find adequate solutions for all the species concerned and all the challenges contained in this year's extensive agenda. I also encourage you to be creative and open to the different concepts applied in the different regions.

It is a challenging idea but will hopefully will take shape and materialize over the eight intense and tiring days ahead of you. However, I have faith in your courage and wisdom, and as already witnessed within the ICCAT family, it can definitely be done.

I welcome you once again, and I wish you a productive and successful meeting. I also hope that you will still find time to enjoy the beauty of Dubrovnik and the Adriatic coast. Thank you.

By Mr. Mato Franković, Mayor of the City of Dubrovnik

Ladies and gentlemen, dear guests,

As Mayor of Dubrovnik, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the city that is internationally known as the Pearl of the Adriatic, thanks to the mild Mediterranean climate, unique gastronomy and mostly, to the rich and varied historical and cultural heritage, as well as superb hospitality.

Historically speaking, as the heart of the former Republic of Ragusa, Dubrovnik achieved great accomplishments in the maritime industry, trade, science, art and diplomacy throughout the ages, which I am sure that you will hear more about during your stay with us.

We are indeed thrilled to once again have the opportunity to host such an important event in the fisheries industry. I would like to extend my gratitude to the organizers and especially to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, but as well to the European Commission and the Government of the Republic of Croatia for making possible an event of this significance.

I sincerely believe that you will have a fruitful working session and that the conclusions made in Dubrovnik will improve the overall field of sustainable management and conservation of tuna and tuna-like species.

I also hope that you will have the most pleasant stay in Dubrovnik. May the busy schedule leave you enough time to enjoy the beauty of our city which was inscribed on the UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1979, since it is indeed a unique experience.

By Mr. Raúl Delgado, ICCAT Chairman

Mr. Tomislav Tolušić, Honourable Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture of Croatia, Mr. Nikola Dragoslavić, Prefect of Dubrovnik-Neretva-County, Mr. Mato Franković, Mayor of the City of Dubrovnik, ICCAT Executive Secretary, Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel and his staff, distinguished colleagues First and Second Vice Chairs of the Commission, Chairs of STACFAD, COC, PWG and Panel Chairs, distinguished NGOs, participants, guests, ladies and gentlemen of the press, dear friends,

It is my great honour to welcome you all to the 21st Special Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of the Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and to express my sincerest appreciation to the Government of Croatia and to the European Union for offering to host this meeting in this beautiful city of Dubrovnik.

I would like to welcome Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel, the new Executive Secretary who succeeded Mr. Driss Meski in July. I wish you good luck and success Mr. Manel.

Once again this meeting brings us many challenges. In the letter circulated to you by the Secretariat, I sought to highlight some of the key issues that I consider it is critical to discuss and address during this meeting. Our meeting will need to take decisions and I encourage all CPCs to collaborate in order to reach a consensus.

The first priority issue is related to amendment of the ICCAT Convention. Significant progress has been made by the Working Group on Convention Amendment and we need to complete the process in order to fulfil our commitment. I would like to thank the Chair of the Working Group on Convention Amendment, Ms. Deirdre Warner-Kramer, for her hard work which has enabled us to overcome complex issues.

As you all know, the second ICCAT performance review was conducted in 2016 which came up with important recommendations. We are requested to follow up on these recommendations which have been assigned to the relevant bodies.

The outcomes of the SCRS meeting raised several issues regarding MSE, FADs and some species stocks mainly tropical tunas and bluefin tuna. These issues will be discussed in the appropriate Panels to come up with proposals of measures to be taken to address them. I would like to urge all Panels to review the proposals and reach agreement on the most appropriate ones for the interest of our Commission.

We also need to touch base on the outcome of the work done by the Committee on enhancing the dialogue between scientists and managers. The Commission should evaluate the progress made by this Committee so far.

Bad news about the financial situation of the Commission has been received, especially because some CPCs have not paid their contributions. The Working Capital Fund has decreased dramatically in recent years. The Commission should look seriously at this issue.

Finally, special consideration should be given to compliance issues.

The international community is closely following the ICCAT meeting, and the decisions that are taken regarding the threatened populations will preserve the good image of the Commission.

I would like to thank all of you for your participation and to reiterate my gratitude to the European Union and to the Government of Croatia for hosting this meeting and also to the Secretariat of the Commission for its organization.

In accordance with the ICCAT Rules of Procedure, I hereby declare the 21st Special Meeting of the Commission duly open.

Thank you

By Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel, ICCAT Executive Secretary

Hon. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture of Croatia,
Prefect of Dubrovnik - Neretva – County,
Mayor of the City of Dubrovnik,
ICCAT Chairman,
ICCAT Vice Chairs,
Commission Officers,
Delegates, Partners,
Ladies and Gentlemen, Colleagues,

First of all, I would like to sincerely thank the European Union and the Croatian Authorities for all the arrangements that have been made for financing, hosting and organising this 21st Special Commission meeting of ICCAT, and furthermore, for the very warm welcome that we have received in this wonderful city of Dubrovnik, so rich in history.

It is a special honour for me to stand modestly before you at this important 21st Special Commission meeting of ICCAT. I would also like to convey my full appreciation for the confidence that you have expressed in me through my election, exactly one year ago, as the fifth Executive Secretary of the Commission. May I, at this juncture, acknowledge and pay special tribute to the legacy of all my predecessors, the late Olegario RODRÍGUEZ MARTÍN, the late Antonio FERNÁNDEZ, Mr. Adolfo RIBEIRO LIMA and Mr. Driss MESKI, who has just handed control over to me. My respects also to all the teams who have outstandingly accompanied them throughout the consolidation of highly significant progress by the Commission, namely, the Secretariat staff. Dear colleagues of the Secretariat, I am very proud of you, and I am convinced that this pride is widely shared by the Commission.

Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen, I remain convinced that this session, which is an exceptional space for discussion, will afford, once again, fresh opportunities for agreeing on and taking significant steps in the management of our resources.

Moreover, the increasing challenges associated with achievement of ICCAT objectives undoubtedly involve the need for continuous adaptation by its different bodies in an environment which is also constantly changing. Indeed, the new issues associated with effective management of tuna resources, as reflected in the work of the SCRS, entail a proliferation of tasks which are increasingly complex and intensive.

For the Secretariat, this situation has led to growing pressure which requires an adjustment of its material, financial and human resources, in order to continue improving its performance in accomplishment of its mission. Enormous efforts are already being made by the Secretariat.

However, I am certain that whatever the new challenges may be, we will meet them together, through our various contributions to achieve the ICCAT objectives. In this regard, it is important to note for example, that the development of an ICCAT Integrated Online Management System (IOMS) will be a crucial step forwards and will impact positively all the Commission's work.

For my part, in synergy with all the bodies of the Commission, and all the partners and other sister organisations, I will do all that is in my power to continue to build on existing foundations, and I will engage the Secretariat further to improve our contribution. I would also like to reiterate my commitment to serving fairly, loyally, and transparently and with respect for all Parties.

Finally, through me, the entire Secretariat renews its total dedication and full availability.

I thank you very much for your kind attention.

3.2 OPENING STATEMENTS BY CONTRACTING PARTIES

European Union

The European Union is particularly honoured to host the 21st Special meeting of ICCAT in the wonderful city of Dubrovnik. We would like to express our deep appreciation to the Croatian authorities for their hospitality and outstanding preparations, and acknowledge the fantastic work of the Secretariat for the excellent organisation of this meeting in Dubrovnik, and we wish the very best to the Executive Secretary for his first meeting at the helm of the Secretariat.

Not so long ago, ICCAT met in this city which is a UNESCO world heritage site, and took on the challenging task of adopting the recovery plan for eastern Bluefin tuna. Since then, the status of this iconic stock has thankfully improved dramatically, prompting ICCAT to adopt a significant increase of the TAC last year and to set the scene for the adoption of a management plan this year. We are confident that CPCs will be able to once again demonstrate their willingness to work together to formally acknowledge the success of the recovery plan and move to a new phase through the adoption of a management plan.

This success demonstrates well ICCAT's, and its CPCs', capacity and determination to take hard decisions when they are needed and continue to drive forward the agenda of the sustainable exploitation of tunas and tuna like species in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean.

Despite this achievement, we are once again facing great challenges this year and the European Union stands ready to work with all CPCs to further strengthen ICCAT's governance through better science-based decisions, stronger control and enforcement measures and higher compliance by its members.

After several years of hard work by the ICCAT CPCs, the EU is looking forward to ICCAT at this meeting reaching a consensus on the Convention Amendment to turn ICCAT into an even more modern organisation.

This year, the SCRS once again raised serious concerns regarding the status of the stock of bigeye tuna. The European Union was encouraged by the constructive discussions which took place during the intersessional meeting of Panel 1 last July and hopes that CPCs can build on this to adopt new ambitious and effective management measures for bigeye and other tropical tunas. The European Union has tabled an ambitious proposal that seeks to take the necessary actions in response the dire situation this stock faces and looks forward to working with other CPCs on this.

As in previous years, 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. Further action here is long overdue since it is widely recognised that the use of fin-to-carcass-weight ratios is not an adequate means to ensure that sharks are not finned.

The European Union is pleased with the continuous developments towards better science, including the critical MSE process being undertaken but also the efficient management of very significant research programs, such as the GBYP and the AOTTP programs for which the EU continues to provide substantial contributions. In order to secure the long-term future of these two crucial programs, we would urge ICCAT CPCs to identify sustainable financing mechanisms not relying on voluntary contributions.

As in the past, the European Union continues to attach a very high importance to the compliance process, which is crucial to ensure that the conservation measures adopted in ICCAT deliver efficiently on their objectives. We are committed to ensuring 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 is looking forward to working constructively with all CPCs in order to achieve these ambitious goals at the 21st Special Meeting of ICCAT.

Japan

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentleman,

On behalf of the Japanese Delegation, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Government of Croatia for hosting this important meeting in this beautiful city, Dubrovnik. We also thank the ICCAT Secretariat staff for the excellent preparation and arrangement of the 21st Special Meeting of the Commission.

This year's Commission meeting will probably be one of the busiest in recent years. We must develop management measures for tropical tunas, eastern bluefin tuna, and blue marlin. Discussion of the Convention amendment and MSE process are also important issues. Japan would like to cooperate with the Chairman and other CPCs to produce good outcomes for these important issues.

Among other things, Japan would like to touch upon a few issues. First, regarding bigeye tuna, we have to recognize the fact that ICCAT has failed to stop the overfishing and recover the stock in the past several years. Needless to say, reducing the TAC as well as putting total catch below the TAC are essential for returning the bigeye tuna population to a sound level, while taking into considering the right of developing coastal States to develop their own fishery. Moreover, there are a wide variety of fisheries in this region catching bigeye tuna. ICCAT must solve this long-standing and complicated issue. It may not be possible to find a solution that makes everybody happy, but possible to find a solution that makes everybody equally unhappy, which we believe is the best solution.

Also, Atlantic bluefin tuna poses some challenges for us. Firstly, as the Chair of Panel 2, Japan would like to adopt the revised table of allocation quotas for the eastern stock, which was agreed at the PA2 intersessional meeting in March after long debate. We believe that it is well balanced between the needs of CPCs and the level of preparation for the unexpected situation of the stock. Secondly, ICCAT needs to revise the management plan of E-BFT, taking into account the current stock status as well as recent alleged IUU cases. We would like to express our appreciation to the EU for their hard work in developing the draft proposal and we look forward to fruitful discussion on the issue. Finally, this special meeting will address the SCRS-recommended roadmap of the MSE process. Japan would like to share its view that ICCAT should intensively prioritize its MSE-related works on bluefin tuna at this stage, rather than tackling three species simultaneously.

Mr. Chairman, the Japanese Delegation is ready to work closely and cooperatively with other delegations to find good solutions and sincerely hopes that this special meeting will be successfully and fruitfully concluded.

Thank you.

United States

The United States would like to express our gratitude to the European Union and the Government of Croatia for their hospitality and generosity in hosting the 21st Special Meeting of ICCAT. We are pleased to attend this year's Commission meeting in the beautiful and historic city of Dubrovnik, and look forward to the productive discussions ahead. We would also like to welcome Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel to his first Commission meeting as our Executive Secretary and thank him and the Secretariat staff for their excellent preparations for this meeting.

The last time we were in Dubrovnik, in 2006, the Commission took the first, difficult steps towards putting in place a comprehensive rebuilding plan for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna. That was a challenging process, but it laid the groundwork for the eventual improvement in that stock we see today. This year, we are facing what may be an even bigger challenge. The 2018 stock assessment for bigeye tuna indicates that the stock is overfished and experiencing overfishing. It is now clear that the ICCAT tropical tuna measures adopted to-date have not worked. They have not effectively managed purse seine effort, particularly that associated with FADs, to a level consistent with a sustainable bigeye tuna fishery. They have not effectively addressed the disproportionate catch of juvenile yellowfin and bigeye in the tropical tuna fishery. And they have not effectively controlled overall catch. It is clear that we must rethink our approach. ICCAT now has no choice but to take the difficult management decisions needed to ensure stock recovery: we must adopt a rebuilding program at this meeting that eliminates overfishing and has a high probability of recovering the stock, in line with the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Principles of Decision Making for ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* (Rec. 11-13), improves the monitoring and control of this fishery, and ensures fair and equitable fishing opportunities for the diverse fleets that target this important resource. This is a daunting task, but the United States stands ready to work with all of the others around this table to make it happen.

In addition to bigeye tuna, the Commission will need to spend time at this meeting considering the conservation and management of blue marlin. This year's stock assessment indicates that the stock remains in the red zone of the Kobe quadrant; it is overfished with overfishing occurring. Given that this stock has not moved out of the red zone for more than 18 years, despite a series of ICCAT measures, it's time for ICCAT to move toward a formal rebuilding program for this stock -- and for white marlin/spearfish -- that accounts not only for landings but also for dead discards. The United States is tabling a proposal that would continue the current landings limits for both blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish for one more year, but adds measures that will reduce mortality and help ensure that these limits are not exceeded. Toward this end, our proposal also reflects the Second ICCAT Performance Review's recommendation that the Commission actively encourage, or make obligatory, the use of circle hooks in longline fisheries to reduce the post-release mortality of overfished marlins. Together, these measures should end overfishing in line with SCRS advice, taking the first critical step in the rebuilding process. Next year, after the white marlin stock assessment is complete, we must adopt comprehensive, science-based rebuilding programs for these species that will recover the stocks in as short a timeframe as possible with at least a 50% probability.

After a long but constructive process, the United States is very pleased with the successful conclusion of the work of the Working Group on Convention Amendment. We now look forward to considering the next steps in finalizing the Convention amendment package, including the associated resolution and recommendation.

ICCAT also has the opportunity to make progress on a number of monitoring, control, and surveillance issues in the PWG this year. In particular, the United States encourages CPCs to adopt proposals to modernize ICCAT's existing VMS minimum standards, to bring ICCAT's port inspection scheme more in line with the FAO's Port State Measures Agreement, and to protect the health and safety of observers in ICCAT's regional observer programs.

Finally, we are pleased to cosponsor three proposals for Panel 4 this year related to mitigating the impacts of ICCAT fisheries on associated species. The *Draft Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT on the By-Catch of Sea Turtles Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries* (PA4-809), co-sponsored by Panama, would require CPCs to implement one of several options recommended by the SCRS for turtle bycatch mitigation. The *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Monitoring and Avoiding Cetacean Interactions in ICCAT Fisheries*, co-sponsored by Canada, would prohibit purse seine vessels from intentionally setting on schools of tuna

associated with cetaceans, similar to measures already adopted by other tuna RFMOs. And the *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT*, would strengthen catch and landings data and ease the enforcement of ICCAT's ban on shark finning. We have received widespread support for this proposal in past years and urge CPCs to adopt it at this meeting.

The United States looks forward to constructive and positive collaboration with all ICCAT members to achieve these important priorities this week.

Venezuela

Chairman, Vice Chair, Executive Secretary, Delegates,

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is honoured by the invitation of the Secretariat to participate in this important meeting, which is an international space where the measures necessary for the conservation of the different species of fish targeted within the framework of the Commission are negotiated, discussed and implemented.

In our country, the Ministry of People's Power for Fisheries and Aquaculture, as a premise since its establishment in 2016, has developed policies for the supply chain of the fisheries, aquaculture and related activities, which help to strengthen the new economic model that is being developed in Venezuela. As a priority objective, this governing body has committed to relaunching hydrobiological resources in a sustainable and durable manner as an alternative food source for our people.

As such, year after year, Venezuela has fulfilled the tasks required by the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee, as one of its obligations as a Contracting Party, having submitted the required reports, which contributes substantially to the Atlantic stock assessments.

However, we have an incipient billfish fishery specifically targeting blue and white marlins, and swordfish. We take this opportunity to inform that our country is actively developing a fishery targeting these species, which will be underpinned by draft resolutions that are soon to be published in the Official Gazette, through the Ministry of People's Power for Fisheries and Aquaculture, under the titles of "Resolution on prohibition of discards on the high seas" and "Resolution on billfish", which will help to strengthen these fisheries in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Working Group on Recreational and Sport Fisheries

Chairman,

We can see from the documents, in particular the draft recommendation presented by Canada "to further strengthen the recovery plans for blue and white marlin stocks, to request that the SCRS develop an inventory of sport fishing activities in collaboration with organisations such as IGFA and the Billfish Foundation so as to establish a list of countries and, if possible, ports located in the area of the ICCAT Commission, where sport fishing activities are known to interact with billfish".

We should also recall that a working group for this fishery was established following the regular meeting of the Commission held in 2009, in Recife, Brazil.

In addition, last year, at the Commission meeting held in Marrakesh, Morocco, CPCs strongly supported revival of this group, and the decision was taken.

It would be useful, Mr. Chair, to also recall that during its first meeting the working group proposed the programme and guidelines below:

- Collect from CPCs detailed, complete and reliable data on sport fisheries for all the species managed by ICCAT.
- Development of a standardised methodology for data collection on a proposal from the SCSR.
- Development of a definition for sport and recreational fisheries.
- Record mechanisms implemented by CPCs nationally to oversee and monitor their sport and recreational fisheries.
- Review the different management measures and controls which could be adapted at ICCAT level.

It is also important to note that from an economic and environmental point of view, this fishery, in which several hundred million fishers participate, is vitally important.

Sound functioning of this working group could contribute significantly to ICCAT management.

Please accept the assurances of our highest considerations.

Chair of the working group

Mr. Abdoulaye DIOUF

(signed)

3.3 OPENING STATEMENTS BY OBSERVERS FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Asociación Nacional de Acuicultura de Atún Rojo (ANATUN)

The Asociación Nacional Española de Acuicultura de Atún Rojo (ANATUN) would like to state its position in relation to the ongoing investigation being carried out by national and European authorities into the alleged illegal trade of wild bluefin tuna in the European Union and the approach taken by some bodies to this matter.

First, we would like to confirm our support for the efforts undertaken by these authorities to pursue all potential illegal activities involving the trade of bluefin tuna within the EU. We hope that following the investigation, there will be a clear conclusion as to what occurred and that legal consequences will be established for the operators confirmed to be involved.

This investigation is clear proof of control and monitoring actions in this fishery, the most controlled fishery in the world.

Second, we would like to confirm that there is no relationship between the activities of the Spanish tuna farms and the activities referred to above, since strict control procedures from catch to commercialization are in place; commercialization takes place mainly outside the EU. The investigation focuses on the possible illegal trade within the EU of wild bluefin tuna caught in other countries.

Third, we wish to express our strong protest to how some media are treating this confidential investigation by pointing the finger of blame, not just before a court ruling has been issued, but also even before the investigation has been concluded.

This is by no means acceptable in a democratic setting and an environment of respect for the law, as in the cases of the States and supranational bodies belonging to ICCAT, where any individual being investigated has fundamental rights that must be respected.

Legal actions have been initiated by the affected parties against the media seeking to confuse public opinion with non-verified data that target specific objectives based on commercial interests.

ICCAT is an organisation that has earned a reputation for conservation of the species that it has managed successfully over the years, precisely for following the regulatory channels and agreed procedures for safeguard of member rights and obligations, and for not being at the service of commercial interests or following the indications of unverified information appearing in the media.

Therefore, we call on the organisation and its members to exercise caution in respect of the right of individuals and companies to a legitimate defense which emanates from laws, and not to lend any support to the premature and baseless value judgement that is being asserted by some media.

Defenders of Wildlife, Ecology Action Centre (EAC), The Ocean Foundation (through Shark Advocates International), The Shark Trust, and World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

The Shark Trust, Ecology Action Centre, Defenders of Wildlife, World Wildlife Fund, and The Ocean Foundation (through Shark Advocates International) are grateful to the Government of Croatia for hosting this meeting in the enchanting city of Dubrovnik. Our organizations focus on conservation of sharks because low reproductive capacity leaves most species especially susceptible to overfishing. We appreciate the opportunity to participate in the deliberations and share our perspectives.

We are deeply concerned about the lack of restrictions on Atlantic fisheries for oceanic sharks, particularly heavily fished and exceptionally under-protected mako and blue sharks. We urge ICCAT Parties to begin to safeguard these and other species through a stronger finning ban and catch limits based on scientific advice and the precautionary approach.

Prevent Collapse of Mako Sharks

For more than a decade, scientists have warned that mako sharks (*Isurus* spp.) are exceptionally vulnerable to overfishing ICCAT fisheries. ICCAT has since banned retention of several other shark species of lower commercial value. In 2017, Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) reported depletion and ongoing overfishing of North Atlantic shortfin makos (*Isurus oxyrinchus*), estimated that only a 0t catch (including dead discards) could result in population rebuilding by 2040 (with 54% probability), and recommended a “complete prohibition on retention” as the most effective immediate measure for achieving this goal. For South Atlantic makos, there is greater uncertainty; the SCRS suggested a catch limit of ~2000t. In response, in 2017, ICCAT agreed a binding measure that fell far short of the North Atlantic advice and did nothing to safeguard South Atlantic makos. Concrete, science-based fishing limits are essential for preventing collapse of these valuable populations. Banning retention throughout the Atlantic remains the most prudent course, given the species’ vulnerability and documented decline.

Spotlight on North Atlantic Shortfin Makos

The SCRS reported last year that North Atlantic shortfin mako shark catches would need to be cut to under 1000t to simply halt overfishing. Just recently it was revealed that Parties’ caught more than 1500t of North Atlantic makos in just the first six months of this year. ICCAT’s 2017 measure – which aimed to stop overfishing immediately is therefore clearly failing, leaving this exceptionally vulnerable and valuable population at serious risk of collapse. We urge Parties to now:

- Reconsider the remedy deemed by SCRS as “most effective”: a complete prohibit on retention for the North Atlantic
- Ban landings for all Parties falling short of data reporting requirements, and
- At a minimum, augment the current measure to ensure annual landings are kept under 500t.

Protect South Atlantic Makos

Although the status of South Atlantic population is less clear, a retention ban is prudent in the face of this uncertainty, especially given the enforcement challenges, species’ vulnerability, and lessons from the North Atlantic.

Limit Blue Shark Catch

Blue sharks (*Prionace glauca*) rank 4th by weight for species taken by ICCAT fisheries, yet ICCAT has set no concrete limits on catch. Preliminary 2017 data reveal that North Atlantic catches could well exceed the ICCAT threshold established in 2016 (39,675t vs. 39,102t average for two consecutive years). This threshold should be transformed into a total allowable catch limit to better prevent overages.

The SCRS could not rule out overfishing of South Atlantic blue sharks, strongly recommended a precautionary approach for this population, and suggested a catch limit of 28,923t (based on the formula used for the North).

ICCAT should establish science-based blue shark catch limits now -- before populations become seriously overfished and more severe measures are needed.

Strengthen the Finning Ban

ICCAT's ban on finning (the wasteful practice of slicing off a shark's fins and discarding the body at sea) is difficult to enforce and exacerbates inadequacies in shark catch information. Replacing the current fin-to-carcass ratio limit with a ban on removing shark fins at sea can:

- ease enforcement burden
- eliminate wiggle room to fin sharks; and
- facilitate the collection of shark-specific catch data.

The 2018 "fins attached" proposal (PA4-806) has been co-sponsored by a majority of ICCAT Parties; previous proposals have gained support from ~80% of ICCAT Parties in attendance. It is high time for ICCAT to join other Regional Fishery Management Organizations (the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission, Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean) and adopt this best practice for finning ban enforcement.

Summary

Unenforceable half measures are not enough to save sharks. We once again urge ICCAT to:

- Protect makos
- Limit blue shark catch
- Ban at-sea shark fin removal

We are hopeful that important strides in shark conservation will be made this week in Croatia.

International Pole & Line Foundation (IPNLF)

The International Pole & Line Foundation (IPNLF) is an international charity working to support one-by-one tuna fisheries and the communities around them. We work across science, policy and the seafood sector to improve the wellbeing of coastal communities who are committed to environmentally and socially responsible fishing methods, such as baitboat, troll, and handline.

The ICCAT Convention Area is home to a number of one-by-one tuna fisheries, including many baitboat, troll, and handline fisheries for temperate and tropical Atlantic tunas (Azores, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canary Islands, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Madeira, Namibia, Nigeria, Northern Spain, Saint Helena, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Venezuela, and others). The success and future of these fishing communities relies heavily on the responsible management by ICCAT as the stocks are highly migratory.

At this year's Special Meeting, IPNLF strongly encourages ICCAT Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs collectively) to adopt management measures to ensure sustainable and equitable tuna fisheries in the Atlantic Ocean.

Specifically, we urge action in the following areas:

- Rebuild bigeye tuna and reduce yellowfin catches to end years of unsustainable fishing. According to ICCAT's scientific body, current catch rates will likely lead to a collapse of the bigeye stock by 2033, and yellowfin catches must also be reduced.
 - Reduce the bigeye total allowable catch (TAC), in line with SCRS advice, to rebuild the stock, and reduce yellowfin catches, in line with the currently agreed TAC.
 - Enhance compliance and accountability through expanding the number of CPCs on the quota table, increasing observer coverage (100% for purse seine and 20% for longline), and eliminating the carry-over of unused quota.

- Protect rights and aspirations of developing coastal states in the process, through application of ICCAT allocation criteria.
- Reduce and regulate the use of supply vessels and drifting fish aggregating devices (dFADs) which significantly contribute to catches of small bigeye and yellowfin, through stricter FAD limits, FAD set limits, and/or FAD closures.
- Further advance the development of harvest strategies for key tuna species as a matter of priority to avoid adverse impacts on stocks, thereby also recognizing the social and economic dependence of coastal communities that rely on the fisheries for food security and livelihoods.
- Adopt measures to reduce bycatch and protect endangered, threatened, or protected species, including sharks, seabirds, cetaceans, and turtles.

IN DEPTH: Crafting a Sustainable and Equitable Tropical Tuna Management Measure

Follow Scientific Advice

The current tropical tuna measure (CMM 2016-01) is not working, threatening the future of coastal fisheries highly dependent on the yellowfin and bigeye catches in communities across the Convention Area. According to the SCRS, the TAC for bigeye tuna was exceeded by more than 20 percent in 2017 - a level of catch that reduces the probability of rebuilding by 2033 to less than 1 percent. Going forward, TACs must be reduced and complied with to rebuild the stock. For bigeye, the TAC must be reduced, in line with the scientific advice, and mechanisms must be adopted to significantly reduce yellowfin catches.

Comply with catch limits

A major shortcoming in the current CMM is the lack of accountability. Only eight CPCs are on the current bigeye quota table and there are no mechanisms in place to facilitate compliance with the yellowfin TAC. In recent years, the bigeye and yellowfin TACs were exceeded by as much as 21 and 37 percent respectively. To increase accountability, additional CPCs should be added to the table by reducing the minor harvester threshold and including all CPCs with large purse seine vessels. Additionally, observer coverage in purse seine and longline fisheries targeting tropical tunas should be increased to 100 percent and 20 percent respectively.

Reduce harvest of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin

The SCRS has identified FAD-associated catches to be a critical driver to overfishing, and continues to recommend that the Commission adopt measures to reduce FAD-driven mortality of juvenile yellowfin and bigeye. This can be achieved through limitations on FAD fishing, Atlantic-wide FAD closures, and stricter FAD limits. To complement stricter limits on FAD fishing, CPCs should also eliminate or reduce the use of supply vessels in the Atlantic Ocean, which contributes to increased fishing effort on juvenile tunas, marine litter, and bycatch of vulnerable marine species.

Fair access to the resource for the coastal developing States

The new measure must fully recognize the legitimate development aspirations of coastal developing state CPCs in line with the ICCAT Convention as well as multiple international instruments, including the UN Law of the Sea, the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, and further supported by the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Historically, the ICCAT bigeye allocation key has awarded around 90 percent of the total TAC to eight of the 52 CPCs, only two of which are coastal states. Balancing the legitimate development aspirations of developing coastal states with meaningful, science-based, conservation is a difficult undertaking, but is of utmost importance.

Finding Constructive Solutions

The Atlantic Ocean is home to an array of one-by-one tuna 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 and economic 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 2018 Special Meeting in Dubrovnik, and we are hopeful that the CPCs will find common ground in agreeing to urgently needed management improvements.

International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF)

Our top asks for ICCAT in 2018

1. Adopt stock-specific tuna management measures that are consistent with SCRS advice; consider alternative measures for reducing the mortality of bigeye and yellowfin tuna in the purse seine fishery; fully allocate the bigeye and yellowfin catch limits by gear and/or flag; and, adopt provisions to ensure catches are in compliance with TACs.
2. Immediately address the serious gaps that exist in FAD data reporting, ensure that the ICCAT requirement for non-entangling FADs is being complied with, and promote research into biodegradable FADs.
3. Ensure sufficient funding so that concurrent management strategy evaluation (MSE) processes can be completed within the planned timetables.
4. Strengthen monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) measures, such as Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS), at-sea transshipment regulations and Port State Measures.
5. Increase the observer coverage requirements for large-scale purse seine vessels and longline vessels to support data collection and adopt new binding measures that will ensure the safety of human observers, including those on carrier vessels.

ISSF global priorities for Tuna RFMOs

1. Implementation of rigorous harvest strategies, including harvest control rules and reference points.
2. Effective management of fleet capacity, including developing mechanisms that support developing coastal state engagement in the fishery.
3. Science-based FAD management & non-entangling FAD designs.
4. Increased member compliance with all adopted measures, and greater transparency of processes reviewing member compliance with measures.
5. Strengthened Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) measures and increased observer coverage, including through modern technologies such as electronic monitoring and e-reporting.
6. Adoption of best-practice bycatch mitigation and shark conservation and management measures.

Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW)

ICCAT Must Commit to Rebuilding Stocks and Enacting Fisheries Reforms

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) is responsible for the conservation and management of tunas, sharks, and other highly migratory species in the Atlantic Ocean. At their annual meeting in November, ICCAT members must focus on fulfilling the Commission's mandate and ensuring the sustainability of its valuable fisheries.

The Pew Charitable Trusts calls on members and cooperating non-members at the 21st Special Meeting of ICCAT to take the following critical actions:

End overfishing of Atlantic bigeye tuna and rebuild the highly depleted population

This year's Atlantic bigeye stock assessment revealed that the population is at just 59 per cent of the sustainable level, in worse shape than when ICCAT first adopted a recovery plan in 2015. That flawed plan was not likely to be successful, and now, recovery has been delayed and the job has been made more difficult. Furthermore, overfishing continues unabated, with 2017 catch exceeding the total allowable catch (TAC) by 21 per cent.

ICCAT must adopt a plan that has at least a 50 per cent probability of immediately ending overfishing and 70 per cent probability of rebuilding the highly depleted population by no later than 2028. To do that, the Commission must lower the TAC to 50,000 metric tons, address the exemptions for minor harvesters to ensure that the actual total does not exceed the TAC, and reduce juvenile mortality associated with the use of fish aggregating devices (FADs) to help restore stock productivity. The recovery timeline must not be extended beyond the original 2028 goal, because doing that would be inappropriate given the life history of bigeye and requirements set forth in Rec. 11-13.

Finalize and adopt amendments to modernize the ICCAT Convention text

For six years, ICCAT has been developing a set of amendments meant to modernize the Convention text and bring it in line with the conventions of other regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) around the world. This year, ICCAT must adopt the final recommendations of the working group without delay so that the final amendment package can be signed and the ratification process can proceed.

Advance the management strategy evaluation (MSE) process

In 2017, ICCAT adopted its first MSE-tested harvest control rule (HCR). To continue this progress and remain on the five-year timeline established in Rec. 15-07, the Commission should strengthen the terms of reference for the Standing Working Group on Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers to clarify the role, tasks, and organizational structure of the group to increase its efficiency and effectiveness. Similarly, detail should be added to the road map for development of MSE and HCRs to clarify the responsibilities of the different groups and associated timelines for tasks and decision points. Because a management procedure is slated to be set for Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks in 2020, the Commission must also adopt interim management objectives for these stocks.

Maintain robust monitoring and control measures in the eastern bluefin tuna recovery plan

When revising the non-TAC provisions of Rec. 17-07, the Commission must follow the 2018 advice of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics and "not [weaken] the current monitoring and control measures" to ensure full recovery of the population and compliance with the TAC¹. Importantly, fishing and farming capacity limits must be established to remain commensurate with the quota. Furthermore, to prevent excess effort or exceeding the quota, the Commission should maintain current minimum size limits and fishing seasons for pelagic longlines, purse seines, and pelagic trawls, as well as the current bycatch definition that limits bluefin retention to no more than 5 per cent of total catch for vessels not targeting bluefin. Text should also be added to guide the transition to an MSE-tested management procedure in 2020.

Require 100 per cent observer coverage on longline and purse seine vessels

To ensure that longline and purse seine catches are verifiable and legal, and to increase the quality and availability of scientific data, the Commission should require 100 per cent observer coverage for all longline and purse seine operations and commit to building the infrastructure needed to successfully implement electronic reporting and monitoring.

Increase the transparency of transshipment

Clear rules for transshipment are essential to ensure a strong, legal and verifiable seafood supply chain and reduce opportunities for illicit activities. Pew calls for a ban on transshipment at sea in the Convention area until the best practices outlined here are implemented.

Rec. 16-15 should be updated to require that carrier vessels be flagged to a contracting ICCAT Party, Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity (collectively known as CPCs) in order to be authorized to receive tuna and tuna-like species. Additionally, the Commission should require that all transshipment authorizations and declarations be sent to all relevant authorities in near-real time, mandate that carrier vessels intending to transship notify the Secretariat when entering the Convention area, and ensure that all vessels involved in transshipment are required to carry observers whose duties include providing reports on all transshipments directly to the Secretariat. Finally, transshipped products sourced from ICCAT waters but landed outside the Convention area should be required to be accompanied by transshipment declarations until the first point of sale.

Strengthen port State measures

Illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing (IUU) remains a threat in ICCAT's management area. To better stop illegally caught fish from reaching the market, Pew encourages the Commission to adopt an amendment to Rec. 12-07 that will improve consistency with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization Port State Measures Agreement, as recommended by the 2nd Independent Performance Review of ICCAT. The work of the Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity and Assistance should also continue, to assist with the implementation of ICCAT's port State measures.

Improve vessel monitoring systems

Vessel monitoring systems (VMS) are powerful and commonly used tools to track authorized fishing vessels and to determine whether their activities comply with requirements, such as fishing authorizations or time-area closures. ICCAT should expand VMS requirements across all managed species so procedures are better aligned with those already in place for eastern bluefin tuna.

Implement strong vessel identification rules

Recommendation 2013-13 requires vessels at least 20 meters in length and all fishing for eastern bluefin tuna to have International Maritime Organization (IMO) numbers. However, implementation gaps remain. All CPCs should ensure full compliance with this requirement.

In December 2017, the IMO expanded eligibility for the unique numbers to all motorized fishing vessels, including wooden vessels, down to 12 meters in length, that are authorized to operate outside waters under the national jurisdiction of a flag State. Pew encourages the Commission to remove the exclusion for wooden vessels from Rec. 2013-13, and to update the Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required to require IMO numbers for all eligible vessels.

Adopt conservation and management measures to protect shark species

ICCAT needs stronger protections for threatened shark species, and all shark catch within the Convention Area must be sustainable. The Commission should apply the precautionary principle in adopting measures to safeguard shark species because population data for these species are often limited. A lack of quality data leads to uncertain or inconclusive assessments.

When it adopted Rec. 17-08 on the shortfin mako shark last year, the Commission did not take the necessary precautionary action to allow for the recovery of this highly depleted stock. The numerous exemptions in this recommendation are likely to undermine both its implementation and effectiveness. The best available science indicates that retention of shortfin mako should be fully prohibited to help the stock recover. The Commission also should establish concrete, precautionary catch limits to safeguard the blue shark from overfishing.

Conclusion

Although ICCAT continues to make progress toward science-based management through harvest strategy development and the potential advancement of the Convention Amendment, much work needs to be done to ensure healthy fisheries in the Atlantic. By implementing these recommendations, the Commission would take important steps toward complying with its mandate to scientifically and sustainably manage valuable fish stocks.

Endnotes

- 1 International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, "Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) (Madrid, Spain 1 to 5 October 2018)," (2018).
- 2 David W. Sims, Gonzalo Mucientes, and Nuno Queiroz, "Shortfin Mako Sharks Threatened by Inaction," *Science* 359, no. 6382 (2018): 1342, <http://dx.doi.org/doi:10.1126/science.aat0315>.

World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in representation of three NGOs

Subject: Information on ongoing criminal investigations by Spanish police and Europol on suspected laundering of unreported Eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna catches

We are writing in order to make available information on the ongoing criminal investigation taking place in Spain, with links to Malta and other European countries, in relation to the alleged laundering of significant amounts of unreported Eastern bluefin tuna in recent years.

The allegations involve Spanish companies, French ports and Maltese bluefin tuna farms. The undersigned NGOs would like to respectfully ask you, in your capacity as ICCAT Executive Secretary, to circulate this letter to all ICCAT Contracting Parties.

We believe that such serious allegations provide a strong rationale for caution in any decision related to the management of bluefin tuna at the upcoming 21st Special Meeting of ICCAT and demand further consideration and follow up by the Commission.

What is known about the on-going police operation and court case

On 27 June 2018, Spanish media reported that a police operative in collaboration with Europol – called Operation Tarantelo – raided the premises of several Spanish companies working on the bluefin tuna fishing and fattening business.¹ Searches were made in companies' offices in Almería, Barcelona, Cádiz, Málaga, Madrid, Murcia and Valencia,² in addition to premises in Mercamadrid. The "epicenter" of the operation was reported to be in "warehouses of societies linked to the group Ricardo Fuentes e Hijos S.A."¹

A more recent media article published on 28 September shed more light into the investigation.² The article, quoting direct information from police officials involved in the operation, explained that the police estimates at least 2,500 unreported tonnes of bluefin tuna would have been imported into Spain from Maltese farms in the last few years. This activity would be, according to the allegations, directed by Spanish company Ricardo Fuentes e Hijos. The sources consider the amount of tuna a "conservative estimate". According to the article, Europol would be interested in the investigations as research would have connections with "countries such as Malta, Italy, France and Portugal."

On 16 October 2018, a joint press release by the Spanish Civil Guard and Europol announced that "76 individuals involved in the trade of illegally fished tuna and non-compliance with health regulations" had been arrested. The PR states that 49 searches and inspections were made resulting in the seizure of over 80,000 kilos of illegally caught bluefin tuna as well as "a large amount of documentation that would prove the 'money-laundering' involved in the marketing of illegally fished tuna and their illegal earnings."

The companies under investigation are said to have been "using the legal part of their business activities to introduce in the market a large amount of illegally-caught tuna." The joint press release explains that "although the activity of the companies under investigation was based in Spain, most of the fish came from other countries. Particularly, one of the sources was Malta from where some pieces were legally sent by air while part of them was introduced in the country by road using legal documentation to cover this illicit trade [...] French ports were used for transferring the illegal goods from Italy to Malta." According to the investigators "the annual volume of legally fished tuna from Malta amounted to 1,250,000 kilos, however the undeclared volume sold was twice that amount, over 2,500,000 kilos. Considering that the minimum profit made from each kilogram is €5, data shows that they would have unlawfully obtained a total amount of €12,500,000 per year."³

¹ <https://www.laverdad.es/murcia/golpe-policial-internacional-20180627011734-ntvo.html> (as accessed on 19 October 2018).

² https://www.elconfidencial.com/espana/2018-09-28/atun-rojo-mercado-negro-guardia-civil-espana-europa_1596739/ (as accessed on 19 October 2018).

³ <http://www.guardiacivil.es/es/prensa/noticias/6768.html>.

The loopholes continue

The article from El Confidencial² and the press release from the Guardia Civil/Europol³ describe some of the mechanisms allegedly used to launder the tuna, which include:

- the use of the same BCD numbers for the different bluefin tuna shipments in sale bills in different Spanish regions, avoiding detection of the same numbers;
- the transport of tuna in false bottoms under the deck of the vessel;
- the removal of bluefin tuna from the farms in the absence of an observer and claims to insurance companies for bluefin tuna allegedly escaped into the sea;
- the introduction in the cages of free tuna which swim towards the tuna cages attracted by the tuna inside;
- killing tuna in the cages and tying some of them to the bottom of the cage to avoid detection by the observer. Once the observer leaves the farm, the tuna tied to the bottom of the cage is surfaced and sold in the black market.

Implications for ICCAT

If proven true, these allegations seriously put into question the bluefin tuna successful story. In 2016, 2,500 tonnes of unreported bluefin tuna would amount to over 13% of the total bluefin tuna quota (or almost a quarter, over 22.3%, of the EU quota). In 2017, they would amount to 11% of the total bluefin tuna quota (or almost a fifth, over 18.5%, of the EU quota).

This would be happening in the so-called best controlled tuna fishery in the world, with 100% observer coverage on board purse seiners; 100% observers on tug boats; 100% observers on tuna farm operations; mandatory stereoscopic cameras in all tuna transfers; centralized VMS and a range of other measures. But even then, unsophisticated mechanisms seem to be enough to allow this industry to smuggle thousands of tons of farmed bluefin tuna at European tuna farms and ports. The ability of ICCAT CPCs to ensure oversight of this industry is therefore a question mark.

We, the undersigned NGOs, strongly call on all ICCAT CPCs gathering in November in Dubrovnik to:

- invite the Spanish Civil Guard and Europol to present the findings of the investigation at the next session of the ICCAT Compliance Committee;
- demand that the EU reports to the ICCAT Compliance Committee on whatever details are available to EU authorities on this case, as well as on what follow up they are planning to do and what investigations they have carried out as a result;
- call on the ICCAT Compliance Committee to enforce, once the process is finished, applicable compliance rules to the effect that any amount of unreported bluefin tuna will be deducted from subsequent years' allocations (notably ICCAT Recommendation 00-14 on compliance with measures that define quotas and/or catch limits).

Finally and in the face of such shocking figures and the potential levels of IUU fishing in the bluefin tuna fishery, we urge ICCAT Contracting Parties to, at a minimum, not further increase BFT quotas or weaken in any way the provisions of the existing bluefin tuna measures.

Joint statement of the Eastern Atlantic Sustainable Tuna Initiative (EASTI), the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the Organización de Productores Asociados de Grandes Atuneros Congeladores (OPAGAC)

The vessel owners and industry participants of fishery improvement projects (FIPs) in the Atlantic Ocean submit this letter in line with the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) and the Global Tuna Sustainability Appeal to acknowledge progress to date in ICCAT and encourage additional support for measures that will further tuna conservation at the Commission meeting beginning November 12, 2018.

The priorities reflected here, including the comprehensive management of tropical tunas, are included in the FIP to help the fishery be eligible to meet the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) standard for certification.

Precautionary harvest strategies

The work done to date on a harvest control rule for North Atlantic albacore serves as a successful precedent for ICCAT to implement a comprehensive harvest strategy for all tuna stocks.

The role of management strategy evaluation (MSE) is integral to support precautionary and effective harvest strategies. We seek member state delegations to advocate and ensure sufficient funding so that the MSE processes can be completed in the planned timeframe.

Additional work to validate the catch per unit effort (CPUE) of longline vessels is needed and can improve gaps in information on catch due to limited observer coverage and improve management across gear types.

Reduce environmental impact

The purse seine FIPs are committed to providing FAD data that improves the scientific monitoring and management of fisheries with FAD usage. The improved definitions and data reporting form based on the SCRS recommendations must be adopted with provisions to ensure compliance.

Additional measures must also be taken to mitigate incidental catch and maximize release survival of sharks, mobulid rays, and sea turtles, including adopting best practices for handling and release as in other tuna RFMOs.

Effective and fair enforcement

The lack of complete total allowable catch (TAC) accountability makes it difficult for the Commission to take corrective measures that address overfishing of bigeye and yellowfin, where both TACs have been exceeded in recent years. Management measures must be adopted for yellowfin and bigeye consistent with SCRS advice.

Interim measures should be applied to manage capacity through closed vessel registries and ensure that stocks are maintained at target reference levels where the probability of breaching limit reference points is low.

Alternative measures to reduce juvenile mortality of bigeye and yellowfin tuna in the purse seine fishery should also be considered, and in-season monitoring of catches could be adopted to help avoid overshooting of catch limits.

Making the schedule of actions to improve compliance binding will ensure a strong compliance process and contribute to transparent, fair, and effective enforcement in ICCAT.

Observer safety and security

The minimum levels of observer coverage for all major fishing gears should be increased to 20% based on SCRS recommendations and compliance strengthened. The large-scale purse seine vessels represented here continue to implement 100% observer coverage voluntarily, and the FAD Working Group recommendation that 100% observer coverage extend to cover all purse seine fleets year-round should be considered.

New binding measures should be adopted to better ensure observer safety, including those on carrier vessels.

3.4 STATEMENTS REGARDING THE CONVENTION AMENDMENT PROCESS

Guatemala

Dear Mr. Chairman,

The Republic of Guatemala reiterates the assurances of its full respect and consideration.

Further to your Circular #8107/18 received this week, we would like to express our appreciation for your effort and that of the Secretariat in guiding the important work that the Commission will carry out throughout its meetings which will be held from 10 to 19 November in the city of Dubrovnik and we commit to the success required to achieve the Commission's important objectives, in particular, regarding the conservation of tunas and the adoption of the new Convention text.

The delegation of Guatemala would like to reiterate to you and to all the other CPCs that, pursuant to our joint efforts, we have the sufficient mandate and powers to adopt, without further delay, the new text of the Convention, allowing our countries immediately to start the ratification and deposit to modernize our fundamental legal framework. We understand that when we review the agenda of the Working Group on Convention Amendment, we will have the opportunity to adopt the text and the relevant recommendations in accordance to what we agreed in the last Working Group meeting held in Madeira, Portugal.

For our delegation, the modernization that ICCAT requires, through the update of its Convention, cannot be delayed any further and therefore with an updated legal framework we will be granted greater operational projection and greater consistency as regards our short, medium and long-term actions. We would like to endorse the process together with the other Delegations.

Your sincerely,

(Signed and stamped)

Byron Omar Acevedo Cordón
Vice Minister of Agricultural Health and Regulations,
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food
Directorate of Fisheries and Aquiculture Standardization (DIPESCA)

Honduras

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to write to you regarding your correspondence #6702/18 and #8107/18 on priorities and logistical matters for the forthcoming Commission meeting.

Honduras agrees with you on the importance of our work and, in particular, the work that will be carried out during the next 21st Special Commission meeting that will be held from 12 to 19 November. We commit to fulfill the objectives of the Commission and we trust in your leadership and the support of the Secretariat, and wish you all the success in these meetings.

In that context, the quick adoption of the new Convention text is a special and fundamental issue. Within the framework of the Working Group and after a long process, all of us CPCs have successfully produced a new text which guarantees to modernize the Commission. Today, we would like to ensure that this process is concluded without further delay through the planned adoption, as recommended by the Working Group, so that the text, its annexes, and its interpretative resolutions, are adopted as a package.

In response to your request, Honduras participates in the 21st Special Commission meeting with sufficient credentials and capacities to comply with that adoption objective. Honoring your effort, that of your predecessors, the effort of the Secretariat and that of the Chair of the Working Group herself, we trust that the distinguished CPC delegations, who will be with us at this meeting, will show this motivation and the credentials and capacities for adoption, or if necessary, will carry out consistent efforts to guarantee these capacities for the right moment during the meeting.

With the assurance of my highest assurances, we would like to express appreciation for circulating this information to other delegations.

Your sincerely,

(signed and stamped)

Eng. José Luis Osorio Medina
General Director of Fisheries and Aquaculture
Head Delegate to ICCAT Republic of Honduras

Nicaragua

Managua, 8 November 2018
PE/EJA/483/11/2018
Mr. Raul Delgado, ICCAT Chair

Mr. Chair,

We hereby extend our greetings and reiterated respect to you. In reference to your letter No. 8107/2018 sent on the same date, Nicaragua shows its appreciation and shares these considerations. The Commission's work is of the utmost importance and relies on our joint effort.

The 21st Special Meeting of the Commission promises to be a historic success. The challenges included in the agendas will be addressed positively for the purposes of sustainable use of resources and entitlement to development of CPCs, in particular, developing coastal countries.

We agree with you that it is important to modernize the Convention that constitutes the legal framework of ICCAT. Nicaragua wishes therefore to highlight the effort of the Parties, Secretariat, Chairs and Vice Chairs and in particular the Chair of the Working Group on Convention Amendment, which concluded with the proposal that is likely to be adopted as the new text of the Convention, which takes the joint form of the documents and instruments that we agreed upon in Madeira, Portugal, at the beginning of the year.

Nicaragua wishes to confirm to you that, in response to the recommendation noted in the report of the Working Group, we wish that, following the effort made, the new text be adopted in such a manner so as to ensure the most balanced and least costly transition for the Commission. Nicaragua confirms that its delegation has full powers to support adoption of the text, its annexes and the recommendations described in the report of the Working Group. We trust that the other delegations have the same commitment and the same powers. In the future we will remember that the new text of the Convention was approved in Dubrovnik, whose entry into force will also take place through the formal channels with the support of all members in the near future.

We thank you for your commitment and guidance during the meeting with that objective and we request that this note be distributed to the delegations in attendance at the meeting.

Please allow me to reiterate to you Nicaragua's commitment to the joint, constructive and efficient work which characterizes ICCAT.

Edward Jackson Abella
Executive Chair
Nicaraguan Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture
INPESCA
(signed and stamped)

Venezuela

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela expresses its sincere gratitude to the ICCAT working group tasked with producing, based on consensus, the final version of the proposal to amend the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, which will be referred to the Plenary for approval at the 21st Special Meeting of the Commission, held from 12 to 19 November 2018.

In this regard, we consider that the version in the final report (Doc. No. PLE-103/2018) includes the observations and considerations of the Parties, particularly in relation to the basis for dispute settlement through peaceful and friendly means, and if a dispute is not settled through these mechanisms, it can be referred to arbitration, but only following a joint request by the parties to the dispute, in accordance with the provisions of Article VIII bis.

In our view, this version is viable and feasible for approval, as it is consistent with the principles and values that govern the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, such as promoting brotherly ties with nations through dialogue, negotiation and reconciliation, which has been a historical objective in national and international spaces.

REPORTS OF INTER-SESSIONAL MEETINGS

4.1 REPORT OF THE INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 2 (Madrid, Spain, 5-7 March 2018)

1 Opening of the meeting

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

2 Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements

Noting some issues to be raised under other matters, 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**), and outlined the arrangements for the meeting. He also introduced Mr. Camille Manel, the ICCAT Executive Secretary elect and Dr Francisco Alemany, the new ICCAT GBYP Coordinator.

3 Appointment of the Rapporteur

The ICCAT Secretariat was designated as the Rapporteur.

4 Consideration of fishing, inspection, and capacity management plans for 2018 presented by CPCs with E-BFT quota

Albania

Albania indicated that there were few changes from their previous fishing plans. It was clarified that, despite having the same name, the vessel to which the quota had been allocated was a new, larger vessel. Albania also clarified that it did not intend to provide inspection means for the Joint International Inspection Scheme (JIS), but that its vessels would cooperate if inspected. Albania also clarified that fish sampling measurements would be carried out in accordance with ICCAT standards and agreed to modify the text to better reflect this.

A discrepancy was also found in the Albanian capacity table, which seemed to be a mistake. The United States offered to assist Albania with the corrections, and suggested that the capacity tables in general needed to be unified regarding under/over-capacity, with under-capacity being denoted by a negative sign and over-capacity by a plus sign.

It was noted by several CPCs that no allocation had been set aside for by-catch by other vessels or of by-catch of undersized fish. This lacuna was also reflected in the fishing plans of other CPCs, and it was agreed that a common and unified approach would be required in the revision of the plans. It was also noted that if by-catch was greater than the reserve which had been set aside, CPCs would need to deduct the overharvest from their following year's quota.

Albania agreed to submit a revised fishing plan to take into account the concerns which had been raised. The revised plan was submitted and was endorsed by the Panel.

Algeria

Algeria reported that the main changes to the fishing plan for 2018 had been the improvements taken into account as a result of the CPC comments to the 2017 plan, and on the issues which had been raised by the observers during the last fishing season. New legislation had been introduced to control by-catch, and a 6 ton reserve had been set aside to cover this. Algeria indicated its intention to operate 3 farms which had been established in 2017 and which would be stocked from the catches of Algerian purse seiners.

Several CPCs requested clarifications in relation to the issues of by-catch, joint inspection scheme and the new farms, particularly given the limitation on farming capacity stipulated in Rec. 17-07. Algeria clarified that all authorized vessels were issued with permits, and that the new legislation encompassed a framework for the reporting and collection of by-catch data. The Delegate of Algeria also clarified that Algeria would not be providing inspection means for the JIS, as the number of vessels actually operating would be less than the maximum specified in the plan. The Delegate of Algeria confirmed that should the number of vessels actually operating exceed 15, then Algeria would participate in the JIS and provide an inspection vessel.

For the farming issue, Algeria explained that the added value of bluefin tuna was linked to fattening, and therefore wished to become involved in this activity. The fish to be caged would be from Algeria's quota, and all ICCAT requirements would be respected. Japan agreed that the capacity limitations probably needed to be revised at the forthcoming Commission meeting, but at present a limit on capacity remained.

Algeria agreed to submit a revised plan in order to take into account some of the concerns raised. The revised plan was endorsed by the Panel, with one minor amendment.

China

China presented its 2018 plan, noting that it was similar to past years, with two longline vessels operating. To clarify the lack of by-catch provision, China confirmed that this was not an issue as most fishing took place in the area west of 10 W and north of 42 N and Chinese vessels fishing for other species did not operate in that area and the Mediterranean Sea, and no bluefin tuna by-catch had been found in the other fisheries.

The Chinese plan was endorsed by the Panel.

Egypt

Egypt presented its plan, noting that in 2018, only one vessel would operate. Concerns similar to those previously raised regarding lack of provision for a by-catch reserve were expressed, as well as treatment of undersized fish and while it was noted that all fish landed at port are inspected, the question of timing remained.

Egypt agreed to submit requested edits to their plan. The revised plan was endorsed by the Panel.

European Union

The European Union highlighted several aspects of its 2018 plan, including the fact that all ICCAT Recommendations had been transposed into European law. The comments which EU had received on their 2017 plan had been taken into account in the drafting of the 2018 plan. The EU indicated that it was not clear that there was obligation to report discards of fish below minimum size, and this was an issue which needed to be clarified under the new management plan.

The EU was asked to clarify the dramatic increase in capacity for baitboat and other gears, and to specify the reporting obligations for vessels of less than 10 metres. In addition, requests were made for improved language in the sections dealing with minimum size and by-catch provisions as well as the sport and recreational fishery elements, to avoid any possible confusion.

The EU agreed to submit an amended plan which would specify the one fish per vessel per day limit on recreational/sport fishery, as well as adding a footnote on the artisanal vessels to explain differences between the text and capacity table, as well as including clearer language on the issues raised.

This revised fishing plan with two further amendments was endorsed by the Panel.

Iceland

Iceland began their presentation by noting that a level playing field was needed with respect to the counting of catches against quotas. Iceland had set aside a 4 ton reserve for by-catch, and confirmed that if its annual TAC were exceeded, Iceland would deduct the amount from the 2019 quota. The EU requested that Iceland provide additional information on the ban on transshipments, and Iceland agreed to do this.

The revised fishing plan was endorsed by the Panel.

Japan

Japan presented its 2018 plan indicating little change from the 2017 plan. As the number of fishing vessels was not known at this stage, it was confirmed that this would be communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat in accordance with the requirements. A by-catch reserve would be established and the amount would be included in this communication, even though it was very unlikely that other Japanese vessels operating in the Convention area would take by-catch of bluefin tuna, given the very different areas of operation.

Japan was requested to revise their plan to add the clarifications on by-catch and undersized discards, and to include information on logbook reporting.

The revised plan submitted by Japan and was endorsed by the Panel with two minor additions.

Korea

Korea presented its plan, reporting that between two and four longlines would be authorized to fish in 2018, and the exact number would be reported as soon as the internal process was completed. As with other CPCs, Korea was requested to include language on potential by-catches or treatment of undersize fish, in addition to clarifying that the Korea would adhere to the VMS requirements.

Korea agreed to submit a revised plan, which was endorsed by the Panel, with one addition.

Libya

Libya gave an overview of their 2018 plan, indicating few changes. Libya was not expecting that by-catch would occur in other fisheries, but had set aside 3.1% of the quota to cover such an eventuality. The EU suggested that other CPCs look to the Libyan plan for an example of the type of provision which should be included in relation to by-catch. The United States suggested that the by-catch quota be deducted from the capacity table.

With the changes incorporated, Libya's fishing plan for 2018 was endorsed.

Morocco

Morocco also indicated that there were no significant changes from the previous years' plan, but outlined the sacrifices which had been made by the Moroccan fisheries over the years. Several CPCs raised questions regarding the plan, specifically regarding the operation of baitboats, whether the farms were associated with traps, catch recording for vessels without specific authorization, treatment of fish under minimum size and VMS reporting. Morocco clarified that there were no baitboats and that the vessels operated with handline or longline.

These clarifications were included in a revised plan, which was endorsed by the Panel, with one amendment.

Norway

Norway presented its plan on their fishery with two purse seiners. As Norway had lodged a formal objection to Rec. 17-07, the Panel noted the fishing plan submitted, but it was not appropriate to endorse it. Norway confirmed its intention to fully implement the provisions of Rec. 17-07.

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 details are required on: What reserve has been set aside for possible by-catch. If none, explain why Syria could not take by-catches; confirmation that fish under minimum size beyond the limit of tolerance will be discarded and counted against the quota; VMS messages will be sent to the ICCAT Secretariat at least every four hours from 15 days before the start of the fishing season until 15 days after the end of the season; the apparent intention to transfer the previous year's quota; and clarification of whether or not the Syrian vessel intends to participate in a Joint Fishing Operation (JFO). A response will be requested by 12 March 2018 so that the additional information can be presented to Parties for review to determine whether to endorse the plan prior to 31 March 2018, in accordance with paragraph 8 of Rec. 17-07. If no serious fault is found by any CPC to the response, then the plan will be considered endorsed. The letter to Syria is attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.1**.

Tunisia

Tunisia presented its plan, noting a significant increase in the number of purse seine vessels in relation to the 2017 plan, made possible by the increase in quota. Tunisia clarified that by-catches of fish under minimum size will be released and counted against the quota. Information regarding any changes in the risk assessment carried out for the Joint Inspection Scheme was requested. Tunisia confirmed that steps had been taken to enhance inspection measures to take account of the increase in fishing vessels. Tunisia also responded to a request for clarification regarding a high amount of discards in 2014, but with no reports for other years, informing the Panel that previously fish had been discarded without being reported.

Tunisia submitted a revised plan to clarify the points raised, and this modified plan was endorsed by the Panel with a few additional minor changes.

Turkey

Turkey presented its plan, indicating that 10% of the quota had been set aside for by-catch. Inspection means had been reinforced for 2018. Questions arose regarding the treatment of under-sized fish if taken at levels over the tolerance limit, as well as with regard to data collection for sport and recreational fisheries, the use of stereoscopic cameras and the terminology used for other vessels. Turkey confirmed that all catches of undersized fish would be counted against its quota; that both bound and electronic logbooks will be used by Turkish vessels; that recreational vessels needed a specific license linked to reporting obligations and that stereoscopic cameras were used on 100% of caging operations.

Turkey submitted a revised plan to include the clarifications which had been requested and this revised plan was endorsed by the Panel, following review and additional revision.

Chinese Taipei

As in previous years, Chinese Taipei's plan indicated that no fishing would occur in 2018, and part of their quota had been transferred to Korea. Chinese Taipei explained that no bluefin by-catch had been reported by observers on board vessels involved in other Atlantic Ocean fisheries. This was due to other fisheries, e.g. for tropical tunas, taking place in areas where bluefin tuna were not present.

The plan submitted by Chinese Taipei was endorsed by the Panel.

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, Tunisia, Turkey and Chinese Taipei.

It was decided to send a letter seeking clarifications to Syria, requesting a response by 12 March 2018 and to distribute to Parties for review via correspondence. If no CPC finds serious fault with the revised plan requested from Syria by 31 March, the plan will be deemed endorsed.

As Norway had lodged a formal objection to Rec. 17-07, no endorsement of their plan was appropriate.

The fishing plans are attached as **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.1**.

6 Possible adjustments of E-BFT quotas for 2019 and 2020 by use of the reserves

The Chair of Panel 2 explained that the allocation of fishing possibilities for 2018 had been agreed at the 25th Regular Meeting, but several CPCs had expressed dissatisfaction with their quota. The discussion therefore should concentrate on adjustments to the 2019 and 2020 quotas for those CPCs who had expressed their concerns that certain specific needs had not been met, and not on the allocation of the total reserves. It had already been agreed that the allocation keys would be re-considered in 2020. The Chair presented a table showing the quota allocations in 2005 and that of 2020, noting that those CPCs who had suffered reductions had had their quotas restored to 2005 levels.

It was noted by some that the table presented by the Chair did not show any history before 2005, as several CPCs had catches and/or quotas before that time which were not reflected in current quota shares.

While some CPCs agreed that the use of the reserves should follow a precautionary approach, and that such reserves should not be allocated in their entirety, others questioned this rationale, seeing nothing to be gained by not allocating the full amounts.

There was also some discussion on which fisheries should benefit from any additional quota, with some CPCs believing that the major share should go to the artisanal fisheries of developing countries, others suggested they be divided in accordance with existing allocation keys while many CPCs believed that they should be used to redress what, in their view, were injustices in the allocation.

Several CPCs reiterated their positions regarding the criteria used to determine the allocation key, and were of the view that the process of reviewing these should be started as early as possible, in order to be in a position to reach consensus in 2020.

The Chair asked which CPCs required a share of the reserves; all concerned CPCs responded in the affirmative. CPCs with a Mediterranean coastline stressed in particular the sacrifices which had been made by the artisanal fisheries following the decline of the stock. Many of these fisheries were subsistence fisheries, and the prohibition on catching bluefin tuna caused significant hardship to some of the poorest sectors. Others indicated that their historical share had not been restored as had been the case with other CPCs, and considered that the allocation of part of the reserve would be an opportunity to redress this. All involved in the fishery considered that they had contributed to the recovery of the stock, and that this should be taken into account. Algeria, Korea and Morocco presented written statements which are attached as **Appendices 5, 6 and 7 to ANNEX 4.1**. Chinese Taipei supported the idea highlighted in Korea's statement and requested that its legitimate rights and conservation efforts for the past years should be favorably considered in future quota allocations.

CPCs generally agreed during the meeting that the adjustment of quotas should primarily address the needs of the artisanal fleets. Based on these discussions, the Chair presented a proposal to allocate 73.3% of the 2019 and 2020 reserves, (476 t and 550 t respectively, leaving a precautionary unallocated reserve of 174 t for 2019 and 200 t for 2020). Several parties, including EU, Norway and Turkey, expressed their dissatisfaction, but in a spirit of compromise, were willing to accept the Chair's proposal. The initial proposal, however, did not meet with the approval of Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco or Chinese Taipei. Several of these CPCs were of the view that more of the reserve should be allocated in order to try to reach consensus. Following the discussion, the Chair presented a revised proposal allocating 85% of the reserves (550 t for 2019 and 635t for 2020), leaving a reserve of 100 t and 115 t for 2019 and 2020 respectively, which was accepted by the Panel. It was agreed that this would be put forward for adoption at the next Commission meeting. The Chair's proposal is attached as **Appendix 8 to ANNEX 4.1**.

7 Other matters

Work schedule for the revision of a management plan for E-BFT

The Chair invited the European Union to suggest a work plan for the development of a management plan for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna. The EU suggested that all CPCs take as a starting point the first revision of the draft plan which had been put forward at the 25th Regular meeting. All CPCs were invited to send written comments, preferably using track changes and the comments function on a Word version of the document before the end of April 2018.

The EU would then enter into bilateral contacts as necessary with the various CPCs and amalgamate all comments and suggestions into one consolidated text, with the aim of circulating, in October 2018, a complete draft which could be adopted by consensus at the next annual meeting. The Panel members agreed with this approach.

Work schedule for the revision of the keys for allocation of fishing possibilities for EBFT

It was agreed that this issue be deferred to the annual meeting of the Commission.

Requests for clarifications

The Panel reviewed several requests for clarification from the ROP-BFT consortium (observer program) to which responses had been sent in writing by several CPCs. As there were no major conflicts among the responses, it was agreed that these would be sent to the ROP-BFT implementing consortium. The questions and the clarifications are contained in **Appendix 9 to ANNEX 4.1**.

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. Nomination of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the agenda and meeting arrangements
4. Consideration of fishing, inspection and capacity management plans for 2018 presented by CPCs with E-BFT quota
5. Determination of actions to be taken with respect to the plans presented under item 4
6. Possible adjustment to E-BFT quotas for 2019 and 2020 by use of the reserves
7. Other matters
8. Adoption of report and adjournment

List of Participants

CONTRACTING PARTIES

ALBANIA

Palluqi, Arian*

Responsible in charge sector, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Fisheries Directorate, Blv. "Dëshmoret e Kombit", Nr.2, kp.1001, Tiranë, Shqipëri

Tel: + 355 68 23 14 180; +355 4223 2796, Fax: +355 4223 2796, E-Mail: Arian.Palluqi@bujqesia.gov.al

ALGERIA

Hammouche, Taha *

Directeur Général de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture, Route des Quatre Canons, 16001

Tel: +213 21 43 39 39, Fax: +2113 21 43 39 38, E-Mail: taha.hamouche@live.fr

Kaddour, Omar

Directeur du Développement de la Pêche, Ministère de l'Agriculture, du Développement Rural et de la Pêche, Route des Quatre Canons, 16001

Tel: +213 21 43 31 97, Fax: +213 21 43 31 97, E-Mail: dpmo@mpeche.gov.dz; kadomar13@gmail.com

CHINA, (P. R.)

Liu, Ce *

Deputy Director, Department of High Seas Fisheries, China Overseas Fisheries Association Room No. 1216 Jingchao Mansion, No. 5, Nongzhanguannanlu, Chao Yang district, Beijing Chaoyang District

Tel: +86 10 6585 7057, Fax: +86 10 6585 0551, E-Mail: liuce1029@163.com; admin1@tuna.org.cn

Sui, Heng Shou

Deputy General Manager, CNFC Overseas Fisheries Co., Ltd, No. 31 Minfeng Lane. Xicheng District, Beijing

Tel: +86 10 8806 7139, Fax: +86 10 8806 7572, E-Mail: suihengshou@cnfc.com.cn

EGYPT

El Sharawee, Nasser *

Head of Central Department of Development and Projects, General Authority for Fish Resources Development (GAFRD), 4, Tayaran Street, Nasr City District, Cairo

Tel: +201 000 674 948, Fax: +202 226 04046, E-Mail: n_sha3rawe@hotmail.com; gafr_eg@hotmail.com; n.elshaarawe@gmail.com

Abdelmessih, Magdy Kamal Mikhail

14 Aly Abn Aby Taalep, Abo qir, Alexandria

Tel: +203 5625700, Fax: +203 5626070, E-Mail: info@elkamoush.com; m.mahmoud@elkamoush.com

Abdelnaby Kaamouh, Mohamed Ibrahim

General Authority for Fish Resources Development, 14 Aly Abn Aby Taalep, Abo Qir, Alexandria

Tel: +203 5625700, Fax: +203 5626070, E-Mail: info@elkamoush.com; m.mahmoud@elkamoush.com

Abdou Mahmoud Tawfeek Hammam, Doaa

General Authority for fish Resources Development, Plot 210 - Sector II - City Center - 5t assembly, Cairo

Tel: +111 750 7513, Fax: +281 17015, E-Mail: doahammam01@gmail.com

EUROPEAN UNION

Jessen, Anders *

Head of Unit - European Commission, DG Mare B 2, Rue Joseph II, 99, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +32 2 299 24 57, E-Mail: anders.jessen@ec.europa.eu

* Head of delegation.

Aláez Pons, Ester

International Relations Officer, European Commission - DG MARE - Unit B2 - RFMOs, Rue Joseph II - 99 03/057, 1049 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 296 48 14, E-Mail: ester.alaez-pons@ec.europa.eu

Kaatz, Christina

Administrator, Council of the European Union, General Secretariat, Directorate General Agriculture, Fisheries, Social Affairs and Health, Directorate 2 - Fisheries, Food Chain and Veterinary Questions, Unit A – Fisheries, JL 40 GH 26, Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 175, 1048 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 (0)2 281 8174; Mobile: +32 (0)470 884404, E-Mail: christina.kaatz@consilium.europa.eu

Vázquez Álvarez, Francisco Javier

European Commission DG Maritime B2 Affairs and Fisheries, Rue Joseph II - 99, 1049 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 295 83 64, E-Mail: francisco-javier.vazquez-alfarez@ec.europa.eu

Abreu Gouveia, Nuno Manuel

Director Serviços, SRAP - Direção Regional de Pescas, Direção Serviços de Inspeção e Controlo - DSICPraça da Autonomia nº 1, Edifício da Sociedade Metropolitana de Câmara de Lobos, 9300-138 Câmara de Lobos, Portugal
Tel: +351 291 203200, Fax: +351 291 229691, E-Mail: nuno.gouveia@madeira.gov.pt

Ansell, Neil

European Fisheries Control Agency, Avenida García Barbón 4, 36201 Vigo, Spain
Tel: +34 986 120 658; +34 698 122 046, E-Mail: neil.ansell@efca.europa.eu

Brull Cuevas, M^a Carmen

Panchilleta, S.L.U.; Pesqueries Elorz, S.L.U., C/ Cala Pepo, 7, 43860 L'Ametlla de Mar, Spain
Tel: +34 977 456 783; +34 639 185 342, Fax: +34 977 456 783, E-Mail: carme@panchilleta.es

Centenera Ulecia, Rafael

Subdirector General de Acuerdos y Organizaciones Regionales de Pesca, Dirección General de Recursos Pesqueros y Acuicultura, Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente, C/ Velázquez, 144 2^a Planta, 28006 Madrid, Spain
Tel: +34 91 347 6045; +34 679 434 613; +34 606 632 878, Fax: +34 91 347 6042, E-Mail: rcentene@mapama.es; orgmulpm@mapama.es

Conte, Fabio

Dipartimento delle Politiche Europee e Internazionali, Ministero delle Politiche Agricole, Alimentari e Forestali, Direzione Generale della Pesca Marittima e dell'Acquacoltura - PEMAC III Via XX Settembre, 20, 00187 Rome, Italy
Tel: +39 06 4665 2838, Fax: +39 06 4665 2899, E-Mail: f.conte@politicheagricole.it

Fenech Farrugia, Andreina

Director General, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change, Ghammieri, Ngiered Road, MRS 3303 Marsa, Malta
Tel: +356 229 26841; +356 994 06894, Fax: +356 220 31246, E-Mail: andreina.fenech-farrugia@gov.mt

Fernández Despiau, Estrella

Inspectora de Pesca, Ministerio de Agricultura y Pesca, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente, Secretaría General de Pesca, S.G. Control e Inspección C/ Velázquez, 147 - 3^a planta, 28002 Madrid, Spain
Tel: +34 91 347 84 40, E-Mail: efernandezd@mapama.es

Giovannone, Vittorio

Ministerio delle Politiche Agricole, Alimentari e Forestali, Direzione Generali della Pesca Marittima e dell'Acquacoltura – PEMAC VI Via XX Settembre, 20, 00187 Rome, Italy
Tel: +39 06 4665 2839, Fax: +39 06 4665 2899, E-Mail: v.giovannone@politicheagricole.it

Jones, Sarah

Marine and Fisheries, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Room 8A Millbank c/o Nobel House, Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR, United Kingdom
Tel: +0208 0264575, E-Mail: Sarah.Jones@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Kafouris, Savvas

Fisheries and Marine Research Officer, Department of Fisheries and Marine Research (DFMR); Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment 101, Vithleem Street, 1416 Nicosia, Cyprus
Tel: +357 993 56171, Fax: +357 2231 5709, E-Mail: skafouris@dfmr.moa.gov.cy

Lanza, Alfredo

Ministerio delle Politiche Agricole, Alimentari e Forestali, Direzione Generali della Pesca Marittima e dell'acquacoltura - PEMAC VI Via XX Settembre, 20, 00187 Rome, Italy
Tel: +39 06 46652843, Fax: +39 06 46652899, E-Mail: a.lanza@politicheagricole.it

Le Galloudec, Fabien

Ministère de l'Agriculture, Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture, Tour Séquoïa, 92055 La Défense, Cedex, France
Tel: +33 1 40 81 91 78; +33 674 924 493, Fax: +33 1 40 81 86 56, E-Mail: fabien.le-galloudec@developpement-durable.gouv.fr

Lizcano Palomares, Antonio

Subdirector Adjunto de la Subdirección General de Acuerdos y Organizaciones Regionales de Pesca, Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente, Secretaría General de Pesca, C/ Velázquez, 144 2ª Planta, 28006 Madrid, Spain
Tel: +34 91 347 6047, Fax: 91 347 60 42, E-Mail: alizcano@mapama.es

Lopes, Luís

Chefe de Divisao, Divisao de Recursos Externos, Av. Brasilia, 1449-030 Lisbon, Portugal
Tel: +351 213035720, Fax: +351 213035922, E-Mail: llopes@dgrm.mm.gov.pt

Mendes Henriques Delgado, Joao Manuel

Direção Regional de Pescas, Madeira, Portugal
Tel: +351 291 203 243, E-Mail: joao.delgado@madeira.gov.pt

Petrina Abreu, Ivana

Ministry of Agriculture - Directorate of Fishery, Ulica Grada Vukovara 78, Planiska 2a, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia
Tel: +385 164 43171, Fax: +385 164 43200, E-Mail: ipetrina@mps.hr

Pignalosa, Paolo

Scientific Technical Consultant, Oceanis srl, Via Marittima, 59, 80056 Napoli Ercolano, Italy
Tel: +39 33 566 99324; +39 81 777 5116, E-Mail: oceanisrsl@gmail.com

Santos Padilla, Ana

Org. Prod. Pesqueros de Almadraba (OPP-51), Avda. Luis de Morales, 32 - Edificio Forum, Planta 3ª - Modulo 31, 41018 Seville, Spain
Tel: + 34 954 987 938; 672 134 677, Fax: +34 954 988 692, E-Mail: anasantos@atundealmadraba.com; almadrabacp@atundealmadraba.com

White, Maeve

National Seafood Centre, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine Clogheen, Clonakilty, Co Cork, Ireland
Tel: +35 868 224 326, E-Mail: maeve.white@agriculture.gov.ie

ICELAND

Helgason, Kristján Freyr *

Counsellor for Industries and Innovation, Embassy of Iceland, Icelandic Mission to the European Union, Round-Point Schuman 11, 1040 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 238 50 17; +32 497 493 734, Fax: +32 2 230 69 38, E-Mail: kristjanfh@mfa.is; Kristjan.Helgason@utn.stjr.is

JAPAN

Miyahara, Masanori *

Adviser to the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 1-2-1, Kasumigaseki, Tokyo Chiyoda-ku 100-8907
Tel: +81 3 3502 8460, Fax: +81 3 3504 2649, E-Mail: masamiya@fra.affrc.go.jp

Aoki, Masahiro

Japanese Embassy in Spain, C/ Serrano 109, 28006 Madrid, Spain
Tel: +34 91 590 7621, Fax: +34 91 590 1329, E-Mail: masahiro.aoki@mofa.go.jp

Miwa, Takeshi

Assistant Director, International Affairs Division, Resources Management Department, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8907
Tel: +81 3 3502 8460, Fax: +81 3 3504 2649, E-Mail: takeshi_miwa090@maff.go.jp

KOREA (REP.)

Park, Chansoo *

Deputy Director, Distant Water Fisheries Division, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF), International Cooperation Division, Government Complex Building 5, 94, Dasom 2-ro, Sejong Special Self-governing City, 30110
Tel: +82 44 200 5339, Fax: +82 44 200 5349, E-Mail: parkchansoo@korea.kr

Cho, Boram

Assistant Manager, Dongwon Industries Co., Ltd., 68, Mabang-ro, Seocho-gu, 06775 Seoul
Tel: +82 258 94074; +82 107 681 7999, Fax: +82 2 589 4397, E-Mail: polo7321@dongwon.com

Cho, Min Jeong

Assistant Director of MOF, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, International Cooperation Division, Government Complex Sejong 94, Dasom 2-ro, Sejong Special Self-governing City, 30110
Tel: +82 44 200 5397, Fax: +82 44 200 5349, E-Mail: jasmin1210@korea.kr

Kang, Shin Won

Policy Analyst, Korea Overseas Fisheries Cooperation Center, 6th Fl, S Building, 253, Hannuri-daero, Sejong-si
Tel: +82 44 868 7363, Fax: +82 44 868 7840, E-Mail: swkang@kofci.org

Kim, Seung-Lyong

Deputy Director of MOF, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, International Cooperation Division, Government Complex Sejong 94, Dasom 2-ro, Sejong Special Self-governing City, 30110
Tel: +82 44 200 5338, Fax: +82 44 200 5349, E-Mail: kpoksl5686@korea.kr

Kim, Jung-Re

Assistant Director, Distant Water Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, International Cooperation Division Government Complex Sejong 94, Dasom 2-ro, Sejong Special Self-governing City, 30110
Tel: +82 44 200 5398, Fax: +82 44 200 5349, E-Mail: riley1126@korea.kr

Lee, Jae Hwa

Associate, Dongwon Industries Co., Ltd., 68 Mabang-ro, Seocho-gu, 06775 Seoul
Tel: +822 589 3562, Fax: +822 589 4397, E-Mail: jhlee33@dongwon.com

Song, Jun Su

Manager, Sajo Industries Co., Ltd., 107-39 Tongil-Ro Seodaemun-Gu, Seoul
Tel: +82 2 3277 1652, Fax: +82 2 365 6079, E-Mail: jssong@sajo.co.kr

LIBYA

Alghawel, Mussab. F. B. *

Coordinator in Charge, Director of Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Zawiet Adde H'mani, Tripoli
Tel: +218 213 400 425/28; +218 911 750 811, Fax: +218 213 402 900, E-Mail: ceo@lfa.org.ly; mfl.dir-doic@mofa.gov.ly; cpc.libya.2017@gmail.com

Fenech, Joseph

66 West Street, VLT 1538 Valletta, Malta
Tel: +356 9944 0044, Fax: +356 21 230 561, E-Mail: ffh@ffh2.com

Ouz, Khaled Ahmed M.

Head of Follow-up Committee of Tuna and Swordfish, General Union of Fishermen and Sponges, Zawiet Addehmani, Tripoli
Tel: +218 91 215 35 79, Fax: +218 21 334 4929, E-Mail: libya5728@gmail.com; khaledouz300@gmail.com

Wefati, Aladdin M.

Responsible of Swordfish Fishing Process, General Union of Fishermen and Sponges, Zawiet Addehmani, Tripoli
Tel: +218 91 210 48 56, Fax: +218 21 361 5209, E-Mail: a_wefati@yahoo.co.uk; awefati@gmail.com; libya5728@gmail.com

MOROCCO

Driouich, Zakia *

Secrétaire Générale du Département des Pêches Maritimes, Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche Maritime, Département de la Pêche Maritime; Quartier Administratif, Place Abdellah Chefchaouni; B.P. 476 Agdal, Rabat
Tel: +212 5 37 688 2461/62, Fax: +2125 3768 8263, E-Mail: driouich@mpm.gov.ma

Aichane, Bouchta

Directeur des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture, Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture, Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche Maritime, Département de la Pêche Maritime, Nouveau Quartier Administratif; BP 476, Haut Agdal Rabat
Tel: +212 5 37 68 8244-46, Fax: +212 5 37 68 8245, E-Mail: aichane@mpm.gov.ma

Abid, Nouredine

Chercheur au Centre Régional de Recherche Halieutique de Tanger, Responsable du Programme de suivi et d'étude des ressources des grands pélagiques, Centre régional de L'INRH à Tanger/M'dig, B.P. 5268, 90000 Drabed Tangier
Tel: +212 53932 5134, Fax: +212 53932 5139, E-Mail: noureddine.abid65@gmail.com

Benmoussa, Mohamed Karim

Vice Président de l'Association Marocaine des Madragues, Maromadriba/Maromar, Concessionnaire de madragues, BP 573, Larache
Tel: +212 661 136 888, Fax: +212 5 39 50 1630, E-Mail: mkbenmoussa@gmail.com

Boulaich, Moustapha

Société les Madragues du Sud, Concessionnaire de Madragues, Avant-port de Mehdiya, 23 Rue Moussa Ibonou Nouceir, 1er étage n°1, Tangier
Tel: +212 537388 432, Fax: +212 537388 510, E-Mail: boulaich-1@menara.ma

El Fatouani, Zineb

Cadre à la Direction de Contrôle des Activités de la Pêche Maritime
Tel: +212 668 342 618; E-Mail: zineb.elfatouani@hotmail.com

Faraj, Abdelmalek

Directeur Général de l'Institut National de Recherche Halieutique, Institut National de Recherche Halieutique, Département des Ressources Halieutiques, Centre de Sidi Abderrahmane, 20000 Casablanca
Tel: +212 6 61649185, Fax: +212 6 61649185, E-Mail: faraj@inrh.ma; abdelmalekfaraj@yahoo.fr

Grichat, Hicham

Chef de Service des espèces marines migratrices et des espaces protégés à la DDARH/DPM, Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche Maritime, Département de la Pêche Maritime, Direction des Pêches Maritimes, B.P 476 Nouveau Quartier Administratif, Haut Agdal Rabat
Tel: +212 537 68 81 15, Fax: +212 537 68 8089, E-Mail: grichat@mpm.gov.ma

Haoujar, Bouchra

Ingénieur principal à la Division de la Protection des Ressources Halieutiques, Cadre à la Direction des Pêches Maritimes (DPM/DDARH), Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche Maritime, Service de l'Application de la Réglementation et de la Police Administrative, Nouveau Quartier Administratif, BP 476, Haut Agdal, Rabat
Tel: +212 666 155999, Fax: +212 537 688 134, E-Mail: haoujar@mpm.gov.ma

Hassouni, Fatima Zohra

Chef de la Division de Durabilité et d'Aménagement des Ressources Halieutiques à la DPM, Division de la Protection des Ressources Halieutiques, Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture, Département de la Pêche Maritime, Nouveau Quartier Administratif, Haut Agdal, Rabat
Tel: +212 537 688 122/21; +212 663 35 36 87, Fax: +212 537 688 089, E-Mail: hassouni@mpm.gov.ma

Rouchdi, Mohammed

Secrétaire Général de l'Association Marocaine des Madragues (AMM), Nouvelle Zone Portuaire Larache BP 138, Larache
Tel: +212 537 754 927, Fax: +212 537 754 927, E-Mail: rouchdi@ylaraholding.com; madrague.tr@gmail.com

Saous, Zineb

Représentant, Société MAROCOTURC TUNA FISHERIES, S.A., Immeuble Zenith, Angle Rocade Rabat et Avenue Annakhil, Rabat
Tel: +212 61 40 4831, E-Mail: zsaous@hotmail.fr

NORWAY

Holst, Sigrun M. *

Deputy Director General, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, Pistboks 8090 Dep, 0032 Oslo
Tel: +47 22 24 65 76; +47 24 82 55 20, E-Mail: Sigrun.holst@nfd.dep.no

Brix, Maja Kirkegaard

Directorate of Fisheries, Strandgaten 229, Postboks 185 Sentrum, 5804 Bergen
Tel: +47 416 91 457, E-Mail: Maja-Kirkegaard.Brix@fiskeridir.no

Sørdahl, Elisabeth

Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, Department for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Postboks 8090 Dep., 0032 Oslo
Tel: +47 22 24 65 45, E-Mail: elisabeth.sordahl@nfd.dep.no

PANAMA

Delgado Quezada, Raúl Alberto *

Director General de Inspección Vigilancia y Control, Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de Panamá, Edificio La Riviera - Avenida Justo Arosemena y Calle 45, Bella Vista (Antigua Estación El Arbol), 0819-05850
Tel: +507 511 6000, Fax: +507 511 6031, E-Mail: rdelgado@arap.gob.pa; ivc@arap.gob.pa

TUNISIA

M'Rabet, Ridha *

Directeur Général de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture - DGPA, Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Ressources Hydrauliques et de la Pêche, 30 Rue Alain Savary, 1002 Tunis
Tel: +216 71 892 253, Fax: +216 71 799 401, E-Mail: bft@iresa.agrinet.tn; ridha.mrabet@iresa.agrinet.tn

Ben Hmida, Jaouhar

Fédération de la Pêche du Thon en Tunisie, 11 nouveau port de Pêche SFAX, 3065
Tel: +216 98 319 885, Fax: +216 74 497704, E-Mail: jaouhar.benhmida@tunet.tn; amorsamet@gmail.com

Mejri, Hamadi

Directeur adjoint, Conservation des ressources halieutiques, Ministère de l'agriculture et des ressources hydrauliques et de la pêche, Direction Générale de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture 32, Rue Alain Savary - Le Belvédère, 1002
Tel: +216 240 12780, Fax: +216 71 799 401, E-Mail: hamadi.mejri1@gmail.com

Sohlobji, Donia

Direction Générale de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture, 32 Rue Alain Savary, 1002
Tel: +216 534 31307; +216 71 890 784, Fax: +216 71 799 401, E-Mail: sohlobji_donia@yahoo.fr; doniasohlobji@gmail.com

Toumi, Néji

Directeur de la Ste TUNA FARMS of Tunisia
Tel: + 216 22 25 32 83, Fax: + 216 73 251 800, E-Mail: neji.tft@planet.tn

TURKEY

Türkyılmaz, Turgay *

Deputy Director-General, Head of Fisheries and Control Department, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MoFAL), General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture (Balıkçılık ve Su Ürünleri Genel Müdürlüğü), Gıda Tarım ve Hayvancılık Bakanlığı Kampüsü, Eskişehir Yolu 9. km, 06100 Lodumlu, Ankara
Tel: +90 312 258 30 17, Fax: +90 312 258 30 39, E-Mail: turgay.turkyilmaz@tarim.gov.tr

Anbar, Nedim

Akua-Group Su Ürünleri A.S., Akdeniz Mah. Vali Kazım Dirik Cad.; MOLA Residence, No: 32/42, Kat-3, D-5, Konak-İzmir
Tel: +90 232 446 33 06/07 Pbx; mobile: +90 532 220 21 75, Fax: +90 232 446 33 07, E-Mail: nanbar@akua-group.com

Elekon, Hasan Alper

Senior Fisheries Officer, General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture (Balıkçılık ve Su Ürünleri Genel Müdürlüğü), Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MoFAL), Gıda Tarım ve Hayvancılık Bakanlığı Kampüsü, Eskişehir Yolu 9. km, 06100 Lodumlu, Ankara
Tel: +90 312 258 30 76, Fax: +90 312 258 30 75, E-Mail: hasanalper@gmail.com; hasanalper.elekon@tarim.gov.tr

Topçu, Burcu Bilgin

EU Expert, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture Gıda Tarım ve Hayvancılık Bakanlığı, Balıkçılık ve Su Ürünleri Genel Müdürlüğü Eskişehir yolu 9. km, 06100 Lodumlu/Ankara
Tel: +90 312 258 30 94, Fax: +90 312 258 30 75, E-Mail: burcu.bilgin@tarim.gov.tr;bilginburcu@gmail.com

Ültanur, Mustafa

Advisor, Central Union of Fishermens' Cooperatives (Su Ürünleri Kooperatifleri Merkez Birliği), Konur Sokak No. 54/8, Kızılay, Bakanlıklar, Çankaya-Ankara
Tel: +90 312 419 22 88, Fax: +90 312 419 2289, E-Mail: ultanur@gmail.com; sur_koop@yahoo.com.tr

Yelegen, Yener

Engineer, General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture (Balıkçılık ve Su Ürünleri Genel Müdürlüğü), Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, Gıda Tarım ve Hayvancılık Bakanlığı Kampüsü, Eskişehir Yolu 9. km, 06100 Lodumlu, Ankara
Tel: +90 312 258 30 79, Fax: +90 312 258 30 75, E-Mail: yener.yelegen@tarim.gov.tr; yeneryelegen@gmail.com

UNITED STATES

Blankenbeker, Kimberly *

Foreign Affairs Specialist, Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection (F/IS), National Marine Fisheries Service 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring Maryland 20910
Tel: +1 301 427 8357, Fax: +1 301 713 1081, E-Mail: kimberly.blankenbeker@noaa.gov

OBSERVERS FROM COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES, ENTITIES, FISHING ENTITIES

CHINESE TAIPEI

Fu, Chia-Chi

Director, Overseas Fisheries Development Council, 3F., No. 14, Wenzhou St., Da'an Dist, 106
Tel: +886 2 2368 0889 ext. 115, Fax: +886 2 2368 6418, E-Mail: joseph@ofdc.org.tw

Chung, I-Yin

Secretary, Overseas Fisheries Development Council, 3F., No. 14, Wenzhou St., Da'an Dist., 106
Tel: +886 2 2368 0889 ext. 154, Fax: +886 2 2368 6418, E-Mail: ineschung@ofdc.org.tw

OBSERVERS FROM INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

CONFÉRENCE MINISTÉRIELLE SUR LA COOPÉRATION HALIEUTIQUE ENTRE LES ÉTATS AFRICAINS RIVERAINS DE L'OCÉAN ATLANTIQUE - COMHAFAT

Benabbou, Abdelouahed

Executive Secretary, Conférence Ministérielle sur la Coopération Halieutique entre les États Africains Riverains de l'Océan Atlantique/COMHAFAT, 2, Rue Beni Darkoul, Ain Khalouiya - Souissi, BP 1007, Rabat, Morocco

Tel: +212 530774 221; +212 669 281 822, Fax: +212 537 681 810, E-Mail: secretariat@comhafat.org; benabbou.comhafat@gmail.com

Ishikawa, Atsushi

COMHAFAT, N° 2, Rue Beni Darkoul, Ain Khalouiya - Souissi, 10220 Rabat, Morocco

Tel: +212 642 96 66 72, Fax: +212 530 17 42 42, E-Mail: a615@ruby.ocn.ne.jp

OBSERVERS FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

ASOCIACIÓN DE PESCA, COMERCIO Y CONSUMO RESPONSABLE DEL ATÚN ROJO – APCCR

Navarro Cid, Juan José

Grupo Balfegó, Polígono Industrial - Edificio Balfegó, 43860 L'Ametlla de Mar Tarragona, Spain

Tel: +34 977 047700, Fax: +34 977 457 812, E-Mail: jnavarro@grupbalfego.com

WORLD WILDLIFE FUND – WWF

Buzzi, Alessandro

WWF, Via Po, 25/c, 00198 Rome, Italy

Tel: +39 346 235 7481, Fax: +39 068 413 866, E-Mail: abuzzi@wwfmedpo.org

García Rodríguez, Raúl

WWF Mediterranean, Gran Vía de San Francisco, 8, 28005 Madrid, Spain

Tel: +34 630 834 267, Fax: +34 913 656 336, E-Mail: pesca@wwf.es

ICCAT Secretariat/

C/ Corazón de María 8 – 6th floor, 28002 Madrid – Spain

Tel: +34 91 416 56 00; Fax: +34 91 415 26 12; E-mail: info@iccat.int

Meski, Driss

Neves dos Santos, Miguel

Cheatle, Jenny

Donovan, Karen

García-Orad, María José

Peyre, Christine

Fiz, Jesús

Moreno, Juan Ángel

Peña, Esther

GBYP PROGRAM

Aleman, Francisco

ICCAT INTERPRETERS

Baena Jiménez, Eva J.

Faillace, Linda

Leboulleux del Castillo, Beatriz

Liberas, Christine

Linae, Cristina

Meunier, Isabelle

ICCAT GUEST

Manel, Camille Jean Pierre

Letter to Syria requesting additional information

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

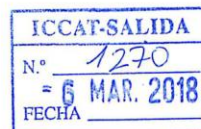


COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA
CONSERVATION DES THONIDES DE L'ATLANTIQUE

COMISION INTERNACIONAL PARA LA
CONSERVACION DEL ATUN ATLANTICO

Madrid, 6 March 2018

Dr. Abdel Latif Ali
Fisheries Development Project, Director
General Commission for Fisheries Resources,
Ministry of Agriculture & Agrarian Reform
Al-Jabri Street, P.O. Box 60721
Damascus, Syria



Dear Dr. Latif Ali,

I have the honour to refer to the fishing, inspection and capacity management plan received from Syria and to inform you that, following review by Panel 2, some clarifications have been requested.

I should be grateful if the following could be clarified by Syria.

1. What reserve (number of tons) has been set aside for possible by-catch? If none, please explain how Syria could not be in a position to take by-catches;
2. Will fish under minimum size beyond the limit of tolerance will be discarded and counted against the quota as required by the Recommendation?;
3. Can you confirm that VMS messages will be sent to the ICCAT Secretariat at least every four hours from 15 days before the start of the fishing season until 15 days after the end of operations?;
4. From your plan there is an apparent intention to transfer previous year's quota, but the current conservation and management measures do not allow carry forward of quota. It would be appreciated if Syria could confirm that there will be no transfer of previous years' quota.
5. Please could you clarify whether or not the Syrian vessel intends to participate in a Joint Fishing Operation (JFO), as this point is unclear from the plan submitted;

It would be appreciated if the responses to these questions could be included in a revised fishing plan before **12 March 2018**, in order for the Commission to be able to endorse the Syrian fishing plan before the end of March.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and I look forward to your early response.

Masanori Miyahara
Panel 2 Chair

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.1**Bluefin fishing, inspection and capacity management plans****ALBANIA****Introduction**

Based on the recommendation 17-07 that amends the ICCAT Recommendation 14-04, the Atlantic bluefin tuna fishing quota, allocated to Albania for 2018 is 100 tons, and for 2019 is 130 tons and for 2020 140 tons (paragraph 5 of the Recommendation).

By Minister Order Nr. 74 date 14/02/2018 are approved implementing provisions of Recommendation 17-07 that amends the ICCAT Recommendation 14-04.

Only one fishing vessel is authorized to fish Albanian bluefin tuna quota with Purse seiners. Rozafa 15 fishing vessel is over 24 meters, with Fishing License Nr. LC-6864-02-2018, of date 14.02.2018, and Authorization for bluefin tuna fishing. Based on article 69 of Law nr. 64/2012 “On fisheries”, amended, paragraph 1/c: fishing activities in which a multi-annual fishing plan is implemented is conducted by special fishing Authorization. Paragraph 3: The authorization to engage in a particular fishing activity shall be accorded to those fishing vessels which hold the relevant permit under the conditions laid down in this Law and in the legislation in force. Paragraph 5: The fishing authorization becomes invalid when the fishing permit is invalid.

Fishing plan

The Fishing Vessel “ROZAFa 15” owned by Rozafa shpk with administrator Mr. Gjergj LUCA, with NUIS number: K48130547V, registered to Port Authority by Nr. P-1801, with NFR: ALB22REG0863, provided with Fishing License Nr. LC-6864-02-2018, of date 14.02.2018, is authorized to perform the blue-fin tuna fishery, in the amount of 100 tons (2018) and 130 tons (2019) and 140 tons (2020), in Mediterranean Sea area, fishing form: Pelagic, fishing gears: Purse Seinners and fisheries landing product at Shëngjini Fishing Port, every day, from 10.00 - 18.00, if the production is not aimed to be further treated in the aquaculture farm.

Vessel characteristics:

Fishing Vessel:	Rozafa 15
Gross tonnage:	371 Ton
Length:	38 m
Width:	13.5 m
Immersion:	3.5 m
Engine:	2282.3 KW
Crew:	15
IRCS	ZADH4

Associated conditions to TAC and quotas

When the individual quota is deemed to be exhausted, Ministry will require to the catching vessel (Rozafa 15) to proceed immediately to Shengjini port as designated one. Ministry immediately will inform ICCAT Secretariat that Albanian quota is exhausted.

By Minister Order Nr.74 date 14/02/2018 is prohibited to carry-over of any under-harvests to be made.

No transferring of quotas between Albania and any CPCs and no chartering operation for the bluefin tuna fishery is permitted.

Joint Fishing Operations (JFO)

Albania has less than 5 authorized purse seiners fishing vessels authorized to fish bluefin tuna. Joint fishing operations among Albanian vessel with other CPC vessels may be authorized if a JFO is requested by our fishing company. Information on these operations, in particular individual quotas and allocation keys, will be notified to the Commission by the required deadlines. At the moment of the application for JFO authorization, is mandatory to have the information as foreseen in paragraph 17 of ICCAT Recommendation 17-07.

Fishing season

Albanian fishing vessel, as purse seiner, is authorized for fishing bluefin tuna during the period from 26 May to 24 June 2018. Bluefin tuna fishing activities are prohibited during the period from 25 June 2018 to 25 May 2019.

Use of aircrafts

Use of airplanes, helicopters or any types of unmanned aerial vehicles for searching for bluefin tuna is strictly prohibited.

Minimum size

Is prohibited to catch, retain on board, transship, transfer, land, transport, store, sell, display or offer for sale bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg or with fork length less than 115 cm. However, an incidental catch of maximum 5% of bluefin tuna weighing between 8 and 30 kg or with fork length between 75-115 cm, may be authorized. Control is foreseen during fishing activity by ICCAT Regional Observer Program and in Shengjini port and Albania market by fisheries Inspectorate, as defined by chapter VI and chapter VII of Decision of Council of Ministers (DCM) Nr. 407 date 08/05/2013, "Establishing a control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of fisheries policy".

By-catch

Vessels not fishing actively for bluefin tuna are not authorized to retain at any time, bluefin tuna. In Albania fishing activity with loglines is not developed and no permissions are issued. Use of any kind of driftnets, or similar nets, no matter their size, is strictly prohibited. However, if, in any case, dead bluefin tuna has been landed, it must be whole and unprocessed, and it will be subject to confiscation and the appropriate follow-up action. In addition, any by-catches would be reported to ICCAT and deducted from the Albanian quota either during the fishing season, or, if necessary, from a future quota as required by ICCAT quota payback rules. All by-catches which are alive shall immediately be released back to the sea.

Recreational fisheries and sport fisheries

No quota is allocated for the purpose of sport and recreational fisheries. By paragraph 67, chapter V, of Decision of Council of Ministers (DCM) Nr. 407 date 08/05/2013, "Establishing a control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of fisheries policy" is prohibited recreational fisheries for fish stocks that are subject to recovery plans.

Adjustment of fishing capacity and of the number of commercial fishing permits

By Article 1 / d) of DCM Nr. 719, date, 12.10.2016 "On management of commercial fishing capacities and some adjustments to the functioning of Fishing Vessels National Registry (NFR)" the number of professional commercial fishing permits for purse seiners vessels on bluefin tuna fishing (*Thunnus thynnus*, Linnaeus 1758) is 1 (one).

Transshipment

Transshipment at sea operations of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea is prohibited.

Based on the law No. 64/2012, Chapter XIII (Control of multiannual plans), Article 98 Designated ports:

1. Minister decides to declare a designated port or place close to the shore, which allowed landing or transshipment of fishery products and port services, only based on the following criteria:
 - a) Landing and transshipment time has been determined
 - b) Landing and transshipment place have been determined
 - c) Inspection and surveillance procedures have been determined

Albania is one of 51 Parties of “*The Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing*”. Information to be provided to the fishing vessels that intend to use Shengjini Port, before granting entry is set by paragraph 60 of 17-07 Recommendation (Minister Order) and by Annex A of The Agreement on Port State Measures.

By Minister Order, designated port is Shengjini fishing Port. Landing is every day, from 10.00 - 18.00 o'clock, if the production is not aimed to be further treated in the aquaculture farm.

No transshipment at the sea is permitted. Article 99 (Trans-boarding in ports) of Law 64/2012 defines:

1. Fishing vessels, subject to multiannual fishing plans, are prohibited from transshipping their catches on board of any other fishing vessel if these catches have not been weighed earlier in accordance with the rules laid down in this Law.

	<i>ICCAT Requirement (per 14-04)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
1.	Catch recording and reporting (para. 61-67, 69)	The Electronic log-book is still under development. For this year, the Master of authorized vessel is obliged to use the fishing logbook paper. In addition, every day the Master shall transmit to our authorities the daily information as the date, time, and location even in case of zero catches. On the basis of the information, Ministry will transmit a weekly catch report to the ICCAT Secretariat. In according to the paragraph 75 of Rec. 17-07, the use of video camera is mandatory for transfers of live bluefin tuna from catching vessels.	By Minister Order Nr. 74 date 14/02/2018.	
2.	Fishing Seasons (para. 18-23)	Fishing activity for bluefin tuna shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean during the period from 26 May to 24 June.	Minister's Authorization By Ministerial Order Nr. 74 date 14/02/2018.	

3.	Minimum size (para. 26-28)	<p>Is prohibited to catch, retain on board, transshipping, transferring, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg or with fork length less than 115 cm.</p> <p>If any bluefin below the minimum size are caught and retained or discarded dead, they will be counted against Albania's quota.</p>	By Ministerial Order Nr. 74 date 14/02/2018.	
4.	By-catch (para. 29)	<p>Catching of bluefin tuna as by-catch is not permitted.</p> <p>All by-catches are reported to ICCAT and deducted from the Albanian quota. All by-catches which are alive, shall be immediately released back to the sea.</p>	By Ministerial Order Nr. 74 date 14/02/2018	
5.	Recreational and sports fisheries (para, 30-34)	Not permitted	<p>By paragraph 67, chapter V, of Decision of Council of Ministers (DCM) Nr. 407 date 08/05/2013, "Establishing a control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of fisheries policy" is prohibited recreational fisheries for fish stocks that are subject to recovery plans.</p> <p>By Ministerial Order Nr. 74 date 14/02/2018</p>	
6.	Transshipment (para. 58-60)	<p>Transshipment at sea operations of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea is prohibited.</p>	<p>Law Nr. 64/2012, Article 99. Trans-boarding in ports</p> <p>1. Fishing vessels, subject to a multiannual fishery plan, are prohibited to trans-board their catch on board of another fishing vessel, if the catch has not been weighted before according to the rules established by this law.</p> <p>2. Special rules as excluded from this article are determined by the order of the Minister</p> <p>By Ministerial Order Nr. 74 date 14/02/2018</p>	
7.	VMS (para. 87)	<p>Implemented; the polling rate is at least every 2 hours.</p>	<p>Law Nr. 64/2012, Article 72: The vessel monitoring system</p> <p>1. Fishing vessels with a length equal to or greater than 12 meters shall install on their board the relevant equipment enabling their automatic identification and localization, at an appropriate interval, at specified intervals, through the transmission of data on the relevant location on the satellite system.</p>	

8.	CPC Observer (para. 88)	Not applicable. As mentioned earlier, there aren't in Albania the pelagic trawlers, longline vessels, baitboats, towing vessels.		
9.	Regional observer (para. 89-90)	Implemented		
	<i>Other requirements, such as tagging program</i>			

Data recording

The master of catching vessel shall maintain a logbook as defined by Annex 4 of DCM Nr. 407 date 08/05/2013, "Establishing a control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of fisheries policy" that is implementation of EU Regulation 1224/2009 Establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the common fisheries policy and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 404/2011 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 establishing a Community control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of the Common Fisheries Policy.

Data reporting

Master of fishing vessel shall communicate, during the whole period in which fishing vessel is authorized to fish bluefin tuna, by electronic or other means to the Ministry, daily information from logbooks, including the date, time, location (latitude and longitude) and the weight and number of bluefin tuna taken in the plan area.

On the basis of the information, Ministry will transmit a weekly catch report to the ICCAT Secretariat. Ministry shall report its provisional catches to the ICCAT Secretariat within 30 days of the end of the calendar month in which the catches were made.

All information including data form inspectors and observers report, VMS data, logbooks, transfer and catch documents will be verify.

Transfer operations

Before any transfer operation, the master of the catching or its representatives shall send to Ministry, a prior transfer notification indicating information set by paragraph 71 of Recommendation 17-07. Ministry shall assign and communicate to the master of the fishing vessel an authorization number for each transfer operation in ALB – 2018/AUT/XXX in case of positive authorization, or: ALB – 2018/NEG/XXX in case of negative authorization.

The transfer declaration forms shall be numbered by numbering system: ALB – 2018/XXX/ITD.

All transfers of live bluefin tuna operations must be monitored by video camera in the water with a view to verify the number of fish being transferred, pursuant the procedures set at Annex 8 of Recommendation 17-07.

VMS (Vessel Monitoring System)

VMS is mandatory for fishing vessels equal or greater than 12 meters. By Law Nr. 64/2012, Article 72: (Vessel monitoring system).

1. Fishing vessels with a length equal to or greater than 12 meters shall install on their board the relevant equipment enabling their automatic identification and localization, at an appropriate interval, at specified intervals, through the transmission of data on the relevant location on the satellite system.

System is under Inter-institutional Maritime Operational Centre (IMOC) responsibility, as an inter-ministry institution that have to ensure the surveillance of the Albanian maritime space, in order to realize the organization, planning, coordination and direction of the operations on sea, in compliance with the national and international maritime legislation.

ICCAT Regional Observer Programme

Albanian purse seiners fishing vessel authorized to fish bluefin tuna will be covered 100% from ICCAT Regional Observer Programme.

Albanian Observer Programme

No pelagic trawlers, longline vessels, harvesting operations from traps, towing vessels and active baitboats are permitted to fish bluefin tuna. Regarding measures to be taken during fishing season is explained below.

Inspection Plan to be applied by Fishery Inspectorate of Shengjini

By special order issued by Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture Services, during fishing season, Task - force will be installed to the Shengjini fishing Port, in order to implement duties by Albanian legislation, ICCAT 17-07 Recommendation and Minister Order.

During this period, in addition to other duties that are listed in the *Annual Fishing Plan and the Minister's Order*, Fishery Inspector, based on fishing port of Shengjini, and Task force, should prioritize the implementation as follow:

- The Authorized Fishing Vessel should land the fished bluefin tuna only in the designated place and in due time;
- The master of the Authorized Fishing Vessel should 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.

Fishery Inspectors 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.

Duties in case of request from others fishing vessels to land fisheries product in frame of *The Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, this Plan and Ministers Order*.

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 as above, of the landing declarations in the fishing harbor, as well as other details that sees the reasonable. This data, fishery inspector shall communicate to the Fishery Resources Division, within 48 hours from landing fish products by authorized fishing vessel.
- 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 bluefin tuna fisheries under 30 kg or under 115 cm (measurement made from the snout to the bifurcation of the tail). The inspector makes measurements of each 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 bluefin tuna caught by Fishing Vessel (out of authorized fishing season).

Joint international inspection (para. 97-98)

Albania adhere in 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*

Market measures

By implementing this Plan, by Ministers Order and based on DCM Nr. 407 date 08/05/2013, “Establishing a control system for ensuring compliance with the rules of fisheries policy”, domestic trade, landing, imports, exports, placing in cages for farming, re-exports and transshipments of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna species that are not accompanied by accurate, complete, and validated documentation from the relevant authority has been and is prohibited.

Capacity Management Plan (para. 35-42, 44-45a)

TUNA VESSEL FLEET	Fleet (vessels)												Fishing capacity											
	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7																							
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78						1	1	1	1	1								49.78	49.78	49.78	49.78		
Purse seiners less than 24m	33.68																							
Total Purse Seine Fleet							1	1	1	1	1													
Longliner over 40m	25																							
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68																							
Longliner less than 24m	5																							
Total Longline Fleet																								
Baitboat	19.8																	33.58						
Handline	5																							
Trawler	10																							
Trap	130																							
Other (please specify)	5																							
Total fleet/fishing capacity																								
Quota																				39.65	47.40	56.91	100	
Adjusted quota (if applicable)																	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Allowance for sport/recreational (if applicable)																	
Under/overcapacity																				10.13	2.38	-7.31	-50.22	

ALGERIA

Introduction

Algeria's 2018 fishing plan is based on the relevant provisions of the ICCAT recommendations, legislation and the national regulation, in particular those of the Ministerial Order of 19 April 2010, as amended and supplemented, which establish bluefin fishing quotas for Algerian-flagged vessels and set the methods for their distribution and implementation.

Bluefin tuna fishing activities in 2018 will be carried out according to the conditions and methods of the previous campaigns and with improvements in the fishing documentation (logbook).

Algeria's quota for 2018 is 1260 t. In accordance with paragraph 5 b) of ICCAT Recommendation 17-07, amending Recommendation 14-04 on Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, the CPC Libya has transferred 46 t of its quota to Algeria. Therefore, the total quota for Algeria for 2018 is 1306 t.

Algeria will implement its fishing plan to catch 1300 t. The 1300 t will be distributed between the tuna vessel owners, which must comply with the regulatory conditions relating to fishing and maritime security to participate in the 2018 fishing campaign. A quota of 6 t will be reserved for by-catch.

Fishing Plan

The 2018 bluefin fishing plan will be implemented to ensure compliance with Algeria's quota limit and the relevant provisions contained in legislation and the national regulation and ICCAT recommendations, in particular Recommendation 17-07 amending Recommendation 14-04.

Individual quotas for each of the vessels authorised to participate in the campaign will be established in accordance with a national quota distribution criterion. This is provided for by the national regulation Ministerial Order of 25 March 2015 which establishes bluefin fishing quotas for vessels flying the national flag and sets the methods for their distribution and implementation. The distribution criterion for individual quotas is based on the size of the vessels employed (tonnage and vessel length). The list of live bluefin tuna catching vessels and their quotas will be communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat by the deadline provided for in paragraph 52 of Recommendation 17-07, i.e. 12 May 2018.

In accordance with the current Algerian regulation, individual fishing permits will be issued by the fisheries administration to the purse seine and longline vessels authorised to participate in the 2018 fishing campaign. In this context, Algeria has issued for 2018 a fishing permit to a longliner, carrying an individual quota of 5.68 t.

Joint fishing operations (in groups) among Algerian vessels only may be authorised. Information on these operations, in particular the individual quotas and allocation keys that will be adopted for the 2018 campaign will be notified to the Commission by the deadline established in paragraph 17 of Recommendation 17-07, i.e. 16 May 2018.

With regard to by-catch, vessels that do not hold a permit specifically for bluefin tuna, issued in accordance with the current Algerian regulation, will not be authorised to catch, retain on board or land bluefin tuna. Discarded by-catch will be recorded in logbooks. Any discards of dead bluefin tuna will be deducted from the 6 t of the Algerian quota.

Regarding bluefin tuna farming, Algeria authorised, in accordance with the conditions and specific methods which will be determined by the administration on the basis of regulatory provisions in force, the establishment of three farming facilities in 2018, and within its quota.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 14-04)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
1	Communication and reporting of catches (para 61-67, 69)	Catches are recorded in the bound logbook maintained onboard the vessel in compliance with the requirements of the ICCAT recommendation. To improve the vessel onboard catch documentation system, the administration is developing a new logbook taking into consideration the observations of the ROP-BFT controllers during the 2018 campaign. In addition, documents related to biological, technical and scientific data, where fishing information is recorded, are submitted to the controller of the administration. Weekly and monthly bluefin tuna catches are notified to the ICCAT Secretariat, in accordance with paragraphs 66 c and 67. Closure of the bluefin tuna fishery is reported on exhaustion of the authorised quota during the authorised period.	Article 13 of the Order of 19 March 2013, which amends and supplements the Order of 19 April 2010, establishes bluefin tuna quotas for vessels flying the national flag operating in waters under national jurisdiction and sets the methods for their distribution and implementation.	
2	Fishing seasons (para 18-23)	Tuna purse seiners: from 26 May to 24 June. Tuna longliner: 1 January to 31 May.	Article 10 of the Order of 19 March 2013, which amends and supplements the Order of 19 April 2010, establishes bluefin tuna quotas for vessels flying the national flag operating in waters under national jurisdiction and sets the methods for their distribution and implementation.	

3	Minimum size (para 26-28)	115 cm - 30 kg. However, up to a maximum of 5% of bluefin tuna by-catch weighing between 8 and 30 kg or with a fork length from 75 to 115 cm, calculated on the basis of the total catch, may be authorised. Dead fish will be reported and deducted from Algeria's quota and live fish will be released.	Executive decree No. 08-118 of 9 April 2008 which amends and supplements Executive Decree No. 04-86 of 18 March 2004 which fix the minimum trade sizes of biological resources. Article 23 quater of the amendment and supplement to the Order of 19 April 2010 which establish bluefin tuna fishing quotas for vessels flying the national flag operating in waters under national jurisdiction and set the methods for their distribution and implementation.	
4	By-catch (para 29)	With regard to by-catch, vessels that do not hold a permit specifically for bluefin tuna, issued in accordance with the current Algerian regulation, are not be authorised to catch, retain on board or land bluefin tuna. Any discard of dead bluefin tuna will be deducted from the 6 t or the Algerian quota. Discards will be recorded in logbooks and deducted from the Algerian quota. In addition, control of catches is carried out at accesses to ports by members of the National Coast Guard Service and at landing sites by fishing inspectors.	Executive decree No. 08-118 of 9 April 2008 which amends and supplements Executive Decree No. 04-86 of 18 March 2004 which fix the minimum trade sizes of biological resources.	
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (para 30-34)	There are no recreational and sports fisheries in Algeria.		
6	Transhipment (para 58-60)	It is prohibited to tranship bluefin tuna.	Article 58 of Law 01-11 on the fisheries and aquaculture, as amended and supplemented.	

7	VMS (para 87)	Legal and regulatory obligation.	Article 20 bis of Law No. 15-08, which amends and supplements the Law 01-11 on the fisheries and aquaculture, and article 7 of the Order of 19 March 2013, which amends and supplements the Order of 19 April 2010, establish bluefin tuna quotas for vessels flying the national flag operating in waters under national jurisdiction and set the methods for their distribution and implementation.	
8	CPC's observer (para 88)	Boarding of two controllers / onboard national observers on each vessel throughout the fishing season.	Article 8 of the Order of 19 March 2013, which amends and supplements the Order of 19 April 2010, establishes bluefin tuna quotas for vessels flying the national flag operating in waters under national jurisdiction and sets the methods for their distribution and implementation.	
9	Regional observer (para 89-90)	Regulatory requirement of boarding of ICCAT regional observers.	Article 9 of the Order of 19 March 2013, which amends and supplements the Order of 19 April 2010, establishes bluefin tuna quotas for vessels flying the national flag operating in waters under national jurisdiction and sets the methods for their distribution and implementation.	
	<i>Other requirements</i>			
	<i>Tagging programme</i>	No tagging operations are carried out in Algeria.		

	Use of video camera for transfer surveillance (paragraph 75, 76 and Annex 8)	Transfer operations from the fishing net to the transport cage will be recorded by video camera, as required by paragraphs 75, 76 and Annex 8 of ICCAT Rec. 14-04.	Article 17 of the Order of 19 March 2013, which amends and supplements the Order of 19 April 2010, establishes bluefin tuna quotas for vessels flying the national flag operating in waters under national jurisdiction and sets the methods for their distribution and implementation.	
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Inspection Plan

CPC's inspection (para 64, 99)

A national inspection programme for all bluefin tuna fishing operations will be implemented for the 2018 campaign, in accordance with national laws and regulations and the relevant provisions of ICCAT recommendations. This programme consists in carrying out at-port inspections on tuna vessels authorised to participate in the 2018 fishing campaign, before and after the campaign.

Two controllers / national observers board each of the tuna purse seiners throughout the fishing season. The controllers / observers are responsible for monitoring fishing and transfer operations and verifying information and data on the fishing campaign. They will ensure compliance with ICCAT recommendations on bluefin tuna fishing. Each controller / observer will be required to produce campaign reports at the end of the campaign.

The controllers / observers will remain in constant contact with the fisheries administration and communicate all information on fishing and transfer operations.

In addition, for the purposes of monitoring, the tuna vessels that are authorised to participate in the fishing campaign will be equipped with a VMS beacon which will be operational throughout the campaign. Transmission of VMS data is mandatory for all tuna vessels and must start 15 days before the authorisation period and will continue 15 days after the fishing campaign. The data transmission frequency will be every four hours in accordance with the latest relevant ICCAT recommendation.

With regard to landing ports, tuna vessels flying the national flag are authorised to land bluefin tuna caught during the fishing campaign in the authorised ports only, i.e.: Port of Algiers, port of Annaba, port of Bejaïa, port of Cherchell, port of Oran, port of Ténès, port of Bouzedjar and the port of Beni Saf. An inspection of products to be landed and all the onboard documents will be carried out by the relevant State institutions (Fisheries and Coast Guards). It is prohibited for foreign vessels to land bluefin tuna.

Joint international inspection (para 97-98)

Algeria will not deploy an inspection vessel for the 2018 fishing campaign, since it does not have more than 15 tuna vessels, in accordance with the relevant ICCAT provisions.

Algeria will deploy in the coming years a joint international inspection vessel in the case where the number of vessels exceeds 15. Legislation is being amended to respond to these requirements if the need arises.

Capacity management plan (para 35-42, 44-45a)

The fishing capacity, represented by a fleet of 14 tuna purse seine vessels and 1 longliner, is adapted to the quota allocated to Algeria, i.e. 1,300 t. On this basis, Algeria will not exceed its bluefin tuna fishing capacity.

With the exception of the longline vessel authorised to fish for dead bluefin tuna, the list of vessels will be established following compliance by the tuna vessel owners with national regulatory requirements on maritime security and fishing methods. The list of vessels will be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat by the deadlines established in paragraph 54 of Recommendation 17-07.

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	2017	2018	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Purse seiner over 40 m	70.7	0	0	0	0	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	12	12	398.24	696.92	547.58	547.58	547.58	547.58	547.58	547.58	547.58	597.36	597.36
Purse seiner less than 24 m	33.68	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	0	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	67.36	67.36	67.36	67.36
Total purse seine fleet		8	15	12	12	12	12	12	13	13	14	14	398.24	730.6	581.26	581.26	581.26	581.26	581.26	614.94	614.94	664.72	664.72
Longliner over 40 m	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner between 20 and 40m	5.68	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	0	1	5.68	5.68	5.68	5.68	5.68	11.36	11.36	5.68	5.68	0	5.68
Longliner less than 24m	5	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	5	10	10	10	10	5	5	5	5	0	0
Total longline fleet		2	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	0	1	10.68	15.68	15.68	15.68	15.68	16.36	16.36	10.68	10.68	0	5.68
Baitboat	19.8	0	0	0	0	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	0	0	0	0
Trawler	10	0	0	0	0	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	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	0	0	0	0
Total fleet/fishing capacity		10	18	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	14	15	408.92	746.28	596.94	596.94	596.94	597.62	597.62	625.62	625.62	664.72	670.40
Quota													1460.04	1460.04	1306.35	138.46	138.46	143.83	143.83	169.81	202.98	243.7	1260
Adjusted quota (if applicable)													1460.04	1460.04	684.9	138.46	138.46	243.83	243.83	369.81	425.98	1043.7	1300*
Admissible catch for sports/recreational vessels (if applicable)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Under/overcapacity													997.12	703.76	87.96	-458.48	-458.48	-353.11	-353.11	-255.81	-199.64	378.98	629.60

* A quota of 6 t is reserved for by-catch.

CHINA (REP.)

Introduction

According to Recommendation 14-04/17-07, China was allocated 79 t of BFT in the 2018 fishing season, China will dispatch two longline fishing vessels to conduct BFT fishing activities seasonally in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea as same as last year, namely Jin Feng No.1 and Jin Feng No.3.

The *Fisheries Law* and the *Regulation on Distant Water Fishery Management* are the main pieces of national legislation to manage Chinese deep sea fishing vessels conducting fishing activities on the high seas. In addition, we also issued the *VMS Management regulation* and *Regulation on the Implementation of National Observer Management* which respectively specify the stipulation of VMS and observer on our deep sea fishing vessels, besides, we issued the ministerial-level document *Notice on strictly complying with tuna RFMOs management measures* which, *inter alia*, include the main requirements contained in the ICCAT Recommendation 14-04/17-07, such as minimum size, observer coverage, VMS requirement, designated transshipment/landing port requirement and so on.

Fishing plan

China will dispatch two fishing vessels to catch BFT: Jin Feng No.1 and Jin Feng No.3. Both are longliners and will be allocated 39.5 tons; each vessel will hold one half of the total catch quota.

It is relatively simple to monitor and respect the quotas since only two fishing vessels share the limited quotas and they belong to one company. We could manage the quotas through the following ways:

- Observer program: usually we implement 100% observer coverage for BFT fishing vessels which is much higher than the requirement in Rec. 14-04/17-07, the observer must be familiar with the BFT recommendation and will record accurately every day the weight and number of BFT, including the weight for round fish and GG weight.
- Catch report: we have daily\weekly\monthly BFT catch reports and we could cross-check the catch.
- Logbook: the fishing vessel master must strictly and accurately fill in the logbook, including any by-catch and incidental catch.
- Landing\transshipment: these vessels can only conduct landing or transshipment activities in the designated port authorized by ICCAT.
- VMS requirement: we could monitor these vessels through our VMS platform and their positions could be polled whenever we need.
- Catch documentation: using the catch documentation system to check the quotas.
- BFT by-catch is not allowed for any other fishing vessels which are not authorized to catch BFT. Our BFT fishing area is delimited by west of 10° W and north of 42° N, and no fishing vessels are operating in the Mediterranean Sea which means no by-catch and small-scale BFT.
- Training program: each year we will hold a training program for the fishing vessel owner and vessel master, interpret the relevant recommendations and the main requirement, meanwhile, the Rec.14-04/17-07 was translated into Chinese and distribute to them for their better understanding and learning.

	<i>ICCAT Requirement (per 14-04)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
1.	Catch recording and reporting (para. 61-67, 69)	We distribute to every Chinese fishing vessel operating on the high seas the standardized logbook and ask the master fill it in timely and accurately. BFT must be landed and transhipped at the designated port. The fishing vessel owner must report daily/weekly/monthly catch to us. We will issue the first warning notice when the quota approaches 80% of the total. When the quota is exhausted we will ask the fishing vessels to stop operating and leave the fishing ground immediately. Then we will report the closure to Secretariat at once.	<i>Regulation on Distant Water Fishery Management</i>	
2.	Fishing Seasons (para. 18-23)	Usually, our vessels will start to fish at the end of September until the quotas are exhausted but before the end of the year.	1. <i>Regulation on Distant Water Fishery Management</i> 2. <i>Notice on strictly complying with tuna RFMOs management measures</i>	
3.	Minimum size (para. 26-28)	Through the observer program and logbook as well as the daily/weekly/monthly catch report we could monitor minimum size. Any catch under the minimum size must be released and recorded. We set the minimum size limit which corresponds to Rec.14-04/17-07, prohibit to catch, retain, transship, land and sell BFT less than 30 kg or 115 cm, the maximum of 5% tolerance is authorized. Discarded catch is also counted against our quotas.	1. <i>Regulation on Distant Water Fishery Management</i> 2. <i>Notice on strictly complying with tuna RFMOs management measures</i>	
4.	By-catch (para. 29)	By-catch is not allowed for any other fishing vessels. That means 5% is not allowed. Any other vessels other than BFT vessels are prohibited to catch, retain and transship BFT. Any BFT caught by other vessels are not issued eBCD. All the by-catch must be discarded, these discarded BFT is also counted against China's BFT quota.	1. <i>Regulation on Distant Water Fishery Management</i> 2. <i>Regulation on the Implementation of National Observer Management</i> 3. <i>Notice on strictly complying with tuna RFMOs management measures</i>	
5.	Recreational and sports fisheries (para, 30-34)	Not applicable as we do not have such a fishery.	Not applicable as we do not have such a fishery.	

6.	Transshipment (para. 58-60)	Bluefin tuna fishing vessel shall only transship and/or land bluefin tuna catches in the designated ports.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Regulation on Distant Water Fishery Management</i> 2. <i>Notice on strictly complying with tuna RFMOs management measures</i> 	
7.	VMS (para. 87)	The VMS could be reported to the Secretariat directly and we will also poll the vessel position from our VMS platform. From our platform we could monitor and poll 6 positions per day, once every 4 hours.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Regulation on Distant Water Fishery Management</i> 2. <i>VMS Management Regulation</i> 3. <i>Notice on strictly complying with tuna RFMOs management measures</i> 	
8.	CPC Observer (para. 88)	Usually we will implement 100% observer coverage which is higher than 20% for longliners stipulated in Rec. 14-04/17-07.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Regulation on Distant Water Fishery Management</i> 2. <i>Regulation on the Implementation of National Observer Management</i> 3. <i>Notice on strictly complying with tuna RFMOs management measures</i> 	
9.	Regional observer (para. 89-90)	Not applicable as we do not have purse seiners, and also do not have caging and farming activities.	Not applicable as we do not have purse seiners, and also do not have caging and farming activities.	
	<i>Other requirements, such as tagging program</i>	Each BFT will have a tag with a unique number.	Since only two fishing vessels engage in BFT fishing and these two vessels belong to one company, according to the <i>Fisheries Law</i> of PRC, Chinese fishing vessels must comply with measures adopted by RFMOs of which China is a contracting party. The competent authority of the Chinese fishery has notified the relevant company of such ICCAT requirement on BFT.	

Inspection Plan

CPC's inspection (para 64, 99)

Para 64 is not applicable as China has no port for BFT fishing vessels to conduct landing or transshipment.

Para 99 is not applicable as we have only two BFT fishing vessels that operate.

Joint international inspection (para 97-98)

Not applicable.

Capacity Management Plan (para 35-42, 44-45a)

Please see the template.

TUNA VESSEL FLEET	Fleet (vessels)														Fishing capacity									
	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Purse seiner over 40m	70,7																							
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	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	2	2	100	50	50	50	50	50	25	25	50	50	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	2	2	100	50	50	50	50	50	25	25	50	50	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	2	2	100	50	50	50	50	50	25	25	50	50	50	
Quota													63.55	61.32	38.48	36.77	36.77	38.19	38.19	45.09	53.9	64.71	79	
Adjusted quota (if applicable)																								
Allowance for sport/recreational (if applicable)																								
Under/overcapacity													-36.45	11.32	-11.5	-13.23	-13.23	-11.8	13.19	20.09	3.9	14.71	29	

EGYPT

Introduction

Fishing activities for eastern bluefin tuna will be conducted in compliance with applicable ICCAT Recommendations. In accordance with the ICCAT Rec. 14-04 and Rec. 17-07 according to the bluefin tuna allocation scheme that was adopted in the special meetings of ICCAT (Marrakech, Morocco, November 2017, paragraph 5), the quota allocated for Egypt for the 2018 fishing season is 181 t.

The total amount of tuna that can be fished in the 2018 fishing season in total is 181 t.

This total amount will be fished on the authorized fishing vessel. As following;

- *Safinat Nooh* that listed on the ICCAT list (No. AT000EGY00010) according to the following scheme.

<i>Vessel Allocated Quota (t)</i>		
Purse seine	SAFINAT NOOH	181 t

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.

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 farm development.*
- Article (3) Transshipment at sea is completely prohibited as required in Recommendation 14-04.

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 transfer from purse seiners to towing cages should be monitored by video camera and shall be delivered to observers of fishing operations without any restrictions. In context of para. 75 of ICCAT Rec. 14-04.

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 EL-Meardia 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.

* The word "development" means the development of farms (as future further steps). The appropriate translation for the decree number 827 "..... Farm development".

Fishing plan

	<i>ICCAT Requirement (per 14-04)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
1.	Catch recording and reporting (para. 61-67, 69)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All 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 also recording and reporting obligations laid down by relevant ICCAT Recommendations shall be fully implemented. • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution Number (829) for the year 2011 • Decree Number (827) for the year 2011 	
2.	Fishing Seasons (para. 18-23)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The authorized period for fishing is from 26 May to 24 June 2018. • No coastal recreational, sport fisheries will be allowed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decree Number (827) for the year 2011 	
3.	Minimum size (para. 26-28)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provisions regulating minimum size laid down by relevant ICCAT Recommendations shall be strictly implemented. • National observer/inspector on board shall ensure the full commitment of the minimum size in accordance with the ICCAT relative recommendation during the season • The prohibition of fishing of bluefin tuna that is less than 30 kilograms. • Incidental catch of max. 5% of BFT. Weighting (8 to 30 Kg) or fork length 75 to 115 cm is authorized. • All live undersized BFT must be released into the sea and dead BFT should be reported and deducted from the quota. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decree Number (828) for the year 2011 	
4.	By-catch (para. 29)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vessels not fishing actively for bluefin tuna are monitored by our National inspectors on landing ports to count any BFT. By-catches in order to ensure implementing of ICCAT rec. • Bluefin tuna should not exceed more than 5% of the total catch by weight or number of pieces. • All our inspectors in landing ports have been instructed to monitor and report any by-catch of BFT throughout the year. • As regards BFT, if by-catch occurs, investigation shall be done. • By the first of February each year final report declaring all BFT. By-catches (if any) which must be deducted from the quota of the year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolution Number (829) for the year 2011 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The amount of by-catch discarded whether 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 Egypt. In according with ICCAT Rec. 14-04 and 17-07, para 29. 		
5.	Recreational and sports fisheries (para. 30-34)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No coastal recreational, sport fisheries will be allowed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decree Number (827) for the year 2011 	
6.	Transshipment (para. 58-60)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transshipment at sea is completely prohibited as required in Rec. 14-04. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decree Number (827) for the year 2011 	
7.	VMS (para. 87)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The authorized fishing vessels requesting a bluefin fishing and transport permit for 2018 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 as minimum requirement. 		
8.	CPC Observer (para. 88)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One 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 Recs and GAFRD Res. The permanent observers in ports to follow-up the landed catch and reviewing the on board observers reports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resolution Number (829) for the year 2011 	
9.	Regional observer (para. 89-90)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerning the "ICCAT regional observers", Egypt will send a request to the ICCAT Secretariat to have an Arabic speaker observer for the one authorized vessel (100%). In general each vessel must have two observers (one National observer and one ICCAT ROP. Observer). 		
10.	Use of aircraft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No aircrafts are used. 		
11.	Sampling requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 		
12.	Joint Fishing Operations (JFO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint fishing operations with other CPC vessels will be allowed if a JFO is requested by our fishing company. 		
	<i>Other requirements, such as tagging program</i>			

Inspection Plan

For the national vessels, full inspection coverage shall be ensured during the 2018 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.

Capacity Management Plan (para 35-42, 44-45a)

The Egyptian fishing capacity plan for season 2018 attached in Excel format.

TUNA VESSEL FLEET	Fleet (vessels)												Fishing capacity											
	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7																							
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	50	50	50	50	49.78	49.78	
Purse seiners less than 24m	33.68	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	34	34	34	34	34	34	33.7	0	
Total Purse Seine Fleet		0	0	0	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	0	0	0	34	34	84	84	84	84	83.46	49.78	
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		0	0	0	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	0	0	0	34	34	84	84	84	84	83.46	49.78	
Quota													0	50	33	65	65	77	77	79	100	113.67	181	
Adjusted quota (if applicable)																							123.67	
Allowance for sport/recreational (if applicable)																								
Under/overcapacity																31	31	-6.4	-6.4	-4.3	16	40.21	131.22	

EUROPEAN UNION

1. Introduction

The European Union hereby provides its Fishing, Inspection and Capacity Management plans for Eastern Bluefin tuna (E-BFT).

The eight EU Member States actively fishing Bluefin tuna are Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain. These EU Member States fish with a range of fishing gears, with the majority of the quotas being attributed to the purse seine and trap sectors. However, significant catches are also made by more artisanal sectors such as the baitboats, handlines and pelagic trawlers, in both the Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea. The eight EU Member States also cooperate to implement a Joint Deployment Plan of inspections means, in coordination with the European Commission and the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA). The Recovery plan for eastern Bluefin tuna, ICCAT Recommendation [14-04] recently replaced by Recommendation [17-07], has been transposed into European Union (EU) law by Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 of the European Parliament and of the Council of the European Union.

2. Fishing plan

The European Union adopted Council Regulation (EC) No 302/2009 on 6 April 2009 transposing into EU Law ICCAT Recommendation [08-05] to establish a Multiannual Recovery Plan for Bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean. 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 law by Regulation 544/2014. Finally, the EU adopted Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 of the European Parliament and of the Council on 14 September 2016 transposing ICCAT Recommendation [14-04] into EU law.

- In 2018 the EU will implement the provisions of Recommendation [17-07]. In addition, the EU will also fully implement Recommendation [17-09].
- In accordance with the current Total Allowable Catch (TAC) provided for under Recommendation [17-07], the quota for the EU in 2018 of 15,850 t has already been transposed into by EU legislation Reg. (EU) 120/2018.
- In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation [17-07] the EU is currently drawing up an annual Fishing plan identifying catching vessels over 24 meters and their associated individual quotas.
- All purse seine vessels over 24 meters are allocated an individual vessel quota superior to the SCRS catch rates as adopted by the ICCAT Commission for estimating fleet capacity.
- The EU will authorise 'catching vessels' and 'other' vessels' in accordance with paragraph 52 of ICCAT Recommendation [17-07].
- The EU will continue to submit the lists of authorised vessels that will participate in the fishery in 2018 in accordance with the reporting deadlines laid down under paragraph 52 of Recommendation [17-07].
- The EU hereby submits a complementary Inspection plan covering all BFT fisheries and capable of addressing effectively the control requirements of the fishery.
- The EU undertakes real-time monitoring of the Bluefin tuna fishery and is committed to take the necessary measures to ensure full respect of ICCAT Recommendation [17-07] as well as other Recommendations concerning the management of E-BFT fisheries, including Recommendations [06-07], [11-20] and [17-09].

In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation [17-07] the EU has allocated quotas¹ to the following sectors:

TUNA VESSEL FLEET	2018	
Type	Fleet (No. vessels)	Quota allocated (t)
Purse seiner over 40m	24	5,127.7
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	30	3,807.9
Purse seiners less than 24m	4	176.5
Total Purse Seine Fleet	58	9,112.1
Longliner over 40m	0	0.0
Longliner between 24 and 40m	12	47.3
Longliner less than 24m	127	1,295.8
Total Longline Fleet	139	1,343.1
Baitboat	61	925.2
Handline	46	164.1
Trawler	57	389.0
Trap	12	2,043.3
Other	715	1,443.5
Recreational		97.0
By-catch reserve		332.7
Total fleet/fishing capacity	1088	15,850.0
Quota		15,850.0
Adjusted quota (if applicable)		15,850.0
Under-capacity (t)		0.0

¹ The EU capacity plan shows the potential capacity that EU can deploy, with the maximum number of vessels and the minimum quota that should be allocated to each gear type following the catch rates in accordance with the methodology approved in the 2009 Annual meeting. The EU fishing plan on the other hand shows the actual number of vessels that will be authorized by EU in 2018 and the quota allocated to them. In 2018, the number of vessels in the fishing plan (1,088) is lower than the number in the capacity plan (1,115).

The table below summarises the actions taken to implement the requirements of ICCAT Rec. [17-07] as well as the relevant domestic laws or regulations when applicable.

	<i>ICCAT Requirement (per 17-07)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
1.	Catch recording and reporting (para. 61-67, 69)	<p>Purse seine vessels, vessels over 24 meters and traps have to send daily reports to the Member State administration. Weekly reports for all vessels are sent by Member States to the European Commission which transmits them to the ICCAT Secretariat.</p> <p>In 2018, all vessels authorized to fish for BFT independently of the length shall record their catches in a logbook.</p>	<p>Regulation (EU) 2016/1627² SECTION 2 Article 25 "Recording requirements" "Catches", Article 26 "Catch reports sent by masters and trap operators", Article 27 "Weekly and monthly catch reports sent by the Member States", Article 28 "Information on quota exhaustion" Article 29 "Yearly reporting of catches by the Member States"</p>	<p>All catch reports are recorded at EU level, cross checks are made between the authorization, the individual quota, the national quota and the JFO quota (when relevant). In accordance with Art. 14 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 all EU fishing vessels above 10 m have to be equipped with a bound logbook with chronologically numbered pages. For fishing vessels over 12m, an electronic logbook is required. Additional requirements set up by ICCAT are covered by Art. 25 and Annex II of Regulation (EU) No 2016/1627.</p>
2.	Fishing Seasons (para. 18-23)	<p>According to Article 35 of Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009, Member States shall inform the Commission as soon as the BFT quota is exhausted. In addition, under Regulation (EU) 2016/1627, Member States shall inform the Commission when the BFT quota allocated to a gear group referred to in Article 11 or Article 12 of this Regulation or to a JFO or to a purse seiner is deemed to be exhausted. The fishing seasons applicable to the EU fleets in all Member States concerned are in line with the seasons established by ICCAT. Art 11 and Art 12 of Regulation (EU) No 2016/1627 implement them into EU law.</p>	<p>Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 Chapter III "Technical measures", SECTION 1 "Fishing seasons",</p> <p>Article 11 "Longliners, purse seiners, pelagic trawlers, traps and sport and recreational fisheries"</p> <p>Article 12 "Baitboats and trolling boats"</p>	<p>Within the EUs Specific Control and Inspection Programme, inspection missions focus on the verification of the respect of the fishing seasons.</p>

² Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 September 2016 on a multiannual recovery plan for Bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 302/2009.

		A special reporting and alert system is in place to verify at EU level the quota use in each Member State for each fleet.		
3.	Minimum size (para. 26-28)	According to Art. 15 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1627, incidental catches of a maximum 5 % of Bluefin tuna weighing between 8 and 30 kg or with a fork length between 75 and 115 cm are allowed for all catching vessels and traps fishing actively for Bluefin tuna. These catches are subject to logbook entry, designated port and prior arrival notification requirements, and shall be deducted from the quota. Art. 15 of Regulation EU No 1380/2013 establishes a general landing obligation across the EU. Where a derogation to this Regulation is granted in accordance with Article 15.2 and in line with international obligations, this is provided for by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/98.	Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 Chapter III "Technical measures", Section 2 "Minimum conservation reference size, incidental catch, by-catch", Article 14 "Minimum conservation reference size" Article 15 " Incidental catches" and Annex I of the same Regulation "specific conditions applicable to the fisheries referred to in Article 14(2)	For the implementation of the derogation to the Minimum size set up by Article 14(2) of Regulation (EU) 2016/1627, Article 17 of Council Regulation (EU) 2018/120 of 23 January 2018 and Annex IV, sets fishing, farming and fattening capacity limitations for BFT by fixing yearly the number of vessels per Member State concerned. Compliance with capacity limitation provisions is monitored in the context of the JDP (Joint Deployment plan) (see 3.2.2.).
4.	By-catch (para. 29)	In accordance with ICCAT measures, the EU deducts all dead fish caught as by-catch from its quota. As every year, for Member States without a quota, the EU reserves part of its quote in Annex ID of Council Regulation (EU) 2018/120 of 23 January 2018. For more visibility and transparency all quota allocated to by-catch has been included in the EU fishing plan provided to ICCAT.	Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 Chapter III "Technical measures", Section 2 "Minimum conservation reference size, incidental catch, by-catch", Article 16 "By-catch"	A by-catch quota for accidental catches by EU Member States without a BFT quota is provided in Annex ID of Council Regulation (EU) 2018/120 of 23 January 2018. Any bycatch in excess of the 5% limit, is released alive whenever possible. Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/98 regulates under which circumstances BFT may be released or discarded within the EU. Regulation (EU) 404/2011 provides that discards shall be recorded in the logbook. All by-catches discarded or retained on-board are counted against the quota.

<p>5.</p>	<p>Recreational and sports fisheries (para. 30-34)</p>	<p>Dead catches from sport and recreational fisheries are counted against the quota. In this regard, a quota has been allocated for sport and recreational quota in the 2018 fishing plan. Furthermore, in the context of its Joint Deployment Plan, the EU conducts a series of inspections targeting sport and recreational activities, based on minimum benchmarks established on the basis of a risk assessment procedure. Finally, in addition to these common activities, each Member States also conducts programs of inspections, targeting sport and recreational fisheries. These programs are assessed by the European Commission through verification missions.</p>	<p>Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 Chapter IV "Sport and Recreational Fisheries", Article 19 "Sport and Recreational Fisheries"</p>	<p>Under Art. 19 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 each EU Member State is obliged to record catch data, including weight and length of each BFT caught during sport and recreational fishing and communicate the data for the preceding year to the European Commission by 30 June of each year. The EU Commission forwards that information to the SCRS. In 2018, the limit of one fish per day shall apply for all recreational vessels.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Transshipment (para. 58-60)</p>	<p>Land inspections in the context of the Joint Deployment Plan also cover transshipments.</p>	<p>Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 SECTION 3" Landings and transshipments", Article 32 "Transshipment"</p>	<p>Art. 32 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 prohibits all transshipments at sea in the Convention area. Fishing vessels can only tranship BFT catches in designated ports. Full inspection coverage is ensured during all transshipment times and at all transshipment places.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>VMS (para. 87)</p>	<p>The team responsible within the EU for catch reporting and satellite Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) monitors in real time the VMS submissions. To this end, a special IT system is in place. All vessels are continually monitored by VMS and any interruption in the transmission of VMS data will immediately be followed up with the Member State concerned.</p>	<p>According to EU Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009 of 20 November 2009, Article 9 "Vessel Monitoring system", all EU vessels over 12 meters are equipped with a VMS. By Article 49 Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 this obligation was extended to all BFT tug and towing vessels irrespective of their length.</p>	<p>Under Art. 49 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 EU Member States are obliged to ensure that VMS messages from the fishing vessels flying their flag are forwarded to the European Commission at least every two hours. A specific IT system is in place to ensure the implementation of this obligation at EU level.</p>

8.	CPC Observer (para. 88)	The data is collected by MS for the year 2017 and the information will be sent to ICCAT In July 2018.	Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 SECTION 6 "Monitoring and surveillance", Article 50 "National observer programme"	Article 50 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 "National observer programme" establishes the minimum levels of national observer coverage and describes the tasks to be performed by national observers. EU Member States also ensure a representative temporal and spatial presence of national observers on their vessels and traps to ensure that the European Commission receives adequate and appropriate data and information on catch, effort and other scientific and management aspects, taking into account characteristics of the fleets and fisheries. The implementation of these provisions is ensured through the Data Collection Framework.
9.	Regional observer (para. 89-90)	The EU ensures 100% coverage of all purse seine vessels and for all caging and harvesting activities. As in previous years, replies to all the cases highlighted by ROs will be duly provided to the ICCAT Secretariat.	Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 SECTION 6 "Monitoring and surveillance", Article 51 "ICCAT regional observer programme"	
	Tagging program Para 21 of Rec. 11-20	In accordance with ICCAT provisions, the use of tags is authorised only upon request and when the accumulated catch amounts are within Member States' quotas or catch limits for each management year, including, where appropriate, individual quotas allocated to catching vessels or traps. A summary of any tagging programs implemented by MS is sent to ICCAT.	Art. 5 of (EU) Reg. 640/2010	EU also follows the additional provisions set up at ICCAT level by para 5c of ICCAT Recommendation [15-10].

3. Inspection Plan

3.1 CPC's inspection (para 64, 99)

Under the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), the primary responsibility for control and enforcement lays with the Member State Authorities and specifically their fisheries inspectors.

The European Commission and the EFCA coordinate with the Member States to ensure that the provisions laid down by ICCAT are reflected in EU and Member States law and fully enforced. The tools in place are explained under 3.2 below. In addition, the following verification activities are carried out by the European Commission:

3.1.1 European Commission inspections

Whilst different in its powers and mandate, the European Commission also has its own permanent team of inspectors whose role is to monitor and evaluate Member States fulfilment of their duties and obligations, including those under the Bluefin tuna recovery plan and associated ICCAT Recommendations concerning BFT.

Although the inspection plan is still subject to change in response to the specificities of the 2018 fishing campaign, European Commission inspectors will once again be very active in 2018.

3.1.2 Vessel monitoring system and Operations team

The team responsible within the European Commission for catch reporting and satellite Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) will monitor in real time the VMS submissions 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.

3.2 Joint international inspection (para 97-98)

3.2.1 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)³ to monitor and enforce the implementation of the Bluefin tuna recovery plan and also the Swordfish recovery plan which has been amended on 5 January 2018. This programme is a joint initiative bringing together the resources of the European Commission, EFCA and the Member States involved in the fishery.

3.2.2 Joint Deployment Plan (JDP) for Bluefin tuna

In cooperation with the European Commission and Member States, EFCA adopts annually a Joint Deployment Plan (JDP), which includes Bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, Mediterranean Swordfish from 2017 and, Mediterranean Albacore from 2018. This Joint Deployment plan (JDP) brings the Specific Control and Inspection Programme into effect and covers all stages of the market chain as well as controls at sea, on land, and traps and farms.

Under the JDP, EFCA will coordinate in 2018 joint inspections and control activities in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean involving a number of fishery patrol vessels and aircrafts. An additional patrol vessel will be chartered and deployed by EFCA in 2018. Whilst the operational strategies and precise areas of operation remain confidential, the general areas covered by the 2018 JDP 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 Purse Seiners and

³ Commission Implementing Decision 2014/156/EU of 19 March 2014 establishing a specific control and inspection programme for fisheries exploiting stocks of Bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, and for certain demersal and pelagic fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea amended by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/17 of 5 January 2018.

farming activities. Focus will also be given to traps and sport and recreational fishery. In 2018, the EU will conduct up to 360 days of control and inspection activities at sea and around 36 days of air surveillance in the framework of the JDP.

A JDP Steering Group, composed by representatives of EFCA, the European Commission and the European Member States, guides the overall strategy of inspection activities and supervises the JDP implementation. The strategy and control priorities are based on an annual risk assessment carried out by Member States under the coordination of EFCA.

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 the dedicated ICCAT recommendations to the species covered by this JDP.

The EFCA is also cooperating with EMSA (European Maritime Safety Agency) and FRONTEX (European Border and Coast Guard Agency), each within its mandate, to support the national authorities carrying coast guard functions, by providing services, information, equipment and training as well as by coordinating multipurpose operations. Among the tools used to support these multipurpose operations is the MARSURV service, an application that provides an integrated maritime picture based on the real-time fusion of VMS, Automatic Identification System (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. Cooperation of EFCA in the context of Coastguard function has allowed to identify serious PNCs in non EU waters in recent years.

3.2.3 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 adopted, including those under Annex 9 of Rec. [17-07], are to a large extent a reflection of the experience of EU control authorities in implementing the stereoscopic program in EU farms. As in previous years, in 2018 100% of caging operations will be controlled using stereoscopic cameras.

3.2.4 Member States annual Inspection plans

Under Article 53 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1627 transposing para 8 of Rec. [14-04] replaced by Rec. [17-07] (for inspection plans) into EU law, each EU Member State concerned has developed and submitted a 2018 ICCAT Inspection plan as part of its National Control Action programme for Bluefin tuna. These are extensive programmes containing the resources and inspection strategies Member States commit to implement within their jurisdiction. These programmes, as required under the Specific Control and Inspection Programme (see above), include a series of inspection 'benchmarks' consistent with:

- 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) a minimum percentage of sea inspections on vessels depending on the risk identified for the sector.

These National Programmes are in full accordance with the conservation and management measures adopted in Recommendation [17-07].

4. Capacity Management Plan (para 35-42, 44-45a)

The transmission of Capacity management plans as set up by para 8 of Rec. [17-07] has been transposed into EU law by Article 6 of Regulation (EU) 2016/1627. Under this Article, each Member State with a Bluefin tuna quota shall transmit its plan to the European Commission which integrates them into an EU Capacity management plan for transmission to ICCAT. The EU Capacity management plan is included below.

ICCAT REPORT 2018-2019 (I)

<i>Tuna Vessel Fleet</i>		<i>Fleet (vessels)</i>											<i>Fishing capacity</i>										
<i>Type</i>	<i>Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)</i>	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Purse seiner over 40m	70,70	38	35	23	20	20	20	18	18	21	17	37	2685	2473	1625	1413	1413	1413	1272	1272	1485	1272	2616
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49,78	91	44	28	18	18	18	25	26	24	29	17	4530	2190	1394	896	896	896	1245	1294	1195	1393	846
Purse seiners less than 24m	33,68	112	8	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	3	4	3772	269	0	0	0	67	34	67	101	135	
Total Purse Seine Fleet		241	87	51	38	38	38	45	45	47	49	58	10987	4933	3019	2309	2309	2309	2584	2600	2747	2767	3597
Longliner over 40m	25									0	0	0								0	0	0	
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5,68	7	13	15	10	8	6	6	5	5	1	12	40	74	85	57	45	34	34	28	28	5	68
Longliner less than 24m	5	329	194	191	168	90	89	104	136	142	94	127	1645	970	955	840	450	445	520	680	710	470	635
Total Longline Fleet		336	207	206	178	98	95	110	141	147	95	139	1685	1044	1040	897	495	479	554	708	738	475	703
Baitboat	19,8	68	69	69	68	68	68	22	23	75	62	88	1343	1363	1363	1343	1343	1343	435	454	1485	1227	1742
Handline	5	101	38	31	31	31	31	101	42	40	42	46	505	190	155	155	155	155	505	210	200	210	230
Trawler	10	160	72	78	60	60	57	57	57	51	57	57	1600	720	780	600	600	570	570	570	510	570	570
Trap	130	15	15	13	13	12	14	12	14	14	12	12	1950	1950	1690	1690	1560	1820	1560	1820	1820	1560	1560
Other (please specify)	5	253	382	376	222	154	135	253	398	317	465	715	1265	1910	1880	1110	770	675	1265	1990	1585	2325	3575
Total fleet/fishing capacity		1174	870	824	610	461	438	600	720	691	782	1115	19335	12109	9927	8104	7233	7351	7473	8352	9085	9135	11977
Quota													17044	16523	7981	7642	7642	7939	7939	9373	11204	13451.4	15850
Adjusted quota (if applicable)													16211	12548	7481	6132	6132	7939	7939	9373	11204	13451.4	15850
Allowance for sport/recreational (if applicable)																							
Under/overcapacity													-3124	438	-2446	-1972	-1100	587	466	1021	2118	4315.6	3873

ICELAND

Introduction

The Icelandic Fishing Act is the legal basis for the Icelandic Fisheries management system that is an ITQ system for all the most important fisheries (around 98% by landed value). All Icelandic fishing vessels are required to have a general fishing permit and a sufficient quota for all expected catches before leaving port. Iceland manages over a million tonnes of commercial fisheries every year with ITQs with mandatory weighing of all catches at landing.

The EA-bluefin tuna quota of Iceland for the year 2018 is 84 tonnes. The quota will be allocated to one longline vessel 80 tonnes, and 4 tonnes will be reserved for incidental bycatches by other Icelandic fishing vessels. Icelandic authorities will adjust the quota of the longliner if bycatches exceed 4 tonnes in 2018.

Fishing plan

There is no designated bluefin tuna fishing fleet in Iceland. The Icelandic fisheries management system is based on ITQs and all fishing vessels need a general fishing permit and a sufficient quota for the expected catch before leaving port for any fishing. Therefore there are no “designated vessels” for tuna fisheries as vessels that can apply for BFT licence engage in bluefin tuna fisheries for a few weeks every year.

In 2018 the Icelandic fisheries authorities will issue a fishing licence for directed bluefin tuna to one Icelandic longline fishing vessel.

In 2018 the Icelandic bluefin tuna quota will be allocated as follows:

- One longline vessel will be allocated 80 tonnes of bluefin tuna.
- 4 tonnes of bluefin tuna will be reserved for incidental bycatches by the Icelandic fishing fleet.

The longliner will be allocated an individual, non-transferrable quota. Iceland manages over a million tonnes of commercial fisheries every year with ITQs and weighing of all catches at landing. The Directorate keeps records of all allocated quota and all landings, quota uptake by each vessel is updated after landing in an online landing registration to the Directorate.

All catches shall be landed in Icelandic designated ports, with an inspector from the Directorate of Fisheries present.

No transshipments are allowed.

Inspectors from the Directorate of Fisheries in Iceland shall be present on board the longliner for at least 20% of the fishing operations. The vessel needs written permission from the Directorate before leaving port without an inspector.

The Marine and Freshwater 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 MFRI.

The longline fishing season starts 1 August and ends 31 December. The fishing area is south of Iceland in the NE-Atlantic West of 10°W and North of 42°N. 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 2018.

All Icelandic vessels are equipped with a VMS system and are 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 2018 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.

Relevant requirements of ICCAT Recommendations on EA-bluefin tuna fisheries are implemented in a special bluefin regulation issued each year by the Minister of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Iceland.

	<i>ICCAT Requirement (per 14-04)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
1.	Catch recording and reporting (para. 61-67, 69)	BFT longliner with Electronic Logbook, all landings monitored by inspector and recorded in online database of the Directorate of Fisheries.	Icelandic Fisheries Act, Regulation on BFT fisheries 2018.	
2.	Fishing Seasons (para. 18-23)	1 August – 31 December in NE-Atlantic West of 10°W and North of 42°N.	Icelandic Fisheries Act, Regulation on BFT fisheries 2018.	
3.	Minimum size (para. 26-28)	Undersized fish to be released alive, discards banned, if dead to be landed and recorded.	Icelandic Fisheries Act, Regulation on BFT fisheries 2018.	
4.	By-catch (para. 29)	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. In 2018, 4 t of BFT quota will be reserved to account for incidental bycatches by the Icelandic fleet.	Icelandic Fisheries Act, Regulation on BFT fisheries 2018.	
5.	Recreational and sports fisheries (para, 30-34)	No recreational or any other directed fisheries for EA-BFT will be allowed in 2018.	Icelandic Fisheries Act, Regulation on BFT fisheries 2018.	
6.	Transshipment (para. 58-60)	Transshipment is not allowed.	Icelandic Fisheries Act, Regulation on BFT fisheries 2018.	

7.	VMS (para. 87)	All Icelandic fishing 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.	Icelandic Fisheries Act, Regulation on BFT fisheries 2018.	
8.	CPC Observer (para. 88)	There are no observers in Iceland, only inspectors that are full time employees of the Directorate of Fisheries. Inspectors 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.	Icelandic Fisheries Act, Regulation on BFT fisheries 2018.	
9.	Regional observer (para. 89-90)	Only longline fisheries, no RO.		
	<i>Other requirements, such as tagging program</i>			

Inspection Plan

CPC's inspection (para 64, 99)

Longline vessel needs a written permission from the Directorate of Fisheries to leave port for bluefin tuna fishing without an inspector onboard from the Directorate. Required coverage is at least 20% of the fishing operations in days. Inspectors from the Directorate are present at all landings of BFT.

Joint international inspection (para 97-98)

Iceland only authorizes one longline vessel and is not required to be part of an ICCAT International inspection plan.

Capacity Management Plan (para 35-42, 44-45a)

See table.

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	2017	2018	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018		
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7																								
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78																								
Purse seiners less than 24m	33.68																								
Total Purse Seine Fleet																									
Longliner over 40m	25							1	1	1	1	1	1						25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00		
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68			2	1	1	1								11.36	5.68	5.68	5.68							
Longliner less than 24m	5																								
Total Longline Fleet				2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1												
Baitboat	19.8																								
Handline	5																								
Trawler	10	1											10												
Trap	130																								
Other (please specify)	5																								
Total fleet/fishing capacity		1	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12.00	0.00	11.36	5.68	5.68	5.68	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00		
Quota													51.53	49.72	31.20	29.80	29.82	30.97	30.36	36.57	43.71	52.48	84.00		
Adjusted quota (if applicable)														0.72		78.80									
Allowance for sport/recreational (if applicable)																		2.00	2.00	2.00					
Undercapacity													39.53	0.72	19.84	73.12	24.14	23.29	3.36	9.57	18.71	27.48	59.00		

JAPAN

Introduction

Japan's quota for 2018 fishing season (from August 1, 2018 to July 31, 2019) is 2,279 t. All Japanese fishing vessels catching bluefin tuna (BFT) in the Eastern Atlantic are large scale tuna longline fishing vessels (LSTLVs). The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, having been entrusted competence by the Fisheries Law, has introduced the Ministerial Ordinance to introduce a legally binding management system including individual quotas.

Fishing plan

The Minister will license LSTLVs to catch BFT for the 2018 fishing season as soon as those vessels are selected. Although the number of licensed LSTLVs in 2018 is not confirmed at this stage, it shall be less than 49, which is the number of fishing vessels that fished for, retained on board, transshipped, transported, or landed bluefin tuna during the period January 1, 2007 to July 1, 2008, in accordance with the para 37. Once the number of vessels is confirmed, FAJ will inform the vessel name, quantities of individual quotas and other necessary information to the ICCAT Secretariat at the latest 15 days before the Japanese fishing campaign begins. The Japanese fishing campaign starts from August 1 and ends July 31.

The Minister requires fishing operators to report a daily BFT catch (including zero catch report) by the end of the next day in accordance with the Ordinance. Such report has to contain relevant information/data including the date, time, location (latitude and longitude), number of catch, type of product, individual BFT weights and tag numbers. FAJ monitors the catch of individual vessels based on each vessel's quota and catch report. If a BFT is a dead discard, it is deducted from Japan's quota. Japan will make a reserved quota to address the dead discards. The amount of the reserved quota will be decided when the Minister issues licenses to fishermen to fish for BFT.

Landing at overseas ports are prohibited by the Ministerial Ordinance. The Ministerial Ordinance only allows to land at ten domestic ports designated by the Ordinance. At the ten ports, landing of BFT will be inspected 100% by government official inspectors who will check the total weight and tags, count the number of BFT and compare the collected information with the previously reported data including daily reports.

All fishing vessels operate in almost the same period between September and November every year without entering ports during the period. Therefore, the observers are on board of the designated BFT vessels during their entire fishing trips for BFT. This means that temporal representation is secured. In addition, the fishing ground of bluefin tuna is located in a very limited area off Ireland. We believe that there should be little concern about spatial representation under such condition.

	<i>ICCAT Requirement (per 14-04)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
1.	Catch recording and reporting (para. 61-67, 69)	The Minister requires fishing operators to report a daily BFT catch (including zero catch report) by the end of the next day. The Minister also requires the operators to maintain a bound or electronic fishing logbook of their operation.	Ministerial Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Article 24-1	

2.	Fishing Seasons (para. 18-23)	The Minister prohibits fishing operators from BFT fishing in the area delimited by West of 10° W and North of 42° N during the period from February 1 to July 31 and in other areas during the period from June 1 to December 31.	Ministerial Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Article 17	
3.	Minimum size (para. 26-28)	The Minister prohibits fishing operators from catching BFT weighing less than 30 kg. However, the Minister may authorize the operators to catch incidentally the maximum 5% of BFT weighting between 8 and 30 kg. If the percentage of the small BFT catch exceeds 5%, the excess fish must be released and the amount of dead discards will be deducted from the reserved quota.	Ministerial Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Article 17	
4.	By-catch (para. 29)	The Minister prohibits the vessels without BFT quota from catching, transshipping or landing of BFT. If bycatch occurs, the amount of dead discards will be deducted from the reserved quota.	Ministerial Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Article 57	
5.	Recreational and sports fisheries (para, 30-34)	No recreational or sport fishing vessels in the ICCAT area.	N.A.	
6.	Transshipment (para. 58-60)	The Minister prohibits transshipment of BFT at sea and only allows transshipment at ports registered on the ICCAT website with prior authorization.	Ministerial Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Article 59	
7.	VMS (para. 87)	The Minister requires fishing vessels to be equipped with an autonomous system able to automatically transmit a message and to transmit the data every four hours to FAJ. FAJ transmits the VMS data from fishing vessels and other vessels for BFT to the ICCAT Secretariat.	Ministerial ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Article 24-2	

8.	CPC Observer (para. 88)	FAJ will ensure the observers coverage onboard at 20% or more of its LSTLVs which are allocated BFT quotas.	N.A.	
9.	Regional observer (para. 89-90)	Japanese fishing vessels catching BFT are not purse seiner and Japan has no registered farming facilities for E-BFT.	N.A.	
10.	tagging program	The Minister requires fishing operators to put a plastic tag on individual BFT for identification.	Ministerial Ordinance of the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Article 58	

Inspection Plan

CPC's inspection (para 64, 99)

FAJ, as the authorized government agency, will dispatch one inspection vessel to the Atlantic Ocean in 2018. All landings of BFT are limited to ten domestic ports and are subjected to 100% inspection at the ports by government inspectors.

In the case that a violation is discovered, the Minister will impose a penalty on the fishing operator, which could include both port confinement and five years' suspension in allocation of BFT individual quota.

Joint international inspection (para 97-98)

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.

Capacity Management Plan (para 35-42, 44-45a)

The Minister will allocate to each LSTLV an individual quota that is more than the recommended catch amount (i.e. 25 t per LSTLV over 40 m) estimated by the SCRS (see **Table 1**). Thus, Japan, having accomplished the obligation on capacity adjustment provided in Rec. 14-04 (Rec. 17-07), will ensure that its fishing capacity is commensurate with its allocated quota.

Table 1.

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	2017	2018	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
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	49	33	22	22	20	22	22	28	31	33	49*	1,225	825	550	550	500	550	550	700	775	825	1225*
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68																						
Longliner less than 24m	5																						
Total Longline Fleet		49	33	22	22	20	22	22	28	31	33	49*	1,225	825	550	550	500	550	550	700	775	825	1225*
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	31	33	49*	1,225	825	550	550	500	550	550	700	775	825	1225*
Quota		/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	2430.54	1871.44	1148.05	1097.03	1097.03	1139.55	1139.55	1345.44	1608.21	1930.88	2279.00
Adjusted quota (if applicable)		/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	2430.54	1871.44	1148.05	1097.03	1097.03	1139.55	1139.55	1390.44	1583.21	1910.88	2279.00
Allowance for sport/recreational (if applicable)		/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
Under/overcapacity		/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	1,206	1,046	598	547	597	590	590	690	808	1,086	1,054*

* The figures are provisional. Once the number of vessels and reserved quotas are confirmed, these figures will be revised and communicated to the Secretariat (please refer to the main text).

KOREA**Introduction**

At the 25th Regular Meeting of ICCAT (Marrakesh, November 2017), it was decided to allocate 160 t of bluefin tuna quota to the Republic of Korea for 2018. However, in accordance with the paragraph 5(b) of the Recommendation 14-04 (17-07), Chinese Taipei annually transferred 50 t of its quota to Korea in 2018, 2019 and 2020 respectively. Taking into account of abovementioned transfer, Korea has 210 t of quota for 2018. Please refer to the following Korea's BFT quota in 2018, 2019 and 2020.

Year	2018	2019	2020
Original quota	160 t	167 t	180 t
Adjusted quota	210 t (160+50)	217 t (167 + 50)	230 t (180 + 50)

The authorized fishing vessels catching BFT in the eastern Atlantic will be tentatively two to four large-scale tuna longline vessels (LSTLV). The fisheries work is governed by the Distant Water Fisheries Development Act.

Fishing plan***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 September to 30 November 2018. The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF) will authorize longliners to catch BFT for the 2018 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 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 on board, and shall be tracked and report VMS data to the ICCAT Secretariat well as the Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC) of the Republic of Korea every hour. 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 and eBCD

The Korean government has instructed that Korean vessels that do not target bluefin tuna shall not retain bluefin bycatches that exceed 5% of the total catch in terms of weight and/or number in accordance with paragraph 29 of Recommendation 14-04 (17-07). In practice, Korean vessels that do not target bluefin tuna do not usually fish in the upper latitude where bluefin tuna occur, and therefore there is practically nil by-catch of bluefin tuna by those vessels. The amount of any by-catch will be deducted from Korea's quota and these data will be reported to ICCAT. According to Recommendation 15-10, Korea has implemented its eBCD system since 1 May 2016 on a mandatory basis. 2% of Korea's quota will be reserved for possible bycatch of under-sized fish.

	<i>ICCAT Requirement (per 14-04)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
1.	Catch recording and reporting (para. 61-67, 69)	The masters of authorized longline fishing vessels will keep a bound logbook of their operation and record all necessary information. Weekly and monthly catch reports will be submitted. Korea will inform the Secretariat when its bluefin fishery is closed due to exhaustion of quota.	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1, 13-2, 16	
2.	Fishing Seasons (para.18-23)	Korean longline vessels will be scheduled to catch BFT from 1 September 2018 to 30 November 2018.	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1, 13-2	
3.	Minimum size (para. 26-28)	Korean BFT catching vessels are prohibited from catching bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg or with fork length less than 115 cm. But if a minimum size of BFT is caught as by-catch and dead discard, it will be deducted from Korea's quota.	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1, 13-2	
4.	By-catch (para. 29)	There is practically nil bycatch of bluefin tuna by those vessels. But when by-catch occurs this will be deducted from Korea's quota.	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1, 13-2	
5.	Recreational and sports fisheries (para, 30-34)	Not applicable.	N.A.	
6.	Transshipment (para. 58-60)	Transshipment at sea is prohibited but takes place in designated ports.	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1, 13-2, 16	
7.	VMS (para. 87)	The MOF requires fishing vessels to be equipped with VMS able to automatically transmit a message and to transmit the data every 1 hour to FMC. FMC transmits the VMS data from fishing vessels and other vessels for BFT to the ICCAT Secretariat. The transmission of VMS data to the Secretariat will start at least 15 days before the authorization and will continue at least 15 days after the period of authorization.	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1, 13-2, 15	
8.	CPC Observer (para. 88)	National observer with 100% will be deployed on board.	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1,13-2, 21	
9.	Regional observer (para. 89-90)	Not applicable.	N.A.	
	<i>Other requirements, such as tagging program</i>	BFT catching vessels will affix a valid plastic tag to each BFT brought on board.	Distant Water Fisheries Development Act, Article 13-1	

Inspection Plan***CPC's inspection (para 64, 99)***

When a ship laden with overseas catches intends to enter a domestic port, it shall submit an entry report to MOF prior to the scheduled entry. In particular, a ship is subject to port inspection when it is loaded with fish species managed by RFMOs including ICCAT.

As operating under 15 fishing vessels, Korea is not entitled to paragraph 99 of Rec. 14-04 providing that any CPCs with 15 fishing vessels or more shall operate its own inspection vessel or joint inspection vessel operated with other CPCs.

Joint international inspection (para 97-98)

Korea has no inspection vessel to join the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection.

Capacity Management Plan (para 35-42, 44-45a)

Taking into account the catch rate by the SCRS and allocated quota in 2018, Korea may be authorized with 7 longline vessels (over 40 m) which are commensurate with its fishing capacity. However, Korea will limit the number of authorized BFT fishing vessels to four or less this year. Please refer to the separate attachment providing the number of fishing vessels and the corresponding fishing capacity.

TUNA VESSEL FLEET	Fleet (vessels)												Fishing capacity											
	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Purse seiners less than 24m	33.68	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	0	-	-	-	
Total Purse Seine Fleet		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	0	-	-	-	
Longliner over 40m	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	100	100
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Longliner less than 24m	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Longline Fleet		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	100	100
Baitboat	19.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Handline	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Trawler	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Trap	130	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Other (please specify)	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total fleet/fishing capacity		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	2	4	4	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	0	50	100	100	
Quota		335.00	132.26	81.14	77.53	77.53	80.53	80.53	95.08	113.66	136.46	160	335.00	132.26	81.14	77.53	77.53	80.53	80.53	95.08	113.66	136.46	160	
Adjusted quota (if applicable)		335.00	132.26	81.14	77.53	77.53	80.53	80.53	0.08	163.66	181.46	210	335.00	132.26	81.14	77.53	77.53	80.53	80.53	0.08	163.66	181.46	210	
Allowance for sport/recreational (if applicable)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Under/overcapacity													(301.32)	(98.58)	(47.46)	(43.85)	(43.85)	(46.85)	(46.85)	(0.08)	(113.66)	(81.46)	(110)	

LIBYA

1. Introduction

In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation 14-04 and 17-07, amending ICCAT Rec. 13.07 and, taking into consideration ICCAT Rec. 16-24, Libya presents its Bluefin Tuna Fishing, Inspection and Capacity Management Plan for the 2018 fishing season.

National legislation has adopted ICCAT Recommendations, management and control measures.

Libya has, over the last years, been going through a difficult and, at times painful, political transition however the management of the E-BFT activities have been conducted in a correct manner and the EBCD system was adopted and implemented successfully; Libya is fully committed to conduct this fishing season in the line with the pertinent ICCAT resolutions and recommendations.

2. Fishing plan

2.1 Fishing Vessels

The number of fishing vessels which will participate in EBFT catching for the 2018 Season in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea are 14 (fourteen) purse-seiners, these authorized vessels shall be allocated an individual quota taking into consideration SCRS best catch rate.

No longliners and recreational fishing will participate in 2018 fishing season.

The total number of 'Other' vessels that will participate in the 2018 bluefin fishing season shall be a maximum of (12) (twelve) vessels with no fishing gear on board for the purpose of towing cages and providing other support services.

2.2 Methodology used for quota allocation and management

Individual quotas for each of the authorized vessel will be distributed in accordance with national distribution criteria.

Fishing vessels having been allocated an individual quota but not on the catching vessel list for the 2018 E-BFT fishing season shall be given the right to transfer their individual quota to other fishing vessels.

The total catch allowed to Libya for 2018 is 1,846 t. [Rec. 17-07, para. 5] and Libya has agreed to transfer 46t to Algeria; 1,796.9 t shall be allocated to the 14 (fourteen) purse-seiners over 24 m that shall be authorized to fish for BFT in 2018 and 3.1 t are to be kept as a reserve for any incidental or by-catch that might occur in the artisanal fleet or overruns of quota in the purse-seiner fleets.

<i>Fishing groups/ Authorized catching vessels</i>	<i>Allocated quota</i>	<i>Original Quota</i>	<i>Adjusted quota</i>
Fourteen purse seiners: 24-40m	1,796.2 t	1,846 t	[1846 -46]t = 1,800 t

The list of vessels and their individual quotas will be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat within the required deadline [Rec. 17-07 para. 52], and any changes to this vessels list will be transmitted to ICCAT Secretariat immediately and also in accordance with pertinent ICCAT recommendations.

2.3 Measures to compliance with quotas

The authorized catching vessels can operate individually or carry out their activity in working groups (Joint Fishing Operations) and the details of these JFOs and their respective allocation keys will be notified to ICCAT Secretariat within the stipulated time frame.

Respecting individual quota limits shall be monitored by fishery authorities and cross checking with ROPs on board fishing vessels.

All vessels or JFOs whose quota is exhausted shall be ordered back to port immediately.

No JFOs with other CPCs are envisaged for 2018.

Libya shall have no trap and farming Activity in fishing season 2018.

All fishing vessels catching BFT shall adhere to the eBCD system.

2.4 Enforcement of Fishing Plan

Regulations

Ministerial Decree #205/2013 (Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Marine wealth) amending the decree #61/2010, transposing Recommendation 13-07 which amended by Rec. 14-04 to establish a Multiannual Recovery Plan for BFT in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.

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

Other official Acts organize and manage BFT Licenses.

Licensing

Individual fishing permit shall be issued by fishery authority based upon Decree #205/2013 (Articles 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, & 7) for each vessel authorized to fish BFT in 2018 specifying the season dates and minimum sizes as per Rec. 17-07.

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

*Individual Quota allocated Acc. (Art. 11/Decree, #205/2013).

*Log Book required on board Acc. (Art. 28/Decree, #205/2013).

Market measures

Foreign and domestic trade, landings, imports, exports of dead BFT or transfers of live BFT to cages shall only be allowed if accompanied by accurate, complete and validated BCD/eBCD (Art. 21 & 24/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 purse seine to transfer their catches only to farming units in CPCs that can guarantee the utilization of stereoscopic systems for assessments of live fish on arrival of towing cages to their farms.

Imposing Sanction

Any non-compliance to the regulations regarding bluefin 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 individual quota).

	<i>ICCAT Requirement (per 14-04)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
1.	Catch recording and reporting (para. 61-67, 69)	-Masters of vessels active in the BFT fishery shall maintain a bound/electronic log book and observe procedures as set out in Annex 2 of Rec. 17-07. In accordance with Para 66 & 67 of Rec. 17-07 weekly and monthly catch reports (including zero catch report) of all authorized Libyan vessels active in BFT catch shall be transmitted to ICCAT Secretariat in accordance with the format set for this purpose.	(Art. 20/ Decree #205/ 2013)	
2.	Fishing Seasons (para. 18-23)	Purse seiners are only authorized to catch EBFT in eastern Atlantic and Med. Sea in period (26 May-24 June) Notification of close of season will be sent to ICCAT Secretariat.	Decree #205/2013	
3.	Minimum size (para. 26-28)	- Catching, retaining, landing, transshipping, transferring, selling, displaying for sale BFT weighing less than 30kg is prohibited. - Any incidental catch of max. 5% weighing between 8-30 kg as well as any dead discards below the minimum size shall be counted against the Libyan quota.	(Art. 15 Decree #205/ 2013)	
4.	By-catch (para. 29)	With regard to by-catch management, Libyan fishing vessels should release bluefin tuna caught as by-catch. 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. All by-catch will be deducted from the quota of Libya.	Decree #205/2013	
5.	Recreational and sports fisheries (para. 30-34)	No recreational and sport fisheries are allowed.	Decree #205/2015	
6.	Transshipment (para. 58-60)	- Transshipment at sea is prohibited. - BFT fishing vessels shall only land/transship BFT catches in ports designated by fishery authorities (Al-khums, Tripoli, Misurata and Tubrok) ports. - All vessels entering any of these ports for landing or transshipping shall seek a pre-entry permission from port authorities). -All landings of BFT shall be inspected by port and fishery authorities and inform the fishing vessel flag state with a report.	(Art. 22/ Decree #205/ 2013)	

7.	VMS (para. 87)	All fishing vessels and other vessels active in BFT fishing shall equipped with a full active VMS; the transmission of data shall start 15 days before their period of authorization and continue 15 days after the authorization period. - Fishery authority will regularly monitor the status of VMS transmission on basis of at least every four (4) hours and any interruption of transmission will be acted upon immediately to investigate and solve the problem; if said problem is not resolved within 24 hrs vessel will be recalled to port.	Decree #205/2013/Art. 18) (transmission starts 15 days before authorization and continues 15 days after end of fishing campaign).	VMS providers shall regularly transmit the data to ICCAT and to fishing authority.
8.	CPC Observer (para. 88)	National observers shall cover 100% activity of towing and auxiliary vessels. No national observers onboard of fishing vessels.	(Art. 14/Decree #205/2013)	
9.	Regional observer (para. 89-90)	Regional observers shall be placed on board all PS vessels authorized to fish BFT in season 2018. All authorized PS vessels shall have full deployment (100%) of ROP.	(Art. 14/Decree #205/2013)	
10	Use of aircraft (para. 25)	Use of airplanes or helicopters to search for BFT is prohibited	(Art. 10/Decree #205/2013)	

3. Inspection Plan

3.1 National inspection (para 64, 99)

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

Fishing inspection will be implemented by fishing inspectors from the fisheries authority and coast guard personnel and in coordination with port authority.

Coast guard shall cooperate in surveillance and control at sea all activities linked with fisheries inspection planned and coordinated with consent of fishery authority.

Central control room shall be operational during the 2018 BFT fishing season to supervise the monitoring of fishing activities.

The law envisages the sanctions and penalties and other severe provisions such as loss of license or arrest of vessel in cases of infringements.

3.2 Joint international inspection (para 97-98)

Libya does not participate in the scheme of Joint International Inspection.

4. Capacity Management Plan (para 35-42, 44-45a)

Libya has constantly reduced its fishing capacity in accordance with ICCAT measures requirements and its fishing capacity is commensurate with its allocated quota (**Table 1**).

The Fishing Capacity and Management Plan indicates this state of facts of reduced capacity also in fishing season 2018.

Table 1. Fishing Capacity Management Plan for Libya – 2018.

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	2017	2018	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Purse seiner over 40m	70.70	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	71	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PS(24-40)m	49.78	31	30	29	21	18	17	17	14	14	14	14	1543	1493	1444	1045	896	846	846	696	696	696	697
PS<24m	33.68	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	34	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total PS fleet		33	31	30	21	18	17	17	14	14	14	14	1648	1527	1478	1045	896	846	846	696	696	696	697
Longliner >40m	25	5	4	2	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	125	100	50	50	50	25	25	0	0	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	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	0	0	0	0
Total LL fleet		5	4	2	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	125	100	50	50	50	25	25	0	0	0	0
Total fleet capacity		38	35	32	23	20	18	18	14	14	14	14	1773	1627	1528	1095	946	871	871	696	696	696	697
Quota													1237	947	581	903*	903	938	938	1107	1323	1588	1846
Adjusted quota													1237	1092	726	903	903	938	938	1157	1373	1638	1797
Sport/recreational													0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Under/over capacity													-536	-535	-802	-192	-43	67	67	461	677	942	1,100

MOROCCO

Introduction

In accordance with the fishing allocations adopted by ICCAT at its annual meeting held in Geneva in November 2014, the national quota for 2018, which was fixed at 2,578 t, will be distributed among the operational segments, i.e. traps, two high seas purse seiners targeting bluefin tuna, artisanal boats and coastal vessels that take bluefin tuna as by-catch.

The general framework of this plan is identical to that submitted to ICCAT for the 2017 fishing campaign.

Fishing plan

A quota level will be set for each of the segments by the administration in accordance with the ICCAT provisions on individual quotas, and will be communicated by the deadlines established by the Commission.

In accordance with the provisions of the national fisheries capacity management plan, as established by Art. 35 to 45a of ICCAT Recommendation 17-07 amending Recommendation 14-04, the maximum fishing capacity authorised to target bluefin tuna directly breaks down as follows:

- 15 traps;
- 2 tuna purse seine vessels with LOA > 40 m ; and
- Coastal fishing vessels and artisanal fishing boats authorised by the Moroccan administration to take bluefin tuna as by-catch during its migration period. As in the past, these catches will be deducted from the quota allocated to that segment. The fishing gears used by these vessels and artisanal boats are longline and handline. Catches taken by these vessels are recorded in the logbook as well as in the eBCD system.

The bluefin tuna fishing quota for the 2018 fishing season is distributed as follows:

- Traps: 2015 t;
- Tuna purse seine vessels with LOA > 40 m: 254 t;
- Artisanal and coastal fishery (longline and handline (HL and LL)): 272 t.
- A reserve if set aside for the case of overshoot of the allocated quota: 37 t.

Two bluefin tuna farming facilities will be authorised this year in accordance with conditions and specific methods which will be determined by the administration on the basis of the regulatory provisions in force. These two farming facilities are linked to authorised traps.

Fishing conditions will be established within the framework of the annual management plan for the bluefin tuna fishery, which has been updated to take into account the new provisions of the eastern bluefin tuna recovery plan adopted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

Morocco undertakes to implement all provisions of Recommendation 17-07 amending Recommendation 14-04 during the 2018 fishing campaign which will start in April for the traps segment.

The fishing plan will ensure compliance with the international provisions established within the framework of the Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (see Rec. 14-04 amended by Rec. 17-07)</i>	<i>Explanation of actions taken by the CPC for the purposes of implementation</i>	<i>Legislation or relevant national regulations (if applicable)</i>	<i>Note:</i>
1	Communication and reporting of catches (§ 61-67, 69)	Tuna purse seine vessels have a logbook. Authorised catches of coastal fishing vessels and artisanal fishing boats are recorded in the logbook and in the eBCD system. For the third consecutive year, implementation of the electronic bluefin tuna catch documentation programme/eBCD. Transmission of weekly and monthly bluefin tuna catches. Dates of closure of the bluefin tuna fishery are reported to the ICCAT Secretariat.	Ministerial Decision No. TR 01/18 of 5 February 2018.	
2	Fishing seasons (§ 18-23)	- Purse seine bluefin tuna fishing is authorised in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean from 26 May to 24 June inclusive. - Handline bluefin tuna fishing is authorised in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean from 15 June to 15 October inclusive. - There are no large pelagic longliners.	Ministerial Decision No. TR 01/18 of 5 February 2018.	
3	Minimum size (§ 26-28)	It is prohibited to catch, retain onboard, tranship, transfer, land, store, sell, display or offer for sale bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg or with a fork length of less than 115 cm. All bluefin tuna that is smaller than the minimum size would be recorded and deducted from the quota allocated to Morocco.	Ministerial Order No. 1154-88 of 3 October 1988 (as amended and supplemented), which fixes the minimum trade size of individuals caught in Moroccan maritime waters. This order is also applicable to the high seas in the ICCAT Convention area.	
4	By-catch (§ 29)	Vessels that take bluefin tuna as by-catch are authorised to retain, at any time, bluefin tuna representing less than 5% of the total annual catch in weight or number of specimens.	Ministerial Decision No. TR 01/18 of 5 February 2018.	

		As to by-catch, vessels are authorised by the Moroccan administration to take bluefin tuna as by-catch (5%) and these catches are counted and deducted from the national quota allocated by ICCAT.		
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (§30-34)	None.		
6	Transshipment (§ 58-60)	Prohibition on at-sea transshipment.	Dahir No. 1-14-95 of 12 May 2014 concerned with the promulgation of Law No. 15-12 on the prevention and fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and amending and supplementing the dahir concerned with Law No. 1-73-255 of 27 chaoual 1393 (23 November 1973) forming the regulation on maritime fishing.	
7	VMS (§ 87)	<p>Obligation to have onboard a functional positioning and tracking device.</p> <p>The VMS of vessels greater than 15 m are functional 15 days before and 15 days after the authorised fishing period. Authorised fishing vessels shall report their positions every two hours.</p>	<p>Decree No. 2-09-674 of 30 rabbi I 1431 (17 March 2010) establishing the conditions and methods for installation and use onboard of fishing vessels of a positioning and tracking system which continues to use satellite communications to transmit data. (BO. No. 5826 of 1 April 2010)</p> <p>Ministerial Order No. 3338-10 of 16 December 2010 on the fishing vessel positioning and tracking device/Ministerial Decision No TR 01/18 of 5 February 2018.</p>	

8	CPC observer (§ 88)	Presence of onboard observers. Trap: 100% Farming facilities: transfer, caging and harvesting: 100%.		
9	Regional observer (§ 89-90)	Presence of onboard observers. Transfer of live bluefin tuna from the trap to the farming facilities: 100% and tuna purse seiners: 100%.		
	<i>Other requirements, such as tagging programme.</i>			

Inspection Plan

CPC's inspection (§ 64, 99)

Fishery monitoring, control and observation will be carried out in accordance with the national and international regulations in force through the use of the control and surveillance methodology for bluefin tuna fishery activities in 2018.

This methodology is part of the framework for implementation of national maritime fishery control activities. It includes measures for compliance with ICCAT provisions on control and inspection, in particular, those of Recommendation 17-07 amending Recommendation 14-04. This methodology will therefore include measures related to the following actions:

- Monitoring and control of fishing operations at traps, in particular through the presence of national observers at all traps during fishing;
- Monitoring and control of landings of the coastal and artisanal fleet which must be effectively weighed before first sale. Compliance with the catch documentation system, which is implemented nationally, is also mandatory. This national documentation system enables control through direct systematic cross-checking between the catch declaration on landing and data from first sale, and is an additional tool for verifying validation of documents of the eBCD process;
- In relation to live bluefin tuna caught by Moroccan traps, monitoring and control of transfer operations, caging operations in farming facilities as well as harvesting operations following fattening, carried out in particular in the presence of observers who video record the transfer operations using stereoscopic camera systems in accordance with the conditions established in Recommendation 17-07 amending Recommendation 14-04;
- VMS surveillance of relevant fishing vessels carried out by the FMC of the Fisheries Department with online real time availability of position data for the regional maritime fisheries administration (Maritime Fisheries Delegations);
- Establishment of a procedure to report and record information regarding fishing, transfer and caging, in particular, through implementation of the catch documentation programme (eBCD);
- Compliance with provisions on port inspection measures for foreign vessels, and fulfilment of international commitments by the Kingdom of Morocco with the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

For vessels and traps targeting live bluefin tuna destined for farming, the stereoscopic camera systems will continue to be used for this fishing season, in accordance with the conditions provided for in ICCAT Recommendation 17-07 amending Recommendation 14-04.

At-sea surveillance is also performed by other authorities upon which powers have been conferred by the national regulation.

International joint inspection (§ 97 -98)

The Kingdom of Morocco has two vessels that will operate outside the national EEZ. There will not be an inspection vessel. It should be noted that these two vessels will embark ICCAT observers, in accordance with the provisions of ICCAT recommendations.

Capacity management plan (§ 35-42, 44-45a)

See table.

*: to be reported.

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	2017	2018	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Purse seiner over 40 m	70.7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	70.7	70.7	70.7	70.7	70.7	70.7	70.7	70.7	141.4	141.4	141.4
Purse seiner between 24 and 40 m	49.78	3	3	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	149.4	149.4	0	99.6	0	49.8	49.8	49.8	0	0	0
Purse seiner less than 24 m	33.68	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total purse seine fleet		4	5	1	3	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	220.1	253.8	70.7	170.3	70.7	120.5	120.5	120.5	141.4	141.4	141.4
Longliner over 40 m	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner between 20m and 40m	5.68	0	0	0	0	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	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	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	0	0	0	0
Handline	5	0	0	0	0	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	0	0	0	0
Trap	130	15	17	13	9	9	10	10	11	12	12	15	1685	1909	1460	1011	1011	1123	1123	1235	1348	1632	2128
Other (please specify)	5	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	20.7	20.7	30	33	130	140	26.97	109.19	150	196	272
Total fleet/fishing capacity		19	22	14	12	10	12	12	13	14	14	17	1925.8	2183.5	1560.7	1214.3	1211.7	1383.5	1270.47	1464.69	1639.4	1969.4	2541.4
Quota		2729	2088.26	1279.96	1223.07	1223.07	1270.47	1270.47	1500.01	1792.98	2152.71	2578	2729	2088.26	1279.96	1223.07	1223.07	1270.47	1270.47	1500.01	1792.98	2152.71	2578
Adjusted quota (if applicable)		2729	2400	1606.96	1238.33	1223.07	1270.47	1270.47	1500.01	1792.98	2152.71	2578	2729	2400	1606.96	1238.33	1223.07	1270.47	1270.47	1500.01	1792.98	2152.71	2578
Admissible catch for sports/recreational vessels (if applicable)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Under/overcapacity		0	0	0	13.07	20.47	0	35.01	19.98	183.31	37	0	0	0	0	13.07	20.47	35.47	35.01	19.98	183.31	37	0

NORWAY

Introduction

According to Recommendation 17-07 by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 14-04 by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean paragraph 5, the bluefin tuna quota allocated to Norway in 2018 is 104 tonnes.

In 2015, 2016 and 2017 Norway opened up for a bluefin tuna fishery by one longliner and one purse seiner. However, there were no catches by longline any of these years, and the longline quota was therefore transferred to the purse seiner.

Although Norway has lodged an objection against Recommendation 17-07, Norway intends to comply with the obligations under Recommendation 17-07.

In light of the increase of the quota allocated to Norway, a targeted fishery for bluefin tuna will be authorised in the Norwegian Economic Zone from 25 June to 31 October for two purse seine vessels. As the vessels have not been selected, information on their length is not yet available. Each vessel will be allocated an individual vessel quota of 45 tonnes, and the total allocation for the two vessels will thus be 90 tonnes. 14 tonnes of bluefin tuna will be set aside to cover incidental by-catches in fisheries not targeting bluefin tuna. Any subsequent modification of these quotas will, in accordance with Recommendation 17-07 paragraph 12, be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat.

The Norwegian fishery for bluefin tuna will be regulated through the Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2018, which will be adopted when the Norwegian fishing and inspection plan has been approved by ICCAT. In addition to national requirements, these Regulations will cover the requirements specified in ICCAT Recommendation 17-07 and include a general requirement to comply with the relevant ICCAT recommendations.

The vessels authorised to fish for bluefin tuna can, in addition to the requirement of carrying an ICCAT Regional Observer on board, be instructed to have observers from the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research on board.

Furthermore, the vessels authorised 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.

In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation 17-07 paragraph 25, searching for bluefin tuna with airplanes, helicopters or any type of unmanned aerial vehicles will be prohibited.

In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation 17-07 paragraph 14 no carry-over of any under-harvest will be allowed.

Furthermore, Bluefin Tuna Catch Documents will be issued in accordance with Recommendation 11-20 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program and Recommendation 17-09 amending recommendation 15-10 on the application of the eBCD system, as well as other relevant recommendations. Norway has issued electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Documents in the eBCD system since 2015 and intends to continue this practice in 2018 in accordance with the recommendations mentioned above.

Fishing plan

Norway will authorise two purse seiners to fish for bluefin tuna in 2018. In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation 17-07 paragraph 52, Norway will submit information concerning the vessels authorized to conduct this fishery to the ICCAT Executive Secretary at the latest 15 days before the beginning of the fishing season.

Further information regarding the monitoring and control of the Norwegian quota is included in the table below.

	<i>ICCAT Requirement (per 14-04)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
1.	Catch recording and reporting (para. 61-67, 69)	<p>61. The vessels authorized to target bluefin tuna will be required to keep an electronic logbook.</p> <p>62. Not applicable. There are no Norwegian towing, auxiliary or processing vessels participating in the BFT fishery.</p> <p>63. Landings of bluefin tuna are only permitted in designated ports included in the ICCAT Record of Authorised Ports.</p> <p>64. Any Norwegian vessel having caught bluefin tuna shall contact the Norwegian Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC). At least four hours prior to entry into any port, the fishing vessel shall provide the port authorities with a prior notice and information regarding estimated time of arrival, estimated quantity of bluefin tuna on board and information on the geographic area where the catch was taken.</p> <p>A record of this information is kept at the Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries for a number of years.</p> <p>Inspectors from the Directorate of Fisheries shall be informed about the landing. A minimum of 30 % of the landings of targeted catch of bluefin tuna shall be inspected. Before landings that are to be inspected can start, an inspector shall be present and inspect the entire landing.</p> <p>All catches shall be weighed and landing notes and sales notes will be issued when the fish is landed. These notes will be forwarded electronically 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.</p> <p>Both the master of the authorized catching vessel and the landing facility are responsible for the accuracy of the declaration, which includes information on the quantities of bluefin tuna landed and the catch location.</p>	<p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2018 § 7 and Regulations on an Electronic Reporting System (log book requirements)</p> <p>63. Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2018 § 7.</p> <p>64. Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2018 § 7.</p> <p>Regulations on landing and sales notes §§ 5, 7-11, 14 and 15.</p>	<p>These regulations will be adopted when ICCAT has approved the Norwegian fishing and inspection plan.</p> <p>63. A number of ports have been designated for landings of bluefin tuna in Norway. The list of designated ports will be updated by 1 March 2018.</p>

		<p>64 and 65. Transhipment of bluefin tuna is prohibited, both at sea and in port. Norwegian vessels are not involved in caging of bluefin tuna.</p> <p>66. a) The Norwegian vessels fishing for bluefin tuna will be required to communicate information from its electronic logbook to the Norwegian FMC on a daily basis, including information on date, time, location (latitude and longitude) and weight and number of bluefin tuna taken. The purse seiners will be required to communicate the daily reports on a fishing operation by fishing operation basis, including when the catch is zero.</p> <p>The FMC is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and any interruption in the transmission of the electronic logbooks will immediately be followed up by the FMC.</p> <p>The Norwegian Coastguard will have access to the electronic logbooks in real time.</p> <p>66. b) Not applicable. There are no Norwegian traps fishing for bluefin tuna.</p> <p>66. c) On the basis of the information referred to in (a) the Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries will transmit without delay weekly catch reports for all vessels (including by catch) to the ICCAT Secretariat, in accordance with the format set out in the Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by ICCAT.</p> <p>67. The Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries will report the Norwegian provisional monthly catches (by gear type) of bluefin tuna including by-catch and nil returns to the ICCAT Secretariat within 30 days of the end of the calendar month in which the catches were made.</p> <p>69. When the Norwegian fishery for bluefin tuna is closed in accordance with paragraph 18 and 19, or because the allocated quota of bluefin tuna has been exhausted, this will be reported to the ICCAT Secretariat.</p>	<p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2018 § 8.</p> <p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2018 § 7 and Regulations on an Electronic Reporting System (log book requirements)</p>	
2.	Fishing Seasons (para. 18-23)	<p>19. Purse seine fishing for bluefin tuna is permitted in the Norwegian Economic Zone from 25 June to 31 October, in accordance with Rec 17-07 paragraph 19.</p>	<p>Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2018 § 4.</p>	

<p>3.</p>	<p>Minimum size (para. 26-28)</p>	<p>26. The Norwegian vessels authorised to fish for bluefin tuna will only be authorised to fish in Norwegian waters. No bluefin tuna at such low individual size has been registered in Norwegian fisheries. Nevertheless, a minimum size of 30 kilos or 115 cm applies.</p> <p>27. Not applicable. There are no Norwegian baitboats or trolling boats authorised to fish for bluefin tuna and no Norwegian longliners are authorised to fish for bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean Sea.</p> <p>28. Reference is made to paragraph 26 above. Nevertheless, an incidental catch of maximum 5% of bluefin tuna weighing between 8 and 30 kg or with fork length between 75-115 cm may be authorised.</p>	<p>The Norwegian Regulations related to Sea-Water Fisheries and Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2018 § 14.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>By-catch (para. 29)</p>	<p>29. The prohibition against retaining by-catches of more than 5 % of the total catch is not applicable as Norway has domestic legislation requiring that all dead or dying fish be landed.</p> <p>All by-catches are reported to ICCAT and deducted from the Norwegian quota.</p> <p>All by-catches which are alive, shall immediately be released back to the sea.</p> <p>The prohibition against transshipment of bluefin tuna at sea and in port applies to by-catches as well.</p> <p>All catches, including by-catches, are to be recorded in the electronic fishing vessel log book.</p> <p>By-catches of bluefin tuna can only be landed in designated ports. Vessels with by-catch of bluefin tuna are required to provide the port authorities with a prior notice and information regarding estimated time of arrival, estimated quantity of bluefin tuna on board and information on the geographic area where the catch was taken at least four hours prior to entry into any port.</p> <p>All catches, including by-catches, shall be weighed, and landing notes and sales notes will be issued when the fish is landed. These notes will be forwarded to the Directorate of Fisheries electronically in real time, and the reported by-catches will be deducted from the Norwegian quota. Officers at the Directorate of Fisheries will also cross-check information obtained from VMS, electronic logbooks and landing/sales notes.</p>	<p>The Norwegian Regulations related to Sea-Water Fisheries § 48.</p> <p>The Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2018 applies to by-catches.</p> <p>The Norwegian Regulations on an Electronic Reporting System (log book requirements) applies to by-catches.</p>	

		The value of all by-catches of bluefin tuna are confiscated in order to avoid any incentive for having by-catches.	The Norwegian Regulations on confiscation of prohibited catches.	
5.	Recreational and sports fisheries (para. 30-34)	Not applicable. Recreational and sports fisheries for bluefin tuna by Norwegian vessels will be prohibited in 2018.	The Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2018 § 2.	
6.	Transshipment (para. 58-60)	Not applicable. All transshipments of bluefin tuna are prohibited.	The Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2018 § 8.	
7.	VMS (para. 87)	<p>The vessels authorized to target bluefin tuna will be required to send position reports (VMS) every hour to 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 VMS signals will immediately be followed up by the FMC.</p> <p>The Norwegian Coastguard will have access to both VMS signals and electronic logbooks in real time.</p> <p>The VMS signals will be forwarded to the ICCAT Secretariat at least 15 days before the vessel's period of authorisation and shall continue at least 15 days after its period of authorization</p>	<p>The Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2018 § 7.</p> <p>The Norwegian Regulations on an Electronic Reporting System (log book requirements).</p>	
8.	CPC Observer (para. 88)	Not applicable. Only purse seiners will be allowed to fish for Bluefin tuna in Norway in 2018.	The Regulations of Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2018 § 4.	
9.	Regional observer (para. 89-90)	The two purse seiners authorised to target bluefin tuna will be required to carry an ICCAT Regional Observer 100 % of the time they are targeting bluefin tuna, and all fees must be paid before the fishery starts.	The Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2018 § 6.	
	<i>Other requirements, such as tagging program</i>	No Norwegian baitboats, longliners, handliners or trolling boats will be authorized to fish for bluefin tuna in 2018.		

In addition to the above, the Regulations on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2018 §14 include a general provision requiring the vessels to comply with all relevant ICCAT requirements.

Inspection Plan

CPC's inspection (para 64, 99)

Norway has established a system of real-time monitoring of all its fisheries, and is committed to take the measures necessary to ensure full compliance with ICCAT Recommendation 17-07. The Norwegian Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) at the Directorate of Fisheries will monitor the bluefin tuna fishery.

All Norwegian vessels having catches of bluefin tuna, including as by-catch, are required to inform the Norwegian FMC. Furthermore, a minimum of 30 % of the landings of bluefin tuna by the vessels targeting this species will be inspected by inspectors from the Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries. These inspections will be carried out as full inspections, whereby the inspectors shall monitor the entire landing.

This includes monitoring the entire weighing of the fish, cross-checking this against the prior notice of port entry, the VMS, the electronic logbook as well as the landing and sales notes. Furthermore, the inspectors shall ensure that there is no fish left onboard once the landing is completed and the landing or sales notes are signed.

As the Norwegian fishery for bluefin tuna will be limited to two purse seiners, the requirement of an inspection vessel in paragraph 99 does not apply.

Joint international inspection (para 97-98)

As the Norwegian fishery for bluefin tuna will be limited to two vessels only authorised to fish in the Norwegian Economic Zone, participation in the Joint ICCAT Scheme of Inspection is not foreseen in 2018.

Capacity Management Plan (para 35-42, 44-45a)

In light of the increase of the Norwegian quota, the fishery in 2018 is planned to take place with two purse seiners. Hence, no capacity reduction is foreseen.

TUNA VESSEL FLEET	Fleet (vessels)												Fishing capacity										
	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Purse seiner over 40m	70.70																						
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78						1	1	1	1	2							49.78	49.78	49.78	49.78	99.56	
Purse seiners less than 24m	33.68																						
Total Purse Seine Fleet							1	1	1	1	2¹							49.78	49.78	49.78	49.78 ²	99.56	
Longliner over 40m	25																						
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68							1		1	0								5.68		5.68	0	
Longliner less than 24m	5																						
Total Longline Fleet								1		1	0								5.68		5.68	0	
Baitboat	19.8																						
Handline	5																						
Trawler	10																						
Trap	130																						
Other (please specify)	5																						
Total fleet/fishing capacity							1	2	1	2	2							49.78	55.46	49.78	55.46	99.56	
Quota							30.97	36.57	43.71	52.48	104							30.97	36.57	43.71	52.48	104	
Adjusted quota (if applicable)																							
Allowance for sport/recreational (if applicable)							0	0	0	0	0												
Undercapacity																		18.81	18.89	6.07	2.98	4.44	

¹ Please note that the two vessels which will be authorised to fish for bluefin tuna in 2018 have not been selected yet. Hence, the length of the vessels in the table are preliminary.

² The figures for purse seine capacity correspond to the calculations made by the SCRS for the Mediterranean Sea. At the 2016 annual meeting of ICCAT Norway asked the SCRS whether the figures for the Mediterranean Sea were automatically transferable to the North East Atlantic. The SCRS could not provide an answer to this question. Hence it is questionable whether it is correct to fill the Mediterranean figures in the table.

SYRIA

Introduction

In accordance with the decisions and recommendations adopted at the 25th Regular Meeting of the Commission which was held in Marrakech (Morocco), from 14 to 21 November 2017, and until the Commission considers our 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 the 2018 season. According to the ICCAT quota allocation scheme for 2018, Syria has an annual quota of 66 tons of bluefin tuna to catch from the Mediterranean Sea during the 2018 season (Recommendation 17-07). The quota of 66 tons will be caught by one fishing vessel recorded in the ICCAT list (if no other Syrian vessel qualifies and is registered in the ICCAT Record of vessels before endorsement of Syrian BFT fishing plan).

Fishing plan

BFT fishing vessel and operations

- Each year, the fisheries authority (General Commission for Fisheries Resources) announces terms and conditions for the BFT fishing season based on ICCAT recommendations.
- A special fishing license shall be issued by the fisheries authority for the vessel authorized to fish bluefin tuna in 2018.
- The fishing gear that will be used is purse seine.
- The authorized period for fishing is from May 26 to June 24, 2018 (if no other recommendation is 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 Syrian water yet.
- Longliner, baitboat, hand boat, trawler and trap are not operating in Syria for catching bluefin tuna.
- Fishing operations of the Syrian purse seiner shall be conducted in compliance with ICCAT recommendations.
- Fishing in Syria is traditional in territorial waters with no commercial fishing operations, and bluefin tuna are not actively targeted by the national fishermen.
- Fishing operations shall be monitored by the fishery authorities (General Commission for Fisheries Resources).
- ICCAT Secretariat will be informed about the marketing ways of BFT catch at the time.

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 8-30 kg is permitted for the vessel fishing actively for BFT.

VMS

- The vessel will be equipped with VMS and transmission of the VMS messages will be at least every four hours. VMS data will be transmitted to ICCAT Secretariat.
- Fishery authority will monitor the status of VMS transmission and any interruption of transmission will be followed immediately to investigate and solve the problem.

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 and record some scientific information. (Syria will submit the name of the national observer as soon as possible.)

Regional Observers Program

- According to the recommendation concerning the regional observer programme for purse seine vessels, Syria is ready to receive a 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 make the necessary arrangements with the relevant agencies.

Reporting of catch

- The catch vessel master shall by electronic or other means communicate to competent authorities a daily 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.

	<i>ICCAT Requirement (per 14-04)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
1.	Catch recording and reporting	The master of the catching vessel shall maintain a bound fishing logbook of his operation in accordance with ICCAT recommendations. The fishing operator must report daily BFT catch (including zero catch report). Syria will submit weekly and monthly catch reports to ICCAT, as well as the date of closure of the fisheries.	Terms and Conditions of General Commission for Fisheries Resources for BFT fishing.	
2.	Fishing seasons	The fishing gear that will be used is purse seine. The authorized period for fishing is from May26 to June 24, 2018.	Terms and Conditions of General Commission for Fisheries Resources for BFT fishing (May 26 to June 24).	
3.	Minimum size	Catching, retaining, landing, transshipping, transferring, selling, displaying for sale BFT weighing less than 30 kg is prohibited. An incidental catch of max. 5% weighing between 8-30 kg is permitted for the vessel fishing actively for BFT.	Terms and Conditions of General Commission for Fisheries Resources for BFT fishing.	
4.	By-catch	Fisheries authority prohibits vessels without BFT quota from catching transshipping or landing of BFT. Previously no by-catch was recorded of BFT. Any by-catch shall be reported to ICCAT. If any by-catch occurred it must be deducted from Syria's quota.	Not applicable	

5.	Recreational and sports fisheries	No activities for recreational or sport fishery in Syria.	Not applicable	
6.	Transshipment	Fishing vessel shall only transship bluefin tuna catches in designated ports of CPCs. No transshipment operations reported in Syria.	Not applicable	
7.	VMS	The vessel must be equipped with VMS and transmission of the VMS messages will be at least every four hours. Fisheries authority will monitor the status of VMS transmission and will transmit the VMS data to ICCAT Secretariat.	Terms and Conditions of General Commission for Fisheries Resources for BFT Fishing.	
8.	CPC observer	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 the 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.	Terms and Conditions of General Commission for Fisheries Resources for BFT Fishing. Purse seine vessel will carry national observer during all operations (100% coverage).	
9.	Regional observer	An ICCAT regional observer programme is implemented to ensure observer coverage of 100% on the purse seine vessel authorized to catch BFT.	Terms and Conditions of General Commission for Fisheries Resources for BFT Fishing.	
	<i>Other requirements, such as tagging program</i>	Not applicable		

Inspection Plan

CPC's inspection

- If no other Syrian vessels qualify and are registered in the ICCAT Record of vessels before endorsement of Syrian BFT fishing plan, only one purse seiner will operate for BFT during the period adopted by ICCAT, and the vessel will be monitored by regional and national observers during all operations (100% coverage).
- The Syrian quota of BFT in previous years is transferred in accordance with ICCAT recommendations and regulations.
- Controlling and monitoring of fisheries activities in Syria are governed by General Commission For Fisheries Resources, and General Directorate of ports.
- In case of any violation, the fishing authorities will impose a penalty on the fishing operator.

Capacity Management Plan

Only one Syrian vessel is recorded in ICCAT List of vessels so far, therefore one fishing vessel will conduct BFT fishing activity in 2018 to catch the Syrian allocated quota, and whole quota shall be allocated to one vessel (in case of other Syrian vessels qualified and registered in ICCAT record of vessel before endorsement of Syrian BFT fishing plan, the quota will be divided taking into consideration the catch rates recommended by the SCRS).

TUNA VESSEL FLEET	Fleet (vessels)												Fishing capacity (Calculated by multiplying the number of fishing vessels by catch rate defined by the SCRS)											
	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Purse seiners less than 24m	33.68	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	33.68	33.68	0	0	0	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	
Total Purse Seine Fleet		0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	33.68	33.68	0	0	0	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	
Longliner over 40m	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68	0	0	0	0	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	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	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	0	0	0	0	
Handline	5	0	0	0	0	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	0	0	0	0	
Trap	130	0	0	0	0	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	0	0	0	0	
Total fleet fishing capacity		0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	33.68	33.68	0	0	0	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	
Quota													0	0	33.58	33.58	33.58	33.58	33.58	39.65	47.4	56.91	66	
Adjusted quota (if applicable)																								
Allowance for sport/recreational (if applicable)													0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Under/overcapacity													0	0	0	0	-33.58	-33.58	-33.58	-5.97	-13.72	-23.23	-32.32	

- Syria did not use its quotas of 2012, 2013 and 2014.

TUNISIA

Introduction

Tunisia will hereby present its fishing, inspection and capacity management plan for bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean.

In accordance with the fishing allocations adopted by ICCAT at its annual meeting held in Marrakech in November 2017, the quota for Tunisia in 2018 was fixed at 2115 t.

In preparation for the 2018 bluefin tuna fishing campaign, Tunisia adjusted its fishing capacity in accordance with the methodology adopted by ICCAT. On the basis of this methodology, Tunisia established a fishing plan and will allocate individual quotas to 37 vessels to fish for bluefin tuna in 2018.

All Tunisian fishing vessels fishing for bluefin tuna use purse seine nets i.e. tuna purse seiners.

The Tunisian administration will issue fishing permits for these vessels for 2018 and will be reported to ICCAT in a timely manner.

The management of the fishing activity will be governed in accordance with the provisions of ICCAT Recommendation 14-04/17-07, and the national regulation (Law No. 94-13 of 31 January 1994 on fishing, as amended by Law No. 2013-34 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).

Fishing Plan

Tunisia's TAC, which is set at 2,115 t for 2018, will be distributed as follows:

- a. 2093.5 t (i.e. 99%) for tuna purse seiners. The list of vessels and their individual quotas will be reported to ICCAT by the deadlines for submission set out in paragraph 52 of Recommendation 14-04 and 17-07.
- b. 21.15 t (i.e. 1%) for by-catch in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 29 of Recommendation 14-04 and 17-07.

	<i>ICCAT requirement (per Rec. 14-04)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
1	Communication and reporting of catches (para 61-67, 69)	Communication and reporting of catches will comply with the provisions of Recommendation 14-04 and 17-07 (paragraph 61-67, 69). Catching vessel masters will maintain all the onboard documents required including a bound logbook or in electronic format in which the operations performed will be recorded in accordance with the provisions of Recommendation 14-04 and 17-07 (Annex 2).	Law No. 94-13 of 31 January 1994 on fishing, as amended by Law No. 2013-34 and its implementing texts in particular the Order of 21 May 2008, as amended by the Order of 10 June 2013 on organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery. The Order of the Ministry of Agriculture of 10 June 2013 concerned with amendment of the Order of 21 May 2008 on the organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery.	
2	Fishing seasons (para 18-23)	The purse seine fishing season is from 26 May to 24 June 2018.		

3	Minimum size (para 26-28)	It is prohibited to catch bluefin tuna with a unitary weight less than 30 kg or measuring less than 115 cm calculated from the tip of the snout to the base of the tail. However, exceptionally, by-catch of up to a maximum of 5% of bluefin tuna weighing between 8 and 30 kg or with a fork length of 75 to 115 cm may be authorised. By-catch of bluefin tuna that are below the tolerated size and weight and exceed the limit referred to above are released. Dead and undersized specimens are discarded and deducted from Tunisia's quota.		
4	By-catch (para 29)	1% deducted from the quota. If by-catch exceeds the 5% limit tolerated for vessels that do not actively fish for bluefin tuna or if the total level of by-catch is surpassed, these are discarded and deducted from Tunisia's quota.	<i>Internal circular.</i>	
5	Recreational and sports fisheries (para 30-34)	Sports and recreational fishing will not be permitted.		
6	Transshipment (para 58-60)	Bluefin tuna fishing vessels may only tranship bluefin tuna catches in the ports registered with ICCAT with prior authorisation in accordance with Recommendation 14-04 and 17-07 (paragraph 58 to 60).	Law No. 94-13 of 31 January 1994 on fishing, as amended by Law No. 2013-34 and its implementing texts in particular the Order of 21 May 2008, as amended by the Order of 10 June 2013 on organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery.	
7	VMS (para 87)	All vessels participating in the bluefin tuna campaign with a length of more than 15 m are equipped with a VMS system, in accordance with Recommendation 14-04 and 17-07 (para 87) and current national legislation. Transmission of positions of catching, towing and support vessels starts 15 days before the authorisation period of each vessel and continues until	No. 2013-34 of 21/09/2013 and its implementing texts, in particular the Order of the Ministry of Agriculture of 26/06/2015.	

		15 days after the end of the authorisation. The positions will be communicated immediately to the ICCAT Secretariat, no less than every 4 hours.		
8	CPC's observer (para 88)	The Tunisian administration will provide national observer coverage, carrying official identification documents on board all towing vessels i.e. 100%, in accordance with the provisions of Recommendation 14-04 and 17-07 (para 88).		
9	Regional observer (para 89-90)	The Tunisian administration will ensure implementation of the ICCAT regional observers programme to guarantee observer coverage of all the purse seiners authorised to fish for bluefin tuna, during all bluefin tuna transfers from purse seiners, during all transfers from one farming facility to another, during all bluefin tuna caging in farming facilities and throughout harvesting of bluefin tuna in farming facilities, in accordance with the provisions of Recommendation 14-04 and 17-07 (para 89-90).		
10	<i>Other requirements, such as the tagging program</i> Caging operation (para 83, Annex 9)	Caging operations will be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the ICCAT recommendation. All caging operations will be controlled by stereoscopic camera in accordance with the procedures established in Annex 9 of the ICCAT recommendation.		

Inspection Plan

CPC's inspection (para 64, 99)

In accordance with the national regulation in force, at-sea inspections in the fishing areas during the campaign will be carried out by permanent members of staff of the fisheries guard and coastal surveillance. They will be responsible for monitoring and assessment of compliance with ICCAT management measures. For the purposes of strengthening control, Tunisia has implemented a specific programme, which primarily consists of strengthening the coastal surveillance fleet through acquisition of new maritime control vessels, hiring of fisheries guards (around one hundred) to support current staff in policing the fisheries in waters under national jurisdiction as well as on the high seas.

In addition, a specific programme has been established which involves all corps authorised to ensure policing of the fisheries at sea and on land, i.e. the national navy, coast guard, customs and the merchant navy. This programme covers the entire chain of value of fisheries products, from catch to product placement on the market, including processing and distribution channels.

Entry authorisations for vessels flying a foreign flag into designated Tunisian ports are granted by the competent port services.

Port inspections are carried out by sworn officers of the fishing services who will be responsible for control of landings of bluefin tuna, fishing gears and onboard documents.

Joint international inspection (para 97-98)

In accordance with the provisions of Annex 7 of Recommendation 14-04 and 17-07, it is intended that the vessel AMILCAR MA 878 will participate in the joint international inspection programme. Four onboard inspectors will carry out inspection and boarding activities for Tunisian and foreign vessels during the 2018 bluefin tuna fishing season.

Inspection activities will cover in particular:

- Onboard documents;
- Catch activities and transfer into towing vessel cages;
- Video recordings of catch transfer operations;
- Potential non-compliance with the management measures of Recommendation 14-04 and 17-07.

Detailed inspection programmes as well as measures to be taken in relation to vessels inspected will be decided in conjunction with the fisheries administration.

Capacity Management Plan (para 35-42, 44-45a)

See table.

Adjustment of Tunisia's fishing capacity-2018

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	2017	2018	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Purse seiner over 40 m	70.7	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	70.7	70.7	70.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Purse seiner between 24 and 40 m	49.78	24	24	24	19	20	20	20	24	24	24	33	1194.72	1194.72	1194.7	945.82	995.6	995.6	995.6	1194.72	1194.72	1194.72	1642.74	
Purse seiner less than 24 m	33.68	16	16	16	4	1	1	1	1	3	3	4	538.88	538.88	538.88	134.72	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68	101.04	101.04	134.72	
Total purse seine fleet		41	41	41	23	21	21	21	25	27	27	37	0	0	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	0	0	0	0	
Longliner between 20 and 40m	5.68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Longliner less than 24m	5	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	5	0	0	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	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	0	0	0	0	
Handline	5	0	0	0	0	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	0	0	0	0	
Trap	130	0	0	0	0	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	0	0	0	0	
Total fleet/fishing capacity		41	41	41	23	21	21	21	25	27	27	37	1809.3	1809.3	1809.3	1080.5	1029.3	1029.3	1029.28	1228.4	1295.76	1295.76	1777.46	
Vessels quota		2254.48	1735.9	1064.9	1017.6	1017.6	1057	1057	1248	1462	1755	2093.85	2254.48	1735.87	1064.9	1017.6	1017.6	1057	1057	1247.97	1461.876	1755.18	2093.85	
By-catch																						29.8342	35.82	21.15
TAC																						1491.71	1791	2115
Admissible catch for sports/recreational vessels (if applicable)																								
Adjusted quota (if applicable)		2364.48	1937.9	1109.5	860.18	1017.6	1057	1057	1248	1462	1755	2115	2364.48	1937.87	1109.5	860.18	1017.6	1057	1057	1247.97	1491.71	1791	2115	
Under/overcapacity																	-220	-12	28	27	20	196	495	338

TURKEY

Introduction

In this context, Turkey will implement a total of 1.414,00 m.t. catch limit for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean for 2018.

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 Notifications and Ministerial Communiqué regarding E-BFT fishing, farming and trading.

MoFAL shall issue fishing permits for all E-BFT fishing vessels to be authorized for 2018. 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.

Fishing permits issued by MoFAL shall be mandatory for E-BFT fishing vessels to operate for the 2018 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 25 purse seine vessels as BFT catching vessels by MoFAL. Similarly, 55 E-BFT other vessels (towing, support and auxiliary) are planned to be authorized by MoFAL. A viable amount of quota shall be allocated to 25 E-BFT catching vessels (if no conceivable changes happen until May 12 deadline) acquiring valid fishing permits for the 2018 E-BFT fishing season.

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. Should any E-BFT catching vessel may not exhaust its assigned individual quota (IQ) at the end of the fishing season, carryover shall not be allowed.

A specific quota level, which is 5% of the total, shall be allocated for the purposes of coastal fisheries, as well as incidental and by-catches. A specific quota level, which is 5% of the total, shall be dedicated to recreational and sport fisheries.

Fishing plan

	<i>ICCAT Requirement (per 14-04)</i>	<i>Explanation of CPC actions taken to implement</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable)</i>	<i>Note</i>
1.	Catch recording and reporting (para. 61-67, 69)	Shall be implemented in parallel with para. 61-67 and 69 of Rec.14-04. Both bound logbook and electronic logbook shall be used for the recording of catch data.	Ministerial Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading.	
2.	Fishing Seasons (para. 18-23)	Fishing for E-BFT by purse-seiner is allowed for the period between 26 May - 24 June 2018	Ministerial Notification Regulating Commercial Fisheries / Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading.	

3.	Minimum size (para. 26-28)	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 115cm shall be prohibited. Fish caught retained on board, landed, discarded dead less than the minimum size shall be counted against Turkey's BFT quota.	Ministerial Notification Regulating Commercial Fisheries / Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading.	
4.	By-catch (para. 29)	E-BFT catches of unauthorized vessels, exceeding more than 5% of the total catch by weight or number of pieces, are not authorized. Whether it is retained or not all by-catches shall be deducted from Turkey's total quota dedicated for coastal fishery and by-catch purposes.	Ministerial Notification Regulating Commercial Fisheries / Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading.	
5.	Recreational and sports fisheries (para, 30-34)	Recreational and sport fisheries on E-BFT is subject to authorization for each vessel. Catch and retention on board, transshipment or landing of more than one E-BFT individual per vessel per day is prohibited. The marketing of E-BFT caught in recreational and sport fishing is prohibited. Catch data obtained from the recreational fishery shall be submitted to the Ministry, all recreational catches shall be counted against Turkey's total quota dedicated for recreational and sports fisheries.	Ministerial Notification Regulating Amateur & Recreational Fisheries / Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading.	
6.	Transshipment (para. 58-60)	Transshipment at sea operations of E-BFT shall be prohibited. E-BFT fishing vessels shall only transship/land E-BFT catches in the ports designated for that purposes. In case of dead E-BFT 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: 1. Adana Province: Karatas fishing port 2. Antalya Province: Antalya fishing port Gazipasa fishing port 3. Mersin Province: Karaduvar fishing port 4. Hatay Province: Iskenderun fishing port 5. Canakkale Province: Kabatepe fishing port	Ministerial Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading.	

		Gulpınar fishing port 6. Istanbul Province: Gurpinar fishing port Tuzla fishing port 7. Izmir Province: Karaburun fishing port		
7.	VMS (para. 87)	Fishing vessels requesting any of the E-BFT fishing vessel permits for the 2018 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 shall be required from the authorized fishing vessels.	Ministerial Notification Regulating Commercial Fisheries / Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading.	
8.	CPC Observer (para. 88)	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 2018.	Ministerial Notification Regulating Commercial Fisheries / Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading.	
9.	Regional observer (para. 89-90)	Presence of “ICCAT Regional Observers” on E-BFT Catching Vessels and at E-BFT Farming Facilities (at the time of caging and harvest operations) is mandatory.	Ministerial Notification Regulating Commercial Fisheries / Communiqué on E-BFT Fishing, Farming and Trading.	
	<i>Other requirements, such as tagging program</i>	Usage of stereoscopic cameras in the farms shall be provided.	Ministerial notification regulating commercial fisheries / Communiqué on E-BFT fishing, farming and trading.	

Inspection Plan

CPC's inspection (para 64, 99)

In collaboration with Turkish Coast Guard Command (TCGC), comprehensive at-sea inspection coverage shall be ensured by MoFAL during 2018 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.

Joint international inspection (para 97-98)

Turkey plans to participate to the ICCAT Joint Scheme of International Inspection of 2018 with 59 TCGC Boats, 16 aircraft (planes/helicopters) and 216 inspector staff. Due to logistical reasons, envisaged numbers of inspection boats and inspector staff may be subject to some changes subsequently.

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) to the inspection scheme is expected to conduct some high-sea inspections in the Mediterranean.

Furthermore, an additional inspection vessel - namely ARAMA 1- that has been assigned by MoFAL will also contribute to the activities under ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspections in the region.

Capacity Management Plan (para 35-42, 44-45a)

The number of fishing vessels and the corresponding fishing capacity is given below.

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	2017	2018 (*)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7	41	32	12	13	0	3	0	16	16	15	8	2899	2262	848	919	0	212	0	1131	1131	1061	565.6
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78	49	34	11	4	11	7	13	0	3	14	17	2439	1693	548	199	548	348	647	0	149	696.6	846.26
Purse seiners less than 24m	33.68	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	101	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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	1396	1118	548	561	647	1131	1281	1757	1411.86
Quota													887	683	419	536	536	554	557	1223	1462	1775	1414
Adjusted quota (if applicable)																							
Allowance for sport/recreational (if applicable)																							
Under/overcapacity													4552	3272	978	582	12	3.9	90	-92	-136	-17.6	-2.14

(*) 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.

Turkey's provisional inspection plan within the framework of ICCAT Joint Scheme of International Inspection 2018

Introduction

Turkish Coast Guard Command (TCGC) plans to participate to the ICCAT Joint Scheme of International Inspection of 2018 with 59 Coast Guard Boats, 16 aircraft (planes/helicopters) and 216 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) to the inspection scheme is expected to conduct some high-sea inspections in the Mediterranean.

Due to logistical reasons, envisaged numbers of inspection boats and inspector staff may be subject to alterations until early 2018, and a definite list of active inspection vessels will be submitted subsequently, as soon as it is available.

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 is planned to be focused on for 2018. In this context, bluefin tuna (E-BFT) fishing and transferring activities, as well as, Med-SWO fishing activities will continue to be inspected on a regular throughout the upcoming fishing campaign.

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

TCGC 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 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 E-BFT Fishing Season.

Means of at-sea Inspections

The means of at-sea inspections shall be deployed mainly at E-BFT and Med-SWO fishing grounds which are determined based on 2017's risk assessment data.

Planned Number of ICCAT Inspection Assets to be deployed

Number of Coastal Patrol Vessels: 59

Number of Aircrafts: 16

Additional boats/vessels and/or inspector staff could be assigned in case of necessity. Aerial inspections may also be scheduled by Maritime Patrol Aircrafts of TCGC during 2018's fishing campaigns.

CHINESE TAIPEI**Introduction**

For the purpose of recovery of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna (E-BFT), Chinese Taipei has established regulations which prohibit its fishing vessels from catching bluefin tuna since 2009, and such regulation has remained in force to date. Notably, we pay attention to the Mediterranean Sea, which is the spawning area for E-BFT, hence we prohibit our fishing vessels from engaging in any fishing activity within such area. Therefore, our policy towards E-BFT remains the same in that no fishing vessel flagged to Chinese Taipei is permitted to catch bluefin tuna in the ICCAT Convention area in 2018. It should be noted that we review the aforementioned policy annually to determine appropriate time to resume the bluefin tuna fishery in the future.

Our domestic legislation also requires fishermen to release or discard any by-catch of bluefin tuna, record relevant information in the logbook or e-logbook, and further report to the Fisheries Agency. To date, no by-catch of bluefin tuna has been reported to this Agency.

In terms of quota management, our initial quota of E-BFT for 2018 is 79 t, 50 t of which is transferred to Korea in accordance with paragraph 5(b) of the ICCAT Rec. 17-07.

Fishing plan

As mentioned above, our fishing vessels are prohibited from catching bluefin tuna in the ICCAT Convention area in accordance with our domestic regulations. Therefore, both the total number of vessels and quota allocated to each vessel are zero.

	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)	In case that there is any by-catch of bluefin tuna, it should be released or discarded into the sea immediately, and the relevant information should be recorded and further reported to this Agency of Chinese Taipei.	As stipulated in Art. 41 of 'Regulations for Tuna Longline Fishing Vessels Proceeding to the Atlantic Ocean for Fishing Operation', our fishing vessels are prohibited from catching and retaining onboard any bluefin tuna.	
2.	Fishing Seasons (para. 18-23)	No fishing for bluefin tuna is permitted throughout the year 2018.	Same as above.	
3.	Minimum size (para. 26-28)	No bluefin tuna is permitted to retain onboard, so the requirements for minimum size are not applicable.	Not applicable.	
4.	By-catch (para. 29)	Up to date, there is no by-catch of bluefin tuna being reported to this Agency.	Same as above.	
5.	Recreational and sports fisheries (para, 30-34)	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	

6.	Transshipment (para. 58-60)	No fishing vessel is permitted to catch bluefin tuna, so the requirements for transshipment are not applicable.	Not applicable.	
7.	VMS (para. 87)	All vessels operating in the ICCAT Convention Area have installed VMS and are monitored by our Fisheries Monitoring Center.	As stipulated in Art.33 (2) of 'Regulations for Tuna Longline Fishing Vessels Proceeding to the Atlantic Ocean for Fishing Operation', all fishing vessels authorized to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention Area are required to install satellite-based VMS and report their positions every hour.	
8.	CPC Observer (para. 88)	No fishing vessel is permitted to catch bluefin tuna, so the requirements for national observer are not applicable.	Not applicable.	
9.	Regional observer (para. 89-90)	No fishing vessel is permitted to catch bluefin tuna, so the requirements for regional observer are not applicable.	Not applicable.	
	Other requirements, such as tagging program	None.	None.	

Inspection Plan

CPC's inspection (para 64, 99)

Even though Chinese Taipei is not a port State bordering the Atlantic Ocean, we require any foreign fishing vessel entering into our ports to report its catches onboard, and currently carry out a minimum of 5% inspection rate in accordance with our National Plan of Control and Inspection. To date, no Atlantic bluefin tuna has been reported or found.

Joint international inspection (para 97-98)

Due to our regulations on the prohibition of catching bluefin tuna, the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection is not applicable to Chinese Taipei.

Capacity Management Plan (para 35-42, 44-45a)

Taking into consideration the stock status of Atlantic bluefin tuna, Chinese Taipei has prohibited its fishing vessels from catching E-BFT over the past years. Nevertheless, it should be noted that Chinese Taipei reserves the rights to resume this fishery in the future, once the stock is recovered. The table recording number of fishing vessels and fishing capacity is attached as follows.

TUNA VESSEL FLEET	Fleet (vessels)												Fishing capacity											
	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Purse seiner over 40m	70.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Purse seiner between 24 and 40m	49.78	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Purse seiners less than 24m	33.68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total Purse Seine Fleet		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Longliner over 40m	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Longliner between 24 and 40m	5.68	0	0	0	0	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	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	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	0	0	0	0	
Handline	5	0	0	0	0	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	0	0	0	0	
Trap	130	0	0	0	0	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	0	0	0	0	
Total fleet/fishing capacity		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Quota		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	68.71	66.30	41.60	39.75	39.75	41.29	41.29	48.76	58.28	69.97	79	
Adjusted quota (if applicable)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	68.71	66.30	41.60	39.75	39.75	31.29	31.29	38.76	48.28	59.97	29	
Allowance for sport/recreational (if applicable)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Under/overcapacity		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Statement by Algeria to Panel 2

Since 2010, Algeria has seen how its annual bluefin tuna catch quota has fallen significantly from 684.90 t in 2010 to 138.46 t for 2011, in an arbitrary manner that is not in accordance with any ICCAT rule. Algeria has not been consulted in relation to this action, which has always been viewed as an injustice by those involved in this fishery.

This reduction of about 80% cannot be explained by a general reduction in the TAC (total allowable catch), which decreased from 13,500 t in 2010 to 12,900 t for 2011 (i.e. less than 5%).

In 2012, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas acknowledged and admitted the harm that has been caused to Algeria through implementation of this decision. As a result, ICCAT, in Recommendations 12-03 and 14-04 which establish a multi-annual programme for recovery of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, granted quota adjustments which will continue until Algeria's combined quota reaches 5.07% of the TAC.

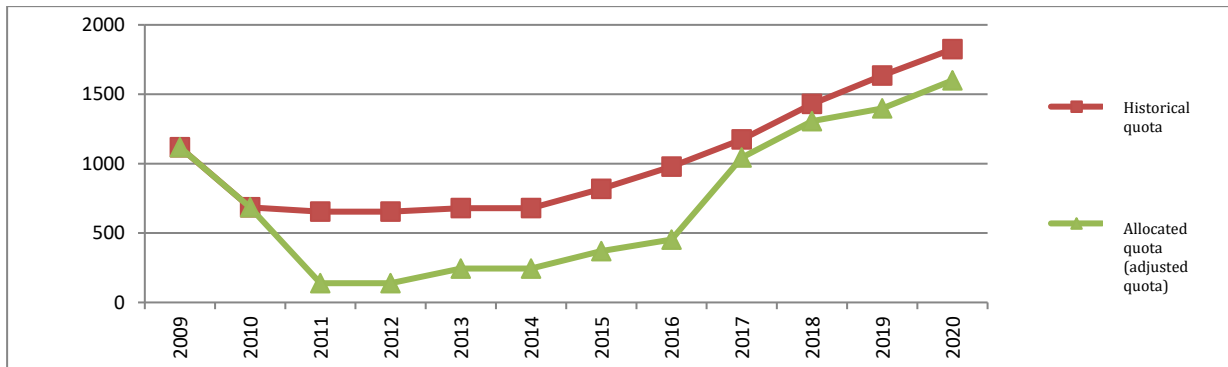
The Commission's commitment was partly put into effect in 2016. Through the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Supplement Recommendation 14-04 by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 13-07 by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-annual Recovery Plan For Bluefin Tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* (Rec. 16-09), the Commission allocated a complementary quota to Algeria of about 500 t in addition to the combined quota established by Recommendation 14-04.

The quotas allocated to Algeria at the annual meeting held in Marrakesh in November 2017, do not overcome the annual deficit, without prejudice to the 3591.74 t foregone since 2011. The table below shows the evolution of Algeria's quotas since 2009.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Historical quota (5.07% key)</i>	<i>Allocated quota</i>	<i>Key</i>	<i>Balance</i>
2009	1117.42	1117.42	5.0733333	0
2010	684.9	684.9	5.0733333	0
2011	654.03	138.46	1.07333333	-515.57
2012	654.03	138.46	1.07333333	-515.57
2013	679.38	243.83	1.81962687	-435.55
2014	679.38	243.83	1.81962687	-435.55
2015	818.3994	369.81	2.29098005	-448.5894
2016	978.3072	452.98	2.34753317	-525.3272
2017	1173.9585	1043.98	4.50865904	-129.9785
2018	1429.8414	1306	4.63087724	-123.8414
2019	1634.568	1398	4.33622829	-236.568
2020	1825.2	1600	4.44444444	-225.2
Total				-3591.7445

It can also be seen from the table that the maximum combined quota (adjusted quota) allocated to Algeria for 2018 is 4.63% of the TAC. However, it can be observed that this quota decreases in 2019 and 2020.

Despite improvement in the situation of the bluefin tuna stock and the evolution of the TAC of 28,200 t, 32,240 t and 36,000 t for 2018, 2019 and 2020, respectively, Algeria has not yet recovered its historical quota, i.e. 5.07% of the TAC, which is important to recall. The graph below shows the evolution of the allocation key of Algeria's quota (combined quota), which is still below its historical key.



Given the losses that have resulted from the decision taken by the Commission in 2010, the improvement in the stock's situation, the decision to establish a reserve quota for 2019 and 2020 and previous undertakings by ICCAT, Algeria appeals to CPCs and their sense of fairness, to restore the rights of our country and to definitively close this painful chapter that began in 2010.

Algeria has been prevented from developing this fishery, and prohibits to date fishing by artisanal fishers, who constitute more than 70% of its fleet i.e. more than 3000 fishing vessels. It is hoped that through an allocation from the reserve under discussion, this activity (bluefin tuna fishing) can be restarted and opened up to these fishers who have consented to this dual sacrifice for the sake of recovery of this species.

By way of reminder and as in the case of other coastal countries, this artisanal fishery for "subsistence" is in most cases the only source of income for households and is in some isolated coastal villages in some areas, the only economic activity.

Prohibition, with a sense of arbitrariness, has always constituted a the source of illicitness.

Fishers can view any iniquity as a challenge and a burdensome constraint.

Therefore, Algeria undertakes to allocate to the artisanal fishery from 2019 the quotas allocated from the reserve.

We sincerely hope that the CPCs of Panel 2 act responsibly, fairly and justly in deciding to allocate quotas to Algeria.

Statement by Korea to Panel 2

Korea invited the Panel to recall that Recommendation 02-08 clearly expresses that Korea redeems its 1.5% share of any given TAC when it individually has fished its current level of underages. As Korea has been exhausting all of its national quota since 2016, Korea should have redeemed its share of 1.5% from 2017. However, this was not reflected on the quota allocation for the quota block 2018-2020. In this regard, Korea strongly stresses that this share should be accommodated in any future allocation of the bluefin TACs and any reserves thereof, including the quota block 2021~2023 and then on, and these needs should be clearly taken into account.

In accepting the allocation of the reserves for 2019 and 2020, Korea invited the Panel to recognize that further allocation of remaining reserves at this meeting had taken into account and prioritized artisanal fisheries and developing countries. In this regard, Korea highlighted the need to consider as a matter of priority fishing nation's legitimate share, especially Korea's share of 1.5% of TAC in accordance with Rec. 02-08, next time we allocate any reserves and TACs.

Appendix 7 to ANNEX 4.1**Statement by Morocco to Panel 2**

At its 25th regular meeting held in Marrakesh (Morocco), the Commission adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 14-04 on bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* (Rec. 17-07).

The aim of this document is to provide information on the bluefin tuna fishing activity in the Kingdom of Morocco.

The bluefin tuna fishery in Morocco is particularly important from a socio-economic view, owing to the generation of foreign currency and creation of direct and indirect employment.

Atlantic bluefin tuna is a migratory species managed by ICCAT. Morocco, like other Contracting Parties of this Commission, is one of the main countries that exploit this species during its migration from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean coasts, from April each year.

Therefore, Morocco has an annual fishing quota fixed by this Commission which is distributed annually among the operational segments of this fishery through a management plan which is consistent with the spirit and principle of ICCAT recommendations.

Through active participation in all Commission work and subscription to all ICCAT provisions, Morocco has demonstrated its commitment and affinity to the objectives of preservation of the marine ecosystems and sustainable use of the fisheries resources managed by this Commission.

Socio-economic context

- The bluefin tuna fishery in the area of the Atlantic and Moroccan Mediterranean is artisanal and selective by nature, and consists of:
 - Artisanal boats with a LOA < 7m (< 3 tons) and engine power < 20 CV.
 - Traps, which are considered by all scientists to be an important observatory of this fishery.
- The artisanal fishery is particularly significant from a socio-economic view owing to the large number of fishers that rely on it. Some 3,000 artisanal boats take bluefin tuna as by-catch during its migration period, and these catches will be counted against the quota allocated to the artisanal segment. Selective fishing gears are used by these vessels and artisanal boats, i.e. longline and handline. This activity creates around 60,000 direct and indirect jobs;
- The average catches of bluefin tuna in the area of the Atlantic and Moroccan Mediterranean in the period from 2007-2017 are estimated at 1,916 t;
- In the period from 2007-2014, the average catches of bluefin tuna taken on the Atlantic coast and Moroccan Mediterranean decreased by 55%;
- There are several interaction phenomena between marine cetaceans and fishing activity in the Mediterranean which result from depredation, i.e. attacks by some cetacean species on fishers' catches during fishing operations. These phenomena undermine the economic performance of fishers and contribute to the increase in socio-economic pressure on Mediterranean fisheries. Two types of depredation are observed in the Mediterranean which impact the Moroccan tuna fishery directly or indirectly:
 - Attacks by killer whales on tuna catches taken by artisanal vessels.
 - Attacks by bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) on purse seines in the pelagic fishery, which results in economic loss and partial loss of catches, and a reduction in fishing activity.

Strengthening of conservation and management measures

Morocco has contributed to all phases of the Atlantic-wide Research Programme on Bluefin Tuna (GBYP). In addition, in Morocco, several bluefin tuna electronic tagging campaigns have been carried out, and conventional tagging has been tested for the first time in Morocco.

Morocco was among the first countries to implement, unconditionally from the outset, the electronic bluefin tuna catch document programme (eBCD), and to participate in the financing and all the phases of its development.

In line with ICCAT recommendations and advice, Morocco has adopted a management plan for this fishery based on the setting of a minimum trade size, establishment of a TAC by segment and by vessel (joint fishing), definition of fishing areas, use of stereoscopic cameras for live bluefin tuna and the presence of onboard observers. The following should also be noted:

- Implementation of VMS for vessels greater than 15 m.
- Implementation of a computerised traceability system along the chain (from capture to export).
- Radiofrequency identification of artisanal boats.

Improvement in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock of bluefin tuna is demonstrated by the positive signs in the response of this fishery to the multi-annual recovery programmes for this stock which have been implemented since 2006, and is confirmed by the performance of traps in particular, and is illustrated by the release, in recent fishing seasons, of thousands of large size individuals by Moroccan traps (see tables below). It is important to note that the quantities released by Moroccan traps in some years have doubled the amounts caught.

<i>Year</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>
Release (number)	3818	2000	2400	10000	35500	25023	10230	15950	10850
Release (t)	802	420	504	2100	7455	5255	2148	3350	2278
Catches (t)	1909	1348	1055	990	960.47	959.46	1176	1433	1716

Average weight of bluefin tuna = 210 kg

The trap fishery was described by the SCRS as a real-life scientific laboratory, given the valuable scientific data that this fishery continues to provide systematically for the assessment needs of this stock.

<i>Fleet type</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>
Trap	15	17	13	9	9	10	10	11	12	12	15

Morocco has always contributed to preservation of the eastern bluefin tuna stock through compliance with ICCAT management recommendations:

- In July 2008, Morocco proceeded to limit the number of traps. Fishing capacity was reduced in 2010 to 10 vessels, i.e. a reduction of around 41%. In 2016, this capacity decreased by about 30% compared to the peak in 2009.
- There was a 51% decrease in the level of catches recorded in the period from 2010-2014 compared to the peak in 2007, which has caused great economic difficulties for the local trap industry.

On the basis of these indicators, Morocco has demonstrated its ability to act for sustainable management of the bluefin tuna stock, at institutional level and in relation to private operators and the community of fishers involved in this fishery. This capacity is even more crucial given that Morocco is situated, with its Atlantic and Mediterranean coastlines, in a strategic position for sustainability of the bluefin tuna stock. Bluefin tuna are effectively obliged to cross the Strait of Gibraltar during its genetic migration from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean and its feeding migration from the Mediterranean towards the Atlantic in the months of March to April and July to October.

So all these efforts have not been made in vain, it is important that Morocco benefits from an equitable distribution of unallocated reserves for 2019 and 2020 following the Panel 2 meeting in March 2018, commensurate with Morocco's numerous efforts, investment and commitment as a developing coastal country.

It should be noted that Morocco's quota has decreased since implementation in 2008 of the bluefin tuna recovery plans; its TAC will not reach the 2008 level until 2020.

Finally, the Kingdom of Morocco is convinced of the need to conserve this stock, and as a coastal CPC requests an equitable and fair distribution of unallocated reserves in accordance with the provisions of Recommendation 17-07 amending Recommendation 14-04 and ICCAT Resolution 15-13.

**Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 17-07
on Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean**
(submitted by Chair of Panel 2)

ACKNOWLEDGING the outcomes of the intersessional meeting of Panel 2 held in Madrid in 5-7 March 2018,

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

The subparagraph 5(a) of the recommendation 17-07 shall be replaced by the following subparagraph:

5 (a) The total allowable catches (TACs) for the years 2018-2020 shall be set at: 28,200 t for 2018; 32,240 t for 2019; and 36,000 t for 2020, in accordance with the following quota scheme:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Quota 2018 (t)</i>	<i>Quota 2019 (t)</i>	<i>Quota 2020 (t)</i>
Albania	100	156	170
Algeria	1,260	1,446	1,655
China	79	90	102
Egypt	181	266	330
European Union	15,850	17,623	19,460
Iceland*	84	147	180
Japan	2,279	2,544	2,819
Korea	160	184	200
Libya	1,846	2,060	2,255
Morocco	2,578	2,948	3,284
Norway	104	239	300
Syria	66	73	80
Tunisia	2,115	2,400	2,655
Turkey	1,414	1,880	2,305
Chinese Taipei	79	84	90
Subtotal	28,915	32,140	35,885
Unallocated Reserves	5	100	115
TOTAL	28,200	32,240	36,000

*Notwithstanding the provision of this Part, Iceland may catch beyond the quota amount each year by 25% while its total catch for 2018, 2019, and 2020 shall not exceed 411 t (84 t + 147 t + 180 t).

In 2018 and 2019, the Commission may distribute the unallocated reserves for 2019 and 2020 in consideration of the stock status updated by SCRS and the needs of CPCs, in particular the needs of coastal developing CPCs in their artisanal fisheries.

This table shall not be interpreted to have changed the allocation keys shown in Recommendation 14-04. The new keys shall be established in the future consideration by the Commission.

Mauritania may catch up to 5 t for research in each year. The catch shall be deducted from the unallocated reserve.

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

Appendix 9 to ANNEX 4.1

Requests for clarification by ROP-BFT consortium and responses from CPCs

Topic	Clarification sought	Algeria	Turkey	EU
1. Transfers	<p>During the past season, we saw more at-sea transfer from the seine to two cages (or more) simultaneously.</p> <p>Can you please detail the official procedure to be followed in terms of PTN, video, ITD and eBCD production?</p>	<p>From an operational point of view: The cages nearest to the fishing boat have a capacity of 200 t. The transfer into two different cages and individually caused significant mortality because the door of the purse seine closed in the middle of the crossover operation of the fish which led to entanglement and a large number of fish died. Distribution between the two cages meant that there was more living space.</p> <p>From the point of view of requirements on monitoring and control of the transfer operations: As to transfer authorisations, it was reported that in accordance with the provisions of Rec. 14-04 regarding documentation of transfer operations and product traceability, each towing vessel is obliged to carry onboard the transfer authorisation. In this regard, and given that it was a single fishing operation, in compliance with the provisions of Rec. 14-04, two (02) different transfer authorisation documents were issued but with the same transfer authorisation number (DZA/2017/002/1 and DZA/2017/002/2). It should also be noted that in accordance with provisions of the same recommendation, an eBCD is issued for each fishing operation. On this basis, a single eBCD was issued for this fishing operation and the number was indicated in part 4 on transfers. In relation to video recordings and in order to ensure control and counting of the number of specimens, two (02) videos were installed to film the transfer operation: the first was located between the door separating the purse seine from the first cage and the second between the two transport cages. The first video showed the total number of fish caught while the second showed the amount that had crossed over into the second cage.</p>	<p>In the event of at-sea transfers from the seine to two cages (or more) simultaneously, the procedure to follow as defined [by Algeria] is quite correct. In such cases, a single eBCD, 2 transfer authorizations and 2 video footages (for each caging) should be ensured. Since there will be a single eBCD two it would be convenient to use the same towing vessel for the towing operation.</p>	<p>From an operational point of view: Transfers from the seine to two cages (or more) simultaneously, never take place. In case a purse seiner (PS) make a large catch, fish is first transferred from the PS to a first towing vessel cage (TWC1). To avoid high mortality of fish, a second transfer of part of the catch from the TWC1 to a second towing vessel cage (TWC2) can take place. Split between the two cages means that there is more free space and consequently less likelihood of mortality. All receiving transport cages should be empty. From the point of view of requirements on monitoring and control of the transfer operations: In accordance with the provisions of Rec. [17-07], both operations are treated independently, and need individual authorisations. One eBCD is issued for the PS-TW transfer operation; and then the eBCD will continue to be filled in with the further transfer operations between towing vessels. All transfers should be recorded in the ITD (see Annex 4 of Rec. [17-07]). For all transfers of live bluefin tuna the transfer activities shall be monitored by conventional and/or stereoscopic video camera in the water with a view to verify the number of fish being transferred.</p>

Topic	Clarification sought	Algeria	Turkey	EU
<p>2. Group eBCDs</p>	<p>At the time of caging, relevant BCDs may be grouped as a “Grouped BCD” with a new BCD number in the following cases, provided that caging of all the fish is conducted on the same day and all the fish is caged in the same farming cage:</p> <p>a) Multiple catches made by the same vessel b) Catches made by JFO</p> <p>The Grouped BCD shall replace all the related original BCDs and be accompanied by the list of all the associated BCD numbers. The copies of such associated BCDs shall be made available upon request of CPCs.</p> <p>Is that OK to have two caging operations and only one eBCD? Or it should be one eBCD per caging operation?</p>	<p>No comment</p>	<p>It might be cases where splitting BFTs under the scope of one BCD into two cages is necessary in the actual practices in the field. The eBCD System need to have the functionality to split one eBCD automatically for a certain caging operation.</p> <p>Delivery of eBCD and ICD to the observer could sometimes take a longer time than it should be due to some specific operational restraints. Accordingly, setting a certain maximum number of days (between the caging operation and the signature by the observer) may not be always so practicable in reality. However, in no case the delivery should exceed the length of requested deployment of that particular observer.</p>	<p>Two caging operations represented by one BCD are required when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A grouped BCD is issued in line with ICCAT Rec. 11-20 2. A catch was split in two separate cages and caged through two separate caging operations. Parallel caging operations through a single BCD is allowed through the e-BCD system. <p>Thus, a single BCD will be issued in scenarios 1 and 2 above.</p> <p>Prior to the finalisation of e-BCDs and ICDs the following steps are required:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analysis of Stereoscopic camera footages to estimate the number and weight of fish caged 2. Submission of results to catching flag state 3. Finalisation of any release operations 4. Amendment of e-BCDs in line with catching flag state decision <p>The length of requested deployment of that particular observer should bound number of days between the caging operation and the signature of the documentation by the observer.</p>

Topic	Clarification sought	Algeria	Turkey	EU
	<p>During this caging season, a big gap has been observed between the caging operations at sea and the issuing of the official document (eBCD and ICD when any) to the observer. Can you give a maximum number of days between the caging operation and the signature of the documentation by the observer, or is this bounded only by the length of requested deployment of that particular observer?</p>			<p>The steps above take a considerable amount of time to be processed and in most cases exceed the period of deployment of the Regional observer (RO). The Observer must indicate at least its presence in the correspondent box of the eBCD. If results of stereoscopic camera are not available before the end of the Observer deployment, the National authorities have the possibility to sign the e-BCD.</p>

Topic	Clarification sought	Algeria	Turkey	EU
3. Caging authorisation information	Information in caging authorisations is often inconsistent with information in the ITDs and eBCDs. In these cases, should the observer sign the ICD / eBCD?	No comment	ITDs and eBCDs are the final documents indicating verified number of pieces /quantities of BFTs. Until issuing of these documents all the figures suggested are only rough estimations that could be slightly different from the final values. The observer should sign ITD / eBCD without considering transfer authorization if these documents and the observer records are coherent.	<p>Caging authorisations are based on the provisional amounts declared in the e-BCDs as it stands at the moment of the authorisation's request, thus the information between ITD, e-BCD and caging authorisation should match.</p> <p>Paragraph 83 of the ICCAT Rec. [17-07] provides that the quantities derived in the programme using stereoscopic cameras systems or alternative techniques that provide the equivalent precision shall be used to complete the caging declarations and relevant sections of the BCD when the caging operation is finalised. The RO should therefore decide to sign or not to sign the ICDs and caging section of the e-BCDs after analysing the caging transfer footage. RO decision should therefore be based on the outcome of these results and not on the information presented through the caging authorisation. The RO must indicate at least its presence in the correspondent box of the eBCD. If results of stereoscopic camera are not available before the end of the RO deployment, the National authorities have the possibility to sign the e-BCD.</p>

Topic	Clarification sought	Algeria	Turkey	EU
4. Caging authorisation	<p>In annex 8, of Rec. 14-04, the caging authorisation number is required to be shown. The assumption is that this authorisation number should follow the format of the transfer authorisation number set out in para 72. As no authorisation number format is established in the caging operations section (para 78-86).</p> <p>However, it is noted that several CPCs use different formats for caging authorisation which are completely different to that described in para 72. Furthermore, one caging authorisation may be used to cover several different caging authorisations, including control cagings. Is this permissible?</p>	No comment	<p>There is no caging authorization number format. But CPCs are free to impose a domestic format, if they consider it opportune.</p> <p>The EU's suggestion may be acceptable, without prejudice to the related provisions of Rec [17-07], and several caging operations covered by a single caging authorisation may not constitute a PNC.</p> <p>As Turkey; we will continue to use the same caging authorisation standards.</p>	<p>As no authorisation number format is established in the caging operation section, the CPCs may use formats for caging authorisation, which can be different from that described in paragraph 72 of Rec. [17-07].</p> <p>Rec. [17-07] is silent regarding the use of a single caging authorization for each caging operations, therefore several caging operations covered by a single caging authorisation should not constitute a PNC.</p>

Topic	Clarification sought	Algeria	Turkey	EU
5. Cage numbers	<p>Rec. 14-04 states that:</p> <p>CPCs shall assign a unique number to all cages. Numbers shall be issued with a unique numbering system that includes at least the three letter CPC code followed by three numbers.</p> <p>Is the at least referring only to the 3 letter CPC code, or can the cage number also include more than 3 numbers. For example, several towing cages were noted to have an additional letter after the 3 numbers. Is this permissible?</p>	No comment	Although the current rule stipulates only 3 letter CPC code and year, a unique numbering system should also include additional codes specific to the related company/operator.	It should be coherent with the Rec. [17-07]: at least the three letter CPC code followed by three numbers. More characters than those indicated above can be added to the cage number.

Topic	Clarification sought	Algeria	Turkey	EU
6. Cage numbers	<p>Following on from the above point, it was noted that cage numbers are often transferred from the donor cage to the receiving cage (which was unnumbered) following the operation.</p> <p>The implication is that the receiving cage does not have a unique number, or that this number is the same as the donor cage. Is this permissible?</p> <p>In these cases, it is permissible for the observer to sign the ICD and eBCD?</p>	No comment	It is not convenient to transfer cage numbers from the donor cage to the receiving cage. The cage number should be unique for only one cage without allowing of its transfer. In such cases it is advisable that the observer could sign the ICD and eBCD by reporting this case as a PNC.	Each cage should have a unique number. The receiving cage should not have the same number as the donor cage. If the donor cage has the same number as the receiving cage, the observer should not sign the ICD and eBCD.

<p>7. Intra farm transfers and control cagings</p>	<p>Intra-farm transfers are often carried out as control operations following inconclusive caging videos. However, as previously stated these often do not have a separate authorisation.</p> <p>In these cases, can the observer view this footage to verify the amount of tuna caged? Furthermore, can the observer sign the eBCD / ICD?</p>	<p>No comment</p>	<p>EU's comments are deemed applicable.</p> <p>No separate authorization may be required for control transfers since Farm CPC Authority issues order for subsequent control transfers.</p> <p>Therefore, there is no need for a different authorisation, and the observer should proceed as for the first caging operation.</p> <p>Apart from control transfers, other intra-farm transfers may not even require the presence of ICCAT Observers (to sign the ICD and e-BCD) but authorization and farm State control authorities (and/or CPC Observers) should be present there.</p>	<p>Intra-farm transfers do not require observer to sign the ICD and e-BCD but are subject to authorization and presence of the farm state control authorities (see paragraph 84 of Rec. [17-07]). Control transfers do not require authorization.</p> <p>The operations described by the consortium are not intra-farms transfers, but repetitions of the initial caging operation due to inconclusive caging video. Therefore, there is no need of a different authorisation, and the observer should proceed as for the first caging operation.</p>
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Topic	Clarification sought	Algeria	Turkey	EU
			<p>Additional Suggestion: The following adjustments could be made in the relevant procedures;</p> <p>-Intra-farm transfer could be made under the supervision of CPC Observer only, provided that the required transfer authorisation is given. Necessary modifications should be reflected (in a way to indicate intra-farm transfers shall only be made under the presence of CPC Observers) either in Rec. 17-07 or in other documents elsewhere.</p> <p>-In eBCD system CPC Administrator could be authorized to arrange “a new caging information” in the farm information following an intra-farm transfer.</p>	

4.2 REPORT OF THE ONLINE REPORTING TECHNOLOGY WORKING GROUP (Madrid, Spain 26-27 March 2018)

1. Opening of the meeting and logistical arrangements

The meeting was opened by the Chair, Ms. Oriana Villar (USA) who welcomed all the participants. The Secretariat informed the participants about the meeting arrangements and timetable. The Secretariat was nominated to act as rapporteur. The Agenda was adopted and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.2**. The List of participants is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.2**.

The Chair gave a brief overview of the progress to date and expressed the hope that the Working Group would make good progress and develop a concrete plan for future work.

2. Review of projects carried out under Area Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) Common Oceans Program

The Secretariat presented an overview of the Fisheries Online Reporting System (FORS) project which had been carried out under the financing of the ABNJ. The FORS had two main components: a) the feasibility study with a general outline for a reporting system presented by Olivier Roux and which had some similarities to the eMARIS system being developed at IOTC; b) the development by Ole Petter Lindstad of a prototype for ICCAT that implemented some of the characteristics of such a system for reporting catch and effort data. The FORS prototype developed (b), is in the process of being merged with the system developed by the Secretariat (see item 3).

The Group discussed technical aspects of these systems and how they could be applied to an ICCAT online reporting system for Annual Reports. In response to questions from the group it was clarified that the system currently used the most advanced security protocols available, but that user profiles and role management were determined by the Secretariat, although some CPCs indicated that they would like to have control over the administration of user assignment.

Only registered users would be able to access the system, and CPCs would only be able to see the details of their own data. It was further clarified that the system would have in-built verification processes which would check the data before accepting it and the system would show error messages as appropriate.

The FORS prototype had not taken very long to develop mainly because it had been done by an outside contractor on a very tight deadline, but that such could not be extrapolated to future developments.

It was noted that any further development of the system for ICCAT would require separate funding since the ABNJ funds have been exhausted and are targeted at projects generic enough to be applicable across tRFMOs. It was further noted that future ABNJ funding is dependent on the current ABNJ program continuing into phase 2, which had not yet been confirmed, and that all future proposed projects would need to apply across the tRFMOs.

3. Review of ICCAT's internal SCRS online reporting system (Java-based)

The Secretariat presented a brief demonstration of the online reporting system for Task I and Task II statistical data (ICCAT forms) which had been developed by the Secretariat. Tests with volunteer CPCs have been scheduled for 2018 (testing phase before entering into production). It was explained that the FORS prototype uses the "ICCAT forms" system for processing catch-and-effort datasets (directly into the ICCAT databases) and thus, the two systems are complementary.

The system, as presently designed, only allows for the submission of one statistical form type at a time, although it will be updated to handle multiple forms to be uploaded simultaneously. Currently only six (ST01 to ST06) of the 9 statistical forms can be processed (read, validated, stored) by the system. It was also foreseen that in the future data could be submitted on a computer to computer basis which would allow CPCs to directly upload data to the ICCAT databases, without having to manually complete data submission forms.

4. Review of progress made by other tuna RFMOs and consideration of any pertinent outcomes of the Tuna Compliance Network (TCN) on data management

The Chair presented a brief overview of progress to date by the other tRFMOs on online reporting. It was noted that the Tuna Compliance Network had expanded discussions to include IT experts from the various tRFMOs to discuss progress and exchange ideas on data systems and management. An online information group had been established in order for communication to continue, but funding for the TCN will only be available until early 2019. It was agreed that the Working Group should recommend that the Commission consider exploring possible funding opportunities in the future in order to allow the TCN to continue its work.

5. Determination of first elements for inclusion in the online system

The Secretariat put forward a proposed ICCAT Integrated Online Management System (IOMS) to modify and adapt the FORS to process the ICCAT Statistical Forms, the design of which would then serve as a foundation for the construction of the IOMS. This system will adopt a modular architecture design pattern and have a main application manager (the IOMS application platform). All the dependent application modules, such as the module that will manage the reporting of the Annual Reports, would then be included and managed by the main IOMS platform application. This modular architecture would simplify and allow further expansion of modules (including the incorporation of the current 32 databases the ICCAT Secretariat maintains) that will handle the information related to about 160 reporting requirements.

The Secretariat IT team indicated that it has the expertise to develop the IOMS but that it does not currently have the capacity to do so considering its already full annual workload. The Secretariat estimated that it would take approximately 12 months to develop the IOMS and the Annual Report module at a cost of €163,000 and annual maintenance of €7,200. It was further noted that approximately 60% of the costs would go toward developing the IOMS platform, and 40% toward the Annual Report module, but that developing the overall platform first will save significant funds in the future.

The Working Group had an extensive discussion on technical specifications that would be included in the development of the IOMS and the Annual Report module, including a discussion on the example user interface presented by the United States in August 2017. The Working Group also discussed reviewing and eliminating unnecessary or duplicative reporting requirements before developing the IOMS or Annual Report module. The Working Group agreed that the Secretariat should move forward with developing a more thorough proposal of the IOMS and the Annual Report module for presentation to the Working Group at the 2018 Annual Commission meeting and that the Working Group should further consider streamlining reporting requirements in coordination with other ICCAT subsidiary bodies tasked to coordinate similar activities by the Ad Hoc Working Group to follow up on the Second ICCAT Performance Review.

6. Consideration of online reporting system development

The Working Group discussed and agreed that the IOMS and modules developed will incorporate the following specifications: 1) a centralised session manager (web-app platform: user profiles and roles, security, modularity, etc.); 2) a system that can manage recommendations and requirements (relationships); 3) a system that can manage structured (data on forms) and non-structured data (text, figures, diagrams, others); 4) a system that accounts for versioning through threads of data submission and messages and through data handling (validation, integration, storage) and loggers (data processing); 5) a system that provides user editing capabilities and session storage; 6) a system that manages message threads; 7) a system that provides querying facilities (raw data, transformations, history trends and scores); and 8) a system based on the progressive enhancement development approach (Progressive Web Apps).

The Working Group discussed the Annual Report part II, section III template and identified the following as technical specifications that should be considered when developing the online system. These include:

1. The module will allow different ways to input data. Some examples may be where data can be directly introduced via an online interface, where users can download a template, input data into the template and upload it (using web services) directly into the system, and a direct data exchange between CPCs and the IOMS (web services);
2. Develop a system where automation and data validation are a priority;
3. Allow for an option to save data or automatically having the system save data as it is imputed;
4. Allow for links to be included which will direct the user to existing data forms or reports (eventually these links would direct the user to other modules as they are developed);
5. Allow for data input up until the date of the reporting requirement and provide for capabilities where the Secretariat can reopen data submissions when appropriate;
6. Develop a system that is both dynamic and flexible to allow for ongoing maintenance and enhancement; and
7. Use, as applicable, international standards (UNCEFACT) while taking into account the current ICCAT coding system.

7. Consideration of next steps and assignation of tasks

The Working Group considered next steps and these include:

1. In an effort to help improve reporting rates and reduce tasks for the Secretariat, the Chair of the Working Group request the Working Group participants to submit, by 30 of June 2018 initially, information on what are considered to be data reporting requirement redundancies. This information will be compiled and presented to the Commission Compliance Committee and SCRS for further review. The review of redundancy should be an ongoing exercise by the Working Group and/or all ICCAT subsidiary bodies.
2. The Working Group tasked the Chair to coordinate with SCRS, PWG, and STACFAD Chairs on the completion of similar streamlining tasks as identified in the Second ICCAT Performance Review recommendations 7, 85, and 86, and report back to the Working Group.
3. The Working Group will coordinate and work towards reviewing and identifying possible improvements of the formats/structures for reporting and validation. If necessary, proposed improvements will be presented to the relevant subsidiary bodies of ICCAT.
4. The Working Group requests that the Secretariat develop a completed model (specifications of the web-app platform, the core database and its content) of the Integrated Online Management System and design the specifications of the Annual Report part II, section III module by the next Annual Commission meeting (November 2018). The Secretariat will use the current Annual Report part II, section III as a template and will incorporate the additional technical specifications identified by the Working Group.
5. The Working Group tasks the Secretariat to develop a thorough budget alongside the model.

The Online Reporting Working Group identified a number of recommendations, including:

1. The Working Group supports the Integrated Online Management System (IOMS) presented by the Secretariat and recommends that the Commission adopt this system as the overarching online management system integrating all of the different reporting information collected and maintained currently by the Secretariat, taking into account the redundancies to be identified.
2. The Working Group supports the ongoing efforts by the Secretariat on the implementation of the online statistical validation system for the submission of statistical forms (Task I and II data) and in the near future it will be integrated into the IOMS. For these purposes, the Working Group recommends that the Commission fully fund the Secretariat's needs for the completion of this work.
3. The Working Group recommends that the Annual Report (part II) be developed as a module within the IOMS, and that the module build from the existing template, as well as incorporate the technical specifications identified under agenda item 6.
4. The Working Group recommends that the Commission fund the initial development of the IOMS (both the web-app platform and the first module, the Annual Report part II) and further look into long term funding for the development of additional modules.
5. The Working Group recommends the Commission explore funding opportunities under the ABNJ Common Ocean Program.
6. The Working Group recommends that the Commission consider exploring possible funding opportunities in the future in order to allow the TCN to continue its work.

8. Other matters

The Working Group took note of the Performance Review recommendation relating to the possible extension of the IOTC ePSM to ICCAT. The Secretariat reported that some progress had been made in that South Africa now uses the IOTC system to send reports to ICCAT, as IOTC had kindly updated the referential tables to include additional information needed for the ICCAT area. The only disadvantage was the fact that the reports arrive with IOTC header and name rather than ICCAT, but the information collected is the same. Other CPCs could opt to do the same, but the Commission may need to look at ways that the information could be extracted into an "ICCAT" headed form in the future, as well as additional modification which would be required if this system were to be used in the future.

The Working Group agreed that exploration of developments in other fora would be appropriate before any decisions were taken, such as the forthcoming FAO workshop which would also give consideration to Port State Measure implementation or the next Kobe meeting. The Working Group agreed to await the outcomes of this workshop and to address this issue during the year.

The Working Group noted that although no further formal meetings have been formally planned, it would be helpful to hold a meeting on the margins of the Commission meeting in November, to review progress and update the work plan if appropriate.

9. Adoption of report and adjournment

It was agreed that the report would be circulated to participants and adopted by correspondence. The meeting was adjourned.

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting and logistical arrangements
2. Review of projects carried out under ABNJ
3. Review of ICCAT's internal SCRS online reporting system (Java-based)
4. Review of progress made by other tuna RFMOs and consideration of any pertinent of outcomes of the Tuna Compliance Network on data management
5. Determination of first elements for inclusion in the online system
6. Consideration of online reporting system development
7. Consideration of next steps and assignation of tasks
8. Other matters
9. Adoption of report and adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.2

List of Participants

WORKING GROUP CHAIR

Villar, Oriana
1315 East-West Hwy, SSMC3, Suite 10648, Silver Spring, MD 20910
Tel: +1 301 427 8384, E-Mail: oriana.villar@noaa.gov

SCRS – Chair of the Sub Committee on Statistics

Díaz, Guillermo
NOAA-Fisheries, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami Florida 33149
Tel: +1 305 898 4035, E-Mail: guillermo.diaz@noaa.gov

CONTRACTING PARTIES

CANADA

Kerwin, Jessica
DFO, 200 Kent street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0E6
Tel: 613-993-3117, E-Mail: jessica.kerwin@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Djou, Kouadio Julien
Statisticien de la Direction de l'Aquaculture et des Pêches, Chef de Service Etudes, Statistiques et Documentation, Direction de l'Aquaculture et des Pêches (DAP), Ministère des Ressources Animales et halieutiques (MIRAH), 29 Rue des pêcheurs, BP V19, Abidjan 01
Tel: +225 79 15 96 22, E-Mail: djoujulien225@gmail.com

EUROPEAN UNION

Remy, Thierry
European Commission / Directorate General for Maritime Affairs & Fisheries, DG MARE – Data Management Unit (C4), Joseph II street, J-99 00 / 26, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 229 66798, E-Mail: thierry.remy@ec.europa.eu

GABON

Mayombo Mouandza, Fernand Fritch
Ingénieur Informaticien, Direction Générale des Pêches et de l'Aquaculture, Ministère des Eaux et Forêts, BP 9498, Libreville
Tel: +241 07558138, E-Mail: mouandze@gmail.com

S. TOMÉ E PRÍNCIPE

Alves Francisco Nunes, Gelson
Pantufo Dto de Agua Grande, CP 59
Tel: +239 994 6405, E-Mail: galves2009@live.com

TUNISIA

Mejri, Hamadi
Directeur adjoint, Conservation des ressources halieutiques, Ministère de l'agriculture et des ressources hydrauliques et de la pêche, Direction Générale de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture, 32, Rue Alain Savary - Le Belvédère, 1002
Tel: +216 240 12780, Fax: +216 71 799 401, E-Mail: hamadi.mejri1@gmail.com

UNITED STATES

Lederhouse, Terra
Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland MD 20910
Tel: +1 301 427 8360, E-Mail: terra.lederhouse@noaa.gov

ICCAT Secretariat

C/ Corazón de María 8 – 6th floor, 28002 Madrid – Spain
Tel: +34 91 416 56 00; Fax: +34 91 415 26 12; E-mail: info@iccat.int

De Bruyn, Paul
Cheatle, Jenny
Palma, Carlos
Idrissi, M'Hamed
Campoy, Rebecca
De Andrés, Marisa
Peyre, Christine
Fiz, Jesús
García Piña, Cristóbal
Mayor, Carlos
Parrilla Moruno, Alberto Thais
Peña, Esther

ICCAT INTERPRETERS

Baena Jiménez, Eva J.
Faillace, Linda
Leboulleux del Castillo, Beatriz
Liberas, Christine
Linaae, Cristina
Meunier, Isabelle

4.3 REPORT OF THE 12TH MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON INTEGRATED MONITORING MEASURES (IMM) (Madrid, Spain, 9-12 April 2018)

1. Opening of the meeting

The Chair of the Working Group, Mr. Neil Ansell (EU), opened the meeting and welcomed the delegates to the 12th meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM). The ICCAT Executive Secretary also welcomed participants.

2. Nomination of a Rapporteur

Ms. Katie Moore (USA) was nominated as rapporteur.

3. Adoption of the agenda and meeting arrangements

The Chair noted the modified agenda circulated before the meeting, and the participants adopted the agenda without changes (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.3**). The Chair stated that he planned to go through the agenda as written but noted that relevant Performance Review Recommendations would be brought up under the agenda items to which they related. Other Performance Review Recommendations and the approach of reporting to the Commission would be addressed under agenda item 7. Issues in the paper “U.S. Views Regarding Issues Raised in PWG-401/2017” (**Appendix 9 to ANNEX 4.3**) would also be taken up under the agenda items to which they related.

The Executive Secretary introduced the Contracting Parties present at the meeting: Algeria, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Cote D’Ivoire, European Union, Gabon, Honduras, Japan, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Senegal, Tunisia, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), and the United States of America.

The Executive Secretary also introduced Chinese Taipei as a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity.

The Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW) participated as observers.

The List of Participants is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.3**.

4. Review of Catch and Statistical document programmes, including:

4.1 Catch Documents Programmes and consideration of amendments to the BCD/e-BCD Programme

The Chair reported on recent activities of the e-BCD Technical Working Group (TWG) in his role as Chair of the TWG. The TWG last met in January 2018. The e-BCD system generally continues to work well, and the focus of the TWG now is on secondary development issues related to system functioning. A first list of desired functionalities to address these issues was sent to Tragsa after the meeting, and the TWG recently received cost/time estimates for each item on the list. The TWG is now prioritizing the items based on CPCs needs and costs. Funding is limited, so prioritization is essential. The Tragsa contract has been renewed for another year. The Secretariat thanked the EU for their voluntary contribution of €100,000 in support of the system, which also contributes to ensuring the required system hosting and support remains in place.

Recent discussions of the TWG included in particular data extraction considerations. There was discussion at the ICCAT 2017 annual meeting about how CPCs can extract information from the e-BCD system and whether those capabilities fully allow CPCs to meet their reporting obligations (especially under Recs. 11-20, 06-13 and 17-09). Japan reminded the IMM Working Group that it had introduced a proposal regarding reporting pursuant to Rec. 06-13 at the 2017 annual meeting and that it was deferred pending technical discussion on the data extraction function of the eBCD system by the TWG. The TWG agreed that CPCs need to be able to access appropriate data from the e-BCD system and is working with Tragsa on how to design user-friendly and cost effective query capabilities. The TWG is mindful that an integrated, holistic approach to the data query issue should be less expensive in the long run than development of query functionalities in a piecemeal manner.

Several CPCs noted that the Commission will likely want to reconsider CPC reporting obligations to be sure information extracted from e-BCD and submitted to ICCAT meets current needs. In the meantime, CPCs will have to work with the existing system to meet their 2018 reporting requirements. In this regard, the Chair encouraged the assistance of Tragsa to assist CPCs to conduct this year's data extraction and reporting, in particular the annual report under Rec. 11-20.

The Chair also recalled the proposals tabled by Norway at ICCAT 2017 annual meeting relating to issuing BCDs for catches in excess of quota. Discussions at the annual meeting were lengthy and the PWG recommended those discussions continue at the IMM. As Norway was not present at the Working Group meeting, however, this issue was not discussed.

The policy question of how the 7-day provision as laid down by para 13d) of Rec. 11-20 and para 6a) of Rec. 17-09 should be implemented and, thus, reflected in the e-BCD system was briefly discussed. In addition, whether and how an CPC inspector participating in the joint international inspection programme for eastern bluefin tuna should have access to the e-BCD system was considered but both remain unresolved. The Chair recommended continued discussions via correspondence with a view to settling these matters at the ICCAT annual meeting in November.

It was agreed that the e-BCD TWG should continue its work and, in particular, discuss data extraction at the technical level. The IMM Working Group encouraged the PWG to review e-BCD data extraction and reporting matters at the 2018 ICCAT annual meeting by which time costs on the various data extraction options would be known and could help inform decisions. The Chair noted that the e-BCD TWG may need to meet again prior to the annual meeting, perhaps in September, in order to prepare such issues and report to the PWG.

4.2 Statistical Document Programmes and consideration of possible improvements

The Chair mentioned there were no proposals on this agenda item. The Chair stated there were discussions in past PWG and IMM meetings regarding the statistical document programmes (SDPs) adopted in 2001, noting that some had indicated these programmes may no longer be addressing the needs they were originally adopted to address, and that there may be desire to revisit the measures (Recs. 01-21 and 01-22).

Some CPCs expressed interest in expanding the SDPs to catch documentation schemes (CDS) and/or to expand SDPs to other product types and/or species. It was noted however, there has been opposition to developing a blanket CDS for all species in the past. Japan had previously recommended that, as a first step, two loopholes/exemptions in the existing bigeye tuna SDP should be addressed, namely, expanding the programme to include fresh and canned products. Japan noted that these represent the majority of bigeye catches. Japan also noted a lack of progress on this topic since the discussions in 2012 and the representative stressed that Japan would prefer to see progress by ICCAT on this topic that would contribute to combating IUU fishing in the ICCAT Convention area. Some CPCs stressed the value of such a multilateral approach in the development of any new programmes, in particular, as this would ensure that a single document could be used to trade ICCAT products. They urged that any such programme should take into account and recognize national programmes/documents that may already meet minimum ICCAT and CPC standards. A CPC noted that Performance Review Rec. #84 is also relevant to this discussion, especially regarding swordfish. The EU said that it would be open to re-tabling its 2012 proposal as a starting point for further discussions. Inspiration from other catch document programmes and recent work of the FAO may also be used to improve the programmes used in ICCAT. It was suggested to separate discussions on which species and overall programme scope from the type of systems that should be used (i.e, paper vs. electronic), because there may not be a one-size-fits-all system.

Several CPCs suggested the need for a stepwise approach, assessing the needs by stock based on the criteria included in Rec. 12-09. That work could then inform decisions on the scope and capabilities of any potential new system. It was noted that cost is an important additional consideration. Several participants voiced support for an electronic system. Some CPCs noted that implementation may take time for some developing countries and that use of paper may be necessary in the meantime. Some participants stated the value of possibly updating the statistical document to fulfil the data requirements of existing unilateral catch certificates.

The EU introduced a proposal regarding a “Suggested Approach to Review and Evaluate the Need for, and if appropriate, expand Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) Programs in ICCAT”. The Chair summarized that this proposal is ongoing. This version of the proposal is appended as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.3** for information.

Based on the foregoing discussion, the IMM requested the Secretariat to compile, to the extent possible and in close coordination with the Chair of the PWG and the SCRS, information to inform an assessment by the Commission, through the PWG, of the risk of IUU activities and other relevant threats to the conservation status of ICCAT species/stocks. In that regard, the PWG will consider ways to address these threats, including the potential need for and, where appropriate, the possible roles that a Catch Documentation Scheme could play in addressing IUU fishing and enhancing the conservation and management of these stocks/species.

The information compiled by the Secretariat should, to the extent possible, relate to the following factors, and, as appropriate, others set forth in Recommendation 12-09 and the 2017 FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Catch Documentation Schemes:

- i. The overall level of trade by species and product type as well as the CPCs and non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (NCPs) involved;
- ii. The overall landed value of the targeted species/stock as well as the retail values at point of landing and on major markets;
- iii. The conservation status and the vulnerability (including low reproductive output or high age at maturity, or both) of the respective ICCAT species/stocks;
- iv. The monitoring and control measures currently in place, including catch and trade tracking programmes, and their scope of effectiveness (i.e., percentage of the overall fleet, landings, or product in trade covered under each of the various measures);
- v. The level of incidence of non-compliance events detected for each fishery/stock;
- vi. How ICCAT fisheries are conducted (e.g., fishing grounds, gear types, transshipment activities, harvesting CPCs, etc.);
- vii. The ways in which products from ICCAT fisheries are processed, transported, and traded; and
- viii. Any other relevant factors, including, but not restricted to, potential duplication with existing catch document schemes.

The Secretariat should provide the requested information in advance of the 2018 ICCAT annual meeting and, if possible, provide ranked lists of the various ICCAT fisheries and stocks/species based on, and, where feasible, sorted by the level of reported non-compliance by ICCAT members and any unreported non-member fishing; the comprehensiveness of the monitoring and control measures in place for each fishery; and/or the relative stock status/vulnerability.

The EU noted that it intends to develop a proposal on the next steps of this process for consideration at the 2018 annual meeting.

4.3 Other issues

No additional items were raised under this agenda item.

5. Consideration of measures relating to monitoring and inspection, including:

5.1 Vessel monitoring systems

The Chair noted that ICCAT's current VMS measure (Rec. 14-09) required review in 2017, but the PWG did not have time to undertake that work and referred the topic to the IMM. He also noted that Performance Review Rec. #72 stated, among other things, that ICCAT should transition to centralized VMS.

The United States introduced its VMS proposal, entitled "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for Vessel Monitoring Systems in the ICCAT Convention Area". The proposal updates three key elements of Rec. 14-09: expanding the group of vessels that would be required to be equipped with VMS, increasing the frequency of polling to 1 hour (vice 4 hours), and including language that clarifies and strengthens provisions prohibiting tampering with VMS units. The United States noted SCRS advice regarding the utility of higher frequency of VMS reporting and emphasized the increased utility to CPCs of having more detailed data on their vessels' activities.

A number of CPCs provided comments on the proposal. Regarding the size of vessels covered, one CPC requested that the reference to any vessels operating outside the flag-CPCs jurisdiction was too vague. Instead, it was suggested that only vessels 12 m LOA and above and authorized to fish outside the waters under the jurisdiction of the flag CPCs should be covered. Several CPCs made comments about the proposal to increase VMS polling frequency. One CPC expressed the view that 4 hours is a sufficient polling rate for pelagic longline vessels for the purpose of compliance due to the nature of the operation, but the Commission could consider a higher frequency for other gear types, particularly the purse seine fishery. Several CPCs suggested that a 2 hour polling rate would be sufficient. Those CPCs noted that they could accept 2 hour polling but would have concerns with a rate higher than that due to increased costs. One CPC noted that VMS data alone cannot prove fishing activity. One CPC suggested adding language related to circumstances in which it would be permissible to switch off the VMS unit in port. Regarding language related to a proposed requirement for tamper-evident units and data spoofing prohibitions, a few CPCs expressed concerns with the ability of CPCs to monitor how VMS data are treated by VMS providers, and suggested that this role was more appropriate for vessel masters. There was also a suggestion to include reporting of vessel heading and speed, as is required in some other RFMOs. In addition, there was a discussion regarding the utility of cross-checking AIS and VMS to check the validity of data provided by vessels suspected of tampering with their VMS systems, but some CPCs expressed concerns regarding the appropriateness of using AIS data in this manner given that AIS was designed for vessel safety.

The United States thanked parties for their views and agreed to present an amended measure, recognizing that the proposal on the table is very technical, and encouraged CPCs to undertake internal consultations, in particular looking into the potential costs to their fleet costs of an increased the polling rate.

Additional discussion focused on the concept of a centralized VMS as noted in Performance Review Rec. #72. The rationale put forward by one CPC is for a timelier exchange of VMS information between CPCs participating in the international inspection schemes and ultimately deterring IUU fishing. Participants discussed cost considerations and the potential need for the Secretariat to hire additional staff to operate a centralized system. Some CPCs suggested that a fully centralized system may be premature at this time. One CPC noted that there may be utility in considering a transition towards a centralized system on a fishery-by-fishery basis to be considered by the Panels and with clear information about the costs of such programmes. The observer from Pew noted the organization's support for moving toward greater use of centralized VMS in ICCAT.

The United States presented a modified proposal based on the previous discussion, and CPCs provided additional comments. The United States noted that it was considering additional language regarding situations in which it is acceptable to power down a VMS unit, and several CPCs described their domestic procedures and discussed how such a provision could be framed. Some concerns remained regarding the proposed minimum standards for tamper-evident VMS equipment. One CPC suggested that rather than having the provision prohibiting interruption of power to the unit, the measure should include a provision requiring automatic notification to the flag State if the power supply to a unit is interrupted. Noting the need to consult internally, one CPC reserved its position regarding the revised scope of vessels covered by the proposal, which had been narrowed to include only those commercial fishing vessels 12 m LOA or greater and authorized to operate outside waters under the jurisdiction of the relevant flag State.

Based on these discussions, the United States presented a third version of its proposal, recognizing the need for CPCs to consult internally on technical aspects and that the discussion on the VMS polling rate and vessels covered by the measure remained open. CPCs offered initial reactions to the updated proposal, and the United States committed to continuing working intersessionally to refine the text before the annual meeting.

The Chair summarized that this proposal is ongoing and looks forward to discussions between CPCs in advance of the annual meeting, using this proposal as the basis. This version of the proposal is appended as **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.3** for information.

Pew thanked the US for the proposal and for the supportive comments around the table. Pew suggested that ICCAT consider tightening controls on tropical tuna fishing through simultaneous transmission of VMS data to the CPC and the Secretariat.

5.2 Observer Programmes

The Chair noted that Performance Review Recs. #71 and 79 were relevant to this agenda item.

The United States introduced its proposal entitled *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Protecting the Health and Safety of Observers in ICCAT's Regional Observer Programs* (IMM_09A/i2018) with the goal of clearly identifying the responsibilities of the Secretariat, flag CPCs and non-CPCs, observer providers, and vessel operators in the event that an observer dies, is missing or presumed fallen overboard, suffers from serious illness or injury, or is intimidated, threatened, or harassed. The United States noted that the proposal is similar to that proposed at the 2017 annual meeting “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Protecting the Health and Safety of Observers in ICCAT's Regional Observer Programs” with the addition, based on discussion at that meeting, of elements of an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) included as an addendum. The Secretariat also introduced the document “Consortium Responses to Observer Safety” that described how MRAG's Observer Safety Policy fulfills the role of the proposed EAP.

Many CPCs expressed support for the proposal in general but had several specific concerns with some of the text in the document, including the process for review of EAPs, the role of the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centers, and the required safety gear on small supply/relay vessels. After considering the information from the Consortium as well as subsequent versions of the proposal based on input from the participants, most issues were addressed. Additional work, however, is needed on the process and timing for submitting EAPs and the roles of the Secretariat, CPCs, and the Compliance Committee in determining whether an EAP has been submitted and complies with the elements of the EAP in the proposal. The most revised version of the proposal discussed by the IMM Working Group is appended as **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.3** for information.

The United States thanked participants for specific comments on the proposal, which had improved the document, noting that additional text edits in writing on the remaining issues would be greatly appreciated to allow the United States to circulate an amended proposal well in advance of the annual meeting.

5.3 At sea boarding and inspection

The Chair summarized past discussions in the IMM and PWG related to high seas boarding and inspection (HSBI) and noted the relevant Performance Review Recommendations. He also noted a relevant proposal by the United States and requested that it be presented.

The United States noted ongoing efforts to advance a modern HSBI scheme by several CPCs and recalled that the comprehensive scheme proposed several years ago remains on the table. Related to those efforts, the United States began work to advance the concept of a voluntary exchange of inspection personnel beginning in 2016. In that regard, the United States introduced a proposal, co-sponsored by the EU, entitled “Draft Resolution by ICCAT Establishing a Pilot Program for the Voluntary Exchange of Inspection Personnel in Fisheries Managed by ICCAT”, which would establish a non-binding framework for CPCs to enter bilateral arrangements to facilitate such exchanges. The United States noted that the proposal reflects input on a previous proposal considered at the 2017 PWG meeting and emphasized that it would be a voluntary programme, allowing participating parties to decide how to structure the cooperation based on their specific needs and domestic requirements. Several CPCs noted their support. One CPC raised questions about whether the proposal envisions a one-for-one exchange of personnel that would require matching

capacity by each CPC, which of the partnering CPCs is responsible for reporting lessons learned to the Secretariat, and whether resources will be made available to aid participation in the exchange under the proposal. The United States clarified the intention of the exchange to be similar to a ship-rider agreement and not a one-for-one exchange of personnel and agreed to clarify reporting provisions. Taking into account the discussion, the United States presented an updated proposal to clarify the appropriate participants in exchanges as well as reporting provisions.

The document was endorsed by the IMM and is appended as **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.3**. The EU confirmed its willingness to continue as a co-sponsor. The Chair noted that Gabon and Canada also requested to join as co-sponsors, and that the document would be forwarded to the Commission for consideration at the annual meeting.

The Chair opened the discussion up to the broader topic of high seas boarding and inspection (beyond **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.3**). One CPC raised again Performance Review Recommendation #70, noting some CPCs had differing interpretations as to whether Article IX(3) of the ICCAT Convention allows for adoption of a high seas boarding and inspection scheme. There was general agreement with the view that Article IX(3) of the current Convention is intended to specifically authorize a high seas boarding and inspection scheme. It was highlighted that under the current Convention, ICCAT has already adopted and implemented a joint international inspection scheme in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery and more recently for Mediterranean swordfish.

The Chair noted efforts for the IMM and PWG to continue to work toward a modern HSBI scheme.

5.4 Port State measures, including progress of Port Inspection Expert Group and discussions on Rec. 12-07 in light of developments in international instruments

The Chair recalled that there were discussions on this topic at the PWG and COC meetings in November 2017 and that a Port Inspection Experts Group has been convened to help support implementation of Rec. 12-07 through Capacity Building. The Chair noted that the Expert Group reported their progress in November 2017, and they will meet again in September 2018. The United States on behalf of the Chair of the Experts Working Group noted that the report of the last meeting of the Experts Group had been finalized, reminded all CPCs that the Secretariat had circulated a self-assessment questionnaire developed by the Expert Group in Circular 1619/2018, with a deadline for responses of 30 April 2018, and encouraged CPC submissions.

The United States introduced its proposal entitled “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing” that is associated with the Performance Review Recs. #67, #68, and #69. The United States noted that it had been almost six years since adoption of Rec. 12-07 and that much has happened since that time, most notably the entry into force of the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter, Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. The United States noted that 22 ICCAT CPCs are now party to that Agreement. Consistent with Performance Review Rec. #67 from the Second ICCAT Performance Review, the United States considered that ICCAT’s port inspection scheme should be revised and strengthened by aligning it more closely to the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA).

The U.S. proposal included revisions to Rec. 12-07 to expand its scope to all foreign fishing vessels carrying ICCAT species that have not previously been landed regardless of whether they intend to land or transship ICCAT species while in port; require CPCs to deny entry where they have sufficient proof that the vessel seeking entry to its port has engaged in IUU fishing activity, unless the vessel is being allowed to enter port for the sole purpose of inspection or other enforcement action; specify notification procedures for denial of entry into port; establish criteria for prioritizing vessels for inspection; and set forth procedures for denial of use of port and port services to vessels determined to have engaged in IUU activity. The proposal includes an exception for vessels in port for reasons of force majeure or distress. The United States also noted that its proposal provided an opportunity to address the question of clarification raised by the Secretariat in **Addendum 1 to Appendix 9 to ANNEX 4.3** concerning the disposition of port inspection reports submitted to them per paragraph 20 of Rec. 12-07, where a port CPC has not found evidence of an apparent infringement. In this regard, the United States recalled its response to this matter, as presented in **Appendix 9 to ANNEX 4.3**.

Several CPCs thanked the United States for developing the proposal and expressed a willingness to discuss its details while noting that, given the complexity of the measure, its legal and technical implications, further internal consultations would be needed and consensus would not be reached at IMM. One participant suggested including further definitions from the PSMA, particularly the definition of port as well as amendments to the definition of fishing vessel. A few participants had concerns about how the measure could be implemented by CPCs that had not yet ratified the PSMA, while others were of the view that, because the scope of the Agreement was limited to vessels carrying ICCAT species, the authority to implement it was derived from a port CPC's sovereign rights and the ICCAT Convention such that ratification of the PSMA was not a prerequisite for implementation. Two participants explained that it would be very difficult for them to agree to any proposal at the annual meeting that deviated too far from the provisions of the PSMA.

One participant noted that other RFMOs (NAFO and IOTC) that have implemented systems with advanced notice of arrival information automatically forwarded this information to a vessel's flag State to confirm catch legality; this helps inform the port State's decision on allowing entry. There was support for an electronic system in ICCAT to share inspection reports and to inform a risk-based approach to identifying inspection priorities at port. There were comments that all personnel who engage in inspection activity should be able to have access to this kind of centralized system.

Some CPCs noted difficulty in applying Rec. 12-07, noting that there are technical processes that require improvement in order to be able to fully implement it. For instance, one CPC noted that it is logistically challenging to ensure vessels' compliance with the requirement to notify a port State 72 hours in advance if the port State does not know if the vessel has ICCAT-managed species onboard. That CPC suggested expanding the advance notice requirement to all vessels to address that concern. One CPC noted that they do not allow foreign fishing vessels to land catch, so the obligations in the proposal are not relevant to them and asked that the proposal be revised to eliminate any additional reporting requirements for CPCs that do not allow foreign fishing vessels into their ports. Other suggestions included adding provisions to address flag State obligations, clarifying the deadlines and responsible parties for some obligations, and ensuring alignment between this measure and the IUU listing process.

Taking into account issues raised, the United States updated its proposal and circulated a second version, which is appended as **Appendix 7 to ANNEX 4.3** for information.

The Chair encouraged CPCs to continue discussions between now and the 2018 annual meeting with a view to possibly adopting a revised measure at that time.

5.5 Other issues

No other issues were raised.

6. Review of vessel listing measures

6.1 Rec. 11-18, including identification criteria for IUU vessel listing and procedures

At the 2017 annual meeting, the *Secretariat Report to the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG)* published in the *Report for Biennial Period, 2016-17 Part II (2017) – Vol. 4* and the *IUU List 2017* contained in Appendix 4 to ANNEX 10 of the *Report for Biennial Period, 2016-17 Part II (2017) – Vol. 1* involved discussions on vessel listings. The former was recirculated to the IMM and is contained in **Addendum 1 to Appendix 9 to ANNEX 4.3**. Discussions occurred on the listing, delisting, and cross-listing procedures in Rec. 11-18 and related guidelines (Res. 14-11) with a recommendation that there needed to be a review of the measures for streamlining and clarification.

The United States introduced its proposal entitled "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Establishing a List of Vessels Presumed to have Carried out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities" (IMM_07/i2018) to amend Rec. 11-18 and Res. 14-11 to clarify and simplify the procedures for listing and delisting IUU vessels. The proposal also aimed to improve the effectiveness of the measure by making it a more dynamic process that can respond in a timely manner to IUU activity, including through amending reporting timelines and revising the intersessional delisting process.

Several challenges with the current process were noted, including the inability for a real-time response to IUU fishing, lack of clarity of the text of Rec. 11-18, and imprecise criteria for listing. Some CPCs noted that there is a lack of clarity on how the existing provision related to intersessional delisting is to be interpreted. Other concerns included lack of updated information on vessels that could facilitate their identification by authorities.

In reaction to the U.S. proposal, participants discussed who would update the list, the decision-making process for intersessional delisting (e.g., consensus or a majority of affirmative votes), feasibility of providing data for all data fields if the vessel is solely sighted and not boarded, references to beneficial owner versus administrative owner, notification and communication with the flag State of IUU vessel to convey listing status, clarification regarding the role of port States in the listing process, CPCs review of the list when making reflagging decisions, and deleting the provision concerning trade related measures against vessels included on the provisional IUU list. Participants also discussed creating a dedicated page on the ICCAT website for access to information related to listed vessels. One CPC suggested that ICCAT may want to reconsider expanding the scope of cross-listing provisions to include non-tuna RFMOs. It was noted that this issue will be discussed in IOTC in May and the outcome of those discussions could help inform consideration of this issue at the annual meeting.

Following initial discussions, the United States updated its proposal taking into account comments received. One CPC stressed the need to ensure that sanctions against IUU vessels are effectively implemented before a vessel is delisted. Edits were made on the floor to address this issue, and the IMM endorsed the proposal as amended. The document is appended as **Appendix 8 to ANNEX 4.3**. The Chair noted that it would be forwarded to the Commission for consideration and possible adoption at the 2018 ICCAT annual meeting. He also noted that these adjustments should effectively address the question of clarification from the Secretariat reflected in **Addendum 1 to Appendix 9 to ANNEX 4.3**.

6.2 Consideration of actions required for future management of CLAV database

The Secretariat introduced the document entitled “Future Management of the Consolidated List of Authorised Vessels (CLAV)” drafted by the ICCAT Secretariat, ABNJ Tuna Project Coordinator, and CLAV database manager. The CLAV consists of all the authorized vessel lists of all the tuna RFMOs. The lists were previously merged manually and are now auto-synced; however, duplicates and inoperative vessel listings occur and require time-consuming manual correction by the Secretariat and CPCs. A contract supports this effort however it is soon ending. Without regular maintenance, the quality of the data included in the CLAV deteriorates very quickly.

The Chair requested feedback on whether the Commission should support continued CLAV maintenance and asked participants whether the tool is being used and whether CPCs find it valuable. Although some participants noted that they did not use the CLAV regularly, there was both a recognition of its utility and general support for continuing its maintenance taking into account its cost.

While informal calculations indicated that the CLAV would require only modest investment by ICCAT for its support, IMM agreed to refer this issue to STACFAD to consider the cost and decide on future support. One CPC suggested that decisions related to future improvements of the CLAV’s interface and functionality should be deferred until after current planned improvements are implemented.

The Chair noted that there was unanimous support of the CLAV’s utility, taking into account cost considerations, and that the matter should be further considered by STACFAD at the 2018 annual meeting.

6.3 Other issues

6.3.1 Maintenance of the authorized vessel list

In response to questions by CPCs, the Secretariat explained that duplicates and other errors usually occur when a previously inactive vessel becomes active again, and the CPC reports it without its corresponding ICCAT serial number resulting in multiple ICCAT serial numbers end up being issued to the same vessel. Some CPCs emphasized that there is no measure requiring CPCs to maintain up-to-date information on the list of inactive vessels, but agreed that the Secretariat should maintain the inactive list to ensure the appropriate record, including the ICCAT Serial Number, is associated with any vessel that become active

again. Participants also noted that some data points on the authorized vessel list are not strictly required under Rec. 13-13. For instance, radio call signs must only be reported if available, but can be left blank if a number is not assigned. Some CPCs stressed the need to prioritize maintenance of the active list and encouraged all CPCs to do a comprehensive review to ensure vessel data on that list are accurate and current. In addition, the Secretariat stressed the need when submitting new vessels to the list to review both the active and inactive lists to reduce the likelihood of duplications. They also noted that they were available to assist CPCs in this regard, including by sending lists of inactive vessels to CPCs. The Chair noted that input related to this issue was included in the document contained in **Appendix 9 to ANNEX 4.3**.

6.3.2 Additional information on IUU listed vessels

The Secretariat introduced the document entitled “Possible Updates to IUU List” updating information on IUU listed vessels. The Working Group was asked if the information suited them and if the list should be submitted to the Commission for consideration at the annual meeting. The Secretariat explained that information primarily came from non-governmental organizations and other information publicly available on the Internet (e.g., iuuvessel.org, IOTC, etc.) A CPC asked if a dedicated portion of the ICCAT website could be used for this topic so the information is centralized, and the Secretariat said that this was possible with some guidance from CPCs. A suggestion included soliciting from the flag States information on those vessels already identified. Chinese Taipei noted that the vessel YU FONG 168, which was now listed as flagged to Chinese Taipei has been deregistered after sanctions were imposed, and asked CPCs for any assistance in locating the vessel as they had not been able to for some years. Some CPCs agreed on the merits of including in the list all previous names and photographs, if available, and using Internet sites to augment and update information on the list.

The Chair summarized that the Secretariat would contact relevant flag CPCs and non-CPCs regarding vessels on the list where new information is available, and the list would be presented to the Commission, through the PWG, at the annual meeting to consider next steps. The IMM also recommended ensuring the vessel information is made available to all CPCs in an informative way prior to the annual meeting, if possible. CPCs would finally make best efforts to check lists of inactive vessels, including by using the assistance of the Secretariat, when authorizing new vessels.

7. Analysis of recommendations emanating from Performance Review and consideration of possible necessary items

The Chair recalled the “Template for Monitoring the Progress in the Implementation of the Action Plan to Implement the Recommendations from the Second Independent Performance Review of ICCAT” that established the procedures for which the ICCAT bodies would work and move forward in considering relevant recommendations stemming from ICCAT’s second performance review. In that regard, he called attention to the document entitled “Recommendations by Performance Review Panel”. The Chair proposed that, in accordance with such procedures, IMM should work to populate the “Actions to be Taken” column of this document as a report to the PWG, ideally as appended to the IMM meeting report.

Many CPCs voiced concerns about the difficulty of completing the task given that some recommendations are complex and not wholly applicable to all CPCs and/or the PWG. After considering the process for vetting the document, a second version of this document was produced. The Secretariat provided additional information on the resolution and recommendation streamlining process and a status update on security and confidentiality processes in order to assist the IMM in responding to some of the Performance Review Recommendations. Lengthy discussions involved the roles of the Panels and other subsidiary bodies to the Commission, as several Performance Review Recommendations would probably best involve multiple leads.

After additional consideration and adjustment, the IMM Working Group produced the third version (**Appendix 10 to ANNEX 4.3**), which will be relayed to the PWG to inform discussions at the annual meeting.

8. Review of outdated recommendations/resolutions requiring update

The Secretariat provided a status update on “Streamlining of ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures” (IMM_03/i2018). It is an annual task to review streamlining needs which can take a long period of time for decisions to be made on the suggested actions. Participants noted the value in systematically deleting obsolete measures and updating references in the remaining ones. It was noted that the current approach was developed by STACFAD so any suggestions to improve the process should be raised in that body.

Participants discussed that the task at hand was largely administrative and stressed the need to ensure the record of decisions is clear with respect to the revision of any measure. This would mean that measures affected by Recs. 08-11 and 09-09, even if no longer in effect, should be updated to reflect amendments agreed through other recommendations together with footnotes providing a reference to the amending recommendation. Once all recommendations that have been amended by Recs. 08-11 or 09-09 are no longer active, these recommendations should be deactivated and removed from the Compendium.

In light of discussions, the IMM requested the Secretariat to update the affected measures as discussed to ensure the record of decision is clear and to present information on the changes made as well as those measures that were still active to the PWG for its review and possible agreement at the 2018 ICCAT annual meeting.

9. Other matters

There were no additional matters proposed.

10. Adoption of report and adjournment

It was agreed to adopt the IMM meeting report by correspondence. The Chair acknowledged the important progress made by the IMM Working Group on a wide variety of issues, thanked the participants, the Secretariat, and the interpreters for their hard work over the last four days and adjourned the meeting.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.3

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Nomination of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the agenda and meeting arrangements
4. Review of Catch and Statistical document programmes, including:
 - a. Catch Documents Programmes and consideration of amendments to the BCD/eBCD programme
 - b. Statistical Document Programmes and consideration of possible improvements
 - c. Other issues
5. Consideration of measures relating to monitoring and inspection, including:
 - a. Vessel monitoring systems
 - b. Observer Programmes
 - c. At sea boarding and inspection
 - d. Port State measures, including progress of Port Inspection Expert Group and discussions on Rec. 12-07 in light of developments in international instruments
 - e. Other issues
6. Review of vessel listing measures, including:
 - a. Rec. 11-18, including identification criteria for IUU Vessel listing and procedures
 - b. Consideration of actions required for future management of CLAV data base
 - c. Other issues
7. Analysis of recommendations emanating from Performance Review and consideration of possible necessary actions
8. Review of outdated Recommendations/Resolutions requiring update
9. Other matters
10. Adoption of report and adjournment

List of participants

CONTRACTING PARTIES

ALGERIA

Cheniti, Sarah*

Sous Directrice des Pêcheries Hauturières et Spécialisées, Ministère de l'Agriculture, du Développement Rural et de la Pêche Route des Quatre Canons, 1600

Tel: +213 21 43 32 56, Fax: +213 21 43 32 56, E-Mail: chenitisarah@yahoo.fr

BELIZE

Robinson, Robert *

Deputy Director for High Seas Fisheries, Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit, Ministry of Finance, Government of Belize, Marina Towers, Suite 204, Newtown Barracks

Tel: +501 22 34918, Fax: +501 22 35087, E-Mail: deputydirector@bhsfu.gov.bz

BRAZIL

Hazin, Fabio H. V. *

Universidade Federal Rural de Pernambuco - UFRPE / Departamento de Pesca e Aqüicultura - DEPAq, Avenida Dom Manuel de Medeiros s/n, Rua Dois Irmãos, 447, Apto. 603-B, Apipucos, CEP: 52717-900 Recife Pernambuco

Tel: +55 81 999 726 348, Fax: +55 81 3320 6512, E-Mail: fabio.hazin@depaq.ufrpe.br; fhvhazin@terra.com.br

CANADA

Mahoney, Derek *

Senior Advisor - International Fisheries Management and Bilateral Relations, Conseiller principal- Gestion international des pêches et relations bilaterales, Fisheries Resource Management/Gestion des ressources halieutiques, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 200 Kent St. Station 13S022, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6

Tel: +1 613 993 7975, E-Mail: derek.mahoney@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

French, Christopher

Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 200 Kent Street, Ottawa Ontario K1A 0E6

Tel: +1 613 404 6951, E-Mail: christopher.french@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Fofana, Bina *

Sous-directeur des Pêches Maritime et Lagunaire, Ministère des Ressources Animales et Halieutiques de la République de Côte d'Ivoire, 29 Rue des Pêcheurs, BP V19, Abidjan 01

Tel: +225 07 655 102; +225 21 356 315, Fax: +225 21 356315, E-Mail: binafof@yahoo.fr; binalafig@aviso.ci

EUROPEAN UNION

Peyronnet, Arnaud *

Directorate-General, European Commission _ DG MARE - UNIT B2 - RFMOs, Rue Joseph II - 99 03/33, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +32 2 2991 342, E-Mail: arnaud.peyronnet@ec.europa.eu

Aláez Pons, Ester

International Relations Officer, European Commission - DG MARE - Unit B2 - RFMOs, Rue Joseph II - 99 03/057, 1049 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +32 2 296 48 14, E-Mail: ester.alaez-pons@ec.europa.eu

Spezzani, Aronne

Head of Sector, Fisheries Control in International Waters - DG MARE-B3 J79-2/214, European Commission, Rue Joseph II, 99, 1049 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +322 295 9629, Fax: +322 296 3985, E-Mail: aronne.spezzani@ec.europa.eu

Ansell, Neil

European Fisheries Control Agency, Avenida García Barbón 4, 36201 Vigo, Spain

Tel: +34 986 120 658; +34 698 122 046, E-Mail: neil.ansell@efca.europa.eu

* Head of delegation.

Delsaut, Clotilde

Chargée de mission, Bureau du contrôle des pêches, Fisheries Control Unit Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture, Directorate for Sea Fisheries and Aquaculture, Ministère de l'Environnement, de l'Energie et de la Mer, Ministry of the Environment, Energy and the Sea, Tour Séquoia, 1 place Carpeaux, 92800 La Défense, Puteaux, France
Tel: +33 140 817 194, E-Mail: clotilde.delsaut@agriculture.gouv.fr

Iraeta Gascon, Pablo

Inspector de Pesca, Ministerio de Agricultura y Pesca, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente, Secretaría General de Pesca, S.G. CONTROL E INSPECCIÓN/ Velázquez, 147 - 3ª planta, 28002 Madrid, Spain
Tel: +34 91 347 16 11, Fax: E-Mail: pigascon@mapama.es

Moniz, Isadora

OPAGAC, C/ Ayala, nº 54, 28001 Madrid, Spain
Tel: +34 91 431 48 57, E-Mail: fip@opagac.org

GABON**Angueko, Davy ***

Chargé d'Études du Directeur Général des Pêches, Direction Générale des Pêche et de l'Aquaculture, BP 9498, Libreville
Tel: +241 0653 4886, E-Mail: davyangueko@yahoo.fr; davyangueko83@gmail.com

HONDURAS**Chavarría Valverde, Bernal Alberto ***

Dirección General de Pesca y Acuicultura, Secretaría de Agricultura y Ganadería Boulevard Centroamérica, Avenida la FAO, Tegucigalpa
Tel: +506 229 08808, Fax: +506 2232 4651, E-Mail: bchavarria@lsg-cr.com

Mena Villegas, Oscar

Secretaría de Agricultura y Ganadería, Colonia Loma Linda, Avenida la FAO, Boulevard Centroamérica, Tegucigalpa
Tel: +626 163 760, E-Mail: omena@bcelaw.com

JAPAN**Ota, Shingo ***

Councillor, Resources Management Department, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100-8907
Tel: +81 3 3502 8460, Fax: +81 3 3504 2649, E-Mail: shingo_ota810@maff.go.jp

Aoki, Masahiro

Japanese Embassy in Spain, C/ Serrano 109, 28006 Madrid, Spain
Tel: +34 91 590 7621, Fax: +34 91 590 1329, E-Mail: masahiro.aoki@mofa.go.jp

Hiruma, Shinji

Assistant Director, Fisheries Management Division, Resources Management Department, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Tokyo Chidoya-ku 100-8907
Tel: +81 3 3502 8460, Fax: +81 3 3504 2649, E-Mail: shinji_hiruma150@maff.go.jp

Miwa, Takeshi

Assistant Director, International Affairs Division, Resources Management Department, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8907
Tel: +81 3 3502 8460, Fax: +81 3 3504 2649, E-Mail: takeshi_miwa090@maff.go.jp

MAURITANIA**Taleb Moussa, Ahmed ***

Directeur Adjoint de l'Aménagement, des Ressources et des Études, Ministère des Pêches et de l'Économie, Direction de l'Aménagement des Ressources, BP 137, Nouakchott
Tel: +222 452 952 141, E-Mail: talebmoussaa@yahoo.fr

MOROCCO**Ben Bari, Mohamed ***

Directeur du Contrôle des Activités de la Pêche Maritime (DCAPM), Nouveau Quartier Administratif, BP 476, Haut Agdal Rabat
Tel: +212 537 688210, Fax: +212 5 3768 8196, E-Mail: benbari@mpm.gov.ma

Chafai Elalaoui, Nadir

Chef de service à la DCAPM, Cadre à la Direction de Contrôle des Activités de la Pêche Maritime, Ministère de l'agriculture et de la pêche Maritime, Département de la Pêche Maritime, Quartier Administratif BP 476, Rabat Agdal
Tel: +212 537 688 254, Fax: +212 537 68 8382, E-Mail: chafai.elalaoui@mpm.gov.ma; nadirchaf@yahoo.fr

NAMIBIA

Bester, Desmond R. *

Control Officer Operations, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Private Bag 394, 9000 Luderitz
Tel: +264 63 20 2912, Fax: +264 6320 3337, E-Mail: desmond.bester@mfmr.gov.na; desmondbester@yahoo.com

NICARAGUA

Guevara Quintana, Julio Cesar *

Comisionado CIAT - Biólogo, INPESCA, Km 3,5 Carretera Norte (Frente a Branpro), Managua
Tel: +505 2278 0319; +505 8396 7742, E-Mail: juliocgq@hotmail.com; alemsanic@hotmail.com

SENEGAL

Faye, Adama *

Directeur Adjoint de la Direction de la Protection et de la Surveillance des Pêches, Direction, Protection et Surveillance des Pêches, Cité Fenêtre Mermoz, BP 3656 Dakar
Tel: +221 775 656 958, E-Mail: adafaye2000@yahoo.fr

TUNISIA

Sohlobji, Donia *

Direction Générale de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture, Ministère de l'Agriculture 32 Rue Alain Savary, 1002 Le Belvédère
Tel: +216 534 31307; +216 71 890 784, Fax: +216 71 799 401, E-Mail: sohlobji_donia@yahoo.fr; doniasohlobji@gmail.com

UNITED KINGDOM (OVERSEAS TERRITORIES)

Deary, Andrew *

Head of Blue Belt Compliance, MMO, Marine Management Organisation, Lutra House. Dodd Way. Walton House. Bamber Bridge. Preston Office, PR5 8BX, United Kingdom
Tel: +44 782 766 4112, E-Mail: andrew.deary@marinemanagement.org.uk

UNITED STATES

Blankenbeker, Kimberly *

Foreign Affairs Specialist, NOAA Fisheries, Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection (F/IS), National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring Maryland 20910
Tel: +1 301 427 8357, Fax: +1 301 713 1081, E-Mail: kimberly.blankenbeker@noaa.gov

Campbell, Derek

Office of General Counsel - International Law, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W. HCHB Room 48026, Washington, D.C. 20032
Tel: +1 202 482 0031, Fax: +1 202 371 0926, E-Mail: derek.campbell@noaa.gov

Engelke-Ros, Meggan

Enforcement Attorney, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, 1315 East-West Highway, SSMC3-15860, Silver Spring Maryland 20910
Tel: +1 301 427 8284, Fax: +1 301 427 2202, E-Mail: meggan.engelke-ros@noaa.gov

King, Melanie Diamond

NOAA - National Marine Fishery Service, Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection (F/IA1) 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring Maryland 20910
Tel: +1 301 427 3087, E-Mail: melanie.king@noaa.gov

Lederhouse, Terra

Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection, National Marine Fisheries Service 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring Maryland MD 20910
Tel: +1 301 427 8360, E-Mail: terra.lederhouse@noaa.gov

Moore, Katie

United States Coast Guard, Atlantic Area-Response, Office of Maritime Security and Law Enforcement, 431 Crawford St., Portsmouth, Virginia VA 23704
Tel: +1 757 398 6504, E-Mail: katie.s.moore@uscg.mil

OBSERVERS FROM COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES, ENTITIES, FISHING ENTITIES

CHINESE TAIPEI

Chou, Shih-Chin

Section Chief, Deep Sea Fisheries Division, Fisheries Agency, 8F, No. 100, Sec. 2, Heping W. Rd., Zhongzheng District, 10070
Tel: +886 2 2383 5915, Fax: +886 2 2332 7395, E-Mail: shihcin@ms1.fa.gov.tw

Chung, I-Yin

Secretary, Overseas Fisheries Development Council, 3F., No. 14, Wenzhou St., Da'an Dist., 106
Tel: +886 2 2368 0889 ext. 154, Fax: +886 2 2368 6418, E-Mail: ineschung@ofdc.org.tw

Kao, Shih-Ming

Assistant Professor, Graduate Institute of Marine Affairs, National Sun Yat-sen University, 70 Lien-Hai Road, 80424
Kaohsiung City
Tel: +886 7 525 2000 Ext. 5305, Fax: +886 7 525 6205, E-Mail: kaosm@mail.nsysu.edu.tw

Lin, Ke-Yang

Senior Executive Officer, Agriculture, Fisheries and Economic Organizations Section, 2 Kaitakelan Blvd., 10048
Tel: +886 2 2348 2268, Fax: +886 2 2361 7694, E-Mail: kylin@mofa.gov.tw

Lin, Yen-Ju

Specialist, International Economics and Trade Section, Deep Sea Fisheries Division, Fisheries Agency, 8F, No. 100, Sec.
2, Heping W. Rd., Zhongzheng Dist., 10070
Tel: +886 2 2383 5912, Fax: +886 2 2332 7395, E-Mail: yenju@ms1.f.gov.tw

OBSERVERS FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS - PEW

Leape, Gerald

Senior Officer, Pew Charitable Trusts, 901 E Street NW, Washington DC 20004, United States
Tel: +1 202 540 1346; +1 202 480 0335, Fax: +1 202 540 5599, E-Mail: gleape@pewtrusts.org

Orgera, Ryan

PEW, 901 E Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20004, United States
Tel: +1 202 552 2040; +1 202 480 0335, E-Mail: rorgera@pewtrusts.org

ICCAT Secretariat

C/ Corazón de María 8 – 6th floor, 28002 Madrid – Spain
Tel: +34 91 416 56 00; Fax: +34 91 415 26 12; E-mail: info@iccat.int

Meski, Driss
Neves dos Santos, Miguel
Cheatle, Jenny
Idrissi, M'Hamed
Ochoa de Michelena, Carmen
Ortiz, Mauricio
Donovan, Karen
García-Orad, María José
Pinet, Dorothée
Fiz, Jesús
Moreno, Juan Ángel
Peña, Esther
Vieito, Aldana
ICCAT INTERPRETERS

Baena Jiménez, Eva J.
Faillace, Linda
Leboulleux del Castillo, Beatriz
Liberas, Christine
Meunier, Isabelle
Sánchez del Villar, Lucía

ICCAT GUEST
Manel, Camille Jean Pierre

Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.3**Suggested approach to review and evaluate the need for and, if appropriate, expand Catch Documentation Schemes (CDS) programs in ICCAT**

1. The first step should be to identify challenges facing ICCAT stocks and fisheries and then consider the possible role a Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) could play in addressing those challenges. Towards that end, the Commission needs to have an analysis of the degree of IUU risks in relation to the various ICCAT fisheries and stocks, as well as other potentially relevant considerations such as the conservation status and level of vulnerability of the species/stocks, current monitoring and enforcement measures, and possible unnecessary barriers to trade in relation to the duplication of requirements for the provision of information under different CDS schemes.
 - The ICCAT Secretariat in close coordination with the Chair of the PWG should, to the extent possible, conduct this risk analysis based on the terms of reference presented below and report to the PWG by November for consideration at the 2018 ICCAT annual meeting.
 - CPCs should actively cooperate with the Secretariat to provide data if required, and should also be able to provide their own priorities (with detailed rationale).
2. In light of this risk analysis, the Commission should decide if further consideration should be given to developing new CDS or amending existing ones, and/or if other tools should be explored to help address IUU fishing and improve the conservation of the stocks/species,
3. If the Commission considers that there is value in further exploring the use of CDS for one or more stocks/fisheries, it should:
 - Begin a practical assessment of whether and how a CDS could be designed to ensure it will be an effective tool in combating IUU fishing and improving conservation and management,
 - Consider the development of a roadmap to guide this work. It is suggested that under this roadmap, the Commission could possibly consider the adoption of terms of reference for the creation of a CDS Working Group. If established, this Working Group could assess and advise the Commission on practical matters related to, *inter alia*, structure and design aspects of CDS, including extent (fisheries or stocks), format (paper vs electronic) and other relevant matters. Based on that assessment, the Working Group could also advise on the potential benefits to relevant stocks/fisheries of expanding CDS. The information on the practical aspects of CDS would also be essential should the Commission decide, based on the Working Group's advice, to seek an estimate of the costs associated with developing and implementing CDS. This Working Group could also be responsible for establishing a work plan for the modification/adoption of CDSs should the Commission decide that CDS should be developed for one or more stocks. Should the Commission decide to establish a CDS Working Group, it is suggested that consideration should be given to incorporating the current eBCD technical WG into the CDS WG, which could be a forum for considering and providing advice to the Commission on both policy oriented and more technical issues.

TORs for the Secretariat to conduct the analysis of risks of IUU activities and other threats for ICCAT species/stocks:

The Secretariat should to the extent possible, and in close coordination with the Chair of the PWG, conduct an analysis of the risk of IUU activities, and other relevant threats to the conservation status of ICCAT species/stocks, to inform Commission consideration of the potential need for and, where appropriate, the possible role that a Catch Documentation Scheme could play in addressing IUU fishing and enhancing the conservation and management of these stocks/species.

Informed by this analysis, the Secretariat should develop a ranked list for ICCAT fisheries and stocks, from those most at risk to those least at risk.

This analysis should, to the extent possible, take into consideration the following factors, and, as appropriate, others set forth in Recommendation 12-09 and the 2017 FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Catch Documentation Schemes:

- i) The overall level of trade by species and product type as well as the CPCs and non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (NCPs) involved;
- ii) The overall value of the targeted species/stock, fisher's income, as well as the retail values at point of landing and on major markets;
- iii) The conservation status and the vulnerability (low reproductive output or high age at maturity, or both) of the respective ICCAT species/stocks;
- iv) The monitoring and control measures currently in place, including catch and trade tracking programs, and their effectiveness and utility;
- v) The level of incidence of non-compliance events detected for each fishery/stock.
- vi) How ICCAT fisheries are conducted (e.g. fishing grounds, gear types, transshipment activities, harvesting CPCs, etc.);
- vii) The ways in which products from ICCAT fisheries are processed, transported, and traded; and
- viii) Any other relevant factors, including, but not restricted to, potential duplication with existing catch documentation schemes.

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.3**U.S. Explanatory Note Regarding the Proposal for a Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning
Minimum Standards for Vessel Monitoring Systems in the ICCAT Convention Area**
(a proposal to amend Recommendation 14-09)

Submitted by the United States

Satellite-based vessel monitoring systems (VMS) are valuable tools for fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance. Further, data collected by such systems can provide valuable scientific information. ICCAT first adopted minimum standards for VMS in the Convention Area in 2003 (Rec. 03-14). ICCAT has only revised its VMS minimum standards once, in 2014, to change the frequency of data collection and transmission from every 6 hours to every 4 (Rec. 14-09). Recommendation 14-09 required that the Commission review the VMS measure no later than 2017 to consider revisions to improve its effectiveness, including by changing the transmission frequency, taking into account SCRS advice, the nature of various fisheries, costs, and other relevant considerations. As there was no time at the 2017 ICCAT Annual meeting to undertake the required review, the matter was referred to the 2018 IMM Working Group intersessional meeting.

In its 2014 report, the SCRS noted that polling at the highest temporal resolution possible was crucial to improve the resolution and precision of total catch composition and fishing effort data across all CPCs. In 2017, the SCRS again noted that “the higher the frequency of reporting the more useful the VMS data” and that “the 4-hour frequency of transmission in Rec. 14-09 is insufficient to detect fishing activity for many gear types.”

In light of the advice from SCRS and the recognized need to improve scientific information in ICCAT fisheries, the important role of VMS in combating IUU fishing, and the advancements in VMS best practices, the United States has developed proposed revisions to Rec. 14-09 to further improve and strengthen it. The proposal clarifies and elaborates the existing obligation to ensure that VMS units shall not be tampered with, are reporting at all times, and that VMS data is not altered in any way (based on language adopted by other RFMOs in their VMS measures), increases the frequency with which vessel data are collected and transmitted to one-hour intervals, and expands the scope of the measure to all commercial fishing vessels that are authorized to fish in waters outside the jurisdiction of their flag CPC, regardless of their size.

More frequent collection and transmission of a vessel’s location gives CPCs a much more precise fishing signature for their vessels, and provides the ability to identify other types of activities, such as at sea transshipment. More detailed information provides a better understanding of fishing patterns; thus, facilitating monitoring and control of vessels, including those operating great distances from their flag CPCs. It also provides additional information on the activities of fishing vessels that can help reduce uncertainty in scientific advice.

**Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Minimum
Standards for Vessel Monitoring Systems in the ICCAT Convention Area**
(a new proposal amending existing measure Rec. 14-09)

Proposed by the United States

RECALLING previous recommendations by ICCAT establishing minimum standards for satellite-based vessel monitoring systems (VMS), in particular Recommendation 03-14;

RECOGNIZING the developments in satellite-based VMS, and their utility within ICCAT;

RECOGNIZING the legitimate right of coastal States to monitor the vessels fishing in waters under their jurisdiction;

CONSIDERING that real-time transmission to the Fishing Monitoring Center (FMC) of the coastal State of VMS data of all the vessels (including catching, carrier and support vessels) flying the flag of a CPC authorised to fish ICCAT species facilitates monitoring, control and surveillance by the coastal State to ensure the effective implementation of ICCAT conservation and monitoring measures;

MINDFUL that the SCRS acknowledged in its 2017 report that the higher the frequency of reporting the more useful VMS data are and that a 4-hour frequency of transmission is insufficient to detect fishing activity for many gear types;

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

1. Notwithstanding stricter requirements that may apply in specific ICCAT fisheries, each flag Contracting Party, Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity (hereinafter referred to as CPC) shall implement a Vessel Monitoring System (hereinafter referred to as VMS) for its commercial fishing vessels exceeding 20 meters between perpendiculars or 24 meters length overall (LOA) as well as those above 12 meters LOA authorized to fish in waters beyond jurisdiction of the flag-CPC and:
 - a) Require its fishing vessels to be equipped with an autonomous, tamper-evident system that continuously, automatically, and independently of any intervention by the vessel, transmits messages to the FMC of the flag CPC to track the position, course, and speed of a fishing vessel by the flag CPC of that vessel.
 - b) Ensure that the satellite tracking device fitted on board the fishing vessel collects and transmits continuously to the FMC of the flag CPC the following data:
 - i) the vessel's identification;
 - ii) the geographical position of the vessel (longitude, latitude) with a margin of error lower than 500 meters, with a confidence interval of 99%;
 - iii) the date and time.
 - c) Ensure that the FMC of the flag CPC receives an automatic notification if communication between the FMC and the satellite tracking device is interrupted.
 - d) Ensure, in cooperation with the coastal State, that the position messages transmitted by its vessels while operating in waters under the jurisdiction of that coastal State are also transmitted automatically and in real time to the FMC of the coastal State that has authorized the activity. In implementing this provision, due consideration should be given to minimizing the operational costs, technical difficulties, and administrative burden associated with transmission of these messages.

- e) In order to facilitate the transmission and receipt of position messages, as described in subparagraph 1(d), the FMC of the flag State and the FMC of the coastal State shall exchange their contact information and notify each other without delay of any changes to this information. The FMC of the coastal State shall notify the flag State FMC of any interruption in the reception of consecutive position messages. The transmission of position messages between the FMC of the flag State and that of the coastal State shall be carried out electronically using a secure communication system.
2. Each CPC shall take appropriate measures to ensure that the VMS messages are transmitted and received, as specified in paragraph 1, and use this information to continuously track the position of its vessels.
 3. Each CPC shall ensure that the masters of fishing vessels flying its flag ensure that the satellite tracking devices are permanently and continuously operational and that the information identified in paragraph 1(b) is collected and transmitted at least every [hour]. In addition, CPCs shall require that their vessel operators ensure that:
 - a) the satellite tracking device is not tampered with in any way;
 - b) VMS data are not altered in any way;
 - c) the antennae connected to the satellite tracking device is not obstructed in any way;
 - d) the satellite tracking device is hardwired into the fishing vessel and the power supply is not intentionally interrupted in any way; and
 - e) the satellite tracking device is not removed from the vessel except for the purposes of repair or replacement.
 4. In the event of a technical failure or non-operation of the satellite tracking device fitted on board a fishing vessel, the device shall be repaired or replaced within one month from the time of the event, unless the vessel has been removed from the list of authorized LSFVs. The vessel shall not be authorized to commence a fishing trip with a defective satellite tracking device. Furthermore, when a device stops functioning or has a technical failure during a fishing trip, the repair or the replacement shall take place as soon as the vessel enters a port; the fishing vessel shall not be authorized to commence a fishing trip without the satellite tracking device having been repaired or replaced.
 5. Each CPC shall ensure that a fishing vessel with a defective satellite tracking device shall communicate to the FMC, at least daily, reports containing the information in paragraph 1(b) by other means of communication (radio, web-based reporting, electronic mail, telefax or telex).
 6. [A CPC may allow a vessel to power down its satellite tracking device only if the vessel will not be fishing for an extended period of time (e.g., in dry dock for repairs) and it requests and receives approval from the competent authorities of its flag CPC. The vessel must provide justification for its request, and approval shall be considered on a case-by-base basis and confirmed in writing. The vessel shall not resume fishing operations prior to re-activating its satellite tracking device.]
 7. CPCs are encouraged to extend the application of this Recommendation to their fishing vessels not already covered pursuant to paragraph 1 as appropriate to ensure the effective monitoring of compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures.
 8. The Commission shall review this Recommendation no later than [2025] and consider the need for revisions to improve its effectiveness.
 9. To inform this review, the SCRS is requested to provide advice on the VMS data that would most assist the SCRS in carrying out its work, including frequency of transmission for the different ICCAT fisheries.
 10. This measure repeals and replaces Recommendation 14-09.

U.S. Explanatory Note
Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Protecting the Health and
Safety of Observers in ICCAT's Regional Observer Programs
(a new proposal, previously discussed but not adopted as PWG-407A/2017)

Submitted by the United States

Observers may spend days, weeks, or months aboard fishing and transshipment vessels. The work is intense, and conditions can be uncomfortable and even dangerous. Commercial fishing is one of the most hazardous occupations, and fisheries observers are exposed to similar risks. The United States has noted with great concern recent incidents in other RFMOs where fisheries observers have been lost at sea.

Preparing observers for safe deployment requires an active partnership among fisheries managers, observers, observer provider companies, and the fishing industry. Current ICCAT observer-related measures do not include sufficient provisions on the health and safety of observers. Given the importance of regional observers to the work of the Commission and the often dangerous nature of observing fishing operations at sea, ICCAT must ensure that its regional observer programs (ROPs) uphold minimum standards that ensure the health and safety of observers placed on vessels while participating in ROPs that are both mandated and run by ICCAT. U.S. proposal IMM_09/18 seeks to codify such minimum standards for the health and safety of observers deployed by ICCAT in its ROPs. We consider that it is past time for ICCAT to adopt minimum standards for the health and safety of observers deployed in ROPs, a step that is both within the organization's competency and a critical responsibility.

A proposal to establish minimum standards for the health and safety of observers has been discussed previously by ICCAT, most recently at its 2017 Annual meeting as document PWG-407A/17. Document IMM_09/18 builds on that proposal by taking on board comments made during the 2017 Permanent Working Group meeting, in particular regarding the need to include more specific details on the elements of an emergency action plan (EAP). The elements included in the plan specify the responsibilities of the Secretariat, flag CPCs and non-CPCs, observer providers, and vessel operators in the event that an observer dies, is missing or presumed fallen overboard, suffers from serious illness or injury, or is intimidated, threatened, or harassed. The content is consistent with EAP minimum standards already adopted in other RFMOs, in particular the WCPFC and CCAMLR.

The proposal also includes the use of personal life-saving equipment in coordination with Maritime Rescue Coordination Centers (MRCCs) to aid in observer health and safety. In order to establish an internationally coordinated system for the maritime search and rescue of people, the IMO approved the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue which describes the structure of MRCCs. MRCCs provide coordination for cooperation of neighboring states for search and rescue operations at the regional level. MRCCs are geographically focused and work to optimize use of maritime assets, both governmental and commercial, to the aid of mariners. MRCCs use specialized maritime search and rescue software and hardware, including communication to personal life saving equipment such as emergency position indicating radio beacons. Additional information on MRCCs and contact information is available at: <http://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Safety/RadioCommunicationsAndSearchAndRescue/SearchAndRescue/Pages/GlobalSARPlan.aspx>; and <https://www.inmarsat.com/services/safety/maritime-rescue-coordination-centres/>

In summary, adoption of this proposal would ensure that there is an unambiguous ICCAT requirement to protect the health and safety of observers deployed in the Commission's regional observer programs. It would also clarify the obligations of CPCs and non-CPCs to ensure that their vessels comply with such requirements and ensure that procedures are put in place to address emergencies with a clear articulation of roles and responsibilities for carrying out those procedures.

Any increase in costs to the Commission resulting from formalizing these requirements in an ICCAT Recommendation are likely to be negligible as the observer providers participating in ICCAT's ROPs are already training or requiring prerequisite training of observers and issuing safety equipment to them in line with the provisions of this proposal.

**Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Protecting the
Health and Safety of Observers in ICCAT's Regional Observer Programs**
(a new proposal, previously discussed but not adopted as PWG-407A/2017)

Proposed by the United States

UNDERSCORING that safety of life at sea is a longstanding objective of international maritime governance, that observers collect data that are essential to the functions of the Commission, and that the health, safety, and welfare of observers is critical to their ability to perform their duties;

RECALLING the regional observer programs established in the *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Program for Transshipment* [Rec. 16-15] and 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];

CONCERNED that ICCAT's recommendations establishing these regional observer programs do not include requirements that adequately protect the health, safety, and welfare of observers;

ACKNOWLEDGING the need to include comprehensive and consistent requirements in relevant ICCAT recommendations to protect the health, safety, and welfare of observers, in particular to supply necessary safety equipment and to supply or ensure proper training and to establish emergency procedures with respect to ICCAT Regional Observer Programs (ROPs);

RECALLING that the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watch keeping for Fishing Vessel Certification (STCW-F), adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in 1995, sets forth safety training standards for observers and other fishing vessel personnel;

NOTING existing contracts between the ICCAT Secretariat and ROP observer providers that include observer health and safety requirements as well as associated materials establishing procedures for the implementation of such requirements;

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

The following shall apply to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of observers deployed pursuant to an ICCAT Regional Observer Program (ROP) established in the *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Program for Transshipment* [Rec. 16-15] and 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]:

1. The observer provider shall provide or ensure observers have received safety training before they are deployed on a vessel for the first time and at appropriate intervals thereafter. Such training program must, at a minimum, meet the International Maritime Organization (IMO) safety training standards.
2. Before deploying an observer on a vessel for a trip, the observer provider shall ensure the observer is issued the following safety equipment:
 - a) an independent two-way satellite communication device and a waterproof personal life- saving beacon. This may consist of a single device such as a Satellite Emergency Notification Device, or a combination of an independent two-way satellite-based device, (e.g., an inReach messaging device) and a personal locator beacon (e.g., a ResQ Link device); and
 - b) other safety equipment, such as personal flotation devices (PFDs) and immersion suits, appropriate to the specific fishing operations and activities, including ocean area and distance from shore.
3. The observer provider shall have a designated contact point for deployed observers to use in cases of emergency.

4. The observer provider must have an established procedure for contacting and being contacted by the observer and the vessel, and, if necessary, for contacting the competent authority of the flag CPC or non-CPC. This procedure must provide for regularly scheduled contact with observers to confirm their health, safety, and welfare status and clearly describe the steps that must be taken in the event of various emergencies, including situations where an observer dies, is missing or presumed fallen overboard, suffers from a serious illness or injury that puts his or her health or safety at risk, has been assaulted, intimidated, threatened or harassed while on board a vessel, or if the observer requests to be removed from the vessel prior to the conclusion of the trip.
5. CPCs or non-CPCs shall ensure their vessels that carry observers under an ICCAT ROP are outfitted with appropriate safety equipment for the entirety of each voyage, including the following:
 - a) A life raft of sufficient capacity for all persons onboard and with a certificate of inspection that is valid throughout the observer's deployment;
 - b) Life jackets of sufficient number for all persons onboard, and compliant with International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) standards; and
 - c) Properly registered Emergency Personal Indicator Response Beacon (EPIRB) or a Search and Rescue Transponder (SART) that will not expire until after the observer deployment ends.
6. The observer provider shall not deploy an observer on a vessel unless and until the observer is allowed to inspect all vessel safety equipment and document and report its status to the observer provider; observers shall not be deployed on vessels with outstanding safety discrepancies, in particular if the vessel does not meet the requirements of paragraph 5. If, during deployment, the observer provider or flag CPC or non-CPC determines that a serious risk to the health, safety, or welfare of the observer exists, the observer shall be removed from the vessel unless and until the risk is addressed.
7. Flag CPCs and non-CPCs with vessels carrying observers deployed under an ICCAT ROP shall develop and implement an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) to be followed in the event an observer dies, is missing or presumed fallen overboard, suffers from a serious illness or injury that threatens his or her health, safety, or welfare, or has been assaulted, intimidated, threatened or harassed. EAPs must include, *inter alia*, the elements in **Addendum 1** of this Recommendation.

These EAPs shall be submitted to the Executive Secretary for posting on the ICCAT web site as soon as possible after the entry into force of this recommendation and no later than 30 days in advance of the 2019 Annual meeting so they are available for review by interested CPCs. New or amended EAPs shall be provided to the Executive Secretary when they become available. The Executive Secretary will inform the Compliance Committee of compliance with this requirement.

8. The Executive Secretary shall remind flag CPCs and notify non-CPCs participating in any ICCAT ROP that a condition of participating in the ROP is the development, implementation, and submission of an EAP as described in paragraph 7.
9. Beginning on 1 January 2020, vessels flagged to CPCs or non-CPCs that have not submitted EAPs shall not be eligible to carry an observer from an ICCAT ROP. Further, should available information indicate that an EAP is not consistent with the standards set out in **Addendum 1**, the Commission may decide that the deployment of an observer on a vessel of the concerned flag CPC or non-CPC shall be delayed until the inconsistency has been sufficiently addressed.
10. The Commission may also decide that a vessel is ineligible to carry an ICCAT regional observer where the flag CPC or non-CPC has previously failed to investigate any reported instances of observer interference, harassment, intimidation, assault, or unsafe working conditions or, where warranted, to take appropriate corrective action, consistent with their domestic law.
11. The observer provider and flag CPCs and non-CPCs with vessels carrying observers deployed under an ICCAT ROP shall submit to the Executive Secretary reports on observer incidents triggering provisions of the EAP, including any corrective action taken by the flag CPC or non-CPC. The Executive Secretary shall transmit such reports to the Commission, consistent with applicable confidentiality rules, for its review at each annual meeting or, where warranted, more frequently.

12. Flag CPCs and non-CPCs shall cooperate to the maximum extent possible with and provide for the participation of, as appropriate and consistent with domestic law, the CPC or non-CPC of the observer in search and rescue operations and investigations of cases where the observer dies, is missing or presumed fallen overboard, suffers from a serious illness or injury that threatens his or her health or safety, or has been assaulted, intimidated, threatened or harassed while on board a vessel.
13. Nothing in this recommendation shall prejudice the exercise of discretion by the observer provider not to deploy an observer on a vessel because of concerns about risk to the observer's health, safety, or welfare.
14. Nothing in this measure shall prejudice the rights of relevant CPCs and non-CPCs to enforce their laws with respect to the safety of observers consistent with international law.

Addendum 1 to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.3

Elements of ROP Emergency Action Plan (EAP)

1. In the event that an ROP observer dies, is missing or presumed fallen overboard, the CPC or non-CPC to which the fishing vessel is flagged shall take necessary measures to require that the fishing vessel:
 - a) immediately ceases all fishing operations;
 - b) immediately notifies the appropriate maritime rescue coordination center and flag CPC or non-CPC;
 - c) immediately commences search and rescue if the observer is missing or presumed fallen overboard, and searches for at least 72 hours, unless the observer is found sooner, or unless instructed by the flag CPC or non-CPC to continue searching¹;
 - d) immediately alerts other vessels in the vicinity by using all available means of communication;
 - e) cooperates fully in any search and rescue operation;
 - f) whether or not the search is successful, promptly returns to the nearest port for further investigation, as agreed by the flag CPC or non-CPC and the observer provider;
 - g) promptly provides a report on the incident to the observer provider and appropriate flag State authorities; and
 - h) cooperates fully in all official investigations, and preserves any potential evidence and the personal effects and quarters of the deceased or missing observer.

2. In addition, in the event that an ROP observer dies while deployed, the flag CPC or non-CPC shall require that the fishing vessel ensure that the body is well-preserved for the purposes of an autopsy and investigation.

3. In the event that an ROP observer suffers from a serious illness or injury that threatens his or her health or safety, the CPC or non-CPC to which the fishing vessel is flagged shall take necessary measures to require that the fishing vessel:
 - a) immediately ceases fishing operations;
 - b) immediately notifies the flag CPC or non-CPC and relevant maritime rescue coordination center to advise if a medical evacuation is warranted;
 - c) takes all reasonable actions to care for the observer and provide any medical treatment available and possible on board the vessel;
 - d) where necessary and appropriate, including as directed by the observer provider, if not already directed by the flag CPC or non-CPC, facilitates the disembarkation and transport of the observer to a medical facility equipped to provide the required care, as soon as practicable; and
 - e) cooperates fully in any and all official investigations into the cause of the illness or injury.

4. For the purposes of paragraphs 1 through 3, the flag CPC or non-CPC shall ensure that the appropriate maritime rescue coordination center, observer provider, and the Secretariat are immediately notified of the incident, actions taken or underway to address the situation, and any assistance that may be required.

5. In the event that there are reasonable grounds to believe an ROP observer has been assaulted, intimidated, threatened, or harassed such that their health or safety is endangered and the observer or the observer provider indicates to the CPC or non-CPC to which the fishing vessel is flagged that they wish for the observer to be removed from the fishing vessel, the CPC or non-CPC to which the fishing vessel is flagged shall take necessary measures to require that the fishing vessel:
 - a) immediately takes action to preserve the safety of the observer and mitigate and resolve the situation on board;
 - b) notifies the flag CPC or non-CPC and the observer provider of the situation, including the status and location of the observer, as soon as possible;

¹ In the event of force majeure, CPCs and non-CPCs may allow their vessels to cease search and rescue operations before 72 hours have elapsed.

- c) facilitates the safe disembarkation of the observer in a manner and place, as agreed by the flag CPC or non-CPC and the observer provider, that facilitates access to any needed medical treatment; and
 - d) cooperates fully in any and all official investigations into the incident.
6. In the event that there are reasonable grounds to believe that an ROP observer has been assaulted, intimidated, threatened, or harassed but neither the observer nor the observer provider wishes that the observer be removed from the fishing vessel, the CPC or non-CPC to which the fishing vessel is flagged shall take necessary measures to require that the fishing vessel:
- a) takes action to preserve the safety of the observer and mitigate and resolve the situation on board as soon as possible;
 - b) notifies the flag CPC or non-CPC and the observer provider of the situation as soon as possible; and
 - c) cooperates fully in all official investigations into the incident.
7. If any of the events in paragraphs 1 – 5 occur, port CPCs or non-CPCs shall facilitate entry of the fishing vessel to allow disembarkation of the ROP observer and, to the extent possible, assist in any investigations if so requested by the flag CPC or non-CPC.
8. In the event that, after disembarkation from a fishing vessel of an ROP observer, an observer provider identifies, such as during the course of debriefing the observer, a possible situation involving assault or harassment of the observer while on board the fishing vessel, the observer provider shall notify, in writing, the flag CPC or non-CPC and the Secretariat.
9. If notified, under paragraph 5b, 6b, or 8, that an observer has been assaulted or harassed, the flag CPC or non-CPC shall
- a) investigate the event based on the information provided by the observer provider and take any appropriate action in response to the results of the investigation;
 - b) cooperate fully in any investigation conducted by the observer provider, including providing the report to the observer provider and appropriate authorities of the incident; and
 - c) promptly notify the observer provider and the Secretariat of the results of its investigation and any actions taken.
10. CPCs shall also encourage vessels flying their flag to participate, to the greatest extent possible, in any search and rescue operations involving an ROP observer.
11. Where requested, relevant observer providers and CPCs or non-CPCs shall cooperate in each other's investigations, including providing their incident reports for any incidents indicated in paragraphs 1 through 6 to facilitate any investigations as appropriate.

**U.S. Cover Note on the Draft Resolution by ICCAT Establishing a
Pilot Program for the Voluntary Exchange of Inspection Personnel in Fisheries Managed by ICCAT**
(a new proposal, previously discussed but not adopted as PWG-408A/2017)

In recent years, ICCAT has been discussing the potential for the exchange of CPC personnel involved in at sea boarding and inspection activities. The benefits of such programs include improving understanding among CPCs of fishery management challenges and opportunities, strengthening CPC cooperation and collaboration, and providing capacity building opportunities. A number of CPCs are already familiar with such benefits through their participation in exchanges within the context of schemes of joint international inspection implemented by RFMOs and otherwise. For example, in the Atlantic, several CPCs engage in inspector exchanges pursuant to the inspection scheme adopted by the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization. Some CPCs have had similar experiences in other tuna RFMOs (e.g., the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, WCPFC) or through bilateral arrangements. The United States has had positive experiences with inspector exchanges and believes them to be a very valuable monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) tool to support effective fisheries management. To assist the Commission in considering this matter, in 2016 and 2017, we shared information on our existing partnerships with other CPCs, including Cabo Verde, Canada, France, Ghana, Senegal and UK. Moreover, in 2016, we circulated a concept note on the issue that included, among other things, elements to be considered in establishing an inspector exchange program. The concept note and exchange information were well-received.

At the 2017 ICCAT Annual meeting, the United States circulated a proposal aimed at operationalizing the concept of an inspector exchange program within ICCAT. A number of CPCs commented on the proposal, and it was agreed that the matter should be further considered during the 2018 intersessional meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures. The attached draft reflects improvements based on comments and input received to-date on the draft proposal discussed by the PWG in 2017 (PWG-408A). The intent of the proposal has not changed since the 2017 Annual meeting. Specifically, the draft resolution would establish a pilot program for the exchange of inspection personnel to help familiarize personnel 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 will 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 is expected to provide particular benefits to developing CPCs who may have limited capacity to directly train inspection personnel in such procedures or to deploy inspection vessels.

Participation in this pilot program is completely voluntary, but broad participation will substantially strengthen cooperation and collaboration among CPCs. The details of each exchange should be determined by the CPCs involved in the bilateral arrangements referred to in paragraph 9, and would cover topics such as the geographic areas to be covered by such exchanges and the role and responsibilities of inspectors. Each CPC can develop these agreements or arrangements to be tailored to their individual authorities, circumstances, and preferences.

Costs to ICCAT for supporting such a pilot program will be minimal as the Secretariat's role will be to collect information on relevant authorities and points of contact for participating CPCs and post that information on ICCAT's website. It is anticipated that this will require no more than 20 hours of staff time per year and a minimal amount of space on the ICCAT server.

**Draft Resolution by ICCAT Establishing a Pilot Program
for the Voluntary Exchange of Inspection Personnel in Fisheries Managed by ICCAT**
(a new proposal, previously discussed but not adopted as PWG-408A/2017)

Proposal by United States, the European Union, Gabon and Canada

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, both relating to areas beyond national jurisdiction;

FURTHER RECALLING paragraph 3 of Article IX of the ICCAT Convention and the General Outline of Integrated Monitoring Measures adopted at the 13th Special Meeting of the Commission (Ref. 02-31);

NOTING the joint inspection activities that have been carried out by CPCs in the Atlantic and other oceans;

RECOGNIZING that exchanges of inspection personnel through a voluntary pilot program will contribute to the capacity of CPCs, particularly developing CPCs, to conduct at sea inspections in ICCAT fisheries; and

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that lessons learned through a voluntary pilot program may inform future discussions in ICCAT regarding the development and implementation of a revised Scheme of Joint International Inspection, whether such a scheme would be applicable to a particular, or to all, ICCAT fisheries.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS RESOLVES THAT:

Program Objectives

1. A pilot program is established for the voluntary exchange of inspection personnel to participate in boarding and inspection activities as inspectors or as participating or observing members of the inspection party, conducted by CPCs in fisheries managed by ICCAT pursuant to their existing authorities. Such exchanges are intended to facilitate the sharing of information and expertise needed to strengthen at-sea inspection capabilities and capacities, enhance cooperation and collaboration among CPCs on this important area of fisheries monitoring, control, and surveillance, and inform future discussions on this issue within ICCAT.

Participation and Points of Contact

2. All CPCs are encouraged to participate in the pilot program and may join or leave it at any time.
3. CPCs interested in participating in the pilot program should submit to the Executive Secretary the following information:
 - a) National authority responsible for at-sea inspection and other supporting maritime agencies as may be appropriate, and
 - b) Designated point(s) of contact (POC) within that authority with responsibility for program implementation, including name, telephone, fax numbers, and e-mail address.
4. The Executive Secretary will make the information provided under paragraph 3 available on the public portion of the ICCAT website.

Pilot Program Process and Procedures

5. CPCs that have elected to participate in the pilot program should communicate with one another to identify opportunities for exchanges of inspection personnel pursuant to this program.

6. CPCs deploying patrol vessels in fisheries managed by ICCAT should:
 - a) Consider their participation in the pilot program in developing patrol plans and strive, where possible, to arrange patrols that can accommodate one or more personnel from other CPCs; and
 - b) Provide relevant information to other participating CPCs, as appropriate, in order to determine their interest in an exchange of inspection personnel, either on a particular patrol or on a patrol that may be planned in the future.
7. CPCs wishing to place inspection personnel on another CPC's inspection vessel should contact the POC of the CPC that has provided information under paragraph 6, to indicate its interest.
8. When a CPC has provided notice of its interest in an exchange of inspection personnel under paragraph 7, the concerned CPCs should consult to determine whether such an exchange could be accommodated, taking into consideration operational limitations as well as training, operational and information security, and medical and physical requirements. CPCs deploying inspection vessel(s) should make special efforts to accommodate requests from developing CPCs, in particular.
9. CPCs that have elected to establish an exchange of inspection personnel under the pilot program should enter into a standing or *ad hoc* bilateral agreement or arrangement to address relevant details of the deployment, including whether the scope of the agreement should be limited to inspections in areas beyond national jurisdiction or include national EEZs, the role of personnel deployed under the arrangement or agreement, as well as further provisions for the cooperative deployment of inspection personnel and the use of vessels, aircraft or other resources for fisheries surveillance and control purposes, and the protection of law enforcement sensitive or otherwise confidential or protected information from inappropriate disclosure.

Reporting and Review

10. CPCs who engage in such exchanges should coordinate reporting to the Commission annually on any activities carried out under the pilot program for consideration by the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of Statistics and Conservation (PWG). CPCs are also encouraged to provide information related to joint inspection activities undertaken outside the ICCAT context, as appropriate.
11. This pilot program should be reviewed no more than 3 years after adoption.

Appendix 7 to ANNEX 4.3**U.S. Explanatory Note for Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing**
(a new proposal amending existing measure 12-07)

Proposed by the United States

It has been six years since the adoption of the *Recommendation by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port* (Rec. 12-07). Since that time, the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) has entered into force and a number of ICCAT CPCs have ratified it. Consistent with recommendation number 67 from the Second ICCAT Performance Review, the United States considers ICCAT's port inspection scheme should be revised and thereby strengthened by making it more consistent with PSMA.

To support discussion of this important issue, we have proposed revisions to Recommendation 12-07 to require CPCs to deny entry where they have sufficient proof that the vessel seeking entry to its port has engaged in IUU fishing activity, unless it is being allowed to enter port for the sole purpose of inspection or other enforcement action. In addition, the proposal specifies notification procedures for denial of entry into port, criteria for prioritizing vessels for inspection, and procedures for denial of use of port and port services to vessels determined to have engaged in IUU activity. The measure includes an exception for vessels in port for reasons of Force Majeure or distress. The proposal also revises certain existing provisions of Rec. 12-07 to improve their effectiveness and make more consistent with PSMA.

**Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Port State Measures
to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing**
(a new proposal amending existing measure 12-07)

Proposed by the United States

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

ACKNOWLEDGING that port State measures provide a powerful and cost effective means of preventing, deterring, and eliminating IUU fishing;

RECALLING *Recommendation by ICCAT for a Revised ICCAT Port Inspection Scheme* [Rec. 97-10];

ALSO RECALLING the *Recommendation by ICCAT further Amending the Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a List of Vessels Presumed to have carried out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 11-18] and the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Ban on Landings and Transshipments of Vessels from non-Contracting Parties Identified as Having Committed a Serious Infringement* [Rec. 98-11];

FURTHER RECALLING the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing;

EMPHASIZING the importance of ensuring that the challenges faced by developing CPCs in the implementation of port State measures are adequately addressed and maximizing the use of funding established under 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* [14-08] in that regard;

AWARE of the ongoing work of the Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity Building and Assistance established under the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Clarify and Supplement the Process for Seeking Capacity Building Assistance Pursuant to ICCAT Recommendation 14-08* [Rec. 16-18]; and

DESIRING to strengthen ICCAT's monitoring, control, and surveillance regime to promote implementation of and compliance with conservation and management measures;

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

Definitions

1. For the purposes of this Recommendation:
 - a) "Fishing" means searching for, attracting, locating, catching, taking or harvesting fish or any activity that can be reasonably expected to result in the attracting, locating, catching, taking or harvesting of fish;
 - b) "Fishing related activities" means any operation in support of , or in preparation for, fishing, including the landing, packaging, processing, transshipping or transporting of fish that have not previously been landed at a port, as well as the provisioning of personnel, fuel, gear and other supplies at sea;
 - c) "Fishing vessel" refers to any vessel, ship of another type or boat, used for, equipped to be used for, or intended to be used for, fishing or fishing related activities; and
 - d) "Port" includes offshore terminals and marine areas of the port, and other installations for landing, transshipping, packaging, processing, refueling or resupplying.

Scope

2. Nothing in this Recommendation shall prejudice the rights, jurisdiction and duties of CPCs under international law. In particular, nothing in this Recommendation shall be construed to affect the exercise by CPCs of their authority over their ports in accordance with international law, including their right to deny entry thereto as well as to adopt more stringent measures than those provided for in this Recommendation.

This Recommendation shall be interpreted and applied in conformity with international law, taking into account applicable international rules and standards, including those established through the International Maritime Organization, as well as other international instruments.

CPCs shall fulfill in good faith the obligations assumed pursuant to this Recommendation and shall exercise the rights recognized herein in a manner that would not constitute an abuse of right.

3. With a view to monitor compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures, each CPC, in its capacity as a port CPC, shall apply this Recommendation for an effective scheme of port inspections in respect of foreign fishing vessels carrying ICCAT-managed species and/or fish products originating from such species that have not been previously landed, hereinafter referred to as "foreign fishing vessels".
4. A CPC may, in its capacity as a port CPC, decide not to apply this Recommendation to foreign fishing vessels chartered by its nationals operating under its authority and returning to its port. Such chartered fishing vessels shall be subject to measures by the chartering CPC which are as effective as measures applied in relation to vessels entitled to fly its flag.
5. Without prejudice to specifically applicable provisions of other ICCAT Recommendations, and except as otherwise provided in this Recommendation, this Recommendation shall apply to foreign fishing vessels equal to or greater than 12 meters in length overall.
6. Each CPC shall subject foreign fishing vessels below 12 meters length overall, foreign fishing vessels operating under charter as referred to under paragraph 4, and fishing vessels entitled to fly its flag to measures that are at least as effective in combating IUU fishing as measures applied to vessels referred to in paragraph 3.
7. CPCs shall take necessary action to inform fishing vessels entitled to fly their flag of this and other relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures.

Points of Contact

8. Each CPC that grants access to its ports to foreign fishing vessels shall designate a point of contact for the purposes of receiving notifications pursuant to paragraph 13 of this Recommendation. Each CPC shall designate a point of contact for the purpose of receiving inspection reports pursuant to paragraph 35(b) of this Recommendation. Each CPC shall transmit the name and contact information for its points of contact to the ICCAT Secretariat no later than 30 days following the entry into force of this Recommendation. Any subsequent changes shall be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat at least 14 days before such changes take effect. The ICCAT Secretariat shall promptly notify CPCs of any such change.
9. The ICCAT Secretariat shall establish and maintain a register of points of contact based on the lists submitted by the CPCs. The register and any subsequent changes shall be published promptly on the ICCAT website.

Designated ports

10. Each CPC that grants access to its ports to foreign fishing vessels shall:
 - a) Designate its ports to which foreign fishing vessels may request entry pursuant to this Recommendation;

- b) Ensure that it has sufficient capacity to conduct inspections in every designated port pursuant to this Recommendation;
 - c) Provide to the ICCAT Secretariat within 30 days from the date of entry into force of this Recommendation a list of designated ports. Any subsequent changes to this list shall be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat at least 14 days before the change takes effect.
11. The ICCAT Secretariat shall establish and maintain a register of designated ports based on the lists submitted by the port CPCs. The register and any subsequent change shall be published promptly on the ICCAT web site.
12. Each CPC that does not grant access to its ports to foreign vessels shall so indicate in its Annual Report. Should it subsequently decide to grant access to its ports to foreign fishing vessels, it shall submit the information required under paragraphs 8 and 9(c) to the Secretariat at least 14 days before the change takes effect.

Advance request for port entry

13. Each port CPC that grants access to its ports to foreign fishing vessels shall require foreign fishing vessels seeking to enter its ports, at least 72 hours before the estimated time of arrival at the port, the following information:
- a) Vessel identification (External identification; Name; Flag State; ICCAT Record No., if any; IMO No., if any; and IRCS);
 - b) Name of the designated port, as referred to in the ICCAT register, to which it seeks entry and the purpose of the port call (e.g., resupplying, landing or transshipment);
 - c) Fishing authorization or, where appropriate, any other authorization held by the vessel to support fishing operations on ICCAT species and/or fish products originating from such species, or to transship related fishery products;
 - d) Estimated date and time of arrival in port;
 - e) The estimated quantities in kilograms of each ICCAT species and/or fish products originating from such species held on board, with associated catch areas. If no ICCAT species and/or fish products originating from such species are held on board, a 'nil' report shall be transmitted;
 - f) The estimated quantities for each ICCAT species and/or fish products originating from such species in kilograms to be landed or transshipped, with associated catch areas.

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

14. The port CPC may prescribe a longer or shorter advance notification period than specified in paragraph 13, taking into account, *inter alia*, the type of fishery products landed in its ports, the distance between the fishing grounds and its ports, and its resources and procedures for considering and verifying the information. In such a case, the port CPC shall inform the ICCAT Secretariat of its advance notification period, and the reasons therefor, within 30 days from the date of entry into force of this Recommendation. Any subsequent changes shall be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat at least 14 days before the change takes effect.

Port entry, authorization or denial

15. After receiving the relevant information pursuant to paragraph 13, as well as such other information as it may require to determine whether the foreign fishing vessel requesting entry into its port has engaged in IUU fishing, the port CPC shall decide whether to authorize or deny the entry of the vessel into its port.

16. Without prejudice to paragraph 18, when a CPC has sufficient proof that a foreign fishing vessel seeking entry to its port has engaged in IUU fishing or fishing related activities in support of such fishing the CPC shall deny that vessel entry into its port.
17. In case the port CPC decides to deny the entry of the vessel into its port, it shall so notify the vessel or its representative and shall also communicate the decision to the flag State of the vessel, the Secretariat to be posted on the secure part of the ICCAT web site and, as appropriate and to the extent possible, relevant coastal states, regional fishery management organizations or arrangements (RFMO/As) and other inter-governmental organizations (IGOs).
18. Notwithstanding paragraph 15, a port CPC may allow entry to its port of a vessel referred to in that paragraph exclusively for the purpose of inspecting it and taking other appropriate actions in accordance with international law that are at least as effective as denial of port entry in preventing, deterring and eliminating IUU fishing and fishing related activities in support of such fishing.
19. Where a vessel referred to paragraph 16 is in port for any reason, the port CPC shall deny such vessel the use of its ports for landing, transshipping, packaging, processing and for other port services including, *inter alia*, refueling and resupplying, maintenance and dry docking. Paragraph 21 applies *mutatis mutandis* in such cases. Denial of such use of ports shall be in conformity with international law.

Force majeure or distress

20. Nothing in this Recommendation affects the entry of foreign fishing vessels to port in accordance with international law for reasons of Force Majeure or distress, or prevents a port CPC from permitting entry into port to a vessel exclusively for the purpose of rendering assistance to persons, ships or aircraft in danger or distress.

Use of ports

21. Where a foreign fishing vessel has entered one of its ports, the port State CPC shall deny, pursuant to its laws and regulations and consistent with international law, including this Recommendation, that vessel the use of the port for landing, transshipping, packaging and processing for fish that have not been previously landed and for other port services, including, *inter alia*, refueling and resupplying, maintenance and dry docking, if:
 - a) The port CPC finds that the vessel does not have a valid and applicable authorization to engage in fishing and fishing related activities in the ICCAT Convention area;
 - b) The port CPC receives clear evidence that the fish on board was taken in contravention of ICCAT conservation and management measures;
 - c) The flag CPC does not confirm within a reasonable period of time, on the request of the port CPC, that the fish on board was taken in accordance with relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures; or
 - d) The port CPC has reasonable grounds to believe that the vessel otherwise engaged in IUU fishing, or fishing related activities in support of such fishing, in the ICCAT Convention area, including in support of a vessel included in ICCAT's *List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried Out IUU Fishing Activities in the ICCAT Convention Area and other areas*, unless the vessel can establish:
 - i. that it was acting in a manner consistent with relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures,
 - ii. in the case of provision of personnel, fuel, gear and other supplies at sea to a vessel on ICCAT's IUU list, that the vessel that was provisioned was not, at the time of provisioning, included in the ICCAT IUU list.

22. Notwithstanding paragraph 21, the port CPC shall not deny a vessel referred to in that paragraph the use of port services:
 - a) essential to the safety or health of the crew or the safety of the vessel, provided these needs are duly proven, or
 - b) where appropriate, for the scrapping of the vessel.
23. Where a port CPC has denied the use of its ports, it shall promptly notify the flag State and the ICCAT Secretariat, to be posted on the secure part of the ICCAT web site. The ICCAT Secretariat shall communicate this decision to all CPCs and to other relevant RFMO/As.
24. A port CPC shall withdraw its denial of the use of its port only if the port CPC is satisfied that there is sufficient proof to show that the grounds on which the use was denied were inadequate or erroneous, or that such grounds no longer apply.
25. Where a port CPC has withdrawn its denial of the use of its port, it shall promptly notify those to whom a notification was issued pursuant to paragraph 23.
26. In case the port CPC decides to authorize the entry of the vessel into its port in accordance with paragraph 18, the provisions set forth in the following section on port inspection shall apply.

Port inspections

27. Inspections shall be carried out by properly qualified inspectors of a competent authority of the port CPC.
28. Each year CPCs shall inspect at least 5% of landing and transshipment operations in their designated ports as are made by foreign fishing vessels.
29. In determining which foreign fishing vessels to inspect, the port CPC shall, in accordance with its domestic law, give priority to:
 - a) a vessel that has failed to provide complete and accurate information as required in paragraph 13;
 - b) a vessel that has been denied port entry by another CPC;
 - c) requests from other CPCs or relevant RFMO/As that a particular vessel be inspected, particularly where such requests are supported by evidence of IUU fishing by the vessel in question;
 - d) other vessels for which clear grounds exist for suspecting that a vessel has engaged in IUU fishing or fishing related activities in support of such fishing, including information derived from inspection reports submitted under this scheme and information from other RFMO/As;

Inspection procedure

30. Each inspector shall carry a document of identity issued by the port CPC. In accordance with domestic laws, port CPC inspectors shall examine all relevant areas, decks and spaces of the fishing vessel, catches processed or otherwise, nets or other fishing gears, equipment both technical and electronic, records of transmissions and any documents, including fishing logbooks, Cargo Manifests and Mates Receipts and landing declarations in case of transshipment, relevant to verifying compliance with the ICCAT conservation and management measures. They may also question the Master, crew members, or any other person on the vessel being inspected. They may take copies of any documents they consider relevant.

31. In case the vessel is landing or transshipping ICCAT species, inspections shall involve the monitoring of the landing or transshipment and include a cross-check between the quantities by species notified in the prior notification message in paragraph 13 above and held on board. Inspections shall be carried out in such a way that the fishing vessel suffers the minimum interference and inconvenience, and that degradation of the quality of the catch is avoided, to the extent practicable.
32. On completion of the inspection, the port CPC inspector shall provide the Master of the foreign fishing vessel with the inspection report containing the findings of the inspection, including possible subsequent measures that could be taken by the port CPC, to be signed by the inspector and the master. The master's signature on the report shall serve only as acknowledgment of the receipt of a copy of the report. The Master shall be given the opportunity to add any comments or objection to the report, and to contact the competent authority of the flag State, in particular where the master has serious difficulties in understanding the content of the report. A copy of the report shall be provided to the Master.

The port CPC shall transmit a copy of the inspection report to the ICCAT Secretariat no later than 14 days following the date of completion of the inspection. If the inspection report cannot be transmitted within 14 days, the port CPC should notify the ICCAT Secretariat within the 14 day time period the reasons for the delay and when the report will be submitted.

33. Flag CPCs shall take necessary action to ensure that Masters facilitate safe access to the fishing vessel, cooperate with the competent authorities of the port CPC, facilitate the inspection and communication and do not obstruct, intimidate or interfere, or cause other persons to obstruct, intimidate or interfere with port CPC inspectors in the execution of their duties.

Procedure in the event of apparent infringements

34. If the information collected during the inspection provides evidence that a foreign fishing vessel has committed an infringement of the ICCAT conservation and management measures, the inspector shall:
 - a) record the infringement in the inspection report;
 - b) transmit the inspection report to the port CPC competent authority, which shall promptly forward a copy to the ICCAT Secretariat and to the flag State point of contact and, as appropriate, the relevant coastal State;
 - c) to the extent practicable, ensure safekeeping of the evidence pertaining to such infringement, including original documents where appropriate. If the port CPC refers the infringement to the flag State for further action, the port CPC shall promptly provide the evidence collected to the flag State.
35. If the infringement falls within the legal jurisdiction of the port CPC, the port CPC may take action in accordance with its domestic laws. The port CPC shall promptly notify the action taken to the flag State, the relevant coastal State, as applicable, and the ICCAT Secretariat, which shall promptly publish this information in the secure part of the ICCAT website.
36. Infringements that do not fall within the jurisdiction of the port CPC, and infringements referred to in paragraph 36 for which the port CPC has not taken action, shall be referred to the flag State and, as appropriate, the relevant coastal State. Upon receiving the copy of the inspection report and evidence, the flag CPC shall promptly investigate the infringement and notify the ICCAT Secretariat of the status of the investigation and of any enforcement action that may have been taken within 6 months of such receipt. If the flag CPC cannot notify the ICCAT Secretariat this status report within 6 months of such receipt, the flag CPC should notify the ICCAT Secretariat within the 6 month time period the reasons for the delay and when the status report will be submitted. The ICCAT Secretariat shall promptly publish this information in the secure part of the ICCAT website. CPCs shall include in their Annual Report [Ref. 12-13] information regarding the status of such investigations.

37. Should the inspection provide evidence that the inspected vessel has engaged in IUU activities as referred to in Rec. 11-18, the port CPC shall deny the vessel the use of port in accordance with paragraph 21, promptly report the case to the flag State, and the relevant coastal CPC, as applicable. The port CPC shall also notify as soon as possible the ICCAT Secretariat that the vessel has engaged in IUU fishing or fishing related activities, and provide supporting evidence. The Secretariat shall include the vessel in the draft IUU list.

Requirements of developing CPCs

38. CPCs shall give full recognition to the special requirements of developing CPCs in relation to a port inspection scheme consistent with this Recommendation. CPCs shall, either directly or through the ICCAT Secretariat, provide assistance to developing CPCs in order to, *inter alia*:
- a) Develop their capacity including by providing technical assistance and funding to support and strengthen the development and implementation of an effective system of port inspection at national, regional and international levels and to ensure that a disproportionate burden resulting from the implementation of this recommendation is not unnecessarily transferred to them;
 - b) Facilitate their participation in meetings and/or training programmes of relevant regional and international organizations that promote the effective development and implementation of a system of port inspection, including monitoring, control and surveillance, enforcement and legal proceedings for infractions and dispute settlements pursuant to this Recommendation; and
 - c) Either directly or through the ICCAT Secretariat, assess the special requirements of developing CPCs concerning the implementation of this Recommendation.

General provisions

39. CPCs are encouraged to enter into bilateral or multilateral agreements/arrangements that allow for an inspector exchange program designed to promote cooperation, share information, and educate each party's inspectors on inspection strategies and methodologies which promote compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures. Information regarding such programs, including a copy of such agreements or arrangements, should be included in Annual Reports of CPCs [Ref. 12-13].
40. Without prejudice to domestic laws of the port CPC, the flag CPC may, in the case of appropriate bilateral or multilateral agreements or arrangements with the port CPC or at the invitation of that CPC, send its own officials to accompany the inspectors of the port CPC and observe or take part in the inspection of its vessel.
41. Flag CPCs shall consider and act on reports of infringements from inspectors of a port CPC on a similar basis as the reports from their own inspectors, in accordance with their domestic laws. CPCs shall cooperate, in accordance with their domestic laws, in order to facilitate judicial or other proceedings arising from inspection reports as set out in this Recommendation.
42. The Commission shall review this Recommendation no later than its 2020 Annual Meeting and consider revisions to improve its effectiveness.
43. The *Recommendation by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme of Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port* [Rec. 12-07] is repealed and replaced by this Recommendation.

Appendix 8 to ANNEX 4.3**U.S. Explanatory Note Regarding Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Establishing a List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried Out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities**
(a new proposal amending existing recommendation 11-18)

Proposed by the United States and Honduras

IUU vessel lists are a well-accepted tool for RFMOs to combat IUU fishing. ICCAT originally adopted an IUU vessel list measure in 2002, and it has been amended a number of times since then, most recently as Recommendation 11-18. As an organization, ICCAT has struggled with the implementation of its IUU vessel listing recommendations from the beginning. For example, there have been several instances where the process and procedures for disseminating information and modifying the IUU list intersessionally, including cross-listing vessels from other tuna RFMO IUU lists, have not been followed. With respect to the RFMO cross-listing process, the Commission attempted to clarify the procedures to be followed in Resolution 14-11, but irregularities surrounding implementation of the cross listing procedures have continued.

U.S. Proposal IMM-07 attempts to address these issues and make other improvements by amending Rec. 11-18 to clarify, streamline, and modernize the process and procedures for the establishment of ICCAT's Final IUU Vessel List. The intent is not to change the definition of IUU fishing or activities that would lead to listing. Rather, the United States is seeking to ensure clarity regarding when and how information should be gathered, reported, and circulated; when requests for listing and delisting should be made; how annual and intersessional decisions are taken in the establishment of ICCAT's Final IUU Vessel list; and how to improve the utility of that list.

Beyond questions of process, this proposal seeks to improve the information that is collected and maintained on listed IUU vessels, both at the time of listing and subsequently, to better make it easier for CPCs to detect and take appropriate action with respect to those vessels over time - even if they change name or flag or make false claims with respect to flag.

Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Establishing a List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried Out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities
(a new proposal amending existing recommendation 11-18)

Proposed by the United States and Honduras

RECALLING that the FAO Council adopted on 23 June 2001 an International Plan of Action to prevent, to deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IPOA-IUU). This plan stipulates that the identification of the vessels carrying out Illegal Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) activities should follow agreed procedures and be applied in an equitable, transparent and non-discriminatory way,

CONCERNED by the fact that IUU fishing activities in the ICCAT area continue, and these activities diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures,

FURTHER CONCERNED that there is evidence of a large number of vessel owners engaged in such fishing activities which have re-flagged their vessels to avoid compliance with ICCAT management and conservation measures, and to evade the ICCAT-adopted non discriminatory trade measures,

DETERMINED to address the challenge of an increase in IUU fishing activities by way of counter-measures to be applied in respect to the vessels, without prejudice to further measures adopted in respect of flag States under the relevant ICCAT instruments,

CONSIDERING the results of the ICCAT *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Measures to Combat IUU Fishing, which was held in Tokyo from May 27 to 31, 2002,

CONSCIOUS of the urgent need to address the issue of large-scale fishing vessels as well as other vessels conducting IUU fishing and fishing related activities in support of IUU fishing,

NOTING that the situation must be addressed in the light of all relevant international fisheries instruments and in accordance with the relevant rights and obligations established in the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement, and

DESIRING to streamline and improve IUU listing procedures and requirements in previous ICCAT recommendations and resolutions.

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

Definition of IUU activities

1. For the purposes of this Recommendation, vessels flying the flag of a Contracting Party or a Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity (hereinafter referred to as CPC), or a non-CPC, are presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities in the ICCAT Convention area, *inter alia*, when a CPC presents evidence that such vessels:
 - a) Harvest tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention area and are not registered on the relevant ICCAT list of vessels authorized to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention area;
 - b) Harvest tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention area, and the vessel's flag State is without quota, catch limit or effort allocation under relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures;
 - c) Do not record or report their catches made in the ICCAT Convention area, or make false reports;
 - d) Take or land undersized fish in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures;
 - e) Fish during closed fishing periods or in closed areas in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures;
 - f) Use prohibited fishing gear or fishing methods in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures;

- g) Transship or participate in other operations, such as re-supplying or re-fueling, with vessels included in the IUU vessels list;
- h) Harvest tuna or tuna-like species in the waters under the national jurisdiction of the coastal States in the Convention area without authorization or infringe on that State's laws and regulations, without prejudice to the sovereign rights of coastal States to take measures against such vessels;
- i) Are without nationality and harvest tuna or tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention area, and/or
- j) Engage in fishing or fishing related activities contrary to any other ICCAT conservation and management measures.

Information on alleged IUU activities

2. CPCs shall transmit every year to the Executive Secretary, at least 70 days before the annual meeting, information on any vessels presumed to be carrying out IUU fishing activities within the last three years, accompanied by all available supporting evidence concerning the presumption of IUU fishing activity and vessel identification information.

This information on vessels shall be based on the information collected by CPCs, *inter alia*, under relevant ICCAT recommendations and resolutions. CPCs shall submit available information on the vessel and the IUU fishing activity in the format attached as **Addendum 1** of this Recommendation.

Upon receipt of such information, the Executive Secretary shall promptly send this information to all CPCs and to any non-CPC concerned and request that, where appropriate, CPCs and any such non-CPC investigate the alleged IUU activity and/or monitor the vessels.

The Executive Secretary shall request the flag State to notify the owner of the vessel regarding the CPC's submission of the vessel for its inclusion in the Draft IUU List and of the consequences that may result if they are included on the Final IUU Vessel List adopted by the Commission.

Development of Draft IUU List

3. On the basis of the information received pursuant to paragraph 2, the ICCAT Executive Secretary shall draw up a Draft IUU List in conformity with **Addendum 2**. The Secretary shall transmit the Draft IUU List, together with all the information provided, to all CPCs, and to non-CPCs whose vessels are included on these lists, at least 55 days before the annual meeting. CPCs and non-CPCs shall transmit any comments, including any evidence showing that the listed vessels did not engage in any activity described in paragraph 1, or any actions taken to address such activity, at least 30 days before the annual meeting of ICCAT.

Upon receipt of the Draft IUU List, CPCs shall closely monitor the vessels on that List and shall promptly submit to the Secretariat any information they may have related to the vessels' activities and possible changes of name, flag, call sign or registered owner.

Development and adoption of Final IUU List

4. Two weeks in advance of the ICCAT annual meeting, the Executive Secretary shall recirculate to the CPCs and non-CPCs concerned the Draft IUU List, all information received pursuant to paragraphs 2 and 3, and any other information obtained by the Executive Secretary.
5. CPCs may at any time, and preferably before the annual meeting, submit to the Executive Secretary any additional information that might be relevant for the establishment of the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall promptly circulate any such additional information to all CPCs and to the non-CPCs concerned.
6. The Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) shall examine, each year, the Draft IUU List, as well as the information referred to in paragraphs 2, 3, 4, and 5. The results of this examination may, if necessary, be referred to the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee.

The PWG shall propose to remove a vessel from the Draft IUU List if it determines that:

- a) The vessel did not take part in any IUU fishing activities described in paragraph 1, or
 - b)
 - i) The flag CPC or non-CPC has adopted measures so that this vessel conforms with ICCAT conservation measures, and
 - ii) The flag CPC or non-CPC has and will continue to assume effectively its responsibilities with respect to this vessel in particular as regards the monitoring and control of the fishing activities executed by this vessel in the ICCAT Convention area, and
 - iii) Effective action has been taken in response to the IUU fishing activities in question, including, *inter alia*, prosecution and imposition of sanctions of adequate severity, or
 - c) The vessel has changed ownership and that the new owner can establish the previous owner no longer has any legal, financial or real interests in the vessel or exercises control over it and that the new owner has not participated in IUU fishing.
7. Following the examination referred to in paragraph 6, at each ICCAT annual meeting, the PWG shall develop a Proposed IUU Vessel List, noting which, if any, vessels are proposed for removal from the ICCAT IUU Vessel List adopted at the previous annual meeting and the reasons therefor, and submit it to the Commission for adoption as the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List.

Actions following adoption of Final IUU Vessel List

8. On adoption of the Final IUU Vessel List, the Executive Secretary shall request CPCs and non-CPCs whose vessels appear on the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List to:
 - notify the owner of the vessel identified on the Final IUU Vessel List of its inclusion on the list and the consequences which result from being included on the list, as referred to in paragraph 9;
 - take all the necessary measures to eliminate these IUU fishing activities, including if necessary, the withdrawal of the registration or of the fishing licenses of these vessels, and to inform the Commission of the measures taken in this respect.
9. CPCs shall take all necessary measures, under their applicable legislation to:
 - ensure that the fishing vessels, support vessels, refuelling vessels, the mother-ships and the cargo vessels flying their flag do not assist in any way, engage in fishing processing operations or participate in any transshipment or joint fishing operations with vessels included on the IUU Vessels List;
 - ensure that IUU vessels are not authorized to land, tranship re-fuel, re-supply, or engage in other commercial transactions; prohibit the entry into their ports of vessels included on the IUU list, except in case of *force majeure*, unless vessels are allowed entry into port for the exclusive purpose of inspection and effective enforcement action;
 - ensure the inspection of vessels on the IUU list, if such vessels are otherwise found in their ports, to the extent practicable;
 - prohibit the chartering of a vessel included on the IUU vessels list;
 - refuse to grant their flag to vessels included in the IUU list, except if the vessel has changed owner and the new owner has provided sufficient evidence demonstrating the previous owner or operator has no further legal, beneficial or financial interest in, or control of, the vessel, or having taken into account all relevant facts, the flag CPC determines that granting the vessel its flag will not result in IUU fishing;
 - prohibit the import, or landing and/or transshipment, of tuna and tuna-like species from vessels included in the IUU list;

- encourage the importers, transporters and other sectors concerned, to refrain from transaction and transshipment of tuna and tuna-like species caught by vessels included in the IUU list;
 - collect and exchange with other CPCs any appropriate information with the aim of searching for, controlling and preventing false documentation (including import/export certificates) regarding tunas and tuna-like species from vessels included in the IUU list; and
 - monitor vessels included in the IUU list and promptly submit any information to the Executive Secretary related to their activities and possible changes of name, flag, call sign and/or registered owner.
10. The Executive Secretary will ensure publicity of the Final IUU Vessel List adopted by ICCAT pursuant to paragraph 8, in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality requirements, and through electronic means, by placing it, along with any additional supporting information on the vessels and IUU activities, on a dedicated portion of the ICCAT web site, to be updated as information changes or additional relevant information becomes available. Furthermore, the ICCAT Executive Secretary will transmit the Final IUU Vessels List and supporting information on newly added vessels promptly to other RFMOs for the purposes of enhanced co-operation between ICCAT and these organizations in order to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing.

Intersessional modification of ICCAT's Final IUU Vessel List

Incorporation of IUU Vessel Lists of other [Tuna] RFMOs

11. Upon receipt of the final IUU vessel list established by another RFMO [managing tuna or tuna-like species] and supporting information considered by that RFMO, and any other information regarding the listing determination, such as relevant sections of the RFMO's meeting report, the Executive Secretary shall circulate this information to the CPCs and to any relevant non-CPC. Vessels that have been included on the respective lists shall be included on the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List, unless any Contracting Party objects to the inclusion on the Final ICCAT IUU List within 30 days of the date of transmittal by the Executive Secretary on the grounds that:
- i) there is satisfactory information to establish that:
 - a) The vessel did not engage in the IUU fishing activities identified by the other RFMO, or
 - b) That effective action has been taken in response to the IUU fishing activities in question, including, *inter alia*, prosecution, and imposition of sanctions of adequate severity that have been complied with,

or
 - ii) There is insufficient supporting information and other information regarding the listing determination to establish that none of the conditions in sub-paragraph 11.i) above have been met.
- In the event of an objection to a vessel listed by another RFMO [managing tuna or tuna-like species] being included on the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List pursuant to this paragraph, such vessel shall be placed on the Draft IUU Vessel List and considered by the PWG pursuant to paragraph 6.
12. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall implement paragraph 11 in accordance with the following procedures:
- a) The ICCAT Secretariat shall maintain appropriate contacts with the Secretariats of other RFMOs managing tuna or tuna-like species in order to obtain copies of these RFMOs' IUU vessel lists in a timely manner upon adoption or amendment, including by requesting a copy of these RFMOs' IUU vessel lists annually upon conclusion of the RFMO's meeting at which its final IUU list is adopted.
 - b) As soon as possible after adoption or amendment of an IUU vessel list by another RFMO managing tuna or tuna-like species, the ICCAT Secretariat shall collect all supporting documentation available from that RFMO regarding the listing/delisting determinations.

- c) Once the ICCAT Secretariat has received/collected the information outlined in paragraphs (a) and (b), it shall, consistent with paragraph 11 of this Recommendation, promptly circulate the other RFMO's IUU vessel list, supporting information, and any other relevant information regarding the listing determination to all CPCs. The requisite circular shall clearly state the reason the information is being provided, explain that ICCAT Contracting Parties have 30 days from the date of the circular to object to the inclusion of the vessels on the ICCAT IUU vessel list, and that absent any such objection the vessel will be added at the expiration of the 30 day period to the Final IUU Vessel List.
- d) The ICCAT Secretariat shall add any new vessels contained in the other RFMOs' IUU vessel list to the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List at the end of the 30-day period provided no objection to such inclusion is received from a Contracting Party pursuant to paragraph 11 of this Recommendation.
- e) Where a vessel has been included on the ICCAT Final IUU Vessel List solely due to its inclusion on another RFMO's IUU vessel list, the ICCAT Secretariat shall immediately remove that vessel from the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List when it has been deleted by the RFMO that originally listed it.
- f) Upon the addition or deletion of vessels from the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List pursuant to paragraph 11 or 12(e) of this Recommendation, the ICCAT Secretariat shall promptly circulate the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List as amended to all ICCAT CPCs and non-CPCs concerned.

Intersessional removal from the Final IUU Vessel List

- 13. A CPC or non-CPC whose vessel appears on the Final IUU Vessel List that wishes to request the removal of its vessel from the Final IUU Vessel List during the intersessional period shall submit this request to the ICCAT Executive Secretary no later than July 15 of each year accompanied by information to demonstrate that it meets one or more of the grounds for removal specified in paragraph 6.
- 14. On the basis of the information received by the July 15 deadline, the Executive Secretary will transmit the removal request, with all supporting information to the Contracting Parties within 15 days following receipt of the removal request.
- 15. The Contracting Parties shall examine the request to remove the vessel and reply within 30 days following the notification by the Executive Secretary if they object to the removal of the vessel from the Final IUU Vessel List.
- 16. The result of the examination of the request by mail will be checked by the Executive Secretary at the end of the 30-day period following the date of the notification by the Executive Secretary referred to in paragraph 15.

If a Contracting Party objects to the removal request, the Executive Secretary shall maintain the vessel on the Final ICCAT IUU List and the removal request shall be forwarded to the PWG for consideration at the annual meeting, if requested by the CPC seeking intersessional removal. If no Contracting Party objects to request to remove the vessel, the Executive Secretary shall promptly remove the vessel concerned from the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List, as published on the ICCAT web site.

- 17. The Executive Secretary shall promptly communicate the result of the delisting process to all CPCs as well as non-CPCs concerned. Moreover, the ICCAT Executive Secretary shall forward the decision to remove the vessel to other RFMOs.

General dispositions

- 18. This recommendation shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to fish processing vessels, tug and towing vessels, vessels engaged in transshipment, and support vessels, and other vessels engaged in fishing related activities managed by ICCAT.
- 19. This Recommendation repeals and replaces Recommendation 11-18 and Resolution 14-11.

Addendum 1 to Appendix 8 to ANNEX 4.3**ICCAT reporting form for IUU activity**

Pursuant to paragraph 2 of *Recommendation by ICCAT on Establishing a List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried Out Illegal, Unreported, And Unregulated Fishing Activities [Rec. xx-xx]*, attached are details of alleged IUU activity and available vessel information.

A. Details of vessel

(Please detail information on the vessel and the incidents(s) in the format below, where such information is applicable and available)

Item		Available Information
A	Name of vessel and previous names	
B	Flag and previous flags	
C	Owner and previous owners, including beneficial owner	
D	Owner's place of registration	
E	Operator and previous operators	
F	Call sign and previous call signs	
G	IMO number	
H	Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI), or, if not applicable, any other vessel identifier	
I	Length overall	
J	Photographs	
K	Date first included on the ICCAT IUU list	
L	Date of alleged IUU fishing activities	
M	Position of alleged IUU fishing activities	
N	Summary of alleged IUU activities (see also section B)	
O	Summary of any actions known to have been taken in response to the activities	
P	Outcome of any actions taken	
Q	Other relevant information, as appropriate (e.g., possible false flags or vessel names used, modus operandi, etc.)	

B. Details of alleged IUU activity

(Indicate with an "X" the applicable elements of the activity and provide relevant details including date, location, source of information. Extra information can be provided in an attachment if necessary.)

Rec. XX para. xx	Vessel fished for species covered by the ICCAT Convention within the Convention area and:	Indicate and provide details
a	Harvest tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention area and are not registered on the relevant ICCAT list of vessels authorized to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention area	
b	Harvest tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention area, and the vessel's whose flag State is without quotas, catch limit or effort allocation under relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures	
c	Do not record or report their catches made in the ICCAT Convention area, or make false reports	
d	Take or land undersized fish in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures	
e	Fish during closed fishing periods or in closed areas in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures	
f	Use prohibited fishing gear or fishing methods in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures	
g	Transship with, or participate in other joint operations, such as re-supplying or re-fueling, with vessels included in the IUU vessels list	
h	Harvest tuna or tuna-like species in the waters under the national jurisdiction of the coastal States in the Convention area without authorization and/or infringes on that State's laws and regulations, without prejudice to the sovereign rights of coastal States to take measures against such vessels	
i	Are without nationality and harvest tunas or tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention area	
j	Engage in fishing or fishing related activities contrary to any other ICCAT conservation and management measures	

Addendum 2 to Appendix 8 to ANNEX 4.3**Information to be included in all IUU Lists (Draft and Final)**

The Draft IUU List shall include information on vessels listed on ICCAT's Final IUU List as well as information on new vessels submitted by CPCs for listing. The Draft IUU List shall contain the following details, where applicable and available:

- i) Name of vessel and previous name(s);
- ii) Flag of vessel and previous flag(s);
- iii) Name and address of owner of vessel and previous owners, including beneficial owners, and owners' place of registration;
- iv) Operator of vessel and previous operator(s);
- v) Call sign of vessel and previous call sign;
- vi) Lloyds/IMO number;
- vii) Photographs of the vessel;
- viii) Date vessel was first included on the IUU List;
- ix) Summary of activities which justify inclusion of the vessel on the List, together with references to all relevant documents informing of and evidencing those activities;
- x) Other relevant information.

U.S. Views Regarding Issues Raised in PWG-401/2017

At the 2017 ICCAT Annual Meeting, the PWG Chair asked CPCs to provide written responses to the issues in need of clarification contained in the Secretariat Report to the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG). In response to that request, the United States would like to share its views on relevant issues in advance of the April 2018 meeting of the Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) Working Group.

Port Inspection Reports: The Secretariat posed a question in Section 6 of PWG-401/2017 on what to do with copies of port inspection reports submitted under paragraph 20 of Rec. 12-07 when reports do not contain infractions. In the U.S. view, there is value in making relevant information from port inspection reports, even those without infractions, easily accessible as such information can be used by CPCs to take a risk-based approach in determining which vessels to prioritize for inspection. In that regard, accessibility of reports that do not include infractions should benefit those vessels with a clean inspection history. There are a number of approaches that could be taken to ensure relevant information from port inspections is made available to CPCs—from posting each report on the password-protected section of the ICCAT website in a searchable format to extracting and posting basic information from these reports, including the name of the inspected vessel, its flag State, its ICCAT record number (if any), the date and location of the inspection, and information on the port State conducting the inspection. As Recommendation 12-07 will be reviewed at the 2018 IMM Working Group meeting in April, we suggest this matter be discussed during the relevant agenda item with a view to finding an appropriate way forward. In addition, mechanisms used by other RFMOs, such as IOTC, to share information on port inspections could help inform consideration of this matter by the IMM Working Group.

Authorized Vessel List: With respect to the Secretariat's request in Section 7 regarding the need to avoid duplication of vessels included on the authorized vessel list and ensure that complete vessel information is reported, the United States would like to commend the Secretariat on its extensive efforts in this regard. We fully agree that it is important for CPCs to work to ensure that their authorized vessel lists are up-to-date and accurate, including by cross-referencing vessel information against previously reported information and by providing all required data. Toward that end, we agree that CPCs should request from the Secretariat a dataset of both its active and inactive vessels whenever it develops an update to its authorized vessel list submission to avoid the creation of duplicate records. We would note, however, that updating vessel list records does not extend to revising information for inactive vessels unless and until they become active and are authorized once again. Additionally, paragraph 2 of Rec. 13-13 requires certain information to be provided, such as an international radio call sign (IRCS), only if assigned. It does not create a positive obligation for vessels to obtain an IRCS as implied in the Secretariat's report. We look forward to discussing this matter further at the April IMM Working Group meeting as needed.

IUU Vessel List: In Section 10, the Secretariat's Report to PWG also requested clarification on the procedures for intersessional removal of vessels from the IUU vessel list under paragraphs 19 and 20 of Rec. 11-18. In the U.S. view, paragraph 19 requires that a majority of CPCs respond affirmatively to a delisting request in order for a vessel to be removed from the list intersessionally. Lack of response from a CPC should not be interpreted as agreement with an intersessional delisting request. This is consistent with the applicable decision rule for removing a vessel from the provisional IUU list during the Annual meeting, where a decision to delist would require either consensus or a majority agreeing to the delisting. We do not believe ICCAT established a process in Rec. 11-18 whereby it is easier to delist a vessel from the IUU list intersessionally than at the Annual meeting. However, as acknowledged at the 2017 Annual meeting, the IUU vessel listing procedures, in particular for cross listing and intersessional delisting vessels, have been the subject of considerable confusion over the years and should be reviewed. The United States looks forward to discussing possible improvements to these processes at the upcoming IMM Working Group meeting.

Appendix 10 to ANNEX 4.3

Feedback from 2018 IMM on Performance Review

Performance Review Feedback							Not started/little progress		
							Progress/requiring additional work		
						Completed/significant progress made			
Chapter	Recommendations	LEAD	Timeframe	Proposed Next Steps	Observations/ Comments	Action to be taken, or already taken; *** INPUT FROM 2018 IMM ***	Completion status following annual meeting	Comments	
Data Collection and Sharing	6. The Panel recommends that a mechanism be found to allow minor occasional harvesters without allocations to report their catches without being subject to sanctions.	COC	M						
	6bis. The Panel concludes that ICCAT scores well in terms of agreed forms and protocols for data collection but, while progress has been made, more needs to be done particularly for bycatch species and discards.	SCRS	M						

Port State Measures	67. Amends Rec 12-07 to ensure more consistency with the PSM Agreement, in particular by including definitions and requiring CPCs to impose key port State measures such as denial or use of port in certain scenarios.	PWG	S	Refer to PWG for consideration and appropriate action.		IMM discussed at the April 2018 meeting; Agenda Item 5.d.; Proposal is still under consideration.		
	68. Closely follows IOTC's efforts to enhance effective implementation of its port State measures through, inter alia, its e-PSM system, and, where appropriate, adopt similar efforts within ICCAT.	PWG	S/M	Refer to Online Reporting Working Group for analysis.	South Africa is already sending Port Inspection Reports to ICCAT through ePSM. IOTC have updated the referential tables to include the necessary ICCAT codes/references etc.	The Working Group on Online Reporting agreed that exploration of developments in other fora would be appropriate before any decisions were taken, such as the forthcoming FAO workshop which would also give consideration to Port State Measure implementation or the next Kobe meeting. The WG on Online Reporting agreed to await the outcomes of this workshop and to revert to this issue intersessionally during the coming year.		
	69. Make more efforts to assess substantive compliance with its port State measures and to specify consequences for non-compliance.	COC	S	Refer to PWG to review implementation and determine any technical improvements that might be needed. Refer to COC to consider any issues non-compliance and		IMM considered amendments to Rec. 12-07 that are intended to improve the Commission's review of compliance with the measure. PWG will be able to use any recommendations coming from the COC in order to make technical improvements in that area.		

				recommend appropriate actions.				
Integrated MCS Measures	70. Gives priority to adopting a modern HSBI scheme - through a Recommendation and not a Resolution - that extends to all key ICCAT fisheries as such, but can be applied in practice to selected fisheries according to the COC's compliance priorities.	PWG	M	Refer to the PWG as work on this matter is ongoing.		Adopting a modern high seas boarding inspection scheme remains open, and text remains on the table to facilitate those discussions. Discussed at the April 2018 IMM; Agenda Item 5c; A proposal was accepted for a voluntary measure that promotes the concept of at-sea inspector exchanges.		
	71. Evaluates the need and appropriateness of further expanding coverage by national and non-national on-board observers for fishing and fishing activities.	PWG	M	Refer to PWG for consideration and also the Panels as observer program requirements can be and some have been agreed as part of management measures for specific fisheries.	SCRS evaluation of current observer program requirements is pending due to lack of reporting.	Expansion of observer coverage by ICCAT remains under consideration. CPC's concerned are also requested to report on their observer coverage by way of their annual report. Request the Compliance Committee to confirm whether CPCs are complying with the requirements contained in Rec. 16-14.		
	72. Considers expanding VMS coverage, adopting uniform standards, specifications and procedures, and gradually transforming its VMS system into a fully centralized VMS.	PWG	S	Refer to PWG for consideration as Rec. 14-07 must be reviewed per para 6 in 2017. Also refer to the Panels as VMS requirements can be and some have been agreed as part of		Discussed at the April 2018 IMM Meeting; Agenda item 5a; A proposal was introduced and discussions are ongoing.		

			management measures for specific fisheries.				
73. Works towards replacing all SDPs with electronic CDPs that are harmonized among tuna RFMOs where appropriate - in particular for bigeye tuna - while taking account of the envisaged FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Catch Documentation Schemes.	PWG	M	Refer to PWG for further analysis.		Discussed at the April 2018 IMM Meeting; Agenda item 4b; IMM requested that the Secretariat in time for the 2018 Commission annual meeting compile information to inform Commission consideration of the risks posed to ICCAT stocks by IUU activities and/or other potential threats and possible ways to address any such threats, such as the use of Catch Documentation Schemes.		
74. Considers, in the interest of transparency, incorporating all measures relating to distinct MCS measures - in particular transshipment and on-board observers - in one single ICCAT Recommendation, so that CPCs have only one reference document to consult.	PWG	M	Refer to PWG for assessment of the pros and cons of this approach.		Because of the significant administrative burden of this exercise, it is suggested to maintain separate recommendations, to systematically delete obsolete measures to refresh references in the remaining ones.		

Cooperative Mechanisms to Detect and Deter Non-Compliance	79. The Panel recommends that independent information from the fisheries, through inspections at sea and in port, and through effective observer programmes, are made available to the COC, in order for the COC to conduct an effective compliance assessment.	PWG	M	Refer to PWG to consider if there are technical reasons for implementation failures and how to address them if so; Refer to COC to consider extent of any non-compliance and recommend appropriate action.	Some independent information is available to COC due to ICCAT requirements but implementation and reporting problems exist in some cases that can limit evaluation of compliance by CPCs.	Observer and inspection reports are made available to the Commission and subsidiary bodies. Discussed at the April 2018 IMM Meeting; Agenda item 5d; A proposal was introduced and discussions are ongoing.		
Market-Related Measures	84. The Panel, noting Rec. 12-09, commends ICCAT for its initiatives in this area and recommends that catch documents, preferably electronic, be introduced for bigeye and swordfish species.	PWG	M	See Recommendation 73 above for proposed action.		Discussed at the April 2018 IMM Meeting; Agenda item 4b; IMM requested that the Secretariat in time for the 2018 Commission annual meeting compile information to inform Commission consideration of the risks posed to ICCAT stocks by IUU activities and/or other potential threats and possible ways to address any such threats, such as the use of Catch Documentation Schemes.		

<p>Reporting Requirements</p>	<p>85. The Panel recommends that ICCAT, though its Panels 1 to 4, should undertake an overall review of the current reporting requirements, on a stock by stock basis, both in relation to Task I and Task II data contained in the myriad of recommendations, in order to establish whether the reporting obligations in question could be reduced or simplified.</p>	<p>PWG</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Refer to PWG to undertake this review and present its findings and suggestions to the Panels for their approval.</p>	<p>Such a review will involve many recommendations including proposals developed by virtually all the Panels. PWG is well placed to take a comprehensive look at all these measures. SCRS and the Secretariat could also provide support for this work where appropriate. The online reporting group has also requested that requirements be streamlined and simplified.</p>	<p>Request that, after receiving input from the Online Reporting Working Group by 30 June, the Secretariat circulate to Subsidiary Bodies a list of reporting requirements and how they are used. The Panel can consider which of these reporting requirements is redundant or unnecessary.</p>		
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<p>87. The Panel recommends that ICCAT consider introducing a provision in new recommendations, whereby the introduction of new reporting requirements would only become effective after a 9 to 12 month period has elapsed. This would assist Developing States to adapt to new requirements. This is particularly relevant where the volume and/or nature of the reporting have changed significantly. The difficulties Developing States encounter in introducing new administrative/reporting requirements at short notice, is well documented in the compliance context. The option for Developed CPCs to apply immediately the new reporting requirements may of course be maintained, if those CPCs consider it opportune.</p>	<p>COM - to be considered by all bodies</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to all ICCAT bodies that can recommend binding reporting requirements for consideration when developing such recommendations. Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.</p>		<p>A global standard may not be appropriate. Application should be handled on a case-by-case basis rather than a blanket coverage for all recommendations</p>		
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Confidentiality	97. Considers further improvements, for instance by making more of its data and documents publicly available and - as regards documents - explaining the reasons for classifying certain documents as confidential.	COM - referred to PWG	M	Refer the issue to the Commission / PWG and SCRS to begin a review of ICCAT's rules on confidentiality and their application and needed adjustments can be identified, if any.		There is merit in the SCRS reviewing data confidentiality rules and consider processes within other RFMOs. The PWG should consider this recommendation at the 2018 annual meeting.		
	98. Conducts a review of its Rules and Procedures on Data Confidentiality as envisaged in its paragraph 33, taking into account the need for harmonization among tuna RFMOs consistent with Rec KIII-1. As part of this review, it should adopt an ICCAT's Information Security Policy (ISP), where appropriate.	PWG	M	Refer the issue to the PWG and SCRS to begin a review of ICCAT's rules on confidentiality and their application and needed adjustments can be identified, if any.		There is merit in an external review of the Secretariat's current security policies. The PWG should consider this recommendation at the 2018 annual meeting.		
Capacity building - port State measures	110 a) Urges developing CPCs to make the necessary efforts to assist the ICCAT Secretariat in identifying their capacity building needs;	PWG	S	Refer to the PWG where work is already underway through the Port Inspection Experts Group (established per Rec. 16-18).		The Port Inspection Expert Group had developed a two tier questionnaire which has been circulated to all CPCs and responses have been requested by 30APR. Discussed at the April 2018 IMM Meeting; Agenda item 5d; A proposal was introduced and discussions are ongoing.		

<p>110 b) Closely coordinates the operation of Rec 14-08 with existing and future capacity building initiatives undertaken by other intergovernmental bodies.</p>	<p>PWG</p>	<p>S/M</p>	<p>Refer to the PWG where work is already underway through the Port Inspection Experts Group (established per Rec. 16-18).</p>	<p>The Port Inspection Expert Group invited an expert (funded by ABNJ) to its meeting last October, in order to better learn of initiatives and developments in that RFMO. Discussed at the April 2018 IMM Meeting; Agenda item 5d; A proposal was introduced and discussions are ongoing.</p>		
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4.4 REPORT OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE STANDING WORKING GROUP TO ENHANCE DIALOGUE BETWEEN FISHERIES SCIENTISTS AND MANAGERS (SWGSM) (Funchal, Portugal, 21-23 May 2018)

1. Opening of the meeting

Mr. Raul Delgado, Chair of the Commission and of the Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue Between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM), welcomed all participants and introduced the SCRS Chair, Dr. David Die. Mr. José Sousa Vasconcelos (Regional Secretary of Agriculture and Fisheries) welcomed all delegations to Madeira and emphasized the importance of the work of this meeting, as fisheries are of critical importance to coastal communities in the region and throughout the Atlantic.

2. Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements

The Chair reminded everyone that the dialogue is intended to be an informal forum for discussions, with scientists and managers on equal footing. He also suggested that an updated road map would be an important product of this meeting, as it will help to improve communication and transparency and keep the focus on the key decision points.

The Agenda was adopted without changes and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.4**.

The Executive Secretary, Mr. Driss Meski, described the meeting arrangements and noted that the following 23 Contracting Parties were present: Algeria, Angola, Belize, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, European Union, Gabon, Honduras, Japan, Liberia, Mauritania, Mexico, Namibia, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, São Tomé e Príncipe, Senegal, South Africa, Tunisia, Turkey, United States and Uruguay. He also noted that one Cooperating Non-Contracting Party Entity and Fishing Entity Chinese Taipei was in attendance.

The following non-governmental organizations also attended the meeting: International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) and The Ocean Foundation.

The List of Participants is appended as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.4**.

3. Nomination of Rapporteur

The United States nominated Ms. Rachel O'Malley as Rapporteur.

4. SWGSM Terms of Reference (Rec. 14-13, Res. 16-21) and outcomes of previous SWGSM (Dialogue) meetings

The SCRS Chair, Dr. David Die, recalled that the first meeting of the ICCAT's SWGSM (or the Dialogue Group) took place in 2014. At its second meeting in 2015, the Dialogue Group considered issues related to the identification of reference points, development of harvest control rules (HCRs), and application of management strategy evaluation (MSE). This work was continued with a focus on northern albacore during a Panel 2 intersessional meeting in 2016. Much of the third SWGSM Meeting (2017) was focused on northern albacore, which the Commission established as the "pilot stock" in *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Harvest Control Rules for the North Atlantic Albacore Stock* (Rec. 15-04).

Dr. Die emphasized the importance of developing specific recommendations through the SWGSM dialogue for the SCRS and the Commission to consider. He acknowledged that southern stocks are not included among the current priorities for MSE work but noted that we can learn from experiences with northern stocks and apply that knowledge to work on additional stocks in the future.

It was agreed that the Terms of Reference should be reviewed under "Other Matters" and that it would be important to consider making clarifications to the mandate of the SWGSM.

5. Ongoing MSE initiatives

5.1 ICCAT training courses

The Secretariat reported that it had organized a series of three scientific workshops dedicated to MSE, with financial support from the European Union. Scientists from developing and non-developing CPCs have participated, and there has been positive feedback from participants who are learning software and techniques used to implement MSE simulations. Unfortunately, because of funding limitations, these workshops were being conducted only in English, which is the standard practice of the SCRS. It is the Secretariat's intention to hold similar workshops in Spanish and French, but funding for this effort needs to be identified.

The SCRS Chair gave a brief presentation in three languages with an overview of MSE basic concepts and terminology. These concepts are also reflected in the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Development of Harvest Control Rules and Management Strategy Evaluation* (Rec. 15-07).

Dr. Die described three main components of the management procedures (MP). The first component is the selection of data to be used. The second main component is comprised of the operational management objectives and associated performance indicators. The third component is the set of candidate HCRs that are tested; all candidate HCRs are evaluated using the same performance indicators and through the same approach. The testing is accomplished with a simulation model that attempts to describe the dynamics of the stock. The model includes statistical uncertainty in the knowledge about system dynamics based on hypotheses relating to biological parameters, data collection, population processes, and how management measures will affect catch. The results of these simulations allow the Commission to evaluate the performance of the candidate HCRs by examining trade-offs among objectives related to stock status, safety, stability, and yield. This process provides managers with more information in advance to inform management and offers greater predictability in future TACs.

5.2 Kobe MSE Process

The Joint MSE Technical Working Group was created during the Third Joint Meeting of Tuna RFMOs (the "Kobe process") in 2011. Its work was conducted by correspondence until the first meeting hosted by ICCAT in 2016. The Kobe MSE Working Group's objectives are to: i) review current MSE practice, successes, failures and potential areas for collaboration; ii) discuss progress on MSE; and iii) identify future actions focusing on areas for collaboration. To date, the Group has focused on an albacore case study across t-RFMOs, providing an opportunity to test different approaches, and allowing rigorous, transparent, and replicable testing of methods and software. Funding from the GEF/ABNJ programme will support a second meeting of the Group in June 2018 in Seattle.

5.3 Other (MSE communicator, ABNJ)

The topic of MSE communication was deferred until later in the Agenda. The SCRS Chair noted that in his personal capacity he had participated in the last two of the workshops of the series of ABNJ-supported workshops, conducted in Spanish, English and French. These workshops provided participants with a hands-on opportunity to test the model simulations and practice the application of the basic concepts of HCR and MSE.

6. Status of the development of Harvest Control Rules (HCRs) and actions to be taken in:

6.1 N-ALB

The SCRS Chair reviewed the elements of Rec. 17-04, which established an interim HCR for northern albacore. It sets the reference points, the specific HCR formula, and the formula for setting the appropriate fishing mortality rate, resulting in the TAC for 2018-2020. The SCRS will continue to develop the MSE framework, and the Commission will review the interim HCR in 2020 with a view to adopting a long-term management procedure.

Peer review of MSE and HCRs adopted in 2017

The Dialogue Group was reminded that Rec. 17-04 calls for the SCRS to initiate a peer review of the northern albacore MSE. In April 2018, the Secretariat issued a Call for Tenders for the peer review with preliminary work to be presented to the SCRS this year. No applications have been received. Given the unique skill set required to carry out the terms of the contract, other options must be considered to accomplish the necessary tasks. There was general agreement on the following:

- the tasks should be split into a technical review of code and a high-level review of approach;
- the Call for Tenders should be reissued and limited to the technical review of code;
- CPCs should urge qualified scientists to consider responding to the Call for Tenders;
- the original team that produced the MSE will present new work to the SCRS in September 2018.

The Dialogue Group took note that the Kobe MSE Technical Working Group convening in June 2018 would be a gathering of experts who may have appropriate skills to evaluate the overall approach. While such a review was not specifically anticipated in the mandate of the Technical Working Group, these technical experts could be asked to provide a high-level review of the northern albacore MSE. If the Kobe Working Group is willing to undertake this work, the outputs will need to be reviewed and next steps considered. If the Kobe Working Group cannot conduct the review, other options for review will need to be considered.

It was also acknowledged that, given the lack of response to the Call for Tenders, it was unlikely that the technical aspects of the peer review could be completed in order to inform on a reconsideration of the interim HCR for northern albacore at the 2018 Commission meeting. Finally, it was noted that there are still some broader questions with regard to the optimum timing and process of independent reviews. The process that was followed for northern albacore may need to be modified with respect to other ICCAT MSEs.

Definition of exceptional circumstances

Dr. Die recalled that in Rec. 17-04, paragraphs 12-14, the Commission requested that the SCRS develop criteria for the identification of exceptional circumstances, taking into account, *inter alia*, the need for an appropriate balance between specificity versus flexibility in defining exceptional circumstances, and the appropriate level of robustness to ensure that exceptional circumstances are triggered only when necessary. The concept of “exceptional circumstances” has been an integral part of the process in establishing MPs adopted in other RFMOs, such as CCSBT and NAFO, as described in Arrizabalaga *et al.* (in press).

Generally speaking, “exceptional circumstances” are triggered when reality clearly diverges from what was simulated. In this case, the existing framework of the HCR is not adequate to allow managers to respond in a manner that is appropriate to the circumstances. Examples could include: stock trajectories out of the ranges tested by the MSE, an extreme environmental regime shift, or inability to update the stock status.

Dr. Die explained that the SCRS Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods (WGSAM) has developed a set of potential principles that could inform the development of criteria for exceptional circumstances. These were shared for the Dialogue Group’s consideration. Dr. Die explained these principles are general in nature and could be modified for use with any stock. There was agreement among the Dialogue Group that the first two principles suggested at the WGSAM would signal the possibility of exceptional circumstances:

1. When there is evidence that the stock is in a state not previously considered to be plausible in the context of the MSE and/or
2. When there is evidence that the data required to apply the HCR are not available or are no longer appropriate.

Two other principles were discussed by the Dialogue Group but were not found to be acceptable criteria for exceptional circumstances in the case of North Atlantic albacore: (1) When management objectives have changed or new management objectives have been added, such that the performance indicators used in the MSE are not sufficient or appropriate for the new objectives and (2) The regular review process for MSE/HCR should include a review of the exceptional circumstances as a matter of course.

Following an extensive discussion, there was general agreement that the SCRS should define the criteria that will be used to determine what constitutes acceptable evidence for exceptional circumstances. These criteria should include the indicators to be used as evidence, the process for gathering such indicators, and the normal reference range for the indicators.

It was noted that sometimes there may be anomalies in the data; these could indicate either a temporary situation or a more significant shift. In such cases, it may be difficult to determine exactly what constitutes exceptional circumstances. There was general agreement that it would be difficult if not impossible to anticipate all such situations, and, therefore, the SCRS should use the established criteria while exercising professional judgment in making a determination.

It was acknowledged that it is the responsibility of the SCRS to determine the existence and severity of the exceptional circumstances and provide management advice to the Commission accordingly. It was noted that in cases where exceptional circumstances may be occurring, it may be valuable for the SCRS to have some input from the managers on the state of the system (e.g., change in regulations that may have affected the indices).

Some options were presented by the SCRS Chair in slide 10 of his presentation. This presentation is attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.4**. These could be used in combination depending on the nature and severity of the exceptional circumstances. It is then up to the Commission to take pre-agreed action based on the management advice provided by SCRS.

One CPC suggested that this exercise should be an immediate priority for stocks other than northern albacore. The SCRS Chair clarified that the need for exceptional circumstances to be specified does not arise until an HCR is in place.

6.2 BFT

Status update on MSE-related work by the SCRS

Rec. 17-06 established an interim conservation and management plan for western Atlantic bluefin tuna, setting a TAC for 2018-2020 with the goal to complete an MSE by 2020. Initial work on development of the bluefin tuna MSE has been conducted by the Core Modeling Group. Dr. Die explained that the SCRS has received periodic updates, but the Bluefin tuna Species Group had limited ability to engage until recently due to the work involved with concurrent preparation of the 2017 stock assessment.

At a bluefin and swordfish MSE meeting in April 2018, the Bluefin tuna Core Modeling Group presented their work and obtained feedback from the SCRS focusing on adjustments to the bluefin tuna operating models. Several initial candidate management procedures (MPs) were proposed and tested on a preliminary basis. The Bluefin MSE is designed to take into account mixing between western Atlantic and eastern Atlantic/Mediterranean stocks. It is spatially explicit with 10 geographic areas. There were separate candidate MPs for the eastern and western Atlantic areas; generally, the performance of these candidate MPs was tested in pairs.

All of the initial candidate MPs were based on an empirical approach (i.e., the total allowable catch is a function of abundance indices). This is different from the approach used for the NALB MSE, which was based on a population model. Several CPCs expressed concern about the limitations of relying solely on an empirical approach. Some of the surveys that the indices are based on have existed only for a short time period, and sometimes those indices produce inconsistent results making it difficult to test across a range of scenarios to account for uncertainties. These CPCs requested that the SCRS also conduct analyses of MPs that are based on modeling approaches. Dr. Die replied that it is possible for the modeling team from any CPCs to propose model-based approaches.

It was also noted that a serious limitation of the current bluefin tuna operating model was that it could not be used to evaluate the current management strategy of $F_{0.1}$. Several parties noted that it would be important for the Commission to be able to evaluate the $F_{0.1}$ management strategy through the MSE process and that this would help the Commission make the transition from the $F_{0.1}$ strategy to a set of management procedures. Toward that end, the SCRS Chair was asked to what extent the operating model could be modified to evaluate $F_{0.1}$ and inform the Commission about continuing the $F_{0.1}$ strategy. Dr. Die responded that efforts could be made to test the performance of the status quo management strategy despite the limitations of the current operating model.

Several CPCs noted that the April 2018 meeting resulted in many suggestions to improve the MSE process for bluefin. Scientists participating in the Bluefin/Swordfish MSE meeting identified priority actions including closer consideration of stock mixing, B_{MSY} calculations, future recruitment scenarios, abundance indices, and definition of key uncertainties. These issues were recognized as important considerations for revising the operating models. The Core Modeling Group will meet on 24 and 25 September 2018, which is open to any interested parties, and will provide an update on their work at the 2018 SCRS Bluefin tuna Species Group meeting and consult with other experts on the margins of that meeting.

An SCRS meeting focused solely on the Bluefin tuna MSE is planned for January 2019. The SCRS may need four such meetings to advance their work given the complexity of this MSE. Dr. Die noted that any time the modelers make substantial decisions, the SCRS should review those decisions before they are programmed into the software. It was recognized that the original road map adopted by the Commission was too ambitious and that the involvement of the Bluefin tuna Species Group is crucial at this stage. The estimated delay in the timeline for bluefin tuna is at least six months, which should allow ICCAT to remain on track to consider candidate MPs for possible adoption in 2020.

Consideration of Candidate Management Procedures

As explained in the update on MSE-related work underway within the SCRS, outputs from initial testing of candidate MPs for bluefin tuna were not ready for review and consideration at this meeting.

Canada presented a paper to open the discussion of management objectives for WBFT. The document is included as **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.4**. A distinction was made between conceptual and operational management objectives. *Conceptual* management objectives are high-level goals, while *operational* objectives add a quantitative element, such as a measurable target, a specific probability of achieving or avoiding a reference point, and/or the desired timeframe (e.g., for rebuilding to the target biomass). The Working Group agreed to begin with consideration of conceptual management objectives as a basis for future determination of operational management objectives.

The Working Group discussed the five operational objectives contained in Canada's paper and the ways in which they might be used in combination. The objectives related to the concepts of *status*, *safety*, *stability*, and *yield*. Some of them are inter-related; this allows for a more nuanced approach to evaluating how different candidate MPs are successful at meeting particular goals. For example, two candidate MPs could have a similar probability of staying in the green zone of the Kobe plot (*status*) but different probabilities of avoiding B_{LIM} (*safety*). Avoiding the red zone of the Kobe plot and avoiding B_{LIM} are related, but different, as biomass below the level of B_{LIM} is a more severely depleted state that presents greater risk to the stock than being above it but still in the red zone of the Kobe plot. HCRs can be designed so that if the biomass falls within the red zone this can be quickly corrected by reducing catch, and thus avoiding falling below B_{LIM} .

One CPC asked that SCRS consider and provide advice on the relationship between the two different proposed Kobe plot-related management objectives, one that sets a probability of being in the green zone and the other that sets a probability of avoiding the red zone. Another CPC suggested that other objectives could be considered, such as economic benefits or economic stability. There was consensus that a limitation on the change in TAC from one management period to the next would be preferable to establishing a desired probability for stability. With regard to imposing limits on TAC change, it was noted that this can have substantial adverse impacts on stock safety and status, and on yield depending on how these limits are applied. In the case of northern albacore, TAC change limits were not imposed unless $B_{cur} \geq B_{thresh}$ (i.e., B_{MSY}).

A CPC suggested that the specification of a time period for the status and safety objectives in Canada's draft is not necessary but that it would be important to incorporate a time period into objectives relating to rebuilding an overfished stock. Canada explained that their intention was to convey that a temporal element could be considered for other objectives as well (e.g., the number of years a given MP is projected to maintain the stock in the green zone). Another CPC agreed that establishing a time period is most critical in situations when the stock requires rebuilding.

Canada explained that their proposal was developed from the western Atlantic bluefin tuna perspective but could be a basis for discussing eastern Atlantic objectives as well. The Working Group discussed whether there should be combined objectives for western and eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna, and whether levels of probability should be the same or different. One CPC noted that given the effects of stock mixing, it would make sense to have connections between objectives for the western and eastern Atlantic. When measurable targets are established, they might be consistent for both east and west, or they might be specific to an

individual stock, if appropriate, given differences in the fisheries. However, a CPC also highlighted that there is currently a lack of understanding about the impact that such an approach could have on the respective management frameworks for the western and eastern fisheries respectively, and that, at this stage, it is, therefore, paramount to also develop operating models without mixing being taken into account, and management procedures which can be applicable without adopting combined objectives for the two fisheries. The CPC highlighted that failing to acknowledge this could potentially result in significant challenges for the adoption of HCRs for bluefin tuna. Another CPC supported the view that SCRS should, therefore, develop Operating Models both with and without taking mixing into consideration.

The SCRS Chair noted that the first three objectives relate to the western stock, but objectives 4 and 5 refer to bluefin tuna *caught* in the western area. Dr. Doug Butterworth, current convenor of the bluefin tuna Core Modeling Group, explained that the operating model is designed to look at both kinds of statistics (those relating to stocks and to fisheries) and that this is critical because of mixing. It was noted that due to the much larger size of the eastern stock, catches in the east have relatively more of an impact on the western stock, and that this could be considered with respect to objectives related to all four concepts, *status, safety, stability, and yield*. It was also noted that MSE helps managers understand the tradeoffs when balancing conflicting objectives. There was general agreement that additional feedback from SCRS would be helpful to understand how a suite of management objectives would work together, so that the Commission has the information it needs to inform decisions about which objectives to evaluate in the MSE process.

Transparency and Communication of MSE results

Dr. Victor Restrepo of ISSF presented an information paper on “Improving Communication: The Key Requirement to Improve the Effectiveness of MSE Process.” The summary of this information paper is included as **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.4**. The paper described a January 2018 workshop attended by 22 experts and representatives from RFMOs and highlighted some general principles identified by that Group: build understanding and trust; target key individuals or groups; use analogies; maintain consistency in messaging and presentation; use two-way communication with true dialogue; and dedicate sufficient resources to the process. The paper identified two ways in which RFMOs can improve their MSE processes. The first is through the use of formally constituted dialogue groups as a forum for exchange at the management-science interface, and the second is through development of engaging visual communication tools for conveying key results to different audiences in a consistent way.

There was discussion about how ICCAT can improve the dialogue between scientists and managers, potentially through organizational changes, as well as through the communication tools that are used to share information related to decision making. Some of these improvements could be implemented through changes to the SWGSM Terms of Reference. It was agreed to return to this important issue later in the agenda.

Dr. Die highlighted some related recommendations from the SCRS WGSAM, which met in early May 2018:

- SCRS Species Group rapporteurs should attend all meetings on MSE;
- a trial specification document should be maintained for every MSE process;
- dedicated sources of funding for MSE should be identified by the Commission;
- a page focused on MSE should be created on the ICCAT web site.

These suggestions were well-received by the SWGSM. It was noted that the issues of transparency and communication are relevant to the MSE process for all stocks/fisheries and that greater consistency and harmonization among the RFMOs with respect to these matters could enhance understanding of the MSE process for all concerned.

6.3 North swordfish

Status update on MSE-related work by the SCRS

The SCRS Chair gave an overview of preliminary work that used a simplified MSE to compare the outcomes of actual management measures for North Atlantic swordfish with a theoretical application of harvest control rules during the same historical timeframe. The study looked at projected outcomes in 2019 and evaluated the performance of each approach (i.e., actual management during that timeframe and theoretical management under HCRs). This study was designed to be informative; it was not intended as a basis for future management.

The focus of scientific work in 2018 will be to establish the database to be used as a basis for development and conditioning of the operating model. A Call for Tenders was issued by the Secretariat in April 2018 and a contract is now in place for a technical expert to initiate this work. The MSE process is expected to take 2-3 years, which will require some adjustments to the roadmap. Next steps will be to develop an operating model framework, describe the uncertainties and determine which to account for in early stages of testing, and conduct initial conditioning of the alternative operating models. The SCRS Swordfish Species Group will be closely involved in the work of the contracted technical expert.

There was general agreement that the SCRS should consider an independent review at an early stage in the development of MSE for North Atlantic swordfish. The operating model could incorporate some assumptions about mixing for the North and South Atlantic stocks, although this will not be as complex as for bluefin tuna. One CPC pointed out that the overall HCR/MSE roadmap is focused on the northern hemisphere in the initial 5-year phase. For swordfish, in particular, there is a need for capacity building among scientists in the southern hemisphere so they can benefit from this experience and apply this knowledge to future work on ICCAT stocks in the southern hemisphere. The SCRS Chair agreed that this is an important aspect of the work.

Identification of operational management objectives (e.g., probability of achieving and/or maintaining the stock in the green zone of the Kobe plot and probability of avoiding the limit reference point)

Canada presented a paper to facilitate discussion of management objectives for North Atlantic swordfish. The paper is included as **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.4**, and it was noted that many potential objectives were similar to those discussed for bluefin tuna. There was further discussion about the interconnection of objectives related to *status, safety, stability, and yield*.

One additional objective that was included for discussion purposes related to minimizing catch of juveniles. Canada explained that the idea for this came from the minimum size restriction in Rec. 16-03. One CPC suggested that increasing MSY with different size selectivity in the fisheries could be one option. Another CPC suggested that it could be challenging to make this particular objective operational.

One CPC noted that the fishing mortality rate is specified for the target species and asked how incidental catches and by-catch are considered. This was acknowledged as an important observation that could be explored further. Another CPC noted that it may be challenging to find sufficient data to evaluate this.

6.4 Tropical tunas

Management of individual stocks vs management of tropical tunas complex

The SCRS Chair recalled that this issue was discussed at the SWGSM meeting in 2017 and that there was some general consensus that a multispecies approach could be preferred for the MSE for tropical tunas. It was highlighted, however, that it would be practical and necessary to focus near-term management actions on bigeye, whose stock status is poor, rather than wait on development of a multispecies MSE. On that basis, a Call for Tenders was issued for the development of modeling approaches to support the tropical tunas MSE process. The contract was awarded to a consortium that will work directly with the Tropical Tunas Species Group and its rapporteurs, the SCRS Chair, and in consultation with the Secretariat to develop a detailed work plan. Initial tasks include establishing the database to be used as a basis for operating model development, as well as specifying the uncertainties, scenarios, and robustness tests to be considered as part of the MSE process. One CPC, however, highlighted that, due to the nature of some tropical tuna fisheries, a multispecies approach might not be appropriate because it could have disproportionate effects on the TAC set for some stocks, and that, in addition to the multispecies approach, HCRs should, therefore, also be developed on a single species basis. One CPC stressed that any multispecies MSE should be developed in a manner that avoids any such disproportionate effects.

Work outlined in the initial Call for Tenders is to be completed by December 2018, but it is anticipated that this work will continue for at least 2-3 years. The consortium will provide an update to the SCRS Tropical Tunas Species Group in September 2018. Dr. Die characterized this MSE as the most challenging of any that ICCAT is undertaking and emphasized that dedicated funding and scientific support will be needed. He agreed with interventions from several CPCs noting that with tropical tuna assessments scheduled in 2018, 2019, and 2020, there will be little time for the SCRS to devote to MSE-related work.

Identification and review of performance indicators as proposed by Rec. 16-01, Annex 9

Dr. Die recalled that [Rec. 16-01](#) included a set of proposed performance indicators to be used in an MSE for tropical tunas, reflecting the concepts of *status*, *safety*, *stability*, and *yield*. The SCRS reviewed these performance indicators in 2017. Mr. Shep Helguile, Chair of Panel 1, summarized the Terms of Reference for the intersessional meeting of Panel 1 scheduled for July 2018. It was emphasized that CPCs need to start thinking about the candidate management procedures that the Commission would like the SCRS to begin testing through MSE. It will be important to have a robust discussion of the Commission's conceptual management objectives for tropical tunas, which will form the basis for determining operational objectives at a later stage. The performance indicators could also be further refined.

The SCRS Chair noted that there is currently no performance indicator related to juvenile catch of tropical tunas. He recalled that the Commission in Rec. 16-01 requested an analysis of different proportions of juvenile catch, and associated effects on MSY, and explained that some analysis related to this request is expected at the bigeye tuna stock assessment meeting in July. Several CPCs emphasized that by-catch of small tropical tunas is an issue that must be addressed in the near-term. Another CPC expressed concern that with a multispecies approach, it will be far more challenging to keep all three stocks in the green zone of the Kobe plot.

The observer from ISSF suggested that the Commission could consider managing stock complexes with an indicator species (typically, the species within the complex that is most vulnerable to fishing). The SCRS Chair recognized this as a good suggestion and indicated that he would follow up with the consortium and the Tropical Tunas Working Group to discuss this approach. The outcomes of the bigeye tuna stock assessment will also inform the consideration of this approach. It was generally agreed that the MSE process for tropical tunas will take more time than the others because of the multispecies aspect and that the Commission should adopt more immediate management actions to end overfishing, as needed, and begin stock recovery, in accordance with SCRS advice.

7. Review of the 5-year road map for the development of MSE/HCR for priority stocks. Possible need for extension based on complexity of outstanding species

The SWGSM recalled that on the basis of Rec. 15-07, the Commission adopted a 5-year road map in 2016 to guide future work on the development of HCRs and application of MSE for priority ICCAT stocks. This roadmap was originally based on estimates from the SCRS of the soonest possible dates that HCR/MSE related work could be completed.

Discussions resulted in a revised, more detailed road map through 2021, included as **Appendix 7 to ANNEX 4.4**. The SCRS Chair characterized the road map as a "wish list" that would guide the SCRS, recognizing that the SCRS may not be able to accomplish everything within the timeframe requested by the Commission. Conducting stock assessments requires a major investment of the scientists' time, including for data preparatory work.

It was agreed that the updated road map would be referred to the SCRS for review and adjustment during its 2018 Species Group and Plenary meetings. Following input from the SCRS, the road map will be further discussed and, as needed, refined by the Commission at the 2018 Annual meeting.

8. Resourcing of MSE technical work, dialogue, capacity building and communication of MSE process

There was a discussion of current realities related to scarce resourcing and technical expertise, and the need for broad participation within the SCRS as well as independent reviews. Dr. Die recalled that the SCRS developed a comprehensive proposal that would integrate resource needs to conduct MSE for all priority stocks (Appendix 13 to the *Report for Biennial Period 2016-2017, Part II (2017), Vol. 2*), but this was not fully funded in the Commission's budget for 2018-2019. The Commission and the SCRS will need to work together so that sufficient time, funding, and specialized expertise are devoted to this important work.

The Chair emphasized that broad participation in this process is critical. This effort can be supported by continuing to improve the scientist-manager dialogue, strengthen communication, and support capacity building efforts. Several specific ideas were developed for inclusion in the recommendations under Agenda Item 10.

9. Feedback on road map to implement Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management: current status and the way forward

Dr. Maria Jose Juan Gordá presented an information paper. The summary to this document is attached as **Appendix 8 to ANNEX 4.4.**

There was support for idea of a regional pilot project on EBFM that would build on existing initiatives and allow the SCRS to prioritize its efforts. The focus should be on integrating existing data and knowledge. It was noted that an ecosystem-based approach can pick up signals that productivity of the system is changing and anticipate potential implications for ICCAT stocks and stock complexes. However, the SCRS Chair cautioned that linking this work to single-species advice would be difficult. Instead, ICCAT should consider the resulting qualitative advice about the ecosystem to inform species-specific management.

10. Recommendations to the Commission

The Chair summarized discussions during earlier points of the Agenda, and there was agreement on the following:

North Atlantic albacore:

- Peer review tasks should be split into a technical review of code and a high-level review of approach;
- Call for Tenders should be reissued and limited to the technical review of code;
- Kobe MSE Technical Working Group should be asked to provide a high-level review of the northern albacore MSE.

Exceptional circumstances:

- The SCRS should define the criteria that will be used to determine what constitutes acceptable evidence for exceptional circumstances under a given MP;
- These criteria should include the indicators to be used as evidence, the process for gathering such indicators, and the normal reference range for the indicators;
- The Commission should identify a range of appropriate management responses to be taken when exceptional circumstances occur;
- The SCRS should determine when exceptional circumstances may be occurring, and the nature and severity of the exceptional circumstances, and provide management advice to the Commission accordingly;
- The Commission should implement a pre-agreed management action.

Bluefin tuna:

- Regarding conceptual management objectives, a specific formulation was not agreed, but these should relate to status, safety, stability, and yield;
- Acknowledging that the OM is designed to evaluate impacts on individual stocks (e.g., the western stock) and fisheries (e.g., fish caught in the western area), the Commission should continue to consider management objectives in this context;
- If the Commission has a preference on the interval or extent of the TAC changes, this should be notified to the SCRS;
- The SCRS should continue developing and refining the MSE, which may include the following:
 - Test a model-based approach, in addition to empirical approaches;
 - Evaluate status quo ($F_{0.1}$), if feasible;

- Advise on a B_{LIM} value as soon as possible;
- Test separate east and west candidate MPs jointly and separately.

North Atlantic swordfish:

- Regarding conceptual management objectives, a specific formulation was not agreed, but these should relate to status, safety, stability, and yield.
- An additional management objective related to minimizing catch of juveniles needs further consideration.

Tropical tunas:

- Regarding conceptual management objectives, a specific formulation was not agreed, but these should relate to status, safety, stability, and yield.
- The SCRS and the Commission should reconsider the road map for tropical tunas, given the complexity of this multispecies fishery and frequent stock assessments.
- An additional management objective related to minimizing catch of juveniles needs further consideration.
- The SCRS should provide advice on the benefits of a mixed stock MSE, one based on the most vulnerable stock (currently bigeye tuna), or multiple MSEs for individual stocks, and the extent to which this choice is driven by management objectives.

Communications and transparency:

- Establish a dedicated MSE page on the ICCAT website;
- Review the road map at each annual meeting of the Commission and update as necessary and appropriate, taking into account intersessional updates from subsidiary bodies of the Commission and the SCRS;
- Support efforts to harmonize approaches with those of other tRFMOs, to the extent practicable (e.g., by supporting efforts to develop a common glossary);
- Consider the ideal structure of an intermediary group(s) to foster dialogue and decision making, and review the SWGSM Terms of Reference at the 2018 annual meeting to modify as necessary;
- Continue capacity building efforts, including workshops in the three official ICCAT languages.

General

- In 2018, the SCRS should update its overall budget estimate for MSE work;
- In 2018, the Commission should consider options for short-term and long-term dedicated funding to meet identified resource needs;
- The road map should be adjusted as necessary by the Commission to maintain the integrity of the process and follow relevant advice from the SCRS.

11. Other matters

It was noted that under the current Terms of Reference, the SWGSM is attempting to carry out several very different functions, including capacity building, consideration of cross-cutting policy issues and technical work on specific MPs. There was discussion about the possibility of focusing the work of the SWGSM on cross-cutting policy issues, while the Panels (working sometimes through intersessional meetings) could play a more active role in reviewing the candidate MPs for relevant stocks and providing feedback, as this approach might help to ensure the participation of CPCs active in those particular fisheries. There was also discussion of a potential role for subgroups that might provide technical input on candidate MPs and guide the decision-making process. While the efficiency of this approach was acknowledged, several CPCs expressed concern about empowering a small group to make final decisions. It was generally agreed that any sub-group must have a clear mandate and that transparency would be essential.

In light of this discussion, several CPCs expressed a desire to consider and propose possible amendments to the SWGSM Terms of Reference at the 2018 annual meeting. Turkey recalled the recommendations of the Independent Performance Review Panel relating to Rec. 14-13 and proposed the following specific changes as a starting point for any future amendments:

- New paragraph 2 of Rec. 14-13

2. The objective of the SWGSM is to enhance communication and foster mutual understanding between fisheries managers and scientists, by establishing a forum to exchange views and to support the development and effective implementation of management and capacity building strategies, in particular through, inter alia:

- Addition of a new subparagraph to paragraph 2:

“The identification of the specific mechanisms to ensure that more scientists with knowledge of the fisheries and MSE process participate in stock assessment meetings and are directly involved in assessment teams.”

It was recognized that other RFMOs could provide relevant examples that may suggest possible improvements to the SWGSM Terms of Reference. The organization and financing of the HCR/MSE process will be important considerations. These were acknowledged as critical concerns given the interrelationship between the MSE and stock assessment processes, and the limited capacity of national scientists to devote the necessary time to this growing workload.

Ad hoc capacity building course aiming to enhance participation of Managers in management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)

All were invited to participate in an interactive training exercise that demonstrated the basic concepts of MSE and the role of managers in this process. These simulations offered each delegate the opportunity to select and test candidate HCRs and observe the projected outputs of the process.

12. Adoption of Report and adjournment

The Chair thanked the participants for constructive discussions and the Secretariat and interpreters for their excellent support of the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

The report was circulated by correspondence for review and adopted.

Reference

Arrizabalaga, H., Merino G., Murua H., and Santiago J. (in press). Characterizing exceptional circumstances in ICCAT: A summary of experience in other RFMOs. Document SCRS/2018/063: 5 p.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.4**Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting (Working Group Chair)
2. Adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements
3. Nomination of Rapporteur
4. SWGSM Terms of Reference (Rec. 14-13 and Res. 16-21) and outcomes of previous SWGSM meetings
5. Ongoing MSE initiatives
 - 5.1 ICCAT training courses
 - 5.2 Kobe MSE Process
 - 5.3 Other (MSE communicator, ABNJ)
6. Status of the development of Harvest Control Rules (HCRs) and actions to be taken in:
 - 6.1 N-ALB:
 - Peer review of MSE and HCRs adopted in 2017
 - Definition of exceptional circumstances
 - 6.2 BFT:
 - Status update on MSE-related work by the SCRS
 - Consideration of candidate management procedures
 - Transparency and communication of MSE results
 - 6.3 N-SWO:
 - Status update on MSE-related work by the SCRS
 - Identification of operational management objectives (e.g., probability of achieving and/or maintaining the stock in the green zone of the Kobe plot and probability of avoiding the limit reference point)
 - Identification of performance indicators
 - 6.4 Tropical tunas:
 - Management of individual stocks vs management of tropical tuna complex
 - Identification of operational management objectives (e.g. probability of achieving and/or maintaining the stock in the green zone of the Kobe plot and probability of avoiding the limit reference point)
 - Identification and review of performance indicators as proposed by Rec. 16-01, Annex 9
7. Review of the 5-year road map for the development of MSE/HCR for priority stocks. Possible need for extension based on complexity of outstanding species
8. Resourcing of MSE technical work, dialog, capacity building and communication of MSE process

9. Feedback on road map to implement Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management: current status and the way forward
10. Recommendations to the Commission on:
 - Possible review of terms of reference of SWGSM as per (Rec. 14-13 and Res. 16-21)
 - Resourcing of MSE work
 - For stocks referred to under point 6:
 - management objectives
 - performance indicators
 - candidate management procedures and HCRs
11. Other matters
 - *Ad hoc* capacity building course aiming to enhance participation of Managers in Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)
 - Introduction to MSE: Basic Principles and concepts
 - The role of Managers in the MSE Process
 - A basic demonstration of how the MSE process functions
12. Adoption of Report and adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.4**List of Participants****CONTRACTING PARTIES****ALGERIA****Kaddour, Omar ***

Directeur du Développement de la Pêche, Ministère de l'Agriculture, du Développement Rural et de la Pêche, Route des Quatre Canons, 16001 Alger

Tel: +213 21 43 31 97, Fax: +213 21 43 31 97, E-Mail: dpmo@mpeche.gov.dz; kadomar13@gmail.com

ANGOLA**Cusso, Paulo***

Ministry of Fisheries and Sea of Angola, Avenida 4 de Fevereiro, Edificio 30, Luanda

Tel: +244 222 10759, E-Mail: pcusso@yahoo.com.br

Chilamba, Victor

Ministry of Fisheries and Sea of Angola, Avenida 4 de Fevereiro N° 30, Edificio Atlântico Marginal, C.P. 83 Luanda

Tel: +244 222 310 759, Fax: +244 222 310 199, E-Mail: victorpescas15@gmail.com

De Almeida, Jose

Ministry of Fisheries and Sea of Angola, Avenida 4 de Fevereiro, Edificio 30, Luanda

Tel: +244 222 10759, E-Mail: anterojose1974@gmail.com

BELIZE**Robinson, Robert***

Deputy Director for High Seas Fisheries, Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit, Ministry of Finance, Government of Belize, Marina Towers, Suite 204, Newtown Barracks, Belize City

Tel: +501 22 34918, Fax: +501 22 35087, E-Mail: deputydirector@bhsfu.gov.bz

CANADA**Lavigne, Elise***

Assistant Director, International Fisheries Management Bureau, Ecosystems and Fisheries Management, 200 Kent Street, 14E212, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6

Tel: +1 613 993 6695, Fax: +1 613 993 5995, E-Mail: elise.lavigne@dfo-mpo.gc.ca; elise.lavigne@mobile.gc.ca

Duprey, Nicholas

Science Advisor, Fisheries and Oceans Canada - Fish Population Science, Government of Canada, 200-401 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC V6C 3S4

Tel: +604 499 0469, E-Mail: nicholas.duprey@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Melvin, Gary

St. Andrews Biological Station - Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, 531 Brandy Cove Road, St. Andrews, New Brunswick E5B 2L9

Tel: +1 506 529 5874, Fax: +1 506 529 5862, E-Mail: gary.melvin@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

CÔTE D'IVOIRE**Shep, Helguilè***

Directeur de l'Aquaculture et des Pêches, Ministère des Ressources Animales et Halieutiques de Côte d'Ivoire, Rue des Pêcheurs; B.P. V-19, Abidjan

Tel: +225 21 35 61 69; Mob: +225 07 61 92 21, Fax: E-Mail: shelguile@yahoo.fr; shep.helguile@aviso.ci

Diaha, N'Guessan Constance

Chercheur Hydrobiologiste au Centre de Recherches Océanologiques, Ministère l'enseignement supérieur et recherche scientifique, 29, Rue des Pêcheurs - B.P. V-18, Abidjan 01

Tel: +225 2135 5880, Fax: +225 2135 1155, E-Mail: diahaconstance@yahoo.fr; constance.diaha@cro-ci.org

* Head Delegate.

Djou, Kouadio Julien

Statisticien de la Direction de l'Aquaculture et des Pêches, Chef de Service Etudes, Statistiques et Documentation, Direction de l'Aquaculture et des Pêches (DAP), Ministère des Ressources Animales et halieutiques (MIRAH), 29 Rue des pêcheurs, BP V19, Abidjan 01
Tel: +225 79 15 96 22, E-Mail: djoujulien225@gmail.com

EUROPEAN UNION

Peyronnet, Arnaud*

Directorate-General, European Commission _ DG MARE - UNIT B2 - RFMOs, Rue Joseph II - 99 03/33, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 2991 342, E-Mail: arnaud.peyronnet@ec.europa.eu

Vázquez Álvarez, Francisco Javier

European Commission DG Maritime B2 Affairs and Fisheries, Rue Joseph II - 99, 1049 Bruxelles, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 295 83 64, E-Mail: francisco-javier.vazquez-alfarez@ec.europa.eu

Abreu Gouveia, Nuno Manuel

Director Serviços, SRAP - Direção Regional de Pescas, Direção Serviços de Inspeção e Controlo – DSIC, Praça da Autonomia nº 1, Edifício da Sociedade Metropolitana de Câmara de Lobos, 9300-138 Câmara de Lobos, Portugal
Tel: +351 291 203200, Fax: +351 291 229691, E-Mail: nuno.gouveia@madeira.gov.pt

Arrizabalaga, Haritz

AZTI - Tecnalia /Itsas Ikerketa Saila, Herrera Kaia Portualde z/g, 20110 Pasaia Gipuzkoa, España
Tel: +34 94 657 40 00, Fax: +34 94 300 48 01, E-Mail: harri@azti.es

Bal, Guillaume

Marine Institute, Rinville, Oranmore, Co Galway, Ireland
Tel: +353 858 351 670, Fax: +353 9 138 7201, E-Mail: guillaume.bal@marine.ie

Ferreira de Gouveia, Lidia

Técnica Superior, Direção Regional das Pescas, Direção Serviços de Investigação – DSI, Praça de Autonomia nº 1, Edifício da Sociedade Metropolitana de Câmara de Lobos, 9300-138 Câmara de Lobos, Portugal
Tel: +351 291 203250, Fax: +351 291 229856, E-Mail: lidia.gouveia@madeira.gov.pt

Gaertner, Daniel

IRD-UMR MARBEC, CRH, CS 30171, Av. Jean Monnet, 34203 Sète Cedex, France
Tel: +33 4 99 57 32 31, Fax: +33 4 99 57 32 95, E-Mail: daniel.gaertner@ird.fr

Gordoa, Ana

Centro de Estudios Avanzados de Blanes (CEAB - CSIC), Acc. Cala St. Francesc, 14, 17300 Blanes Girona, España
Tel: +34 972 336101, E-Mail: gordoa@ceab.csic.es

Juan-Jordá, María Jose

AZTI, Marine Research Division, Herrera Kaia, Portualdea z/g, E-20110 Pasaisa Gipuzkoa, España
Tel: +34 671 072900, E-Mail: mjuanjorda@gmail.com

Lopes, Luís

Chefe de Divisao, Divisao de Recursos Externos, Av. Brasilia, 1449-030 Lisboa, Portugal
Tel: +351 213035720, Fax: +351 213035922, E-Mail: llopes@dgrm.mm.gov.pt

Mendes Henriques Delgado, Joao Manuel

Direção Regional das Pescas - Direção de Serviços de Investigação das Pescas, Estrada da Pontinha s/n, 9004-562 Madeira Funchal, Portugal
Tel: +351 291 203 243, E-Mail: joao.delgado@madeira.gov.pt

Moniz, Isadora

OPAGAC, C/ Ayala, nº 54, 28001 Madrid, España
Tel: +34 91 431 48 57, E-Mail: fip@opagac.org

Ortiz de Zárate Vidal, Victoria

Ministerio de Economía y Competitividad, Instituto Español de Oceanografía, C.O. de Santander, Promontorio de San Martín s/n, 39004 Santander Cantabria, España
Tel: +34 942 291 716, Fax: +34 942 27 50 72, E-Mail: victoria.zarate@ieo.es

Reyes, Nastassia

IRD (UMR MARBEC) CRH, Avenue Jean Monnet, CS 30171, 34203 Sète Cedex, France
Tel: +3301 440 57344; +33 642 355655, E-Mail: nastassia.reyes@ird.fr

GABON

Ibouili Ibouili, Landry Stège*

Chargé d'Etudes à la Direction Générale des Pêches et de l'Aquaculture (DGPA), BP 9498, Libreville
Tel: +241 065 05280, E-Mail: stegelandry@gmail.com

HONDURAS

Chavarría Valverde, Bernal Alberto*

Dirección General de Pesca y Acuicultura, Secretaría de Agricultura y Ganadería, Boulevard Centroamérica, Avenida la
FAO, Tegucigalpa
Tel: +506 229 08808, Fax: +506 2232 4651, E-Mail: bchavarría@lsg-cr.com

JAPAN

Miwa, Takeshi*

Assistant Director, International Affairs Division, Resources Management Department, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8907
Tel: +81 3 3502 8460, Fax: +81 3 3504 2649, E-Mail: takeshi_miwa090@maff.go.jp

Nakatsuka, Shuya

Head, Pacific Bluefin Tuna Resources Group, National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries, Japan Fisheries Research
and Education Agency, 5-7-1 Orido, Shizuoka Shimizu 424-8633
Tel: +81 543 36 6035, Fax: +81 543 36 6035, E-Mail: snakatsuka@affrc.go.jp

LIBERIA

Boeh, William Y.*

Deputy Director General for Technical Services, National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority, P.O. Box 10-90100, 1000
Monrovia 10
Tel: +231 888198006; +231 770 251 983, E-Mail: w.y.boeh@liberiafisheries.net; williamboeh92@gmail.com

MAURITANIA

Camara, Lamine*

Directeur/DARE/MPPEM, Direction de l'Aménagement des Ressources et de Etudes, Ministère des Pêches, BP: 137,
NKTT/R.I.
Tel: +222 45 29 54 41; +222 46 41 54 98, E-Mail: laminecam2000@yahoo.fr

Bouzouma, Mohamed Elmoustapha

Directeur Adjoint, Institut Mauritanien des Ressources, de l'Océanographie et des Pêches (IMROP), B.P 22, Cansado,
Nouadhibou
Tel: +222 224 21 027, Fax: +222 45 74 51 42, E-Mail: bouzouma@yahoo.fr

MEXICO

Ramírez López, Karina*

Instituto Nacional de Pesca y Acuicultura - Veracruz, Av. Ejército Mexicano No.106 - Colonia Exhacienda, Ylang Ylang,
C.P. 94298 Boca de Río Veracruz
Tel: +52 22 9130 4520, E-Mail: kramirez_inp@yahoo.com; kramirez.inp@gmail.com

NAMIBIA

Bauleth D'Almeida, Graça*

Director: Resource Management, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Cnr of Umland & Dr. Kenneth Kaunha
Streets, Private Bag 13355, 9000 Windhoek
Tel: +264 81 274 1313, Fax: +264 61 220 558, E-Mail: graça.d'almeida@mfmr.gov.na

NICARAGUA

Guevara Quintana, Julio Cesar*

Comisionado CIAT - Biólogo, INPESCA, Km 3,5 Carretera Norte (Frente a Branpro), Managua
Tel: +505 2278 0319; +505 8396 7742, E-Mail: juliocgq@hotmail.com; alemsanic@hotmail.com

NORWAY

Mjorlund, Rune*

Directorate of Fisheries, Strandgaten 229, 5804 Bergen
Tel: +47 952 59 448, E-Mail: rune.mjorlund@fiskeridir.no

Nottestad, Leif

Principal Scientist, Institute of Marine Research, P.O. Box 1870 Nordnesgaten, 33, 5817 Bergen
Tel: +47 99 22 70 25, Fax: +47 55 23 86 87, E-Mail: leif.nottestad@imr.no

PANAMA

Pinzón Mendoza, Zuleika*

Administradora General, Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de Panamá, Calle 45, Bella Vista Edif. Riviera Ave. Justo Arosemena
Tel: +507 511 6057, Fax: +507 511 6071, E-Mail: zpinzon@arap.gob.pa

Delgado Quezada, Raúl Alberto

Director General de Inspección Vigilancia y Control, Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de Panamá, Edificio La Riviera - Avenida Justo Arosemena y Calle 45, Bella Vista (Antigua Estación El Arbol), 0819-05850
Tel: +507 511 6000, Fax: +507 511 6031, E-Mail: rdelgado@arap.gob.pa; ivc@arap.gob.pa

S. TOMÉ E PRÍNCIPE

Pessoa Lima, Joao Gomes*

Director Geral das Pescas, Ministério das Finanças, Comercio e Economia Azul, Direcção Geral das Pescas, Largo das Alfandegas, C.P. 59, Sao Tome
Tel: +239 222 2828, E-Mail: pessoalima61@gmail.com; jpessoa61@hotmail.com

Aurélio, José Eva

Direcção das Pescas, C.P. 59
Tel: +239 991 6577, E-Mail: aurelioeva57@yahoo.com.br; dirpesca1@cstome.net

SENEGAL

Goudiaby, Mamadou*

Directeur des Pêches maritimes, Ministère de la Pêche et de l'Économie Maritime, Direction des Pêches Maritimes, 1 rue Joris, Place du Tirailleur, B.P. 289 Dakar
Tel: +221 33 823 0137, Fax: +221 33 821 4758, E-Mail: magoudiaby@yahoo.fr; dpm@mpem.gouv.sn

Diedhiou, Abdoulaye

Chef de Division, Direction des pêches maritimes DAKAR - DPM, 1 Rue Jorris, BP 289
Tel: +221 33 821 47 58, Fax: +221 33 823 01 37, E-Mail: layee78@yahoo.fr

Sow, Fambaye Ngom

Chercheur Biologiste des Pêches, Centre de Recherches Océanographiques de Dakar Thiaroye, CRODT/ISRALNERV - Route du Front de Terre - BP 2241, Dakar
Tel: +221 3 0108 1104; +221 77 502 67 79, Fax: +221 33 832 8262, E-Mail: famngom@yahoo.com

SOUTH AFRICA

Pheeha, Saasa*

Director, Marine Resource Management, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Foretrust Building, 9 Marting Hammerschalg Way, Foreshore 8000, Cape Town, Private Bag X2, Vlaeberg 8018
Tel: +27 21 402 3563, Fax: +27 21 402 3618, E-Mail: saasap@daff.gov.za

Winker, Henning

Scientist: Research Resource, Centre for Statistics in Ecology, Environment and Conservation (SEEC), Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), Fisheries Branch, 8012 Foreshore, Cape Town
Tel: +27 21 402 3515, E-Mail: henningW@DAFF.gov.za; henning.winker@gmail.com

TUNISIA

Mejri, Hamadi*

Directeur adjoint, Conservation des ressources halieutiques, Ministère de l'agriculture et des ressources hydrauliques et de la pêche, Direction Générale de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture, 32, Rue Alain Savary - Le Belvédère, 1002
Tel: +216 240 12780, Fax: +216 71 799 401, E-Mail: hamadi.mejri1@gmail.com

TURKEY**Elekon, Hasan Alper***

Senior Fisheries Officer, General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture (Balıkçılık ve Su Ürünleri Genel Müdürlüğü), Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MoFAL), Gıda Tarım ve Hayvancılık Bakanlığı Kampüsü, Eskişehir Yolu 9. km, 06100 Lodumlu, Ankara

Tel: +90 312 258 30 76, Fax: +90 312 258 30 75, E-Mail: hasanalper@gmail.com; hasanalper.elekon@tarim.gov.tr

UNITED STATES**Henderschedt, John***

Director, Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Tel: +1 202 222 8372, E-Mail: John.Henderschedt@noaa.gov

Blankenbeker, Kimberly

Foreign Affairs Specialist, NOAA Fisheries, Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection (F/IS), National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring Maryland 20910

Tel: +1 301 427 8357, Fax: +1 301 713 1081, E-Mail: kimberly.blankenbeker@noaa.gov

Bogan, Raymond D.

Sinn, Fitzsimmons, Cantoli, Bogan & West, 501 Trenton Avenue, P.O. Box 1347, Point Pleasant Beach, Sea Girt New Jersey 08742

Tel: +1 732 892 1000, Fax: +1 732 892 1075, E-Mail: rbogan@lawyernjshore.com

Brown, Craig A.

Chief, Highly Migratory Species Branch, Sustainable Fisheries Division, NOAA Fisheries Southeast Fisheries Science Center, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami Florida 33149

Tel: +1 305 586 6589, Fax: +1 305 361 4562, E-Mail: craig.brown@noaa.gov

Díaz, Guillermo

NOAA-Fisheries, Southeast Fisheries Science Center, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami Florida 33149

Tel: +1 305 898 4035, E-Mail: guillermo.diaz@noaa.gov

Elliott, Brianna

NOAA Sea Grant Knauss Marine Policy Fellow, U.S. Department of State, Office of Marine Conservation, 2201 C Street NW, Room 2758, Washington DC 20520

Tel: +1 202 647 3464, E-Mail: elliottbw@state.gov

McLaughlin, Sarah

Fishery Management Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930

Tel: +978 281 9260, Fax: +978 281 9340, E-Mail: sarah.mclaughlin@noaa.gov

O'Malley, Rachel

Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection (F/IA1), National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway - Room 10653, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Tel: +1 301 427 8373, Fax: +1 301 713 2313, E-Mail: rachel.o'malley@noaa.gov

Piñeiro Soler, Eugenio

Chairman, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 723 Box Garden Hills Plaza, Guaynabo, PR 00966

Tel: +1 787 224 7399, Fax: +1 787 344 0954, E-Mail: gpsfish@yahoo.com

Warner-Kramer, Deirdre

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Marine Conservation (OES/OMC), U.S. Department of State, Rm 2758, 2201 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20520-7878

Tel: +1 202 647 2883, Fax: +1 202 736 7350, E-Mail: warner-kramerdm@fan.gov

URUGUAY**Domingo, Andrés***

Director Nacional, Dirección Nacional de Recursos Acuáticos - DINARA, Laboratorio de Recursos Pelágicos, Constituyente 1497, 11200 Montevideo

Tel: +5982 400 46 89, Fax: +5982 401 32 16, E-Mail: adomingo@dinara.gub.uy; direcciongeneral@dinara.gub.uy

OBSERVERS FROM COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES, ENTITIES, FISHING ENTITIES

CHINESE TAIPEI

Lin, Yen-Ju

Specialist, International Economics and Trade Section, Deep Sea Fisheries Division, Fisheries Agency, 8F, No. 100, Sec. 2, Heping W. Rd., Zhongzheng Dist., 10070

Tel: +886 2 2383 5912, Fax: +886 2 2332 7395, E-Mail: yenju@ms1.fa.gov.tw

Chou, Shih-Chin

Section Chief, Deep Sea Fisheries Division, Fisheries Agency, 8F, No. 100, Sec. 2, Heping W. Rd., Zhongzheng District, 10070

Tel: +886 2 2383 5915, Fax: +886 2 2332 7395, E-Mail: shihcin@ms1.fa.gov.tw

OBSERVERS FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

INTERNATIONAL SEAFOOD SUSTAINABILITY FOUNDATION – ISSF

Restrepo, Víctor

Chair of the ISSF Scientific Advisory Committee, ISS-Foundation, 1440 G Street NW, Washington DC 20005, United States

Tel: +1 703 226 8101, Fax: +1 215 220 2698, E-Mail: vrestrepo@iss-foundation.org; vrestrepo@mail.com

MARINE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL - MSC

Martín Aristín, Alberto Carlos

Responsable de Pesquerías para España y Portugal de MSC, Marine Stewardship Council, Paseo de La Habana, 26, 7^a puerta 4, 28036 Madrid, España

Tel: +34 679 89 18 52, E-Mail: alberto.martin@msc.org

Montero Castaño, Carlos

Técnico de Pesquerías para España y Portugal del MSC, Marine Stewardship Council, Paseo de la Habana, 26 - 7^a planta puerta 4, 28036 Madrid, España

Tel: +34 674 071 053, Fax: +34 91 831 9248, E-Mail: carlos.montero@msc.org

THE OCEAN FOUNDATION

Miller, Shana

The Ocean Foundation, 1320 19th St., NW, 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20036, United States

Tel: +1 631 671 1530, E-Mail: smiller@oceanfdn.org

SCRS CHAIRMAN

Die, David

SCRS Chairman, Cooperative Institute of Marine and Atmospheric Studies, University of Miami, 4600 Rickenbacker Causeway, Miami Florida 33149, United States

Tel: +34 673 985 817, Fax: +1 305 421 4607, E-Mail: ddie@rsmas.miami.edu

ICCAT Secretariat

C/ Corazón de María 8 – 6th floor, 28002 Madrid – Spain
Tel: +34 91 416 56 00; Fax: +34 91 415 26 12; E-mail: info@iccat.int

Meski, Driss
Neves dos Santos, Miguel
Ortiz, Mauricio
Campoy, Rebecca
De Andrés, Marisa
Pinet, Dorothée
Fiz, Jesús
García Piña, Cristóbal
Peña, Esther

ICCAT INTERPRETERS

Baena Jiménez, Eva J.
Faillace, Linda
Hof, Michelle Renée
Liberas, Christine
Meunier, Isabelle
Sánchez del Villar, Lucía


ICCAT GUEST

Manel, Camille Jean Pierre

EXPERT GUEST

Butterworth, Douglas S.


Presentation of the SCRS Chairman



Évaluation de la stratégie de gestion (MSE) Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) Evaluación Estrategias Ordenación


- Il s'agit d'un processus convenu par la Commission
- It's a process agreed by the Commission
- Es un proceso acordado por la Comisión
- Il vise à améliorer la gestion par le biais du dialogue, avec l'appui du travail technique, et aboutit à l'adoption de règles de gestion de précaution
- It aims to improve management through dialogue supported by technical work which culminates with the adoption of precautionary management rules
- Tiene como objetivo mejorar la ordenación a través del diálogo, apoyado por trabajo técnico, y culmina con la adopción de normas de ordenación precautorias

Madeira SWGSM May 2018



1. On conçoit la machine/ We design the machine
Diseñamos la máquina
2. On construit des règles de contrôle de l'exploitation
We build harvest control rules **HCR**
Construimos normas de control de la captura
3. On évalue la performance des HCR
Evaluamos el resultado de las HCR
We evaluate the performance of **HCRs**

MSE



The HCR slot machine
The HCR slot machine

Performance meter

Biomass Catch Risk

Insert HCR

Candidate HCRs

Madeira SWGSM May 2018

Nous préparons un rapport des évaluations
We prepare a report of the evaluations
Preparamos un informe de las evaluaciones

HCR	A	B	C	D	
1	201	5%	3	21861	1
2	564	25%	7	354	
3	361	10%			
4	129				
5					

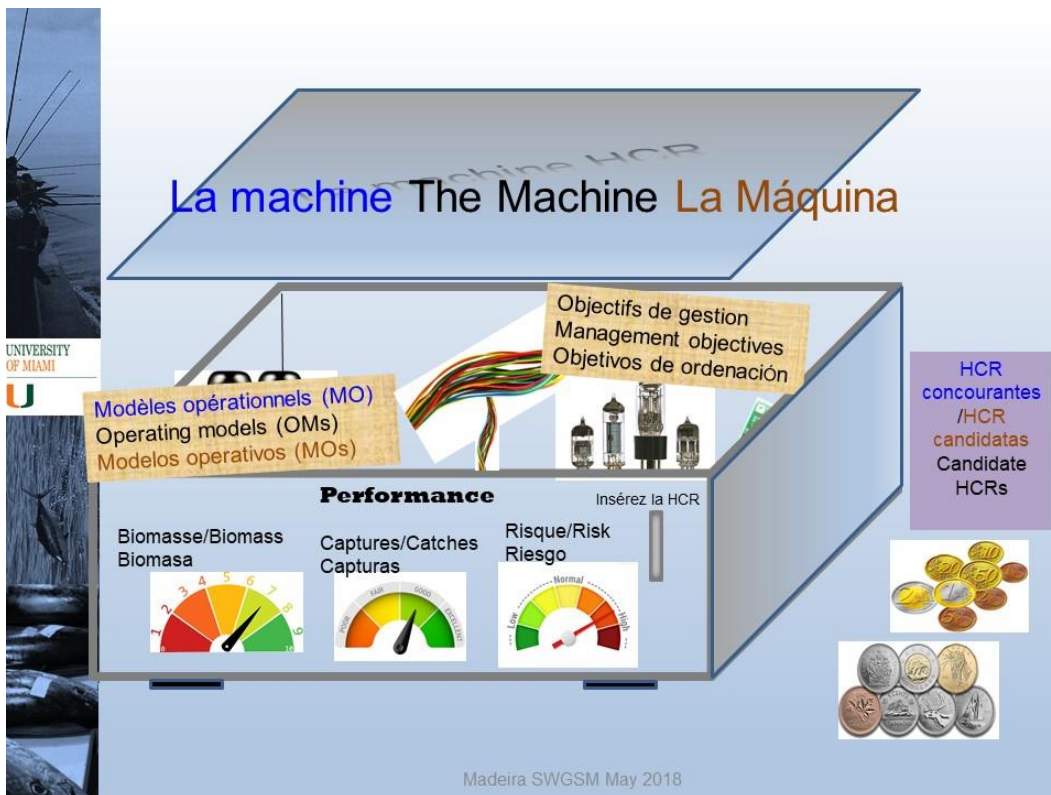
Commission

Madeira SWGSM May2018

...on ajoute quelques détails pour que la HCR puisse fonctionner
... we add some details so that the HCR works
... añadimos algunos detalles para que la HCR funcione

- calendrier des révisions des règles de contrôle de l'exploitation
- calendar for revisions of HCR
- calendario de revisiones de las normas de control de la captura
- On prépare le protocole de circonstances exceptionnelles)
- we prepare the protocol for exceptional circumstances
- preparamos el protocolo de circunstancias excepcionales

Madeira SWGSM May 2018



Gestion / Management / Ordenación HCR



Les niveaux de TAC pour chaque niveau de biomasse sont calculés selon une formule préétablie (HCR) et évaluée au moyen des simulations de MSE. Le chemin à parcourir est toujours connu à l'avance.

The levels of TAC for each level of Biomass are calculated with a formula agreed in advance (HCR) and evaluated with the MSE simulations. The road to be followed is always known in advance.

Los niveles de TAC se establecen con una fórmula (HCR) acordada de antemano para cada nivel de biomasa y evaluada a través de las simulaciones MSE. El camino a recorrer se conoce siempre con antelación.



Procédure de gestion (PG) / Management Procedure (MP)
 Procedimiento de ordenación (PO)

- **Données/ Data / Datos**
 - Campagne scientifique/Scientific campaign / Campaña científica
 - Prises, CPUE/Catches, CPUE/Capturas CPUE
 - Prise par âge/Catch at age/Capturas por edad

- **Indicateurs de l'état du stock /Stock status indicators/ Indicadores del estado del stock**
 - Valeur de référence/Reference value/Valor de referencia
 - Calculés à partir du modèle de production/Derived from production model/Derivados del modelo de producción
 - Calculés à partir de APV/Derived from APV/Derivados del APV

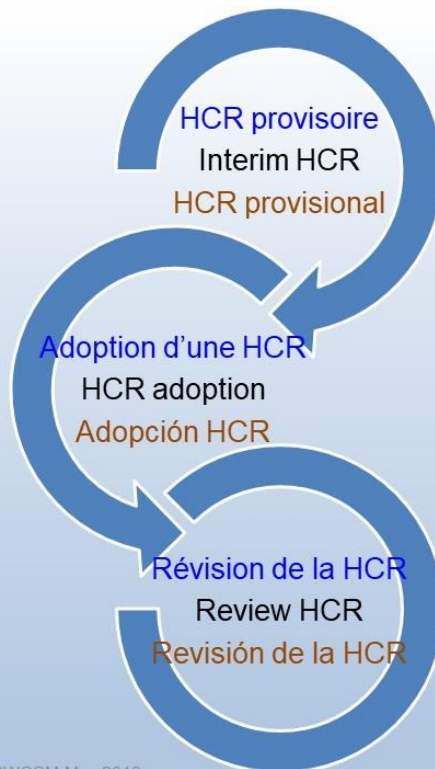
- **Règle de contrôle de l'exploitation / Harvest Control Rule (HCR)/ Norma de control de la captura**
 - Proportion simple/Simple proportion/Proporción simple
 - "Bâton de hockey" avec des points de référence/Hockey stick with reference points/Hockey stick con puntos de referencia
 - Mortalité constante/Constant mortality/Mortalidad constante



La MSE est un processus de rétroaction continue.

MSE is a continuous feedback process

MSE es un proceso con feedback continuo





Adoption de HCR par le biais de la MSE
Adoption of HCR through MSE
Adopción de HCR mediante MSE

Cela demande du travail, de la patience et de la confiance.
Requires work, trust and patience
Requiere trabajo, confianza y paciencia

Merci, Thanks, Gracias

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.4**Management Objectives - Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna****Proposal presented by Canada***Introduction**

The intention of this paper is to introduce, for the purposes of discussion, management objectives for western Atlantic bluefin tuna (WBFT). These objectives are presented as qualitative to serve as the basis for initial discussions. It is hoped that these initial discussions can help to establish a framework for continued refinement of objectives that, ultimately, include quantitative elements and performance indicators.

Fisheries management objectives can be framed in two ways: (1) conceptual objectives; or (2) operational objectives (Punt *et al.* 2016). Conceptual objectives are high-level aspirational objectives that verbalize a desired generic goal without including any specifics on a measurable target or timeframe for achievement. Operational objectives are more refined and more specific about measurable targets and associated likelihood of achieving those targets over determined timeframes. Operational objectives are the key foundational component of any Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) and they should be developed in a clear, transparent, and inclusive manner.

To constitute an effective operational objective for a MSE, the objective must include the following three aspects: (1) a measurable target (e.g. B_{MSY} , B_{LIM} , F_{MSY} , or a quadrant of the Kobe plot); (2) a probability of achieving that target; and, (3) a desired timeframe for measuring the target. Performance indicators then need to be developed for operational objectives, including the articulation of how the indicator will be calculated.

Considerations

In developing objectives and performance indicators for BFTW, a number of key factors must be considered. Included among these are ICCAT's principal management goals, alignment with Kobe principles, the role of ICCAT in regulating fisheries, and the desire for stability in fishing opportunities.

The International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) commits Contracting Parties (CPCs) to exploitation at the maximum sustainable levels. It is, therefore, considered appropriate to measure success relative to a policy of ensuring stock biomass remains near, or moves toward, B_{MSY} (or an appropriate proxy). The Kobe Process has built upon this objective by integrating fishing mortality through the Kobe Matrix, where stocks are evaluated relative to B_{MSY} and F_{MSY} . The current management objectives for BFTW, expressed in interim conservation and management measure Rec. 17-06, reflect this broader approach, which further supports using the Kobe Matrix as a basis for operational objectives related to stock status and safety.

Limit reference points (LRP or B_{LIM}) are often used in fisheries management as a threshold to avoid, which protects stocks from reaching low biomass levels that may lead to irreparable harm. The B_{LIM} is often a point when fishing activity (F) is heavily curtailed, if not reduced to zero. The avoidance of B_{LIM} is, therefore, an important consideration in establishing objectives for a fishery.

Stability in the fishery is often considered desirable and has also been included in the harvest control rules for North Atlantic albacore tuna. It is therefore felt that the bluefin MSE would benefit from the consideration of stability as a potential objective.

The following objectives are presented for discussion in the context of the BFTW stock. However, a key consideration that must be taken into account as management objectives are developed for both the western and eastern stocks is the intermixing of these stocks. The stock dynamics of both BFTW and BFTE are reflected in each operating model that the SCRS has developed for the bluefin tuna MSE, meaning that achieving the objectives for one stock is dependent on policies set for the other. Therefore, conceptual and operational objectives for these two stocks should be considered together at some point and the following objectives may be informative for the BFTE stock, or perhaps for Atlantic bluefin as a whole.

*The complete document is available at the Secretariat upon request.

Objectives

Five candidate operational objectives have been developed that could be incorporated into the BFTW MSE, individually or as a suite. Currently, the candidate objectives only include the measurable target, while the probability of, and timeframe for, achieving that target have been left deliberately blank with the intention that these be informed by discussion among CPCs.

The five operational objectives for discussion are:

1. Ensure that the BFTW stock has a greater than ___% probability of occurring in the green quadrant of the Kobe matrix for (*period*).
2. Ensure that the BFTW stock has a less than ___% probability of entering the red quadrant of the Kobe matrix for (*period*).
3. Ensure that there is a less than ___% probability of the BFTW stock falling below B_{LIM} (*to be defined*) for (*period*).
4. Maximize catch levels, while achieving B_{MSY} (or an appropriate proxy) by (*time*).
5. Ensure that TAC changes of greater than __%, between management periods, have less than ___% probability of occurring for (*period*).

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.4**Improving communication: the key requirement to improve the effectiveness of MSE processes¹***Shana Miller², Alejandro Anganuzzi³ and Victor Restrepo⁴**SUMMARY*

The use of management strategy evaluation (MSE) to design and test candidate fisheries management approaches is expanding globally, including for ICCAT stocks. Participation of managers, scientists and stakeholders should be an integral component of the MSE process. Open and effective communication among these groups is essential for the success of the MSE and the adoption of the management approach based on it (e.g. as envisaged by the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Development of Harvest Control Rules and of Management Strategy Evaluation* [15-07]). The highly technical nature of MSE and newness of the approach to many audiences present considerable communication challenges and have, unfortunately, slowed progress in some cases.

A workshop sponsored by FAO's Common Oceans/ABNJ Tuna Project, The Pew Charitable Trusts, the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation, The Ocean Foundation, and CSIRO, was held in San Diego, California, USA in January 2018, to focus on key requirements to improve the effectiveness of MSE processes. The workshop was attended by 22 participants, including experts who have been part of successful MSE work in other RFMOs.

Drawing on diverse experiences with MSE, the workshop identified two areas in which the implementation of MSE in multilateral fora may be improved:

- a) the use of formally constituted "dialogue groups" as a forum for exchange at the management-science interface, and
- b) development of engaging, yet uncomplicated, visual communication tools for conveying key results to different audiences at each stage.

The attached presentation summarizes the key findings and recommendations from the workshop.

¹ The complete document is available at the Secretariat upon request.

² The Ocean Foundation.

³ FAO's Common Oceans/ABNJ Tuna Project.

⁴ International Seafood Sustainability Foundation.

Management Objectives - North Atlantic Swordfish*

Proposal presented by Canada

Introduction

The intention of this paper is to introduce, for the purposes of discussion, management objectives for North Atlantic swordfish (NSWO). These objectives are presented as qualitative to serve as the basis for initial discussions. It is hoped that these initial discussions can help to establish a framework for continued refinement of objectives that, ultimately, include quantitative elements and performance indicators.

Fisheries management objectives can be framed in two ways: (1) conceptual objectives; or (2) operational objectives (Punt *et al.* 2016). Conceptual objectives are high-level aspirational objectives that verbalize a desired generic goal without including any specifics on a measurable target or timeframe for achievement. Operational objectives are more refined and more specific about measurable targets and associated likelihood of achieving those targets over determined timeframes. Operational objectives are the key foundational component of any Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) and they should be developed in a clear, transparent, and inclusive manner.

To constitute an effective operational objective for a MSE, the objective must include the following three aspects: (1) a measurable target (e.g. B_{MSY} , B_{LIM} , F_{MSY} , or a quadrant of the Kobe plot); (2) a probability of achieving that target; and, (3) a desired timeframe for measuring the target. Performance indicators then need to be developed for operational objectives, including the articulation of how the indicator will be calculated.

Considerations

In developing objectives and performance indicators for NSWO, a number of key factors must be considered. Included among these are ICCAT's principal management goals, alignment with Kobe principles, the commitments of ICCAT in regulating fisheries, the high percentage of juvenile catches relative to total catch, and the desire for stability in the fishery.

The International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) commits Contracting Parties (CPCs) to exploitation at the maximum sustainable levels. It is, therefore, considered appropriate to measure success relative to a policy of ensuring stock biomass remains near, or moves toward, B_{MSY} (or an appropriate proxy).

For NSWO, ICCAT has not included in its objectives the goal of managing fishing mortality so that it remains at, or below, F_{MSY} . The introduction of F_{MSY} (or an appropriate proxy) as a NSWO objective would be consistent with the Kobe Process, where the green quadrant of the Kobe matrix is characterized by stocks for which $B \geq B_{MSY}$ and $F \leq F_{MSY}$. The current objective for NSWO stocks, to achieve B_{MSY} with a 50% probability, is rooted in rebuilding plans that predate the Kobe Process. The MSE for NSWO would seem an opportune time to introduce objectives that more fully integrate the Kobe approach, namely by incorporating fishing mortality.

The current management measure for NSWO (CMM 17-02) includes a minimum size restriction, suggesting an objective to minimise juvenile catch. The MSE could be an opportunity to examine the use of size limits in SWO fisheries and whether these are achieving their purposes or exacerbating existing challenges.

Stability in the fishery is often considered desirable and has been therefore included for discussion purposes. Stability is also reflected by relative constant total allowable catches and little variation in ICCAT management decisions under the NSWO rebuilding plan.

* The complete document is available at the Secretariat upon request.

Objectives

Six candidate operational objectives have been developed that could be incorporated into the NSW0 MSE, individually or as a suite. Currently, the candidate objectives only include the measurable target, while the probability of, and timeframe for, achieving that target have been left deliberately blank with the intention that these be informed by discussion among CPCs.

The six operational objectives for discussion are:

1. Ensure that the NSW0 stock has a greater than ___% probability of occurring in the green quadrant of the Kobe matrix for (*period*).
2. Ensure that the NSW0 stock has a less than ___% probability of entering the red quadrant of the Kobe matrix for (*period*).
3. Ensure that there is a less than ___% probability of the NSW0 stock falling below B_{LIM} (*to be defined*) for (*period*).
4. Maximize catch levels, while achieving B_{MSY} (or an appropriate proxy) by (*period*).
5. Limit change in TAC to ___% between management periods.
6. Ensure that fishing mortality of juveniles is below ___ for (*period*).

Road Map for the Development of Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) and harvest control rules (HCR)

This schedule is intended to guide the development of 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). It provides an aspirational timeline that is subject to revision by the SCRS and the Commission, and should be considered in conjunction with the stock assessment schedule that is revised annually by the SCRS.

	<i>NALB</i>	<i>BFT</i>	<i>NSWO</i>	<i>Tropicals</i>
2015	- Commission established management objectives in Rec. 15-04			
2016	- SCRS evaluated a range of candidate HCRs through MSE - PA2 identified performance indicators			- Commission identified performance indicators [Rec. 16-01]
2017	- SCRS evaluated the performance of candidate HCRs through MSE, using the performance indicators developed by PA2 - SWGSM narrowed the candidate HCRs and referred to Commission - Commission selected and adopted an HCR with associated TAC at the Annual Meeting [Rec. 17-04]	- SCRS conducted stock assessment - Core modeling group completed development of modeling framework	- SCRS conducted stock assessment	- SCRS reviewed performance indicators for YFT, SKJ, and BET - SWGSM recommended a multispecies approach for development of MSE framework

	<i>NALB</i>	<i>BFT</i>	<i>NSWO</i>	<i>Tropicals</i>
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Call for Tenders issued for peer review - SCRS to develop criteria for the identification of exceptional circumstances - SCRS to continue testing variations of the HCR, as requested by 17-04 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SCRS conducted joint meeting on BFT/SWO MSE - SCRS reviewed reference set of operating models - SCRS begins testing candidate management procedures - SWGSM consider qualitative management objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SCRS conducted joint meeting on BFT/SWO MSE - Contract with MSE technical expert: develop OM framework; define initial set of OMs; initial conditioning of OMs - SWGSM to consider qualitative management objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contract with technical experts: start development of MSE framework - [SCRS to conduct stock assessment for bigeye tuna] - SWGSM/Panel 1* to consider qualitative management objectives
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Independent expert to complete peer review - ALB WG meeting - Commission may refine the interim HCR - Commission (through SWGSM/Panel 2) to develop guidance on a range of appropriate management responses should exceptional circumstances occur 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BFT WG intersessional meeting - Initiate independent peer review of MSE - SCRS to test additional management procedures - BFT WG to focus on MSE - SWGSM/Panel 2* to develop operational management objectives and performance indicators for adoption by the Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SWO WG intersessional meeting - SCRS to begin testing candidate management procedures - Initiate independent peer review of MSE - SWGSM/Panel 4* to develop operational management objectives and performance indicators for adoption by the Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - [SCRS to conduct stock assessment for skipjack] - SWGSM/Panel 1* to develop operational management objectives for adoption by the Commission - Continue development of MSE framework, and start development of candidate management procedures - Initiate independent peer review of MSE
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - [SCRS to conduct stock assessment for northern albacore] - Commission to adopt a long-term management procedure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BFT WG intersessional meeting - [SCRS to conduct stock assessment for bluefin tuna] - Commission to adopt an interim management procedure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SWO WG intersessional meeting - Commission to adopt an interim management procedure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - [SCRS to conduct stock assessment for yellowfin] - SCRS to begin testing candidate management procedures
2021			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SCRS to conduct stock assessment for North Atlantic swordfish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commission to adopt interim HCR(s) or management procedures

* Panels may meet intersessionally, as appropriate.

Selecting Ecosystem Indicators for Fisheries Targeting Highly Migratory Species¹

*Maria José Juan-Jordá*² on behalf of Consortium members^{3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8}

SUMMARY

Several international instruments have set the minimum standards and key principles to guide the implementation of an ecosystem approach for the management and conservation of marine living resources. The ICCAT resolution 15-11 and the 2015-2020 SCRS Science Strategic Plan have also established the main objective of advancing the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) to provide advice to the Commission. Yet these aspirations have not provided practical guidance on how to make operational an EAFM within ICCAT. The Specific Contract N^o 2 under the Framework Contract - EASME/EMFF/2016/008 provisions of Scientific Advice for Fisheries Beyond EU Waters - addresses current scientific impediments and provides solutions that shall support the implementation of an EAFM through collaboration and consultation with ICCAT. This Specific Contract has three main objectives: (1) Provide a list of ecosystem indicators (and guidance for associated reference points) to monitor the broader impacts of fisheries targeting Highly Migratory Species (HMS) on the pelagic ecosystem; (2) Propose area-based assessment units or ecoregions with meaningful ecological boundaries for HMS and its fisheries to guide the development of ecosystem plans and assessments; and (3) Develop a pilot ecosystem plan for one chosen ecoregion within the ICCAT Convention Area. Ultimately, the products created throughout this contract will aim to facilitate the linkage between ecosystem science and fisheries management as well as facilitate the process to operationalize an EAFM in ICCAT.

¹ The complete document is available at the Secretariat upon request.

² AZTI, Spain

³ Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), UK

⁴ Instituto Español de Oceanografía, Spain

⁵ Wageningen Marine Research (WMR), The Netherlands

⁶ Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera (IPMA), Portugal

⁷ Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD), France

⁸ MRAG Ltd., UK.

4.5 REPORT OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CONVENTION AMENDMENT (Funchal, Portugal, 24-25 May 2018)

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 Sixth Meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment (Working Group). She introduced Mr. José Sousa Vasconcelos (Regional Secretary of Agriculture and Fisheries) who welcomed the participants to Madeira and emphasized the importance of the work of this meeting. The List of Participants is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.5**.

The Chair reminded the parties of the long road leading to this final Working Group meeting and stressed that all parties would need to be ready to demonstrate flexibility so that a package of agreed amendments could be presented to the Commission at the 21st Special Meeting of the Commission in 2018.

The Executive Secretary, Mr. Driss Meski, introduced the 24 Contracting Parties and one Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity, and Fishing Entity in attendance (collectively CPCs). He also noted the participation of one intergovernmental organization (COMHAFAT). El Salvador was unable to attend the meeting but provided written input on the various issues to be faced by the Working Group (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.5**). Venezuela also provided its views on the issues in writing (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.5**).

2. Nomination of Rapporteur

Ms. Kimberly Blankenbeker (USA) served as rapporteur.

3. Adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements

Morocco proposed that agenda item 4 be amended slightly to read “Discussion of the text of the proposals for amendment” rather than “Finalizing the text of the proposals for amendment.” The Agenda was adopted with this small change (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.5**).

4. Discussion of the text of the proposals for amendment

The Chair summarized the significant progress made by the Working Group to date in developing a comprehensive set of proposed amendments to the ICCAT Convention. She reminded delegations that agreement appeared to be in reach at the 25th meeting of the Commission in 2017 but, in the end, there was not enough time to finalize the text of the last two remaining issues identified in the Working Group’s terms of reference, namely, non-party participation and dispute resolution procedures.

The Chair called the Working Group’s attention to the Chair’s proposal for amendment of the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. She explained that she had developed this document based on discussions at the 25th meeting of the Commission in 2017. She indicated that the proposed new text, which was highlighted in grey, was intended to address remaining concerns on the two remaining issues. She asked delegations to focus their discussions during this meeting on that new text, most of which could be found in Article VIII bis (dispute resolution procedures) and Annex 2 (Fishing Entity Annex). It was noted that new text related to Annex 2 could also be found in Article XIII, and it should also be discussed.

Fishing Entity Annex

The Chair recalled that the Commission had decided by consensus to include non-party participation on Annex I of the Working Group’s terms of reference (Rec. 12-10) and that this was a key issue for many delegations. She noted that some parties had previously expressed concerns that Annex 2 of the Convention needed further clarification concerning the fishing entity it was intended to cover. She had proposed to add text to paragraph 1 of Annex 2 to address that concern.

There was no consensus on the Chair's proposed addition to Annex 2. A number of alternative approaches for addressing the underlying need for legal certainty on the Fishing Entity question were discussed, including adopting a resolution specifying who the fishing entity covered by Annex 2 was and including a specific reference to that resolution in Annex 2. Several delegations stressed that a resolution might provide a way forward if its adoption was not contingent on a separate future action by the Commission. Rather, such a resolution would need to be adopted as an inseparable part of the Convention amendment package. If this approach were followed, the new sentence in paragraph 1 offered by the Chair could be deleted.

The Working Group agreed to move forward in this manner, and the United States tabled a draft resolution for consideration. Several parties offered revisions to the text to streamline and improve its specificity, which were incorporated. In addition, to ensure complete clarity that the resolution would be adopted concurrently with the adoption of the amendments to the Convention, language to this effect was added to the preamble. One CPC informed that it has no objection to the resolution, but that this proposal must have the agreement of its competent authorities. Similarly, a cross reference to the resolution was added to paragraph 1 of Annex 2. With these changes, the Working Group agreed to forward *Draft Resolution by ICCAT Regarding Participation of Fishing Entities Under the Amended ICCAT Convention* to the Commission for consideration as an integral part of the Convention amendment package (**Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.5**).

With regard to paragraph 4 of Annex 2 on dispute settlement, it was noted that this was closely linked to the outcome of discussions related to Article VIII bis on dispute resolution procedures. Once agreement was reached on Article VIII bis, the text of paragraph 4 of Annex 2 was revised to reflect parallel procedures.

Dispute Resolution Procedures

The Chair noted that the Working Group had made additional progress at the 25th Regular meeting of the Commission of 2017 on the development of dispute resolution procedures as required per the Working Group's terms of reference. She highlighted, in particular, the agreement that it would not be compulsory to enter into dispute resolution procedures but, if parties to a dispute agreed to do so, the outcome of those procedures would be binding.

The Chair pointed out new text offered in Article VIII bis aimed at addressing the remaining issues and indicated that a key question was whether Annex 1, which sets out specific procedures for dispute resolution, was needed or if the issue could be handled in a more general fashion. Some parties expressed the view that Annex 1 was not needed, noting that it was better to keep the text as streamlined as possible, that such specifics were not important since dispute resolution is not compulsory, and that it could be viewed as conflicting with Article 2. Others considered that Annex 1 provided useful guidance and should be interpreted in light of the terms of Article 2. The Working Group agreed to retain Annex 1, with additional text to make clear that the parties to any dispute may agree on the procedures for arbitration, including those set out in Annex 1 or any others that they mutually agree upon.

Regarding Article VIII bis, several proposals were made to clarify the text, including to bring the Spanish and English texts into alignment and to ensure there was no ambiguity about those aspects that are non-compulsory. A discussion arose regarding the list of peaceful means that could be used to settle a dispute and the reference to Contracting Parties in paragraph 3. Given the nature of that paragraph and/or for the sake of clarity, some parties strongly preferred to retain the reference to Contracting Parties and this was agreed. Regarding the list of peaceful means, some parties could not agree to include references to arbitration and judicial settlement. Rather than include some peaceful means but not others, the Working Group agreed to remove the reference in paragraph 3 to the specific types of peaceful means that could be used to settle a dispute.

Regarding paragraph 4 of Article VIII bis, changes were agreed that clarified and streamlined the text and eliminated repetition. In addition, a party suggested changing the phrase "generally accepted standards" to "standards expressly recognized by the parties." Many parties expressed concern about the ambiguity of this new wording and how it could be operationalized in the context of dispute resolution. After significant discussion, the Working Group agreed to refer to "relevant standards recognized by the parties to the dispute." Changes were also suggested to paragraph 5 to make it more forward looking.

After incorporating all agreed revisions, the Chair noted that there was agreement in principle on the text of Article VIII bis and to retain Annex 1.

Article XIII

The Chair reminded the Working Group that Article XIII provides that either a Contracting Party or the Commission can propose amendments to the ICCAT Convention, although in practice, all amendments to the Convention to-date have originated from the Commission as a whole. Given sensitivities with regard to Annex 2, new text had been proposed for Article XIII that would only allow the Commission to amend Annex 2. One party expressed concern about establishing a special rule applicable only to Annex 2. To address the two competing concerns, the Working Group revised Article XIII such that only the Commission, by consensus decision, can propose amendments to the Convention.

5. Arrangements for the formalization of the amended text

The Chair thanked the participants for their hard work and flexibility in finalizing the text of the last two issues of substance and noted that there was agreement in principle within the Working Group on the full suite of Convention amendments, a revised compilation of which was circulated at the meeting (**Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.5**).

a) Legal and technical Review

The Chair noted that a technical and legal scrub of the proposed amendments to the Convention is necessary with respect to the English, French, and Spanish versions as all three languages are equally authentic. She indicated that such a scrub can occur either before or after the Commission makes its final decision on the proposal for amendment, but that it must occur before the proposal for amendment is officially transmitted to the Depositary for submission to the Contracting Parties for action.

b) Process for Commission approval and transmittal to Contracting Parties

The Chair reminded the Working Group that there were two options for finalizing the proposal for amendment to the Convention. Pursuant to Convention Article XIII, the Commission could approve the proposal for amendment at its Annual Meeting and, after the technical and legal scrub had been completed, forward it to the Depositary for appropriate action. In this case, the Commission would need to consider how to officially document the approval decision, including whether the amendments involve new obligations or not, as this determination affects when and how the amendments enter into force. A second option would involve creation of a protocol to the Convention for adoption by a Conference of Plenipotentiaries, as was done in the case of the Madrid and Paris Protocols. This second option would allow for development of entry into force provisions that differ from Article XIII, if so desired, but would have timing and resource implications.

c) Other associated Commission actions to be taken

The Chair recalled that, in 2015, the Working Group had developed *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Species Considered to be Tuna and Tuna-Like Species or Oceanic, Pelagic, and Highly Migratory Elasmobranchs*, which listed all the species subject to ICCAT competence upon entry into force of the amendments to the Convention. It had been re-circulated to the Working Group prior to the start of the meeting (**Appendix 7 to ANNEX 4.5**). The Chair noted that this recommendation had not yet been forwarded to the Commission for consideration, as it was intended to be included in and adopted as an integral part of the Convention amendment package.

Japan noted a possible problem with the genus indicated for two species of ray – specifically, “manta” should be changed to “mobula” to be consistent with the most recent scientific information – and requested this be confirmed by SCRS.

China noted that it needed additional time to consider the draft recommendation and noted that it should be further discussed at the 21st Special meeting of the Commission in 2018. In advance of that, China agreed that the SCRS should conduct a technical review of the draft measure. The United States noted the need to settle any issues with the list of species in the recommendation - technical or otherwise - before the 2018 ICCAT meeting.

The Chair confirmed that the Working Group was not in a position to endorse the contents of the draft recommendation as this was the purview of the Commission. She reiterated, however, that the intention all along has been that such a recommendation would form a part of the Convention amendment package.

The Working Group agreed to submit the draft recommendation to the SCRS for a final technical review, in particular to ensure the taxonomic information was up-to-date, prior to the 21st Special meeting of the Commission in 2018. The Working Group also repeated its request that SCRS provide, in all three ICCAT languages, the common names of the elasmobranch species listed in the measure.

The Chair noted the productive discussions during the meeting on Annex 2 of the Convention and reiterated that the *Draft Resolution by ICCAT Regarding Participation by Fishing Entities Under the Amended ICCAT Convention*, attached as **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.5**, would also form part of the Convention amendment package. As such, it and the recommendation containing the list of species, once reviewed by SCRS and agreed by the Commission, would be adopted concurrently with the amendments to the Convention.

6. Other matters

The Chair drew attention to the three recommendations from the Second ICCAT Performance Review relating to the Convention amendment process. She noted that recommendation 93 concerning dispute settlement had been addressed as the Working Group had finalized text for this new Convention Article. She noted that recommendations 1b and 90 related to the question of provisional application of some or all of the amendments, including those related to decision-making, after their adoption and she recalled that some concerns had been previously raised with regard to this idea and that a more detailed discussion of the issue should take place at the 21st Special meeting of the Commission in 2018.

7. Adoption of Report and adjournment

The Working Group agreed to adopt its report by correspondence.

Before adjourning the meeting, the Chair again acknowledged the flexibility and creativity shown by the parties to bring the six-year debate on the substantive Convention amendment issues to a close. She stressed that this was an important and proud moment for ICCAT that would not have been possible without the sincere respect shown by all for the views, concerns, and needs of others. On behalf of the Working Group, she also wholeheartedly thanked the Secretariat and interpreters for their excellent support and assistance in ensuring a highly successful meeting.

The Chair reminded delegations that this Working Group meeting was Mr. Meski's last ICCAT meeting as Executive Secretary. She noted that the strong leadership shown by Mr. Meski during a period of unprecedented growth and change in ICCAT was critical to the continued success of the organization. On behalf of the Working Group, she thanked Mr. Meski for his many years of service. The Chair also recalled that Mr. Meski had been invited to attend the 21st Special meeting of the Commission in 2018 in Dubrovnik, Croatia, where time was being set aside to properly recognize his important contributions to the organization.

Mr. Meski thanked the Chair for her kind words. He noted that leading the Secretariat for 14 years was both demanding and rewarding and that the end of his tenure as Executive Secretary was an emotional time. He expressed pleasure that the Convention amendment process had come to a successful conclusion and that, in his experience, the Convention Working Group had the hardest job of any ICCAT Working Group. The Executive Secretary thanked the CPCs for their support over the years, and he also expressed his deep appreciation to the Secretariat staff and interpreters for their hard work, competence, and professionalism. He wished his successor, Mr. Manel, much good luck in the position when he assumes it in July.

The Working Group recognized and applauded the Chair's tireless efforts to guide the Working Group to a successful conclusion.

The Chair adjourned the meeting. The report was adopted by correspondence.

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. Discussion of the text of the proposals for amendment
5. Arrangements for the formalisation of the amended text
 - a) Legal and technical review
 - b) Process for Commission approval and transmittal to Contracting Parties
 - c) Other associated Commission actions to be taken
6. Other matters
7. Adoption of the Report and adjournment

List of Participants

CONTRACTING PARTIES

ALGERIA

Kaddour, Omar*

Directeur du Développement de la Pêche, Ministère de l'Agriculture, du Développement Rural et de la Pêche, Route des Quatre Canons, 16001

Tel : +213 21 43 31 97, Fax : +213 21 43 31 97, E-Mail : dpmo@mpeche.gov.dz ; kadomar13@gmail.com

ANGOLA

Cusso, Paulo *

Ministry of Fisheries and Sea of Angola, Avenida 4 de Fevereiro, Edifício 30, Luanda

Tel : +244 222 10759, E-Mail : pcusso@yahoo.com.br

Chilamba, Victor

Ministry of Fisheries and Sea of Angola, Avenida 4 de Fevereiro Nº 30, Edifício Atlântico Marginal, C.P. 83 Luanda

Tel: +244 222 310 759, Fax: +244 222 310 199, E-Mail: victorpescas15@gmail.com

De Almeida, Jose

Ministry of Fisheries and Sea of Angola, Avenida 4 de Fevereiro, Edifício 30, Luanda

Tel: +244 222 10759, E-Mail: anterojose1974@gmail.com

BELIZE

Robinson, Robert *

Deputy Director for High Seas Fisheries, Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit, Ministry of Finance, Government of Belize, Marina Towers, Suite 204, Newtown Barracks

Tel: +501 22 34918, Fax: +501 22 35087, E-Mail: deputydirector@bhsfu.gov.bz

CABO VERDE

Évora Rocha, Carlos Alberto *

Director Nacional, Dirección Nacional de la Economía Marítima, Sao Vicente Rep.

Tel: +238 231 75 00; Cell Phone: +238 516 0440, E-Mail: carlosrocha@gmail.com; carlosevora50@gmail.com

CANADA

Lavigne, Elise *

Assistant Director, International Fisheries Management Bureau, Ecosystems and Fisheries Management, 200 Kent Street, 14E212, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6

Tel: +1 613 993 6695, Fax: +1 613 993 5995, E-Mail: elise.lavigne@dfo-mpo.gc.ca; elise.lavigne@mobile.gc.ca

Melvin, Gary

St. Andrews Biological Station – Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, 531 Brandy Cove Road, St. Andrews, New Brunswick E5B 2L9

Tel: +1 506 529 5874, Fax: +1 506 529 5862, E-Mail: gary.melvin@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Olishansky, Cory

125 Sussex Drive, Ontario Ottawa K1A 0G2

Tel: +1 343 203 2566, E-Mail: cory.olishansky@international.gc.ca

CHINA, (P. R.)

Yang, Xiaoning *

Deputy Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, No. 2 Chao waidajie, ChaoYang district, Beijing

Tel: +86 10 6596 3292, Fax: +86 10 6596 3276, E-Mail: yang_xiaoning@mfa.gov.cn

Yan, Zhuang

No. 2 Cahoyangmen Nadajie, Chaouyang 296iami296ly, Beijing

Tel: +86 10 659 63716, Fax: +86 10 659 63649, E-Mail: yan_zhuang@mfa.gov.cn

* Head Delegate.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Shep, Helguilè *

Directeur de l'Aquaculture et des Pêches, Ministère des Ressources Animales et Halieutiques de Côte d'Ivoire, Rue des Pêcheurs ; B.P. V-19, Abidjan

Tel: +225 21 35 61 69; Mob: +225 07 61 92 21, E-Mail: shelguile@yahoo.fr; shep.helguile@aviso.ci

Djou, Kouadio Julien

Statisticien de la Direction de l'Aquaculture et des Pêches, Chef de Service Etudes, Statistiques et Documentation, Direction de l'Aquaculture et des Pêches (DAP), Ministère des Ressources Animales et halieutiques (MIRAH), 29 Rue des pêcheurs, BP V19, Abidjan 01

Tel: +225 79 15 96 22, E-Mail: djoujulien225@gmail.com

EUROPEAN UNION

Vaigauskaite, Dovile *

International Relations Officer, International Affairs, Law of the Sea and regional Fisheries Organisations, European Commission, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Unit B1, DG Mare, Office J-99 03/054, Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +32 2 298 76 37, E-Mail: dovile.vaigauskaite@ec.europa.eu

Peyronnet, Arnaud

Directorate-General, European Commission – DG MARE – UNIT B2 – RFMOs, Rue Joseph II – 99 03/33, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

Tel: +32 2 2991 342, E-Mail: arnaud.peyronnet@ec.europa.eu

GABON

Ntsame Biyoghe, Glwadys Annick *

Directeur Général Adjoint, 2 des Pêches et de l'Aquaculture, Direction Générale des Pêches et de l'Aquaculture du Gabon, BP 9498, Libreville

Tel: +241 0794 2259, E-Mail: glwad6@yahoo.fr; dgpechegabon@netcourrier.com

HONDURAS

Chavarría Valverde, Bernal Alberto *

Dirección General de Pesca y Acuicultura, Secretaría de Agricultura y Ganadería Boulevard Centroamérica, Avenida la FAO, Tegucigalpa

Tel: +506 229 08808, Fax: +506 2232 4651, E-Mail: bchavarria@lsg-cr.com

JAPAN

Tanaka, Kazunari *

Director, Fishery Division, Economic Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2-2-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8919

Tel: +81 3 5501 8338, Fax: +81 3 5501 8332, E-Mail: 297iami297ly.tanaka@mofa.go.jp

Kiriki, Yuichiro

Assistant Director, Fishery Division, Economic Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8907

Tel: +81 3 5501 8338, Fax: +81 3 5501 8332, E-Mail: yuichiro.kiriki@mofa.go.jp

Miwa, Takeshi

Assistant Director, International Affairs Division, Resources Management Department, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8907

Tel: +81 3 3502 8460, Fax: +81 3 3504 2649, E-Mail: 297iami297l_miwa090@maff.go.jp

LIBERIA

Metieh Glassco, Emma *

Director General, National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA)

Tel: +231 778 170 145, E-Mail: metiehemma@yahoo.com

Boeh, William Y.

Deputy Director General for Technical Services, National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority, P.O. Box 10-90100, 1000 Monrovia 10

Tel : +231 888198006 ; +231 770 251 983, E-Mail : w.y.boeh@liberiafisheries.net ; williamboeh92@gmail.com

MAURITANIA

Camara, Lamine *

Directeur/DARE/MPPEM, Direction de l'Aménagement des Ressources et de Etudes, Ministère des Pêches, BP : 137, NKTT/R.I.

Tel: +222 45 29 54 41; +222 46 41 54 98, E-Mail: laminecam2000@yahoo.fr

Bouzouma, Mohamed Elmoustapha

Directeur Adjoint, Institut Mauritanien des Ressources, de l'Océanographie et des Pêches (IMROP), B.P 22, Cansado, Nouadhibou

Tel : +222 224 21 027, Fax : +222 45 74 51 42, E-Mail : bouzouma@yahoo.fr

MOROCCO

Aichane, Bouchta *

Directeur des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture, Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture, Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche Maritime, Département de la Pêche Maritime, Nouveau Quartier Administratif ; BP 476, Haut Agdal Rabat

Tel : +212 5 37 68 8244-46, Fax : +212 5 37 68 8245, E-Mail : aichane@mpm.gov.ma

El Aroussi, Mohammed Yassine

Chef de la Division de la Coopération à la DSC

Tel : +212 660 112 878, E-Mail : elaroussi@mpm.gov.ma

Hassouni, Fatima Zohra

Chef de la Division de Durabilité et d'Aménagement des Ressources Halieutiques à la DPM, Division de la Protection des Ressources Halieutiques, Direction des Pêches maritimes et de l'aquaculture, Département de la Pêche maritime, Nouveau Quartier Administratif, Haut Agdal, Rabat

Tel: +212 537 688 122/21; +212 663 35 36 87, Fax: +212 537 688 089, E-Mail: hassouni@mpm.gov.ma

NICARAGUA

Guevara Quintana, Julio Cesar *

Comisionado CIAT – Biólogo, INPESCA, Km 3,5 Carretera Norte (Frente a Branpro), Managua

Tel: +505 2278 0319; +505 8396 7742, E-Mail: juliocgq@hotmail.com; alemsanic@hotmail.com

NORWAY

Sørdahl, Elisabeth *

Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, Department for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Postboks 8090 Dep., 0032 Oslo

Tel: +47 22 24 65 45, E-Mail: elisabeth.sordahl@nfd.dep.no

PANAMA

Pinzón Mendoza, Zuleika *

Administradora General, Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de Panamá, Calle 45, Bella Vista Edif. Riviera Ave. Justo Arosemena

Tel: +507 511 6057, Fax: +507 511 6071, E-Mail: zpinzon@arap.gob.pa

Delgado Quezada, Raúl Alberto

Director General de Inspección Vigilancia y Control, Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de Panamá, Edificio La Riviera – Avenida Justo Arosemena y Calle 45, Bella Vista (Antigua Estación El Arbol), 0819-05850

Tel: +507 511 6000, Fax: +507 511 6031, E-Mail: rdelgado@arap.gob.pa; ivc@arap.gob.pa

S. TOMÉ E PRÍNCIPE

Pessoa Lima, Joao Gomes *

Director Geral das Pescas, Ministério das Finanças, Comercio e 298iami298ly Azul, Direcção Geral das Pescas, Largo das Alfandegas, C.P. 59

Tel: +239 222 2828, E-Mail: pessoalima61@gmail.com; jpessoa61@hotmail.com

Aurélio, José Eva

Direcção das Pescas, C.P. 59

Tel: +239 991 6577, E-Mail: aurelioeva57@yahoo.com.br; dirpesca1@cstome.net

SENEGAL

Goudiaby, Mamadou *

Directeur des Pêches maritimes, Ministère de la Pêche et de l'Économie Maritime, Direction des Pêches Maritimes, 1 rue Joris, Place du Tirailleur, B.P. 289 Dakar

Tel: +221 33 823 0137, Fax: +221 33 821 4758, E-Mail: magoudiaby@yahoo.fr; dpm@mpem.gouv.sn

Cheikh Amadou Tidiane, Ndoye

Ambassade du Sénégal à Lisbonne, Av. da Liberdade, 38 4º Esq., 1250-145 Lisboa, Portugal
Tel : +351 213 160 180

Diedhiou, Abdoulaye

Chef de Division, Direction des pêches maritimes DAKAR – DPM, 1 Rue Jorris, BP 289
Tel : +221 33 821 47 58, Fax : +221 33 823 01 37, E-Mail : layee78@yahoo.fr

Genevieve, Faye Epse Manel

Ambassade du Sénégal a Lisbonne, Av. Da Liberdade, 38 4º Esq., 1250-145 Lisboa, Portugal
Tel : +351 213 160 180, E-Mail : manelsanthiou@yahoo.fr

Kane Dème, Fatimata

Juriste, Direction des Pêches maritimes, Point E Avenue Cheikh Anta Diop x Rue du de l'Est, Dakar
Tel : +221 77 524 7232, E-Mail : kanmetou@yahoo.fr

Talla, Marième Diagne

Conseiller juridique du Ministère de la Pêche et de l'Économie Maritime, Ministère de la Pêche et de l'Économie Maritime, 1, rue Joris, Place du Tirailleur, B.P. 289, Dakar
Tel: +221 33 849 8452; +221 77 270 08 86, E-Mail: masodiagne@yahoo.fr

SOUTH AFRICA

Pheeha, Saasa *

Director, Marine Resource Management, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Foretrust Building, 9 Marting Hammerschalg Way, Foreshore 8000, Cape Town, Private Bag X2, Vlaeberg 8018
Tel: +27 21 402 3563, Fax: +27 21 402 3618, E-Mail: saasap@daff.gov.za

Winker, Henning

Scientist: Research Resource, Centre for Statistics in Ecology, Environment and Conservation (SEEC), Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), Fisheries Branch, 8012 Foreshore, Cape Town
Tel : +27 21 402 3515, E-Mail : henningW@DAFF.gov.za ; henning.winker@gmail.com

TUNISIA

Mejri, Hamadi *

Directeur adjoint, Conservation des ressources halieutiques, Ministère de l'agriculture et des ressources hydrauliques et de la pêche, Direction Générale de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture, 32 Rue Alain Savary – Le Belvédère, 1002
Tel : +216 240 12780, Fax : +216 71 799 401, E-Mail : hamadi.mejri1@gmail.com

TURKEY

Elekon, Hasan Alper *

Senior Fisheries Officer, General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture (Balıkçılık ve Su Ürünleri Genel Müdürlüğü), Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MoFAL), Gıda Tarım ve Hayvancılık Bakanlığı Kampüsü, Eskişehir Yolu 9. Km, 06100 Lodumlu, Ankara
Tel: +90 312 258 30 76, Fax: +90 312 258 30 75, E-Mail: hasanalper@gmail.com; hasanalper.elekon@tarim.gov.tr

UNITED STATES

Gibbons-Fly, William *

Deputy Assistant Secretary (Acting), U.S. Department of State, Office of Marine Conservation, 2201 C Street, NW, SUITE 3880, Washington, D.C. 20520
Tel: +1 202 647 2396, Fax: +1 202 736 7350, E-Mail: gibbons-flywh@state.gov

Blankenbeker, Kimberly

Foreign Affairs Specialist, NOAA Fisheries, Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection (F/IS), National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring Maryland 20910
Tel: +1 301 427 8357, Fax: +1 301 713 1081, E-Mail: 299iami299ly.blankenbeker@noaa.gov

Campbell, Derek

Office of General Counsel – International Law, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W. HCHB Room 48026, Washington, D.C. 20032
Tel: +1 202 482 0031, Fax: +1 202 371 0926, E-Mail: derek.campbell@noaa.gov

Elliott, Brianna

NOAA Sea Grant Knauss Marine Policy Fellow, U.S. Department of State, Office of Marine Conservation, 2201 C Street NW, Room 2758, Washington DC 20520
Tel: +1 202 647 3464, E-Mail: elliottbw@state.gov

Ortiz, Alexis

U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street NW, Room 6424, Washington, DC 20520
Tel : +1 202 647 0835 ; (505) 401 1139, E-Mail : ortizaj@state.gov

Warner-Kramer, Deirdre

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Marine Conservation (OES/OMC), U.S. Department of State, Rm 2758, 2201 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20520-7878
Tel : +1 202 647 2883, Fax : +1 202 736 7350, E-Mail : warner-kramerdm@fan.gov

URUGUAY

Domingo, Andrés *

Director Nacional, Dirección Nacional de Recursos Acuáticos - DINARA, Laboratorio de Recursos Pelágicos, Constituyente 1497, 11200 Montevideo
Tel: +5982 400 46 89, Fax: +5982 401 32 16, E-Mail: adomingo@dinara.gub.uy; direcciongeneral@dinara.gub.uy

VENEZUELA

Hernández Rivero, Alexis José *

Director de Demarcación Oficina de Fronteras, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores (MPPRE), Avenida Urdaneta, Torre MPPRE, Piso 14 Ala "A", Caracas
Tel: +212 802 8000 Ext. 9613, E-Mail: ajhrbufalo@gmail.com

Gil Ledezma, Jesús Eduardo

Analista, Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores, Área de Soberanía Marítima
Tel: +58 414 892 8845, E-Mail: licgilledezma@gmail.com

OBSERVERS FROM COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES, ENTITIES, FISHING ENTITIES

CHINESE TAIPEI

Lin, Ding-Rong

Director, Deep Sea Fisheries Division, Fisheries Agency, 8F, No. 100, Sec. 2, Heping W. Rd., Zhongzheng Dist., 10070
Tel: +886 2 2383 5833, Fax: +886 2 2332 7395, E-Mail: dingrong@ms1.fa.gov.tw

Chou, Shih-Chin

Section Chief, Deep Sea Fisheries Division, Fisheries Agency, 8F, No. 100, Sec. 2, Heping W. Rd., Zhongzheng District, 10070
Tel: +886 2 2383 5915, Fax: +886 2 2332 7395, E-Mail: shihcin@ms1.fa.gov.tw

Hu, Nien-Tsu

Director, The Center for Marine Policy Studies, National Sun Yat-sen University, 70, Lien-Hai Rd., 80424 Kaohsiung City
Tel: +886 7 525 5799, Fax: +886 7 525 6126, E-Mail: omps@mail.nsysu.edu.tw

Kao, Shih-Ming

Assistant Professor, Graduate Institute of Marine Affairs, National Sun Yat-sen University, 70 Lien-Hai Road, 80424 Kaohsiung City
Tel: +886 7 525 2000 Ext. 5305, Fax: +886 7 525 6205, E-Mail: kaosm@mail.nsysu.edu.tw

Lee, Chia-Yen

Section Chief, Department of Treaty and Legal Affairs, 2 Kaitakelan Blvd., 10048
Tel : +886 2 2348 2507, Fax : +886 2 2312 1161, E-Mail : cylee01@mofa.gov.tw

Lin, Lih-Fang

Deputy Director, Economic Division, Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States, 4301 Connecticut Ave. Suite 420, Washington DC 20008, United States
Tel: +1 202 686 6400, Fax: +1 202 363 6294, E-Mail: gracelin@mail.coa.gov.tw

Lin, Ke-Yang

Senior Executive Officer, Agriculture, Fisheries and Economic Organizations Section, 2 Kaitakelan Blvd., 10048
Tel: +886 2 2348 2268, Fax: +886 2 2361 7694, E-Mail: kylin@mofa.gov.tw

Lin, Yen-Ju

Specialist, International Economics and Trade Section, Deep Sea Fisheries Division, Fisheries Agency, 8F, No. 100, Sec. 2, Heping W. Rd., Zhongzheng Dist., 10070
Tel: +886 2 2383 5912, Fax: +886 2 2332 7395, E-Mail: yenju@ms1.f.gov.tw

Lin, Yu-Ling Emma

Executive Secretary, The Center for Marine Policy Studies, National Sun Yat-sen University, 70, Lien-Hai Rd., 80424 Kaohsiung City
Tel: +886 7 525 5799, Fax: +886 7 525 6126, E-Mail: lemma@nssu.edu.tw

OBSERVERS FROM INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

CONFÉRENCE MINISTÉRIELLE SUR LA COOPÉRATION HALIEUTIQUE ENTRE LES ETATS AFRICAINS RIVERAINS DE L'OcéAN ATLANTIQUE – COMHAFAT

Benabbou, Abdelouahed

Executive Secretary, Conférence Ministérielle sur la Coopération Halieutique entre les États Africains Riverains de l'Océan Atlantique/COMHAFAT, 2, Rue Beni Darkoul, Ain Khalouiya – Souissi, BP 1007, Rabat, Morocco
Tel: +212 530774 221; +212 669 281 822, Fax: +212 537 681 810, E-Mail: secretariat@comhafat.org; benabbou.comhafat@gmail.com

Ishikawa, Atsushi

COMHAFAT, N° 2, Rue Beni Darkoul, Ain Khalouiya – Souissi, 10220 Rabat, Morocco
Tel: +212 642 96 66 72, Fax: +212 530 17 42 42, E-Mail: a615@ruby.ocn.ne.jp

Laamrich, Abdennaji

Advisor, COMHAFAT, 2, Rue Beni Darkoul, Ain Khalouia, Souissi, Rabat, Morocco
Tel: +212 530 77 42 21; +212 661 224 794, Fax: +212 537 681 810, E-Mail: laamrich@comhafat.org; laamrichmpm@gmail.com

SCRS CHAIRMAN

Die, David

SCRS Chairman, Cooperative Institute of Marine and Atmospheric Studies, University of Miami, 4600 Rickenbacker Causeway, Miami Florida 33149, United States
Tel: +34 673 985 817, Fax: +1 305 421 4607, E-Mail: ddie@rsmas.miami.edu

ICCAT Secretariat

C/ Corazón de María 8 – 6th floor, 28002 Madrid – Spain
Tel: +34 91 416 56 00; Fax: +34 91 415 26 12; E-mail: info@iccat.int

Meski, Driss

Neves dos Santos, Miguel

Ortiz, Mauricio

Campoy, Rebecca

De Andrés, Marisa

Pinet, Dorothée

Fiz, Jesús

García Piña, Cristóbal

Peña, Esther

ICCAT INTERPRETERS

Baena Jiménez, Eva J.

Faillace, Linda

Hof, Michelle Renée

Liberas, Christine

Meunier, Isabelle

Sánchez del Villar, Lucía

ICCAT GUEST

Manel, Camille Jean Pierre

Correspondence from El Salvador on their Position in Relation to Issues to be discussed at the Meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT
(CENDEPESCA)

000331

El Salvador, 23 May 2018

Mr. Driss Meski
Executive Secretary
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
Madrid, Spain

Subject: Ref. Working Group on Convention Amendment meeting, 24-25 May

Dear Mr. Meski,

I am writing in connection with the meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment, having convened this week on the beautiful island of Madeira, Portugal. This event should result in a refined and consensual proposal which may be discussed and approved during the annual meeting of the Commission. In this context I would like to reiterate the position of my country in relation to the discussions which will undoubtedly take place this week in Madeira.

Article VIII bis

We support the wording of this article as per the version 16/05/ 18 (4: 18 PM) of document CONV_03/i2018. If any change is made, we would appreciate if the International Court of Justice or the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea were not considered to be dispute settlement entities since El Salvador does not accept ipso facto the jurisdiction of the Court or Tribunal referred to above.

Annex 2

FISHING ENTITIES

We fully agree with wording of Annex 2 on Fishing Entities, as per version 16/05/18 (4:18 PM) of document CONV_03/i2018. In our view, if any changes are made, these should not affect the date of 10 July 2013 which is established as the deadline for having attained the status of Cooperator and becoming a Fishing Entity through submission of an instrument in writing to the Executive Secretary of the Commission, undertaking to be bound by the terms of the Convention and comply with the recommendations adopted.

With regard to "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on species considered to be tuna and tuna like species or oceanic, pelagic, and highly migratory elasmobranchs" which was presented and discussed in 2015, we have no objection, since at the time the SCRS reviewed and approved it.

We will abide by the decision taken by the Working Group on how best to adopt amendments to the Convention and their entry into force, however, we urge that a way be found that does not involve too much bureaucracy but complies with the protocols established for this type of situations.

The Republic of El Salvador wishes success to the delegations in attendance, and takes this opportunity to greet them and express to them the assurances of our highest estimation and consideration.

Finally, we request that that this correspondence be circulated to the delegates in attendance at this latest meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment.

DIOS UNION LIBERTAD

Gustavo Antonio Portillo Portillo
Director General



Regards

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.5

**Statement by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela at
the Working Group meeting on Convention Amendment**

Once again, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela congratulates the admirable initiative and commitment undertaken by the Working Group responsible for completing the negotiations among Contracting Parties with regard to the proposals on Convention amendment.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela considers that the final proposal to the Convention amendment reflected in the final Report of the 25th Regular meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), overall contains the observations and considerations of the Contracting Parties, in particular regarding the premise that, to solve disputes, negotiation, inquiry, arbitration and conciliation will be sought by peaceful means of resolution.

Thus, it is viable and feasible to approve the proposed text. However, we believe that as a principle of nations, the promotion of consensus and necessary consultations should continue in order to solve disputes in an amicable and harmonious way through dialogue between the Parties involved. The establishment of courts and binding measures are not the most suitable procedures. Other forms of dispute settlements which are less complex and which are accepted and based on reciprocity with the principles of each State, should be implemented. The ideals of brotherhood should be preserved. These ideals have been materialised throughout the existence of this Organization in the form of good and harmonious relations between all the States who comprise it.

Draft Resolution by ICCAT regarding Participation by Fishing Entities under the amended ICCAT Convention

Proposal by the United States

RECALLING that, at its 18th Special Meeting in 2012, ICCAT adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Working Group to Develop Amendments to the ICCAT Convention* [Rec. 12-10];

NOTING that one of the areas for which the Working Group was directed by the Commission to formulate proposed amendments (Annex I of the 2012 Recommendation) was “Non-party participation;”

RECALLING that the reference to “Non-party participation” reflected, *inter alia*, the will of the Commission to provide for an enhanced level of participation by “Fishing Entities” in the Commission for the purpose of strengthening the effective conservation and management of ICCAT species;

RECOGNIZING that the Working Group has, in accordance with its mandate, developed a series of “proposed amendments to the Convention with respect to the items identified in Annex I” (of the 2012 Recommendation);

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that this series of proposed amendments includes Annex 2 concerning Fishing Entities;

RECALLING that this Annex provides 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 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, IX, X, and XI of the Convention;”

NOTING that this resolution is adopted concurrent with the amended Convention;

The Commission hereby establishes and reaffirms that:

1. Chinese Taipei is the only Fishing Entity that has received Cooperating Status within ICCAT prior to 10 July 2013; and therefore,
2. Chinese Taipei is the only Fishing Entity that has met the qualifications specified in Annex 2 to the Convention; and therefore,
3. Upon entry into force of the amended Convention, including Annex 2, no Fishing Entity other than Chinese Taipei is to be eligible to participate in the work of the Commission pursuant to the provisions of that Annex.

Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.5

**Proposal for Amendment of the
International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic tunas**
(Prepared by the Working Group on Convention Amendment)

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 fishes 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 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) 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) 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 subparagraph (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 to be adopted by the Commission. The panel shall confer with the parties to the dispute and shall endeavour to expeditiously resolve the dispute without recourse to binding procedures.
3. If any dispute arises between two or more of the Contracting Parties concerning the interpretation or application of this Convention, best efforts shall be made to have the dispute resolved by peaceful means.
4. Any such dispute that is not resolved through means set out in the paragraphs above, may be submitted to final and binding arbitration for settlement, at the joint request of the parties to the dispute. Prior to jointly requesting arbitration, the parties to the dispute should agree on the scope of the dispute. The parties to the dispute may agree that an arbitral tribunal be constituted and conducted in accordance with Annex 1 of this Convention or in accordance with any other procedures that the parties to the dispute may decide to apply by mutual agreement. Any such arbitral tribunal shall render its decisions in accordance with this Convention, international law and relevant standards recognized by the parties to the dispute for the conservation of living marine resources.
5. The dispute settlement mechanisms set out in this Article shall only apply to disputes that relate to any act, fact, or situation that occurs after the date of the entry into force of this Article.

6. 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 lieu of dispute settlement as provided for in this Article, 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.

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.

** See FAO Agreement.

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.
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 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 concerning any withdrawal, but not later than April first of that year.

Article XIII

1. At the initiative of aAny Contracting Party or of the Commission itself, the Commission may propose amendments to this Convention. Any such proposal shall be by consensus. Notwithstanding, only the Commission may propose amendments to Annex 2. 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.
2. Proposed amendments shall be deposited with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Notifications of acceptance of amendments shall be deposited with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Article XIII bis

The Annexes form an integral part of this Convention and a reference to this Convention includes a reference to the Annexes.

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.
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.

*** As modified by the Paris Protocol, which entered into force on December 14, 1997.

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.

Article XV***

The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations 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 or 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 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

PROCEDURES FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION

1. The arbitral tribunal referred to in paragraph 4 of Article VIII bis should be composed, as appropriate, of three arbitrators who may be appointed as follows:
 - (a) One of the parties to the dispute should communicate the name of an arbitrator to the other party to the dispute that should, in turn, within a period of forty days following that notification, communicate the name of the second arbitrator. In disputes between more than two Members of the Commission, parties that have the same interest should jointly appoint one arbitrator. The parties to the dispute should, within a period of sixty days following the appointment of the second arbitrator, appoint the third arbitrator, who is not a national of either Member of the Commission and is not of the same nationality as either of the first two arbitrators. The third arbitrator should 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 may be appointed, at the request of the parties to the dispute, by the Chair of the Commission within two months from the date of receipt of the request.
2. The decision of the arbitral tribunal should be made by a majority of its members, which should not abstain from voting.
3. The decision of the arbitral tribunal is final and binding on the parties to the dispute. The parties to the dispute should comply with the decision without delay. The arbitral tribunal may interpret the decision at the request of one of the parties to the dispute.

ANNEX 2**FISHING ENTITIES**

1. After the entry into force of the amendments to the Convention adopted on <date of adoption>, only the fishing entity that had attained by 10 July 2013 Cooperating Status in accordance with the procedures established by the Commission, as reflected in Resolution 18-XX adopted concurrent with this Annex, may, by a written instrument delivered to the Executive Secretary of the Commission, 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. Such fishing entity may withdraw such commitment by a written notification addressed to the Executive Secretary of the Commission. 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, the fishing entity referred to in paragraph 1 may, by a written instrument delivered to the Executive Secretary of the Commission, 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.
- 2bis. The Executive Secretary shall notify the Contracting Parties of its receipt of such commitments or notifications and make such notifications available to the Contracting Parties; provide notifications from the Contracting Parties to the fishing entity, including notifications of ratification, approval, or adherence and entry into force of the Convention and its amendments; and keep safe custody of any such documents transmitted between the fishing entity and the Executive Secretary.
3. The fishing entity referred to in paragraph 1 which has expressed, through the submission of the written instrument referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2, its firm commitment to abide by the terms of this Convention and comply with recommendations adopted pursuant to it 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 the fishing entity referred to in paragraph 1 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 may, with the mutual agreement of the parties to the dispute, be submitted, as the case may be, to an ad hoc expert panel or, after seeking to agree on the scope of the dispute, for final and binding arbitration.
5. The provisions of this Annex relating to the participation of the fishing entity referred to in paragraph 1 are only for the purposes of this Convention.
6. 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, IX, X, XI of the Convention.

Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Species Considered to be tuna and tuna-like Species or Oceanic, Pelagic, and Highly Migratory Elasmobranchs

*(Proposal by the Chair of the WG of the Convention Amendment)
(New proposal, discussed previously as CONV_10/2015 and not adopted)*

RECALLING the work of the Working Group on Convention Amendment to clarify the scope of the Convention through the development of proposed amendments to the Convention;

FURTHER RECALLING that the proposed amendments developed by the Working Group on Convention Amendment included defining “ICCAT species” to include tuna and tuna-like species and elasmobranchs that are oceanic, pelagic, and highly migratory;

NOTING the work of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) to determine which modern taxonomic groupings correspond to the definition of “tuna and tuna-like fishes” in Article IV of the Convention, and which elasmobranch species would be considered “oceanic, pelagic, and highly migratory”;

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

1. Upon the entry into force of the amendments to the Convention as developed by the Working Group on Convention Amendment, the term “tuna and tuna-like species” shall be understood to include the species of the family *Scombridae*, with the exception of the genus *Scomber*, and the sub-order *Xiphoidei* as follows:

Scombrid

Acanthocybium solandri (Cuvier 1832) – Wahoo
Auxis rochei rochei (Risso 1810) – Bullet Tuna
Auxis thazard thazard (Lacepède 1800) – Frigate Tuna
Euthynnus alletteratus (Rafinesque 1810) – Little Tunny
Katsuwonus pelamis (Linnaeus 1858) – Skipjack Tuna
Orcynopsis unicolor (Geoffrey St. Hilaire 1817) – Plain Bonito
Sarda sarda (Bloch 1793) – Atlantic Bonito
Scomberomorus maculatus (Mitchill 1815) – Spanish Mackerel
Scomberomorus regalis (Bloch 1793) – Cero
Scomberomorus tritor (Cuvier in Cuvier & Valenciennes 1832) – West African Spanish Mackerel
Gasterochisma melampus (Richardson 1845) – Butterfly Kingfish
Allothunnus fallai (Serventy 1948) – Slender Tuna
Thunnus alalunga (Bonnaterre 1788) – Albacore
Thunnus albacares (Bonnaterre 1788) – Yellowfin Tuna
Thunnus atlanticus (Lesson 1831) – Blackfin Tuna
Thunnus obesus (Lowe 1839) – Bigeye Tuna
Thunnus thynnus (Linnaeus 1758) – Atlantic Bluefin Tuna
Thunnus maccoyii (Castelnau 1872) – Southern Bluefin Tuna

Istiophoridae

Istiompax indica (Cuvier 1832) – Black Marlin
Istiophorus platypterus (Shaw 1792) – Sailfish
Kajikia albida (Poey 1860) – White Marlin (currently known as *Tetrapturus albidus* in FAO and other CPCs species list that use FAO species names as reference)
Makaira nigricans (Lacepède 1802) – Blue Marlin
Tetrapturus belone (Rafinesque 1810) – Mediterranean Spearfish
Tetrapturus georgii (Lowe 1841) – Roundscale Spearfish
Tetrapturus pfluegeri (Robins & de Sylva 1963) – Longbill Spearfish

Xiphiidae*Xiphias gladius* (Linnaeus 1758) – Swordfish

2. Upon the entry into force of the amendments to the Convention as developed by the Working Group on Convention Amendment, the term “elasmobranchs that are oceanic, pelagic, and highly migratory” shall be understood to include the species as follows:

<i>Order</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Genus</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Authorship</i>
Orectolobiformes	Rhincodontidae	<i>Rhincodon</i>	<i>typus</i>	Smith 1828
Lamniformes	Pseudocarchariidae	<i>Pseudocarcharias</i>	<i>kamoharai</i>	Matsubara 1936
Lamniformes	Lamnidae	<i>Carcharodon</i>	<i>carcharias</i>	Linnaeus 1758
Lamniformes	Lamnidae	<i>Isurus</i>	<i>oxyrinchus</i>	Rafinesque 1810
Lamniformes	Lamnidae	<i>Isurus</i>	<i>paucus</i>	Guitart Manday 1966
Lamniformes	Lamnidae	<i>Lamna</i>	<i>nasus</i>	Bonnaterre 1788
Lamniformes	Cetorhinidae	<i>Cetorhinus</i>	<i>maximus</i>	Gunnerus 1765
Lamniformes	Alopiidae	<i>Alopias</i>	<i>superciliosus</i>	Lowe 1841
Lamniformes	Alopiidae	<i>Alopias</i>	<i>vulpinus</i>	Bonnaterre 1788
Carcharhiniformes	Carcharhinidae	<i>Carcharhinus</i>	<i>falciformis</i>	Müller & Henle 1839
Carcharhiniformes	Carcharhinidae	<i>Carcharhinus</i>	<i>galapagensis</i>	Snodgrass & Heller 1905
Carcharhiniformes	Carcharhinidae	<i>Carcharhinus</i>	<i>longimanus</i>	Poey 1861
Carcharhiniformes	Carcharhinidae	<i>Prionace</i>	<i>glauca</i>	Linnaeus 1758
Carcharhiniformes	Sphyrnidae	<i>Sphyrna</i>	<i>lewini</i>	Griffith & Smith 1834
Carcharhiniformes	Sphyrnidae	<i>Sphyrna</i>	<i>mokarran</i>	Rüppell 1837
Carcharhiniformes	Sphyrnidae	<i>Sphyrna</i>	<i>zygaena</i>	Linnaeus 1758
Myliobatiformes	Dasyatidae	<i>Pteroplatytrygon</i>	<i>violacea</i>	Bonaparte 1832
Myliobatiformes	Mobulidae	<i>Manta</i>	<i>alfredi</i>	Kreff 1868
Myliobatiformes	Mobulidae	<i>Manta</i>	<i>birostris</i>	Walbaum 1792
Myliobatiformes	Mobulidae	<i>Mobula</i>	<i>hypostoma</i>	Bancroft 1831
Myliobatiformes	Mobulidae	<i>Mobula</i>	<i>japanica</i>	Müller & Henle 1841
Myliobatiformes	Mobulidae	<i>Mobula</i>	<i>mobular</i>	Bonnaterre 1788
Myliobatiformes	Mobulidae	<i>Mobula</i>	<i>rochebrunei</i>	Vaillant 1879
Myliobatiformes	Mobulidae	<i>Mobula</i>	<i>tarapacana</i>	Philippi 1892
Myliobatiformes	Mobulidae	<i>Mobula</i>	<i>thurstoni</i>	Lloyd 1908

3. The lists of species set forth in paragraphs 1 and 2 above will be reviewed periodically and may be amended, as appropriate, upon the receipt of advice from the SCRS.

4.6 REPORT OF THE INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 1 (Bilbao, Spain, 23-25 July 2018)

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chair of Panel 1, Mr. Shep Helguilè (Côte d'Ivoire). The Chair introduced the new ICCAT Executive Secretary, Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel. Mr. Manel welcomed the participants and observers to this intersessional meeting and extended the support of the Secretariat in facilitating the discussions at the intersessional meeting. The Chair noted that the Terms of Reference were submitted by the EU with input from South Africa and the United States. One party expressed concerns that the Terms submitted were too broad and outside the purview of the Panel; however, the Chair acknowledged the need for broad terms in this context.

2. Nomination of the rapporteur

Grace Ferrara (United States) was designated as the rapporteur.

3. Meeting objectives

The objectives of the meeting as reflected in the agenda were agreed.

4. Adoption of the Agenda and meeting arrangements

The Agenda was adopted without changes and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.6**.

The Executive Secretary described the meeting arrangements and noted that the following 18 Contracting Parties were present: Angola, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Curaçao, El Salvador, European Union, Gabon, Guatemala, Japan, Mauritania, Namibia, Panama, Senegal, South Africa, United Kingdom (OT) and United States. He also noted that one Cooperating Non-Contracting Party Entity and Fishing Entity, Chinese Taipei, was in attendance, as well as four Non-Governmental Organizations (IPNFL - International Pole and Line Foundation; ISSF - International Seafood Sustainability Foundation; The Pew Charitable Trusts; SCIAENA - Associação de Ciências Marinhas e Cooperação). The List of Participants is provided in **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.6**.

The Chair noted that time would be given to CPCs to summarize issues raised in their opening statements.

5. Brief review on tropical tuna fisheries and stock status

The SCRS Chairman, Dr David Die, presented an overview of the status of the stocks considered by this Panel as well as the preliminary results of the 2018 stock assessment for bigeye tuna. He noted that the overall catch of bigeye tuna exceeded the TAC in 2016 and 2017 and that, although the catch level for CPCs with individual quotas had decreased in 2016-2017 compared to the period of 2010-2015, the catch level for CPCs without individual quotas in that same period had increased. It was also determined that, although catch by longline and baitboat fisheries had decreased, the catch by purse seine and other gears types had increased.

The latest assessment results indicated that bigeye tuna are overfished and subject to overfishing. Dr Die explained that the Kobe matrix and the management advice will be provided at the SCRS Plenary but the basic outcomes are not expected to change. Aside from the need to incorporate these estimates of uncertainty, Dr Die indicated that there is greater confidence in the results of the model used this year because it was able to incorporate more data, particularly set-by-set data from longline fisheries, than the models used in past years and it accounted for the size selectivity of the various fleets. All 18 runs conducted under SSC3 showed that the stock is in the red zone of the Kobe plot (overfished and overfishing occurring).

One CPC requested the Secretariat to provide total Task I nominal catches of bigeye tuna by CPC and gear type, together with allocated quotas as per Rec. 16-01. The Secretariat provided such table for the period 2010-2017. One CPC further requested that the catches by purse-seine gear to be provided for fish aggregating device (FAD) associated and free schools (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.6**).

One CPC asked whether any new conservation measures for bigeye tuna would also benefit the yellowfin tuna stock. Dr Die responded that some measures might increase catches of yellowfin tuna, e.g., a shift from fishing on FADs to fishing on free schools; the SCRS has observed this when purse seines fishing on free schools operate in the area closed to FAD fishing. Several CPCs noted the complexity of managing a multispecies fishery. Dr Die explained that the MSE process can help evaluate the impacts of individual management measures across stocks.

One CPC asked if the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) for bigeye tuna had increased or decreased in recent years. Dr Die explained that the current MSY is lower than in the past, while the spawning stock biomass (SSB) required to support MSY has been increasing.

One CPC requested that the SCRS Chair share the preliminary results of the fishery impact assessment for 2015-2017 that shows the reduction in SSB attributed to each fishing method. Dr Die presented preliminary results showing the impact of purse seine vessels fishing with FADs and longline vessels was relatively higher, by weight, than that of baitboats and purse seine vessels fishing on free schools. The Secretariat clarified that handline catches were included with baitboat for the purposes of data analysis. Dr Die explained that this analysis does not address the request from the Commission to characterize 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 (paragraph 49c of Rec. 16-01). Further analyses will be developed at the SCRS meeting this fall to specifically address that request from the Commission.

6. Current conservation and management measures

There was general agreement that the measures in *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-Annual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tunas* (Rec. 16-01) do not take into account recent changes in the Atlantic tropical tuna fisheries. Many CPCs expressed serious concern that total reported catches substantially exceeded the bigeye TAC in 2016 and 2017. The yellowfin TAC was exceeded in 2016; yellowfin tuna catch data for 2017 were not yet available. The basic structure of Rec. 16-01 creates a problematic situation in which the TAC can be exceeded even when all CPCs are technically in compliance with the measure. CPCs also discussed the need to address the allocation table, as well as those CPCs that are not on the allocation table but are catching bigeye tuna.

Dr Die reiterated that preliminary results of the 2018 assessment clearly indicate a need to reduce overall catches of bigeye tuna and to reduce the high proportion of catches of small bigeye tuna from current levels. The CPCs agreed that a broad and holistic approach is needed to reduce overall fishing mortality and catch of small fish through fleet-specific measures that support rebuilding. Several CPCs urged that aspects of the fishery monitoring and controls in Rec. 16-01 should be strengthened to help ensure that total catches do not exceed the TACs for bigeye and yellowfin.

The CPCs agreed that, although the SCRS has been asked to provide several new analyses related to the impacts of Rec. 16-01, a great deal of scientific work has already been conducted, and the Commission must take action on the basis of the scientific information available at the 2018 annual meeting.

7. Considerations for modification of current conservation and management measures or adoption of new measures

CPCs expressed a willingness to work together to develop a comprehensive suite of measures to stop overfishing and support rebuilding of the Atlantic bigeye tuna stock. There was general agreement on two overarching goals: reducing the catch of bigeye tuna in accordance with scientific advice and reducing the mortality of juvenile bigeye tuna (<100 cm). There was a wide-ranging discussion of possible elements and options for a new tropical tunas management measure.

Capacity limits in conjunction with catch limits were discussed at length and were generally supported by the CPCs present; however, there was no agreement on the methods proposed to limit capacity. Several CPCs strongly supported limiting the number of support and supply vessels in the purse seine fishery as a method for limiting capacity in the FAD fisheries; however, the Secretariat noted the difficulty in defining and identifying those vessels. Another suggestion was to reduce the allowable number of FADs per vessel, consistent with measures taken by other tuna RFMOs. Several CPCs stressed that it would be difficult to quantify any benefit from stricter capacity limits and that capacity limits would not be an acceptable substitute for an Atlantic bigeye tuna TAC that is based on SCRS advice.

One CPC asked Dr Die how fisheries targeting bigeye tuna would be distinguished from those that catch bigeye as bycatch. He replied that for purposes of the SCRS, directed catches and bycatches of bigeye tuna are reported by weight in the same way.

The discussion of how to reduce the total catch focused largely on the structure of Rec. 16-01 wherein developing coastal CPCs harvesting over 3500 t would receive annual quotas and CPCs harvesting under that amount do not. As was the case in 2016 and 2017, it is possible for the TAC to be exceeded without any individual CPC exceeding their quota. However, when the TAC is exceeded, only the countries with quotas are required to pay back the overage. Some CPCs suggested that a quota should be allocated to all CPCs catching bigeye tuna in order to increase accountability and compliance with the TAC. Another idea was to lower the trigger for the small harvesters to 1000 t, accounting for more CPCs in the quota table but still providing some flexibility for the small harvesters. It was also suggested that the amount of carryover permitted under Rec. 16-01 is too high for an overfished stock and that carryover to adjusted quotas increases the likelihood that the TAC may be exceeded.

Several CPCs were concerned about the limitations these measures would impose on developing countries looking to develop their tropical tuna fisheries. One CPC recalled that the trigger level established for small harvesters (in paragraph 4b of Rec. 16-01) was originally designed to allow for some growth in the fisheries of developing coastal States. Several CPCs expressed their agreement, while others acknowledged this with the qualification that all fishing possibilities must be considered in the context of the status of the stock and other elements of the *Resolution by ICCAT on Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* (Res. 15-13). Senegal stated that the Commission may need to consider revising the allocation criteria for purposes of reaching agreement on an allocation scheme for bigeye tuna, but several other CPCs expressed concern that opening the allocation criteria would delay progress on improving tropical tuna management. Several CPCs suggested that those who have benefitted from catching bigeye tuna in the past have caused the depletion of the stock, and should, therefore, be responsible for any quota reductions that are necessary to rebuild the stock. Another CPC agreed that developing CPCs should be able to develop their fisheries, but indicated that the extent of the developments should be discussed at the Commission meeting and may need to be limited, based on scientific advice from the SCRS.

Several CPCs proposed the revision of the existing time and area closure to reduce the overall catch. El Salvador suggested a total closure of all industrial purse seine fisheries in the Atlantic Ocean for a period of time each year, as an alternative to a TAC. Dr Die recalled a previous analysis conducted by the SCRS, which concluded that any benefits of an Atlantic-wide time/area closure would depend on the behavior of the fleet. If the fleets harvest more during the open season to make up for the lost catch during the closure, then any potential benefits would be offset by this additional effort. Other options were discussed, such as to expand the time/area closure in geographic area, timeframe, and/or type of fishing styles. CPCs agreed to review the results of any additional analyses that may become available from the SCRS on the effectiveness of the FADs time/area closure, but several CPCs noted that the Commission should not delay in taking other actions as needed in the meantime.

Dr Die presented results from another SCRS study that indicated that the majority of the juvenile bigeye tuna caught in the fishery were harvested by purse seiners using FADs. South Africa suggested that any CPC using FADs should be on the allocation table. Options such as reducing the allowable number of FAD deployments, establishing limits on the number of FAD sets per vessel, additional FAD closure periods, and use of biodegradable FADs were discussed. However, CPCs agreed that the management of FADs requires specific definitions that have yet to be adopted by ICCAT and that more input from the SCRS is required to determine the best options for managing FADs. Due to the status of the stock and the urgent need for measures to reduce juvenile mortality, some CPCs proposed that immediate action be taken, such as reducing the number of FAD deployments, while the SCRS conducts analyses to guide the development of more permanent measures. The Secretariat and Dr Die noted that the Ad Hoc Working Group on FADs has developed some preliminary recommendations, but this list will not be finalized until the next meeting.

Several CPCs emphasized the importance of considering additional monitoring, control and surveillance measures to help ensure compliance and reporting, noting that the rebuilding plan for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna (Rec. 17-07) could serve as a template for additional fleet-specific measures. The ideas shared included inspection plans, capacity plans, higher rates of observer coverage, and electronic monitoring. One CPC noted that given the length and complexity of Rec. 17-07, those CPCs that are not members of Panel 2 did not have sufficient time to become familiar with these measures and discuss them at this meeting.

While there was no consensus on any specific elements of a new tropical tunas measure, it was agreed that the options should be reflected in a general way under Agenda item 9. CPCs expressed their intentions to continue informal discussion intersessionally in preparation for developing and adopting a revised measure at the 2018 annual meeting.

8. Draft plan for development of Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) and Harvest Control Rules (HCR) for Tropical Tunas

The Commission has started a process of management strategy evaluation (MSE) for tropical tunas in order to support improved management of these stocks.

MSE is a process that requires close cooperation between the Commission, its various bodies, and all stakeholders. The MSE process is a multi-year process that can culminate in the adoption of a harvest control rule and/or a management procedure.

ICCAT is conducting MSE processes for a number of priority stocks. Some of these processes are well advanced, like the northern albacore MSE process that has led to the adoption of an interim harvest control rule. Other processes are still in the beginning stages, such is the case of tropical tunas. ICCAT has a roadmap for all these processes that establishes a calendar of MSE actions. The roadmap is designed to be modified by the Commission every year in consultation with the SCRS.

For the MSE process to be effective the Commission must establish clear operational management objectives. Once these objectives are clearly defined, quantitative performance indicators can be agreed upon. These indicators can then be used to evaluate the success or failure of management measures by evaluating trade-offs between competing objectives.

ICCAT has had an ongoing discussion on these management objectives for tropical tunas; however, the Commission has not yet adopted any specific objectives other than those enshrined in the Convention texts. The meetings of the ICCAT Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) have recommended that, in the interim, the SCRS uses for the purposes of the development of the MSE, the equivalent objectives and performance indicators used in the northern albacore MSE. This would imply that each tropical tuna stock would have as operational objectives:

- Maintain each stock in the “green area” of the Kobe plot with 60% probability
- Maintain long-term catches at MSY
- Avoid large fluctuations in annual catches derived from TAC changes

The Commission has already agreed on performance indicators for each of these objectives for northern albacore. Similar performance indicators are reflected in Rec. 16-01.

It is clear that it is not always possible to achieve all these objectives simultaneously. For instance, in order to achieve 60% probability of being in the green area of the Kobe plot, catches may have to sometimes be lower than MSY.

An important distinction, however, is the Commission’s management of tropical tunas as a multi-species fishery, which adds an additional layer of complexity to the tropical tunas MSE process. One CPC stated that the objectives for tropical tunas should be different from those of northern albacore for this reason. There was some discussion about how multi-species objectives or fleet-specific operational objectives could help the Commission to consider trade-offs across species.

Dr Die explained that the Commission has two alternatives:

- a) Continue with management based on single stock objectives, and, thus, be driven primarily by the needs of the weakest stock (presently bigeye tuna),
- b) Define some multi-species or fleet specific objectives and, thus, be able to evaluate trade-offs in a more strategic manner for the tropical tuna complex.

One CPC reminded the Panel of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Principles of Decision Making for ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* (Rec. 11-13) which states that for stocks that are overfished with overfishing occurring, the Commission shall immediately adopt management measures designed to have a high probability of ending overfishing. Another CPC suggested that, for example, the Commission might consider a range of rebuilding probabilities of 50%, 55%, and 60% to analyze the implications for the TAC. Some CPCs questioned whether 50% would be a high enough probability to satisfy that recommendation, noting that 60% probability had been used for several other ICCAT stocks. The SCRS Chair indicated that the Kobe Matrix will be prepared by the SCRS this fall in time to inform discussions at the annual meeting.

Another CPC suggested the objective of reducing the mortality of small bigeye tuna. There was general agreement that this proposal would support the overall goal of stock recovery. Discussion of this objective led to the question of how the term 'small fish' should be defined. Dr Die explained that the SCRS characterizes juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tunas as those with a length under 100 cm. One CPC raised the concern of defining small fish as juveniles, as the majority of the catch by surface gears is composed of juveniles. Dr Die presented several graphs confirming that for all gear types, with the exception of longlines, the proportion of the catch made up of juvenile fish exceeds 80% (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.6**). There was general agreement that one operational objective should be to reduce the overall proportion of juvenile catch as this is expected to result in a higher MSY that would benefit all fisheries.

With regard to the western Atlantic skipjack stock, Brazil noted that there is limited bycatch of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tunas in this fishery, and suggested that this stock should be subject to a separate MSE. The SCRS Chair agreed that it would be appropriate to use a single-stock MSE to evaluate options for western skipjack.

9. Recommendations to the Commission and requests to the SCRS

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.6 contains a list of elements and options that were discussed under Agenda items 7 and 8 and will receive further consideration at the next Commission meeting during the development of a new measure. There was general agreement that the new tropical tunas measure must be responsive to the final outcomes of the bigeye tuna stock assessment and other analyses presented by the SCRS to the Commission.

10. Other matters

The Panel addressed the table of recommendations developed during the second Performance Review of ICCAT. The recommendations pertaining to Panel 1 were reviewed and supplemented with new information as necessary. The final updated table is contained in **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.6**.

The Secretariat requested that the Panel review the current schedule for reporting of bigeye tuna catch data by the CPCs. Recommendation 16-01 requires all CPCs to report data quarterly; however, the starting date of the fishing year is defined differently by some CPCs. The Secretariat asked the Panel to clarify this point and determine if any action needed to be taken. There was general agreement that the dates on which quarterly reporting is provided may be determined based on each CPC's fishing year. The Panel will return to this issue at the annual meeting in November.

11. Adoption of the report and adjournment

The meeting was adjourned. The report was adopted by correspondence.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.6**Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Nomination of Rapporteur
3. Meeting objectives¹
4. Adoption of the agenda and meeting arrangements
5. Briefly review on tropical tuna fisheries and stock status (including preliminary results from the 2018 Bigeye tuna stock assessment and main challenges faced in the tropical tuna stocks assessments)
6. Current conservation and management measures (including challenges in their implementation and evaluation of their effectiveness)
7. Considerations for modifications of current conservation and management measures² or adoption of new measures that could include, inter alia:
 - Capacity limits
 - Catch limits
 - Time and/or area closures
 - Limits on/reduction of FAD fishing effort
 - Limits on/reduction of the number of support vessels
 - Other measures to reduce mortality of juvenile BET and YFT
 - Other measures
8. Draft plan for development of Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) and Harvest Control Rules (HCR) for tropical tunas
 - Potential management objectives
 - Identification of performance indicators
 - Possible management procedures, including HCRs
9. Recommendations to the Commission and request to the SCRS
10. Other matters
11. Adoption of report and adjournment

¹ The meeting seeks to provide a forum for discussion on current and possible future management measures related to tropical tunas, including the possible future adoption of Harvest Control Rules.

² In discussing possible measures, Panel 1 should evaluate the scientific basis, conservation and management benefits, and compliance elements. In light of this evaluation, Panel 1 should seek to prioritize those measures (or combination of measures) that appear to have the greatest likelihood of supporting the relevant conservation and management objectives identified in item 8. Specific consideration should be given to the likely effectiveness and efficiency of these measures, and how CPCs verify compliance.

List of participants

CONTRACTING PARTIES

ANGOLA

Fernandes, Bernardo *

Ministerio das Pescas e do mar, Avenida 4 de Fevereiro Nº 30, Edifício Atlântico, Caixa Postal 83, Luanda
Tel: +244 926374980; +244 222310759, Fax: +244 222310199, E-Mail: bernardomoi7@gmail.com; nkuso2015@gmail.com

Bartolomeu, Cláudio José

Ministry of Fisheries, Avenida 4 de Fevereiro, Nº 30 Edifício Atlântico, Caixa Postal 83, Luanda
Tel: +244 222310759, Fax: +244 222310199, E-Mail: j.k.v.claudioebo@hotmail.com

BELIZE

Robinson, Robert *

Deputy Director for High Seas Fisheries, Belize High Seas Fisheries Unit, Ministry of Finance, Government of Belize, Marina Towers, Suite 204, Newtown Barracks, Belize City
Tel: +501 22 34918, Fax: +501 22 35087, E-Mail: deputydirector@bhsfu.gov.bz

BRAZIL

Franklin de Souza, Davyson *

Secretário, Aquaculture and Fisheries Secretariat - SAP, Ministry of Industry, Foreign Trade and Services, Setor Bancário Norte, Qd. 1, Bl. D, 5o. Andar, Ed. Palácio do Desenvolvimento, CEP: 70057-900 Brasília-DF
Tel: +55 61 2027 7000, E-Mail: davyson.souza@presidencia.gov.br

Boëchat de Almeida, Bárbara

Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations, 747 Third Avenue, 9th Floor, New York NY 10017, United States
Tel: +1 212 372 2600, E-Mail: barbara.boechat@itamaraty.gov.br

Bulhoes, Pablo

North Banking Sector - SBN- QD 01, Bl D, 5th floor - Palace of Development Building - INCRA, 70057-900 Brasília
Tel: +55 619 963 03530, E-Mail: pablo.bulhoes@presidencia.gov.br

Calzavara de Araujo, Gabriel

President, SINDIPESCA, Av. Sen. Salgado Filho, 2860, Lagoa Nova - Edf. Eng. Fernando Bezerra, CEP 59075-900 Natal Rio Grande do Norte
Tel: +55 84 3211 9287; Cel: +55 84 99480 8484, Fax: +55 84 3201 2045, E-Mail: gabriel@atlanticotuna.com.br

Da Silva Sales, Roberto

Praça dos Três Poderes - Câmara dos Deputados Gabinete 332 - Anexo IV, 3º andar, 70160-900 Brasília D.F.
Tel: +55 61 3215 5332, E-Mail: thaiz.reis@presidencia.gov.br

Espogeiro, Alexandre

CONEPE, SRTVS Qd 701, Ed. Novo Centro Multiempresarial, Bl. O, nº 110, salas 186/187, 70340-905 Brasília D.F.
Tel: +55 613 323 5831; +55 21 99971 8085, E-Mail: alexandre_espogeiro@hotmail.com

Figueiredo de Oliveira Reis, Thaiz

Coordinación General de Monitorización y Control de la Agricultura y Pesca (CGMCAP/DRMC/SEAP), Ministerio de Industria, Comercio Exterior y Servicios, Setor Bancário Norte, Qd. 1 Bloco D, 5º andar, Ed. Palácio do Desenvolvimento, CEP: 70057-900 Brasília - DF Prédio Incra - Asa Norte
Tel: +55 61 2027 7000; +55 61 98177 0257, E-Mail: thaiz.reis@mdic.gov.br; thaiz.reis@presidencia.gov.br

Hazin, Fabio H. V.

Universidade Federal Rural de Pernambuco - UFRPE / Departamento de Pesca e Aquicultura - DEPAq, Avenida Conselheiro Rosa e Silva, 1241, Apto. 1302, CEP: 52.050-225 Recife Pernambuco
Tel: +55 81 999 726 348, Fax: +55 81 3320 6512, E-Mail: fabio.hazin@ufrpe.br; fhvhazin@terra.com.br

* Head of delegation.

Lobo, Christiano

ABIPESCA, St. de Grandes Áreas Norte Q. 601 BL H, Sala 1920, 70297400 Brasília D.F.
Tel: +55 61 9991 5282, E-Mail: thaiz.reis@presidencia.gov.br

Martins de Bulhoes, Antonio Carlos

Praça dos Três Poderes - Câmara dos Deputados - Gabinete: 327 - Anexo IV, 3º andar, 70160-900 Brasília DF
Tel: +55 61 3215 5327, E-Mail: bpbulhoes@yahoo.com.br

Silva, Natasha Lunara

North Banking Sector --SBN - QD 01, Bl D, 5th floor - Palace of Development Building - INCRA, 70057-900 Brasília
Tel: +55 619 815 70797, E-Mail: natasha.silva@presidencia.gov.br

Travassos, Paulo Eurico

Universidade Federal Rural de Pernambuco - UFRPE, Avenida Dom Manuel de Medeiros s/n - Dois Irmaos, CEP 52171-900 Recife Pernambuco
Tel: +55 81 3320 6511, Fax: +55 81 3320 6515, E-Mail: pautrax@hotmail.com; paulo.travassos@ufrpe.br

Verde Cordeiro Mendes, Cléber

Deputado Federal, Praça dos Três Poderes - Câmara dos Deputados - Gabinete710 - Anexo IV, 7º andar, 70160-900 Brasília DF
Tel: +55 619 8124 5886; +55 61 3215 5710, Fax: +61 3215 4710, E-Mail: deputadoclerberverde@gmail.com

Villaça, Carlos Eduardo

Coletivo Nacional de Pesca e Aquicultura - CONEPE - SRTVS, Quadra 701, Bloco O nº 110, sl. 186/187, Ed. Novo Centro Multiempresarial, CEP: 70940-905 Brasília DF Asa Sul
Tel: +55 61 3323 5831, E-Mail: caduvillaça1964@gmail.com

Webber, Elder José

SINDIPI, Rua Lauro Muller, 386, 88301-400 Itajai Santa Catarina
Tel: +55 613 215 5327, E-Mail: thaiz.reis@presidencia.gov.br

CANADA

MacDonald, Carl *

Senior Advisor, Resource and Aboriginal Fisheries Management, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 1 Challenger Drive, PO Box 1006, Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Dartmouth, NS B2Y 4A2
Tel: +1 902 293 8257, Fax: +1 902 426 7967, E-Mail: carl.macdonald@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Shep, Helguilè *

Directeur de l'Aquaculture et des Pêches, Ministère des Ressources Animales et Halieutiques de Côte d'Ivoire, Rue des Pêcheurs; B.P. V-19, Abidjan
Tel: +225 21 35 61 69; Mob: +225 07 61 92 21, E-Mail: shelguile@yahoo.fr; shep.helguile@aviso.ci

Amandè, Monin Justin

Chercheur Halieute, Centre de Recherches Océanologiques de Côte d'Ivoire, Département Ressources Aquatiques Vivantes - DRAV29 Rue des Pêcheurs, BP V 18, Abidjan 01
Tel: +225 05 927 927, Fax: +225 21 351 155, E-Mail: monin.amande@yahoo.fr; monin.amande@cro-ci.org

Hema, Cathérine

Coordonnatrice Adjointe de Projet de Développement Durable des Ressources Halieutiques
Tel: +225 49 924 593, E-Mail: hemacathy@yahoo.fr

Sombo, Chokou Quetoura

Directeur Adjoint du Port de Pêche d'Abidjan, Abidjan
Tel: +225 0424 1289, Fax: +225 21 238080, E-Mail: sombois@yahoo.fr; choquetou@gmail.com

CURAÇAO

Chong, Ramon *

President of the Fishery, Ministry of Economic Development of Curaçao, International Fisheries Commission, Directorate of Economic Affairs, Amidos Building, Pletterijweg 41, Willemstad
Tel: +5999 529 7290, Fax: +5999 462 7590, E-Mail: ramon.chong@gobiernu.cw; ramon_chong@hotmail.com

Alonso Olano, Borja

Overseas Tuna Company N.V., Poligono Industrial Landabaso, s/n - Edificio Albacora, 48370 Bermeo Bizkaia, Spain
Tel: +34 946 187 000, Fax: +34 946 186 147, E-Mail: borja.alonso@albacora.es

Uribe, Iñigo

NICRA 7, S.L., C/ Txibitxiaga, Nº 16, Entreplanta, 48370 Bermeo, Vizcaya, Spain
Tel: +34 94 618 64 09; +34 629 452 923, E-Mail: iuribe@nicra7.com

EL SALVADOR

De Paz Martínez, Celina Margarita *

Técnico de Investigación pesquera, Dirección General de Desarrollo de la Pesca y la Acuicultura (CENDEPESCA), Final 1ª Av. Norte, 13 calle Poniente y Av. Manuel Gallardo, Santa Tecla
Tel: +503 2210 1913, E-Mail: celina.depaz@mag.gob.sv; celinam.dpaz@gmail.com

Mejía Arteaga, Sara Anabel

CENDEPESCA - Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería, Dirección de CENDEPESCA, Santa Tecla, La Libertad, Final Avenida Manuel Gallardo
Tel: +503 221 01760, Fax: +503 221 01700, E-Mail: saraarteaga.sm@gmail.com; sara.mejia@mag.gob.sv

Ubis Lupion, Macarena

Calvopesca El Salvador, S.A., Vía de Poblados, 1 - 5ª Planta, 28042 Madrid, España
Tel: +34 617 068 486, E-Mail: macarena.ubis@calvo.es

EUROPEAN UNION

Jessen, Anders *

Director, Head of Unit - European Commission, DG Mare B 2, Rue Joseph II, 99, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 299 24 57, E-Mail: anders.jessen@ec.europa.eu

Aláez Pons, Ester

International Relations Officer, European Commission - DG MARE - Unit B2 - RFMOs, Rue Joseph II - 99 03/057, 1049 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 296 48 14, E-Mail: ester.alaez-pons@ec.europa.eu

Biagi, Franco

Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG-Mare) - European Commission, Rue Joseph II, 99, Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +322 299 4104, E-Mail: franco.biagi@ec.europa.eu

Peyronnet, Arnaud

Directorate-General, European Commission - DG MARE - UNIT B2 - RFMOs, Rue Joseph II - 99 03/33, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 2991 342, E-Mail: arnaud.peyronnet@ec.europa.eu

Capela, Pedro

APASA, Cais de Santa Cruz - Edificio Lotaçor, 9900-172 Horta, Portugal
Tel: +351 913 842 342; +351 292 392 139, E-Mail: apasa_op@hotmail.com

Da Silva Afonso, Inmaculada

Islatuna, Darsena Pesquera, 1ª Transversal, Parcela 47, CP 38180 Canarias Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain
Tel: +34 922 54 97 19; +34 609 604 803, Fax: +34 922 54 93 36, E-Mail: macu@islatuna.com

De la Figuera Morales, Ramón

Subdirector General de Acuerdos y Organizaciones Regionales de Pesca, Secretaría General de Pesca, Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente, C/ Velázquez, 144, 28006 Madrid, Spain
Tel: +34 91 347 6041, Fax: +34 91 347 6049, E-Mail: rdelafiguera@mapama.es

Gaertner, Daniel

IRD-UMR MARBEC, CRH, CS 30171, Av. Jean Monnet, 34203 Sète Cedex, France
Tel: +33 4 99 57 32 31, Fax: +33 4 99 57 32 95, E-Mail: daniel.gaertner@ird.fr

Gonzalez Dieguez, Idoia

AZTI, Idorsolo 1, 48160 Derio, Bizkaia País Vasco, Spain
Tel: +34 605 776 053, E-Mail: idoia.gonzalez@zunibal.com

Goujon, Michel

ORTHONGEL, 5 Rue des Sardiniers, 29900 Concarneau, France
Tel: +33 2 9897 1957; +33 610 627 722, Fax: +33 2 9850 8032, E-Mail: mgoujon@orthongel.fr

Herbón España, Marcelino

Islatuna, Dársena Pesquera, Parcela 47, 38180 Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain
Tel: +34 649 987 011, Fax: +34 922 549 336, E-Mail: macu@islatuna.com

Herrera Armas, Miguel Angel

OPAGAC, C/ Ayala 54, 2º A, 28001 Madrid, Spain
Tel: 91 431 48 57, Fax: 91 576 12 22, E-Mail: miguel.herrera@opagac.org

Le Couls, Sarah

Compagnie Française du Thon Océanique (CFTO), 11 bis rue des Sardiniers, 29900 Concarneau, France
Tel: +0 607 662 143, E-Mail: sarah.lecouls@cfto.fr

Le Galloudec, Fabien

Ministère de l'Agriculture, Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture, Tour Séquoïa, 92055 La Défense, Cedex, France
Tel: +33 1 40 81 91 78; +33 674 924 493, Fax: +33 1 40 81 86 58, E-Mail: fabien.le-galloudec@developpement-durable.gouv.fr

Lizcano Palomares, Antonio

Subdirector Adjunto de la Subdirección General de Acuerdos y Organizaciones Regionales de Pesca, Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente, Secretaría General de Pesca, C/ Velázquez, 144 2ª Planta, 28006 Madrid, Spain
Tel: +34 91 347 6047, Fax: 91 347 60 42, E-Mail: alizcano@mapama.es

Lopes, Luís

Chefe de Divisao, Direção de Serviços de Recursos Naturais, Divisao de Recursos Externos, Av. Brasilia, 1449-030 Lisboa, Portugal
Tel: +351 213035720; +351 963 909 957, Fax: +351 213035922, E-Mail: llopes@dgrm.mm.gov.pt

Maufroy, Alexandra

ORTHONGEL, 5 rue des sardiniers, 29900 Concarneau, France
Tel: +33 2 98 97 19 57, Fax: +33 2 98 50 80 32, E-Mail: amaufroy@orthongel.fr

Merino, Gorka

AZTI - Tecnalia /Itsas Ikerketa Saila, Herrera Kaia Portualde z/g, 20110 Pasaia - Gipuzkoa, Spain
Tel: +34 94 657 4000; +34 664 793 401, Fax: +34 94 300 4801, E-Mail: gmerino@azti.es

Morón Ayala, Julio

Organización de Productores Asociados de Grandes Atuneros Congeladores - OPAGAC, C/ Ayala, 54 - 2ªA, 28001 Madrid, Spain
Tel: +34 91 575 89 59, Fax: +34 91 576 1222, E-Mail: julio.moron@opagac.org

Muniategi Bilbao, Anertz

ANABAC-OPTUC, Txibitxiaga, 24 - Entreplanta Apartado 49, 48370 Bermeo - Bizkaia, Spain
Tel: +34 94 688 28 06, Fax: +34 94 688 50 17, E-Mail: anertz@anabac.org; anabac@anabac.org

Murua, Hilario

AZTI - Tecnalia /Itsas Ikerketa Saila, Herrera Kaia Portualde z/g, 20110 Pasaia Gipuzkoa, Spain
Tel: +34 667 174 433, E-Mail: hmurua@azti.es

Reyes, Nastassia

IRD (UMR MARBEC) CRH, Avenue Jean Monnet, CS 30171, 34203 Sète Cedex, France
Tel: +3301 440 57344; +33 642 355655, E-Mail: nastassia.reyes@ird.fr

Rita, Gualberto

Federação Pescas Açores, Rua Sao Salvador, 2, 9760-541 Praia da Vitória, Portugal
Tel: +351 962 524 244; +351 295 513 053, Fax: +351 295 512 135, E-Mail: gualberto.rita@sapo.pt; federacaopescasacores@sapo.pt

Rodrigues, Luis

Director Regional das Pescas, Secretaria Regional do Mar, Ciência e Tecnologia, Rua Cônsul Dabney - Colónia Alema, 9900-014 Horta - Azores, Portugal
Tel: +351 292 202 490; +351 91 413 1674, Fax: +351 292 293 166, E-Mail: luis.m.rodrigues@azores.gov.pt

Santiago Burrutxaga, Josu

Head of Tuna Research Area, AZTI-Tecnalia, Txatxarramendi z/g, 48395 Sukarrieta (Bizkaia) País Vasco, Spain
Tel: +34 94 6574000 (Ext. 497); 664303631, Fax: +34 94 6572555, E-Mail: jsantiago@azti.es; flarrauri@azti.es

Uriarte, Iñaki

Anabac - Asociación Nacional de Armadores de Buques Atuneros Congeladores, Txibitxiaga 24 - Entreplanta Apartado 49, 48370 Bermeo Bizkaia, Spain
Tel: +34 94 688 28 06; +34 607 048 570, Fax: +34 94 688 50 17, E-Mail: iñakiuriarte@pevasa.es; iuriarte@pevasa.es; anabac@anabac.org

Urrutia, Xabier

ANABAC - Asociación Nacional de Armadores de Buques Atuneros Congeladores, Txibitxiaga, 24 - Entreplanta Apartado 49, 48370 Bermeo Bizkaia, Spain
Tel: +34 94 688 0450; +34 656 708 139, Fax: +34 94 688 4533, E-Mail: xabierurrutia@pevasa.es; anabac@anabac.org

Urtizberea, Agurtzane

AZTI-Tecnalia / Itsas Ikerketa Saila, Herrera kaia. Portualdea z/g, 20110 Pasaia, Gipuzkoa, Spain
Tel: +34 667 174 519, Fax: +34 94 657 25 55, E-Mail: aurtizberea@azti.es

Zulueta Casina, Jon

Director Gerente, ATUNSA, Lamera, nº 1- 2º, 48370 Bermeo Bizkaia, Spain
Tel: +34 94 618 62 00, Fax: +34 94 618 61 28, E-Mail: jon@atunsa.com

GABON

Angueko, Davy *

Chargé d'Etudes du Directeur Général des Pêches, Direction Générale des Pêche et de l'Aquaculture, BP 9498, Libreville Estuaire
Tel: +241 0653 4886, E-Mail: davyangueko@yahoo.fr; davyangueko83@gmail.com

GUATEMALA

Cifuentes Marckwordrt, Manoel José *

Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación, Investigación y Desarrollo, Dirección de Normatividad de la Pesca y Acuicultura – DIPESCA, Km. 22.5 Carretera al Pacífico, Guatemala, Villa Nueva Bárcenas
Tel: +502 57 08 09 84, Fax: +502 66 40 93 34, E-Mail: manoeljose@gmail.com

JAPAN

Ota, Shingo *

Councillor, Resources Management Department, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100-8907
Tel: +81 3 3502 8460, Fax: +81 3 3504 2649, E-Mail: shingo_ota810@maff.go.jp

Miwa, Takeshi

Assistant Director, International Affairs Division, Resources Management Department, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8907
Tel: +81 3 3502 8460, Fax: +81 3 3504 2649, E-Mail: takeshi_miwa090@maff.go.jp

Satoh, Keisuke

Tuna Fisheries Resources Group, Tuna and Skipjack Resources Division, National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries, Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency, 5-7-1, Chome Orido, Shizuoka-Shi Shimizu-Ku 424-8633
Tel: +81 54 336 6045, Fax: +81 54 335 9642, E-Mail: kstu21@fra.affrc.go.jp

MAURITANIA

Taleb Moussa, Ahmed *

Directeur Adjoint de l'Aménagement, des Ressources et des Études, Ministère des Pêches et de l'Économie, Direction de l'Aménagement des Ressources, BP 137, Nouakchott
Tel: +222 452 952 141, E-Mail: talebmoussaa@yahoo.fr

NAMIBIA

Iilende, Titus *

Deputy Director Resource Management, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Brendan Simbwaye Square C/O Kenneth Kaunda and Goethe Streets, Private Bag 13355, 9000 Windhoek Khomas Region
Tel: +264 81 149 0234, Fax: +264 61 220 558, E-Mail: titus.iilende@mfmr.gov.na

PANAMA

Delgado Quezada, Raúl Alberto *

Director General de Inspección Vigilancia y Control, Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de Panamá, Edificio La Riviera - Avenida Justo Arosemena y Calle 45, Bella Vista (Antigua Estación El Arbol), 0819-05850
Tel: +507 511 6000, Fax: +507 511 6031, E-Mail: rdelgado@arap.gob.pa; ivc@arap.gob.pa

Pacheco, Lucas

Director General de Ordenación y Manejo Integral, Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de Panamá (ARAP), Edificio Riviera, Ave. Justo Arosemena, Calle 45 Bella Vista, 0819-05850
Tel: +507 511 6000; +507 511 6032, E-Mail: lpacheco@arap.gob.pa

SENEGAL

Diedhiou, Abdoulaye

Chef de Division, Direction des pêches maritimes DAKAR - DPM, 1 Rue Jorris, BP 289
Tel: +221 33 821 47 58, Fax: +221 33 823 01 37, E-Mail: layee78@yahoo.fr

Faye, Adama

Directeur adjoint de la Direction de la Protection et de la Surveillance des pêches, Direction, Protection et Surveillance des Pêches, Cité Fenêtre Mermoz, BP 3656 Dakar
Tel: +221 775 656 958, E-Mail: adafaye2000@yahoo.fr

Sèye, Mamadou

Ingénieur des Pêches, Chef de la Division Gestion et Aménagement des Pêcheries de la Direction des Pêches maritimes, 1, Rue Joris, Place du Tirailleur, Dakar
Tel: +221 33 823 01 37, Fax: +221 821 47 58, E-Mail: mamadou.seye@mpem.gouv.sn; mdseye@gmail.com

Sow, Fambaye Ngom

Chercheur Biologiste des Pêches, Centre de Recherches Océanographiques de Dakar Thiaroye, CRODT/ISRALNERV - Route du Front de Terre - BP 2241, Dakar
Tel: +221 3 0108 1104; +221 77 502 67 79, Fax: +221 33 832 8262, E-Mail: famngom@yahoo.com

SOUTH AFRICA

Njobeni, Asanda *

Forestry and Fisheries, Department of Agriculture 3 Martin Hammerschlag Way, Foretrust Building, Private Bag X2, Vlaeberg, 8002 Cape Town
Tel: +27 21 402 3019, Fax: +27 21 402 3734, E-Mail: asandan@daff.gov.za

Kerwath, Sven

Chairman of the Large Pelagics and Sharks Scientific Working Group, Fisheries Research and Development, Inshore Research, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Foretrust Building, 9 Martin Hammerschlag Way, Foreshore, 8000 Cape Town, Private Bag X2, Vlaeberg 8018
Tel: +27 83 991 4641; +27 214 023 017, E-Mail: SvenK@daff.gov.za; svenkerwath@gmail.com

Qayiso Kenneth, Mketsu

Deputy Director, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 3 Martin Hammerschlag Way, Foretrust Building, Foreshore, 8002 Cape Town
Tel: +27 21 402 3048, Fax: +27 21 402 3734, E-Mail: QayisoMK@daff.gov.za

UNITED KINGDOM (OVERSEAS TERRITORIES)

Warren, Tammy M. *

Senior Marine Resources Officer, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, #3 Coney Island Road, St. George's, CR04, Bermuda
Tel: +1 441 705 2716, E-Mail: twarren@gov.bm

Collins, Martin

CEFAS - Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences, Pakefield Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 OHT
Tel: +44 150 252 1382, Fax: +44 150 252 1382, E-Mail: martin.collins@cefasc.co.uk

Duncan, Darren Glen

Head of Division for Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity, STH 1ZZ Jamestown, Sta. Helena
Tel: +44 290 24724, Fax: +44 290 24603, E-Mail: darren-duncan@enrd.gov.sh

UNITED STATES

Henderschedt, John *

Director, Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East West Highway, Room #10655, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910
Tel: +1 202 222 8372, E-Mail: John.Henderschedt@noaa.gov

Blankinship, David Randle

Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, NOAA - National Marine Fisheries Service, 263 13th Ave South, Saint Petersburg, FL 33701
Tel: +1 727 824 5313, Fax: +1 727 824 5398, E-Mail: randy.blankinship@noaa.gov

Bogan, Raymond D.

U.S. Commissioner for Recreational Interests
Sinn, Fitzsimmons, Cantoli, Bogan & West, 501 Trenton Avenue, P.O. Box 1347, Point Pleasant Beach, Sea Girt New Jersey 08742
Tel: +1 732 892 1000, Fax: +1 732 892 1075, E-Mail: rbogan@lawyernjshore.com

Brown, Craig A.

Chief, Highly Migratory Species Branch, Sustainable Fisheries Division, NOAA Fisheries Southeast Fisheries Science Center, 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami Florida 33149
Tel: +1 305 586 6589, Fax: +1 305 361 4562, E-Mail: craig.brown@noaa.gov

Ferrara, Grace

Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection, NOAA - National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East West Highway, Room 10875, Silver Spring, MD 20910
Tel: +1 301 427 8371, E-Mail: grace.ferrara@noaa.gov

King, Melanie Diamond

Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection, NOAA - National Marine Fishery Service, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring Maryland 20910
Tel: +1 301 427 8366, E-Mail: melanie.king@noaa.gov

O'Malley, Rachel

Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection, NOAA - National Marine Fisheries Service 1315 East-West Highway - Room 10653, Silver Spring, MD 20910
Tel: +1 301 427 8373, Fax: +1 301 713 2313, E-Mail: rachel.o'malley@noaa.gov

Piñeiro Soler, Eugenio

U.S. Commissioner for Commercial Interests
Chairman, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 723 Box Garden Hills Plaza, Guaynabo, PR 00966
Tel: +1 787 224 7399, Fax: +1 787 344 0954, E-Mail: gpsfish@yahoo.com

Villar, Oriana

Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection, NOAA - National Marine Fishery Service 1315 East-West Highway, Room 10648, Silver Spring, MD 20910
Tel: +1 301 427 8384, E-Mail: oriana.villar@noaa.gov

Warner-Kramer, Deirdre

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Marine Conservation (OES/OMC), U.S. Department of State, Rm 2758, 2201 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20520-7878
Tel: +1 202 647 2883, Fax: +1 202 736 7350, E-Mail: warner-kramerdm@fan.gov

OBSERVERS FROM COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES, ENTITIES, FISHING ENTITIES

CHINESE TAIPEI

Chou, Shih-Chin

Section Chief, Deep Sea Fisheries Division, Fisheries Agency, 8F, No. 100, Sec. 2, Heping W. Rd., Zhongzheng District, 10037
Tel: +886 2 2383 5915, Fax: +886 2 2332 7395, E-Mail: shihcin@ms1.fa.gov.tw

Chung, I-Yin

Secretary, Overseas Fisheries Development Council, Operation Division, 3F., No. 14, Wenzhou St., Da'an Dist., 106
Tel: +886 2 2368 0889 ext. 154, Fax: +886 2 2368 6418, E-Mail: ineschung@ofdc.org.tw

Kao, Shih-Ming

Assistant Professor, Graduate Institute of Marine Affairs, National Sun Yat-sen University, 70 Lien-Hai Road, 80424
Kaohsiung City
Tel: +886 7 525 2000 Ext. 5305, Fax: +886 7 525 6205, E-Mail: kaosm@mail.nsysu.edu.tw

Su, Nan-Jay

Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Biology and Fisheries Science, No. 2 Pei-Ning Rd. Keelung, 20224
Tel: +886 2 2462 2192 #5046, E-Mail: nanjay@ntou.edu.tw

OBSERVERS FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

ASSOCIAÇÃO DE CIÊNCIAS MARINHAS E COOPERAÇÃO - SCIAENA

Carvalho, Gonçalo

SCIAENA, Incubadora de Empresas da Universidade do Algarve, Campus de Gambelas, Pavilhao B1, 8005-139 Faro,
Portugal
Tel: +351 936 257 281, E-Mail: gcarvalho@sciaena.org; sciaena@sciaena.org

Laborda Mora, Cristian Eugenio

Humane Society International, La Concepción 81, Oficina 1507, 8320000 Providencia - Santiago de Chile
Tel: +562 223 52973; +569 957 85269, E-Mail: cristian.laborda@celaborda.com; mblanco@celaborda.com

INTERNATIONAL SEAFOOD SUSTAINABILITY FOUNDATION – ISSF

Justel, Ana

ISSF-Spain, C/ Francisco Giralte, 2, 28002 Madrid, Spain
Tel: +34 91 745 3075, E-Mail: ajustel@issf-foundation.org

PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS - PEW

Galland, Grantly

Pew Charitable Trusts, 901 E Street, NW, Washington, DC 20004, United States
Tel: +1 202 540 6953, Fax: +1 202 552 2299, E-Mail: ggalland@pewtrusts.org

Samari, Mona

Pew Charitable Trusts, 248A Marylebone Rd, Marylebone, London NW1 6JZ, United Kingdom
Tel: +020 7535 4000, E-Mail: samarimonaocean@gmail.com

THE INTERNATIONAL POLE & LINE FOUNDATION - IPNLF

Baske, Adam

Director, Policy and Outreach, International Pole & Line Foundation, 52 Pine Street, South Portland, ME 01406, United
States
Tel: +1 207 747 9419, E-Mail: adam.baske@ipnlf.org

Dronkers Londoño, Yaiza

International Pole & Line Foundation, Groenhoedenveem 13, 1019 HM Amsterdam Noord-Holland, Netherlands
Tel: +31 638 146 111, E-Mail: yaiza.dronkers@ipnlf.org

SCRS CHAIRMAN

Die, David

SCRS Chairman, Cooperative Institute of Marine and Atmospheric Studies, University of Miami, 4600 Rickenbacker
Causeway, Miami Florida 33149, United States
Tel: +34 673 985 817, Fax: +1 305 421 4607, E-Mail: ddie@rsmas.miami.edu

ICCAT Secretariat

C/ Corazón de María 8 – 6th floor, 28002 Madrid – Spain
Tel: +34 91 416 56 00; Fax: +34 91 415 26 12; E-mail: info@iccat.int

Manel, Camille Jean Pierre
Neves dos Santos, Miguel
Ortiz, Mauricio
Donovan, Karen
García-Orad, María José
Pinet, Dorothée
Fiz, Jesús
Moreno, Juan Ángel
Peña, Esther

ICCAT INTERPRETERS

Baena Jiménez, Eva J.
Faillace, Linda
Liberas, Christine
Linaae, Cristina
Meunier, Isabelle
Tedjini Roemmele, Claire

Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.6

**Total Task I nominal catches of bigeye tuna (BET) for the period 2010-2017
by CPC, gear type and fishing mode**

Total Task I nominal catches of bigeye tuna (BET) for the period 2010-2017 by CPC, gear type and fishing mode. TAC and quotas as per Rec. 16-01. The catches for 2017 are provisional. Purse seine catches were split by fishing mode, FAD and Free School (FS) fishing, based on the available Task II data.

Fleet Group		Main Gear	Year							
			2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Fleet A		Longline	39206	34761	32606	29524	33169	35445	30960	29965
		Purse seine FAD	12892	11450	11184	11188	10800	12557	13878	12316
		Purse seine FS	3682	3293	3989	2270	2602	1797	2872	1331
		Bait boat	6731	11725	9436	8115	8079	7135	5986	7655
		Other surf.	286	237	29	64	25	120	468	160
Fleet A Total			62797	61465	57244	51161	54675	57054	54163	51427
Fleet B		Purse seine	8628	10302	9533	10149	11209	11744	13757	13764
		Longline	3314	3139	2338	2720	3601	4921	5312	4098
		Other surf.	192	766	1123	2698	4892	5585	5874	7126
		Bait boat	1000	694	822	1121	652	867	802	567
Fleet B Total			13133	14901	13815	16687	20354	23118	25745	25555
Total (Fleet A + B)			75930	76366	71059	67849	75029	80172	79909	76982

Fleet Group	CPCs	CPC_TAC Rec 16- 01	Main Gear	Year							
				2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
A	EUROPEAN UNION	16989	Purse seine FAD	8053	9176	8108	8054	7525	6417	8283	8359
			Purse seine FS	3152	2537	3151	2048	2467	1688	2709	1298
			Bait boat	5847	11214	9074	7654	7273	6571	5647	7346
			Longline	1278	973	726	966	1059	982	1115	1014
			Other surf.	286	237	29	64	25	120	468	160
	JAPAN	17696	Longline	15205	12306	15390	13397	13603	12391	10316	10977
	CHINESE-TAIPE	11679	Longline	13189	13732	10819	10316	13272	16453	13115	12028
	GHANA	4250	Purse seine FAD	4839	2274	3076	3134	3275	6141	5594	3957
			Purse seine FS	531	756	838	222	135	109	162	33
			Bait boat	883	511	362	461	806	564	339	309
			Other surf.						1		
	CHINA PR.	5376	Longline	5489	3720	3231	2371	2232	4942	5852	5514
	KOREA REP.	1486	Longline	2646	2762	1908	1151	1039	677	562	432
			Purse seine	0							
PHILIPPINES	286	Longline	1399	1267	532	1323	1964				
Total Fleet A				62797	61465	57244	51161	54675	57054	54163	51427

B	BRAZIL	Other surf.	22	210	555	2012	4332	4967	5336	6538
		Longline	1055	1452	1165	1377	1966	2606	2322	1044
		Bait boat	97	174	401	235	159	178	2	113
		Purse seine		5						
	CURAÇAO	Purse seine FAD	2401	3255	2548	1659	2021	2399	3277	2523
		Purse seine FS	346	232	402	340	336	174	322	321
	PANAMA	Purse seine FAD	2924	3438	1506	2728	2033	1240	1720	1132
		Purse seine FS	161	94	230	125	308	49	302	353
		Longline							315	105
	CABO VERDE	Purse seine FAD	542	911	698	1218	2249	2673	1625	991
		Purse seine FS	113	165	36	159	112	84	54	57
		Other surf.	1	1	1	1	7	7	1	5
	BELIZE	Purse seine FAD	160	345	611	848	962	1373	1048	672
		Purse seine FS	86	359	635	426	400	280	241	303
		Longline	48	556	12	103	163	224	474	287
	SENEGAL	Purse seine FAD						400	834	2677
		Purse seine FS						29	61	9
		Bait boat	843	215	226	639	361	501	577	287
		Other surf.	15	24	4	7	10	101	29	47
	UNITED STATES	Longline	443	603	582	509	584	574	386	572
		Other surf.	128	119	286	372	275	257	138	202
	GUATEMALA	Purse seine FAD	784	210	173	137	804	317	922	1250
		Purse seine FS	244	79	100	31	203	23	181	278
	GUINÉE Rep.	Purse seine FAD	402	525	1804	1674	1091			
		Purse seine FS	0	0	0	0	21			
	EL SALVADOR	Purse seine FAD						969	1302	1510
		Purse seine FS						23	148	215
	CÔTE D'IVOIRE	Purse seine FAD		47	601	627	438			
Purse seine FS										
Longline		576						465	311	
Other surf.			2	0	54	3	12	79	31	

MAROC	Other surf.		201	210	220	220	209	250	288
	Longline	276	99	90	88	80	100	100	123
St VINCENT & GRENADINES	Longline	396	37	25	15	30	496	622	889
	Other surf.		1		1	0	0		0
NAMIBIA	Longline	133	26	196	35	186	371	236	264
	Bait boat	48	263	181	100	54	94	123	91
S. TOMÉ E PRINCIPE	Purse seine	91	100	103	107	110	633	421	393
	Other surf.	6							
SOUTH AFRICA	Longline	137	124	35	294	282	143	111	196
	Bait boat	8	28	12	142	50	50	10	22
	Other surf.	0							
CANADA	Longline	97	121	155	190	186	249	166	208
	Other surf.	5	16	12	7	32	9	6	6
VENEZUELA	Purse seine	49	223	87	70	121	88	112	107
	Longline	31	27	9	18	30	44	31	35
	Bait boat	5	14	2	6	18	0	13	10
UNITED KINGDOM (O.Territories)	Other surf.	11	190	51	19				
	Bait boat					10	44	77	44
	Longline	0	0	0	4	9	0		
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	Longline	40	33	33	37	59	77	37	28
	Other surf.			0					
BARBADOS	Longline	12	6	11	10	23	30	19	24
	Other surf.		2	4	1	3	0	1	
VANUATU	Longline	42	39	23	9	4			
GUINEA ECUATORIAL	Purse seine		58						
	Other surf.				3	10	17	4	11
URUGUAY	Longline	23	15	2	30				
Guyana	Longline						6	25	10
LIBERIA	Other surf.							27	
MEXICO	Longline	3	1	1	2	1	2	2	2
NIGERIA	Other surf.	3	1	0					

	FRANCE (St-Pierre et Miquelon)	Longline	2			0	0			
	MAURITANIA	Longline							1	
	Non-contracting parties	Purse seine	324	257				989	1187	972
		Other surf.	0	0	0		0	6	4	
Total Fleet B			13133	14901	13815	16687	20354	23118	25745	25555

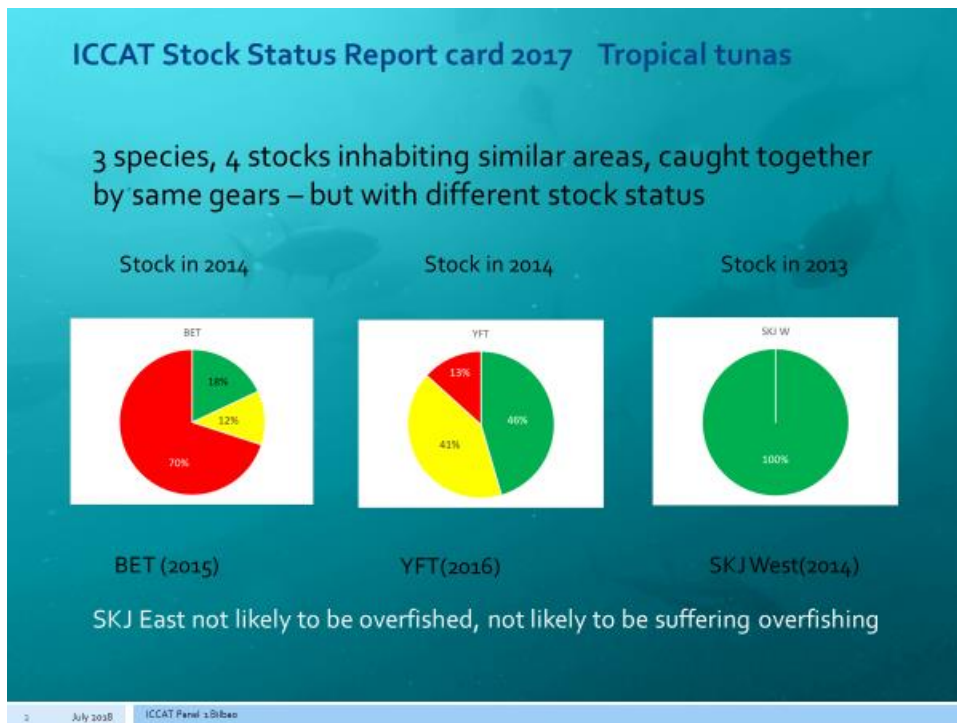
Tropical tunas stock status

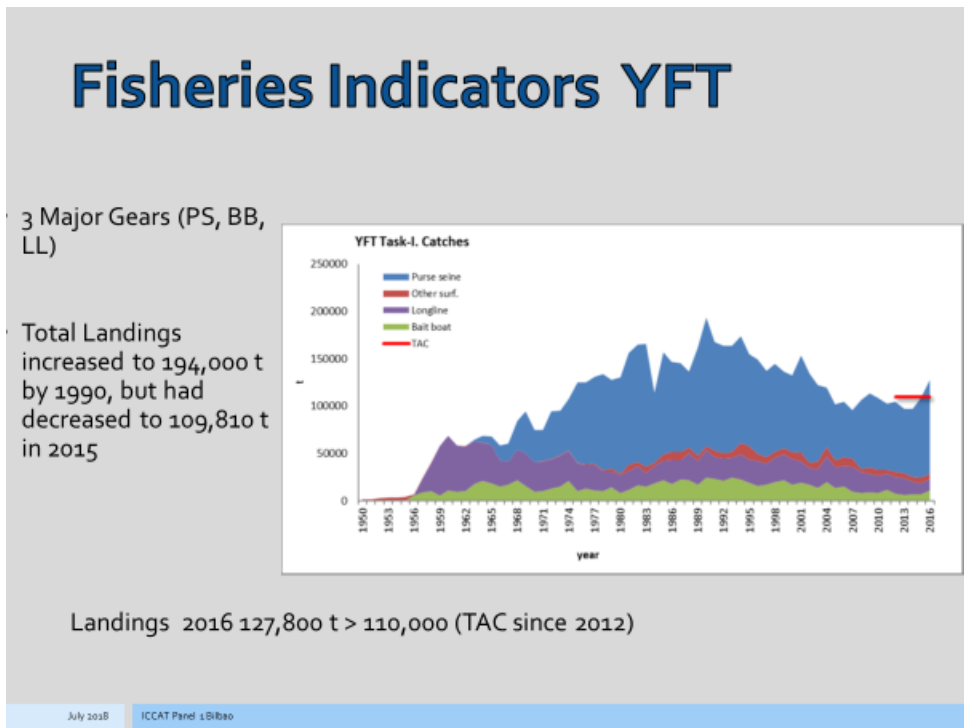
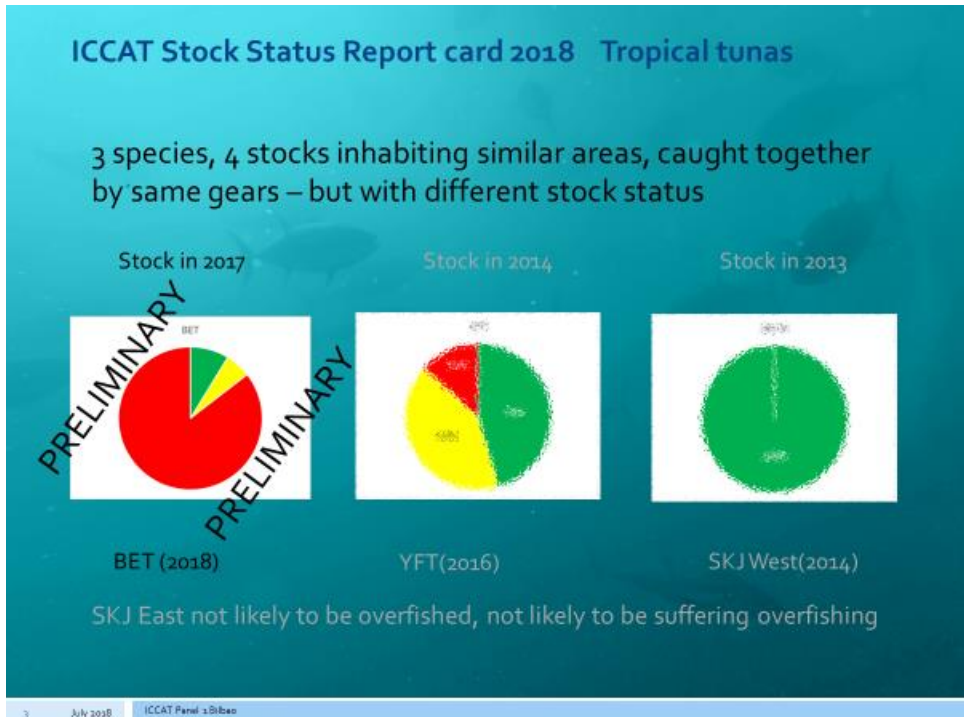
(Presented by SCRS Chair)

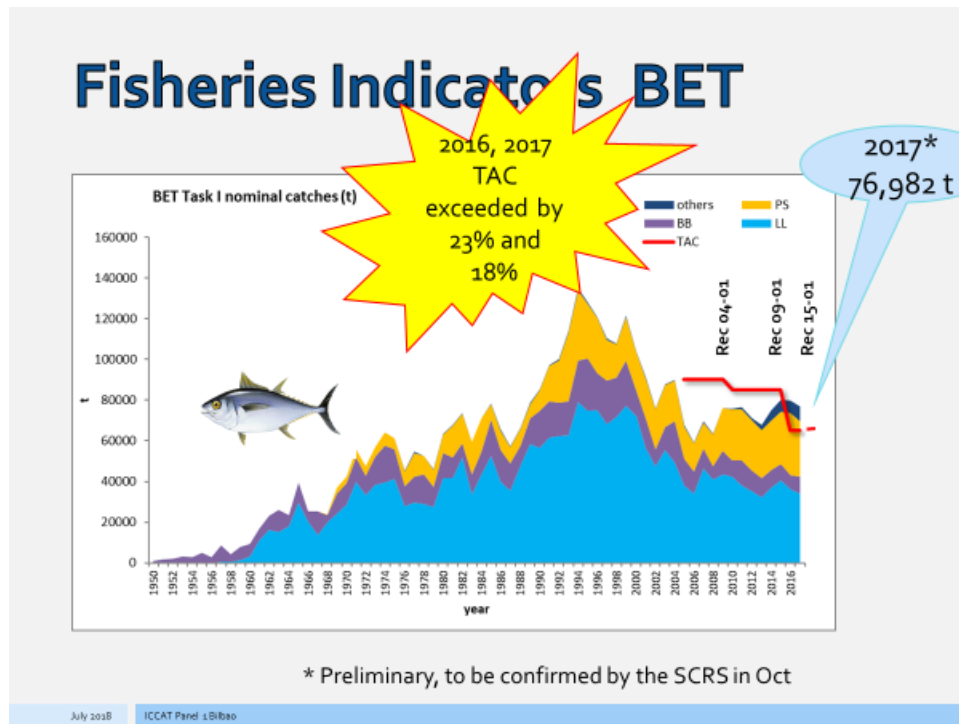
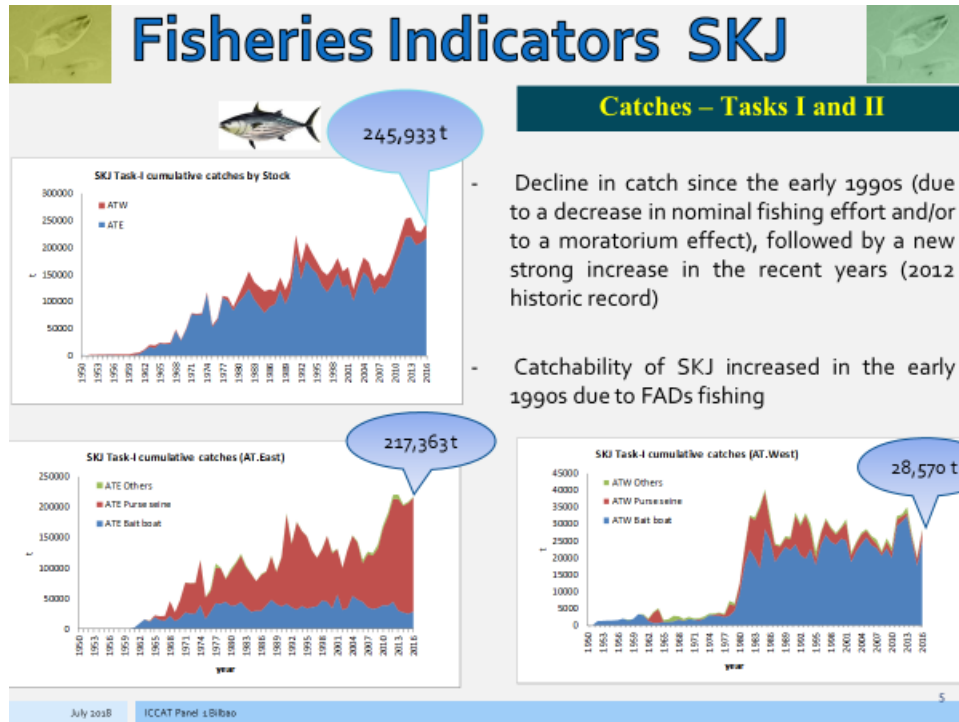
ICCAT SCRS Report Status of Tropical tunas



1 July 2018 ICCAT Panel 1/B/Bao

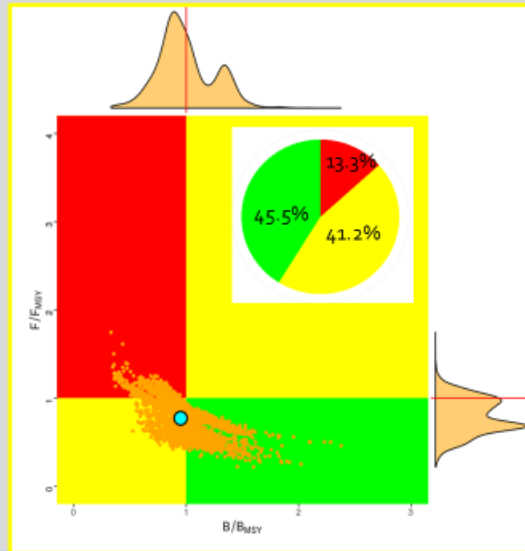






Stock Status 2014 YFT

- Combined 7 models, equally weighted.
- $B/B_{MSY} = 0.95$
 - Overfished
- $F/F_{MSY} = 0.77$
 - Not Overfishing
- $MSY = 126,000\text{ t}$



July 2018 ICCAT Panel 1 Bilbao

YFT Outlook

- Maintaining the current TAC of 110,000 t was expected to maintain healthy stock status through 2024 with >68% probability, increasing to 97% by 2024.

TAC	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
60,000	75	91	99	99	99	99	100	100
70,000	74	87	97	99	99	99	99	99
80,000	73	86	96	99	99	99	99	99
90,000	71	82	91	97	99	99	99	99
100,000	70	80	89	92	96	97	99	99
110,000	68	78	85	90	92	95	96	97
120,000	65	73	79	78	79	80	82	82
130,000	57	59	61	61	57	54	50	48
140,000	45	44	38	33	31	31	31	30
150,000	31	24	21	20	19	20	20	20

Current TAC

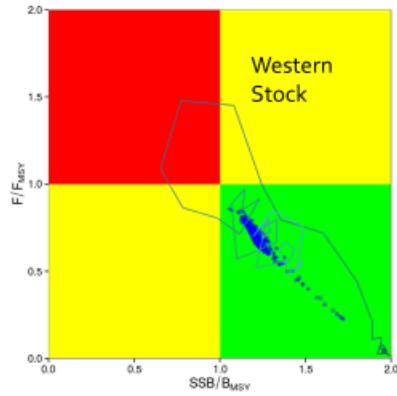
Joint Probability that $B > B_{MSY}$ and $F < F_{MSY}$

As the actual 2016 catches exceeded the values assumed for projections and the TAC (by 16%), the percentages above, are likely to be optimistic.

STATE OF THE STOCKS

ICCAT CICTA CICAA

State of the stocks



	East Atlantic	West Atlantic
Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY)	Probably higher than previous estimates (143,000-170,000)	Around 30,000-32,000 t
Current yield (2016)	227,363 t	28,570 t
Current Replacement Yield	Unknown	Somewhat below 32,000 t
Relative Biomass (B_{2016}/B_{MSY})	Likely >1	Probably close to 1.3
Mortality due to fishing (F_{2016}/F_{MSY})	Likely <1	Probably close to 0.7
Management measures in force	Rec. 16-01	None

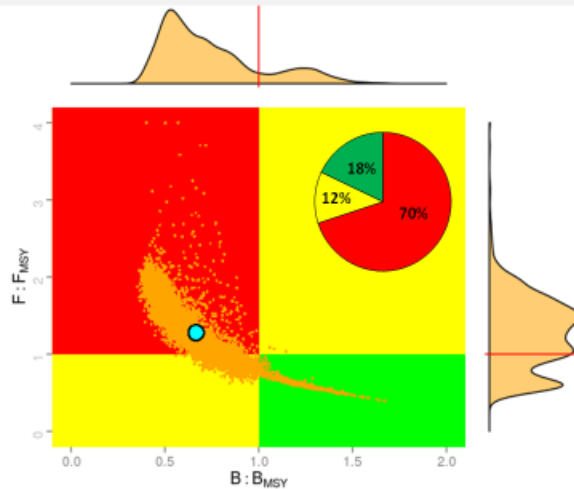
BET 2015 Assessment Status for 2014

- ✓ Catch 2016 ~ 72,375 t
- ✓ Average catch 2012-2016 ~ 72,911 t
- ✓ TAC 2016 65,000 t

- ✓ MSY = 78,824 t.
- ✓ (67,725 – 85,009 t)

- ✓ $B_{2014}/B_{MSY} \sim 0.67$
- ✓ (0.48–1.20) – Overfished

- ✓ $F_{2014}/F_{MSY} \sim 1.28$
- ✓ (0.62–1.85) - Overfishing



ICCAT CICTA CICA *BET Assessment*
MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATION

- Projections indicated that catches at the current TAC level (65,000 t) would have 49% chances of achieving Convention objectives by 2028.
- This probability may be improved by the additional measures (i.e. FAD moratorium) agreed by the Commission.

Probability of being in the green zone (B>Bmsy and F<Fmsy)

Catch (000 t)	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
0	17	17	21	33	57	74	89	92	93	93	93	93	93	93
40	17	17	18	22	31	40	51	60	67	73	78	81	84	87
45	17	17	18	21	29	37	45	53	60	66	71	76	79	81
50	17	17	18	20	27	34	41	48	53	59	64	69	72	76
55	17	17	18	20	25	31	37	42	47	51	56	60	64	68
65	17	17	17	18	22	28	33	38	43	47	51	55	59	63
75	17	17	17	18	19	22	24	26	27	29	31	32	33	35
80	17	16	16	16	18	19	21	22	23	25	26	27	28	29
85	17	16	16	16	18	18	20	21	21	22	23	24	25	26
90	17	15	15	15	16	16	17	18	18	19	19	19	19	19
95	17	14	14	13	13	12	12	12	12	11	10	10	10	8
100	17	12	11	10	8	7	6	6	5	4	4	3	4	3

Preliminary and partial results of
 2018 BET Assessment

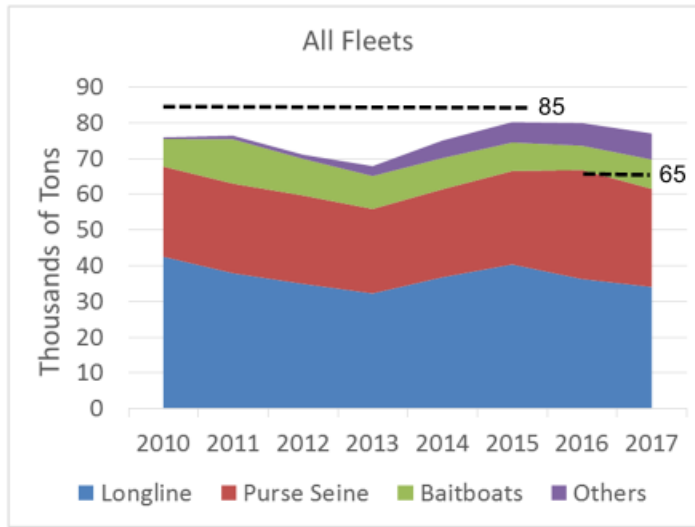


Data preparatory meeting
 April 23-27 Madrid

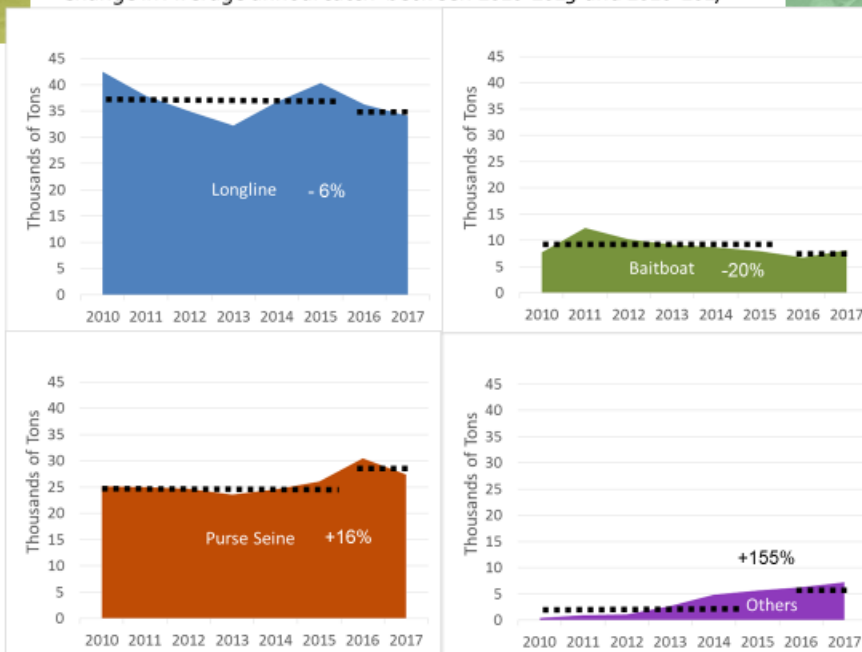
Assessment meeting
 July 16 -20 2018 Pasaia



CATCH of 2016 and 2017 exceeded TAC



Change in Average annual catch between 2010-2015 and 2016-2017



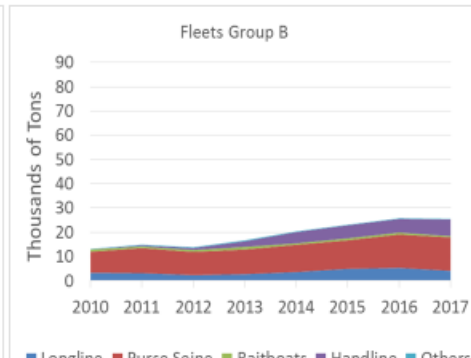
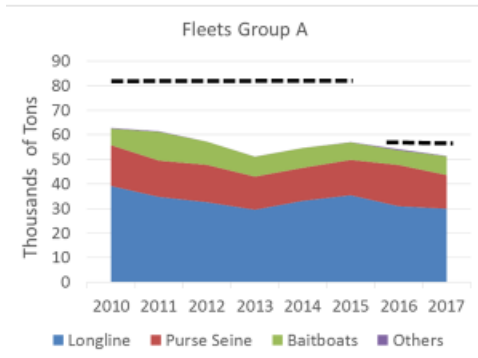


Fleets with catch limits



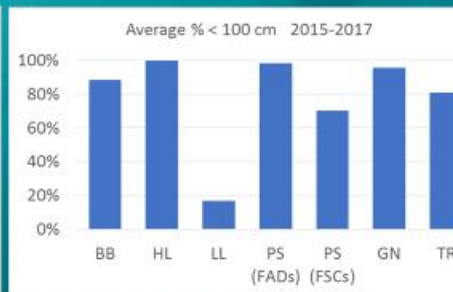
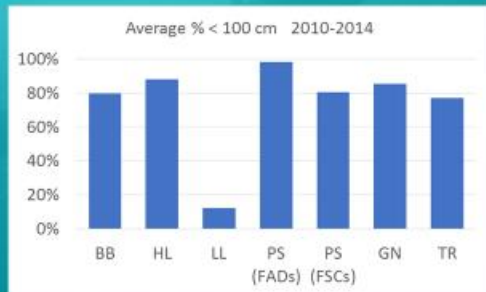
as per 16-01 paragraph 3

as per 16-01 paragraph 4

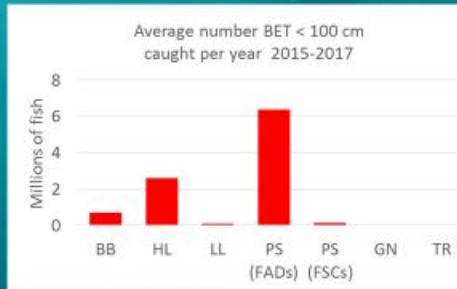
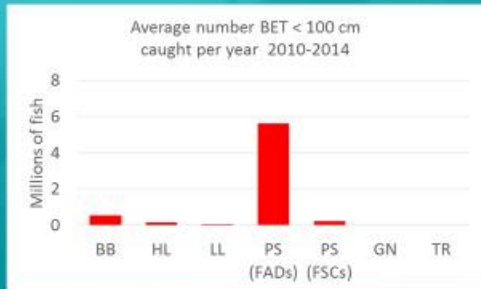


----- Aggregate catch limit for Group A

Proportion of small BET (<100 cm) in the catch by fishing gear group for two recent periods 2010-2014 and 2015-2017



Average number of small BET (<100 cm) caught per year by fishing gear group for two recent periods 2010-2014 and 2015-2017



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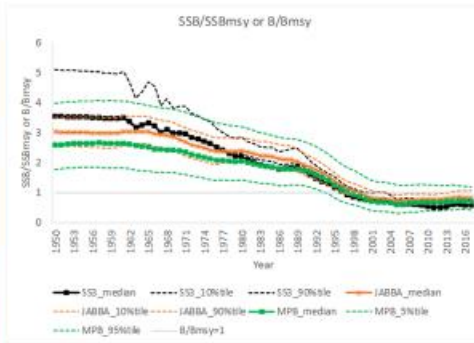
Assessment Models performed

mpb: Non-equilibrium production model

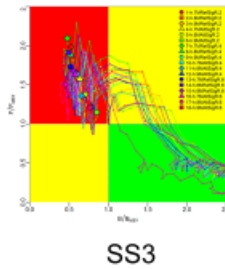
JABBA: Bayesian production model.

SS3: Statistical age-structured model.

ALL THREE MODELS PROVIDE COMPARABLE ASSESSMENT RESULTS



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ADVICE IS PROVIDED WITH RESULTS FROM SS3

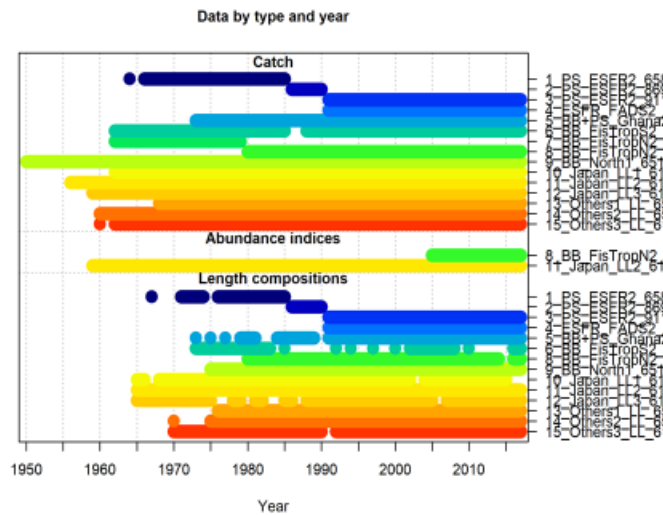
BECAUSE:

- IT USES MORE OF THE DATA
- CAN BETTER ACCOUNT FOR CHANGES IN FISHERY COMPOSITION, SELECTIVITY
- CAN HELP ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM THE COMMISSION ABOUT IMPACTS OF FISHERIES ON SMALL FISH

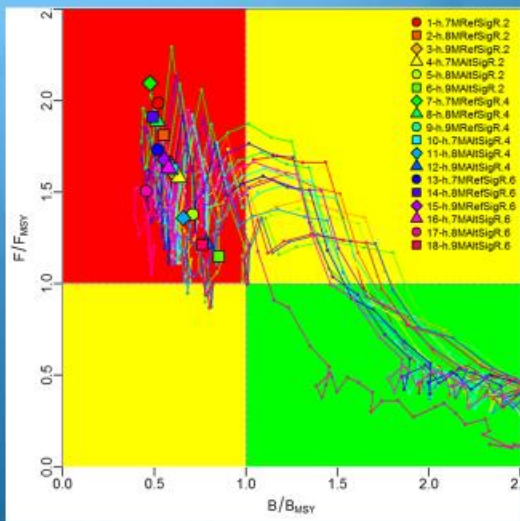


Assessment model

SS Model with 15 fleets (gear-area-period combinations)
Catch + Abundance index + Fish length data



Preliminary results: Overfished Overfishing

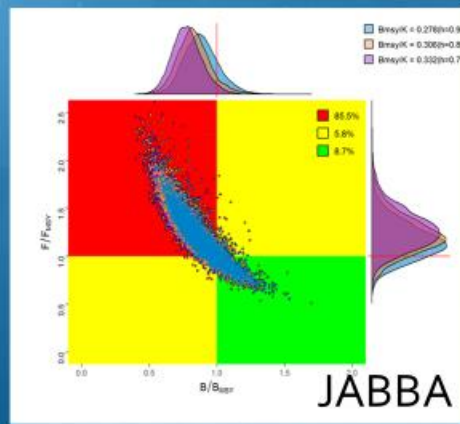
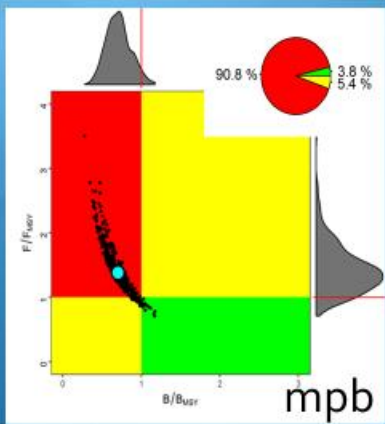


Kobe plot for the 18 deterministic runs of the SS model uncertainty reference grid

Full characterization of uncertainty remains to be completed

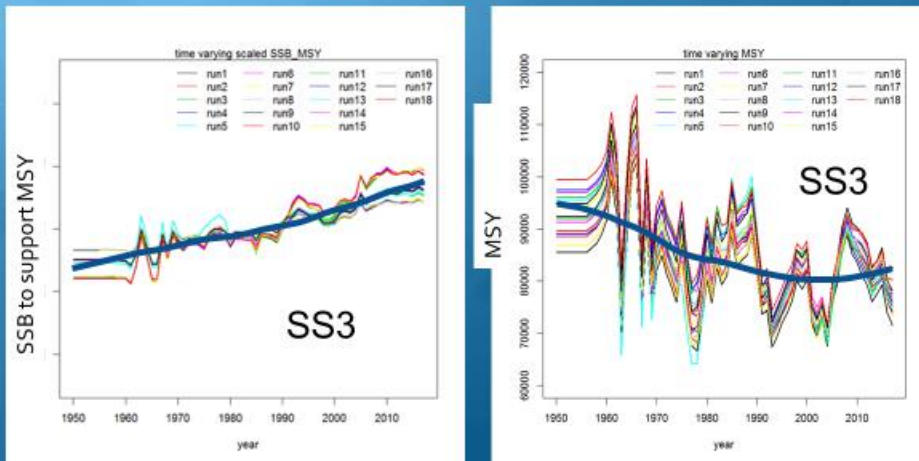
Kobe projection matrix remains to be completed

SIMILAR RESULTS FOR OTHER MODELS: Stock is overfished and subject to overfishing



Consequences of increases in the catch of small fish

- Spawning Biomass required to support MSY keeps increasing
- Current MSY is lower than past MSY

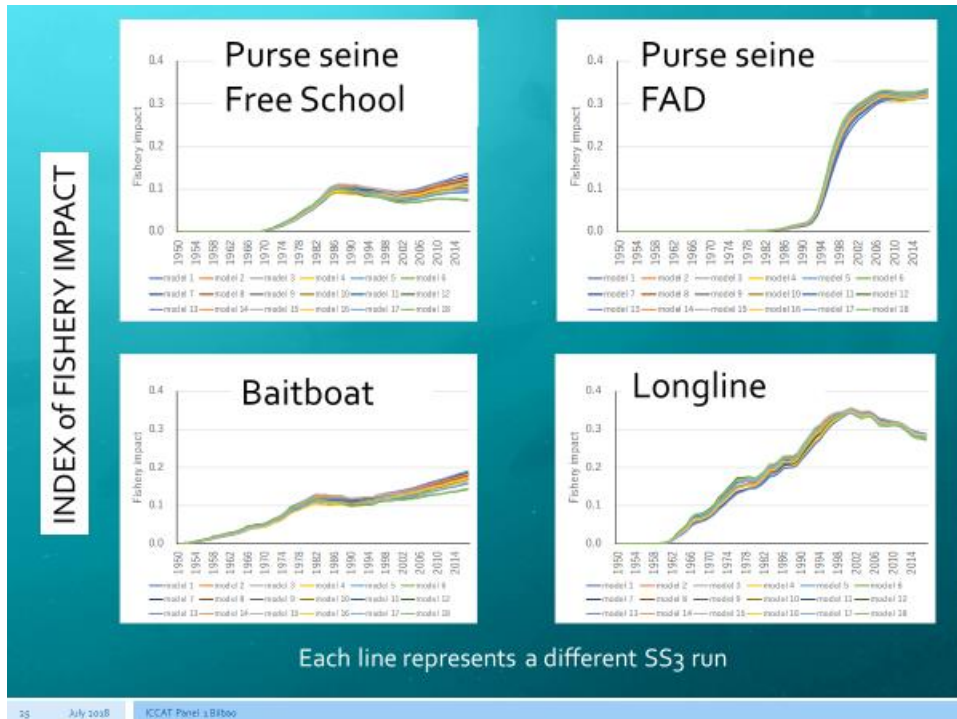


Fishery impact analysis



The method is based on having estimated the historical evolution of the spawning stock biomass. One can determine the impact of an individual fleet by:

- Removing from the population model the historical catch generated by that fleet.
- As such catch is removed, the stock responds by growing in spawning biomass.
- This growth is a measure of the foregone growth potential resulting from the harvests of each fleet, thus it is an indicator of the historical cumulative impact of each fleet on the overall stock spawning biomass.
- This methodology has been applied in other stocks (North Pacific Albacore) and uses the same SS₃ model used in the stock assessment.



Average fishery impact index for 2015-2017

Gear type	Fishery Impact index (average of 2015-2017) (**)
Purse seine Free School	0.10
Purse seine FAD (*)	0.32
Longline	0.28
Baitboat	0.16

(*) includes the fleets of Ghana purse seine and baitboat
 (**) average of 18 SS3 runs

Preliminary (*) conclusions of 2018 assessment:

Assessment results of 2018 are:

- less uncertain than those of 2015
- stock remains overfished and subject to overfishing
- stock in 2017 is in a worst state than 2014
- evolution of stock since 2015 is consistent with expected response to the recent catches, which have exceeded the TAC in 2016 and 2017
- MSY is lower now than prior to the 1990s because of the increase in catch of small fish since the 1990s

(*)To be reviewed by SCRS after projections are completed

Management Recommendations (2017)

Tropical tunas

- The Committee continues to recommend that effective measures be found to reduce FAD-related and other fishing mortality of small yellowfin tuna and bigeye tuna.

Skipjack

- East: increasing harvests and fishing effort for skipjack could lead to undesirable consequences ...for juveniles of yellowfin and bigeye that are caught in combination with skipjack in certain fisheries
- West: catches should not be allowed to exceed the MSY.

Bigeye

- Probability of reaching convention objectives is being reduced because recent catches have been exceeding the TAC of 65,000 tons

Elements and options discussed under agenda items 7 and 8

(Presented by the PA1 Chair)

Based on the general agreement of Panel 1 members that catches of bigeye tuna must be reduced, in light of the overshooting of the TAC in 2016 and 2017 while taking into account the latest scientific advice, and the willingness of Panel members to consider a suite of options that would, in some combination, be part of a rebuilding program, the following elements will be considered at the 2018 ICCAT annual meeting:

- TAC based on the 2018 SCRS recommendations of lowering the overall mortality on the stock. Given the Kobe matrix that will be produced by the SCRS, the Commission will have to decide on the appropriate TAC with the year they want to rebuild the stock by and the probability they want to achieve such rebuilding with.
- Greater accountability to the TAC. The Commission has to find ways to make sure that catches do not exceed the TAC through a range of possible measures such as:
 - Addition of CPCs to quota table
 - A lower “trigger” for CPCs without an allocation
 - Review of the quota sharing arrangement and establishing allocations, taking into account the allocation criteria
 - Continuation of annual quota adjustments for CPCs that overharvest quota
 - A sum of all quota allocations that, along with some set aside for minor harvesters, is equal to the TAC
 - Reduction of % annual carryover for quota under harvest
- Capacity limits used in conjunction with individual CPC catch limits to facilitate accountability to the TAC. A process should be considered to manage capacity efficiently, including the submission and assessment by Panel 1 of capacity plans and the special requirements of developing states.
- Measures for the purpose of reducing mortality of juvenile BET and YFT through a range of possible measures such as:
 - Reduce number of allowable FADs and FAD deployments, or establish limits on FAD sets
 - Limit the number of supply and support vessels
 - Incentives to use and eventually require biodegradable FADs
 - Expanded time/area closures
 - Atlantic-wide closure to PS fishing with FADs during a defined time period
 - Other expansion of current time/area closures
 - The measures above should be established on the basis of advice provided by the SCRS, although emergency measures might be adopted before the scientific advice becomes available. For that advice to be provided, CPCs which use FADs will have to provide detailed data on FAD use to the SCRS or alternatively to collaborate among CPCs to analyze a consolidated data set across fleets, as it was successfully done this year with set by set longline data for the purposes of establishing a CPUE index
 - Explore ways to reduce the impact of fisheries targeting juvenile BET
 - The SCRS should elaborate a set of definitions of FAD-related activities to be taken into account at the next Commission meeting
- In consideration of the above measures, consideration should be given to possible negative impacts on other fish stocks
- Consideration of improved compliance with existing MCS measures and additional monitoring, control, and surveillance measures, such as:

- Review of compliance with current observer requirements
- Increased observer coverage
- Expanded use of electronic monitoring
- Strengthened reporting requirements, e.g. inspection plans, capacity plans, etc.
- Other MCS measures, taking into account the special requirements of developing states, in particular for small-scale artisanal fisheries

In response to the SCRS request for the development of operational objectives in support of the MSE process, the Panel proposed the following:

- The SCRS should provide TAC projections for the three stocks of tropical tuna for a range of probabilities (50%, 55%, and 60%) to be in the green quadrant of the Kobe matrix for the three stocks of tropical tuna simultaneously
- The reduction of catch of juvenile bigeye tuna should be achieved to increase the MS

Conclusions of the Ad Hoc WG on Follow Up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review

Not started/little progress
Progress/requiring additional work
Completed/significant progress made

Report chapter	Recommendations	LEAD	PA1	Term	Proposed Next Steps	Observations	Action to be taken, or already taken	Completion status following annual meeting
Bigeye	13. The Panel recommends that, in view of the current poor status of the stock, the sustainable management of the tropical tunas should be a key immediate management priority for ICCAT. The same commitment devoted to eastern bluefin by ICCAT, should now be addressed to the tropical tuna stocks.	PA1	X	S	Refer to Panel 1 to review implementation of Rec. 15-01 (as revised by Rec. 16-01) in 2017 and consider any necessary action. The Panel should further review BET management measures and take appropriate action in light of new scientific advice stemming from the next assessment.	Paragraph 6 of Recs 15-01 and 16-01 require review of management measures if the total catch exceeds the TAC.	Stock assessment conducted in 2018. Intersessional meeting of Panel 1.	Progress to require additional work.

	<p>14. The Panel notes that the lowered TAC has only a 49% probability of rebuilding the stock by 2028 and recommends that the TAC be decreased further to increase the probability of rebuilding in a shorter period.</p>	<p>PA1</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to Panel 1 to review implementation of Rec. 15-01 (as revised by Rec. 16-01) in 2017 and consider any necessary action. The Panel should further review BET management measures and take appropriate action in light of new scientific advice stemming from the next assessment.</p>	<p>Paragraph 6 of Recs 15-01 and 16-01 require review of management measures if the total catch exceeds the TAC.</p>	<p>Stock assessment conducted in 2018. Intersessional meeting of Panel 1.</p>	<p>Progress to require additional work.</p>
	<p>15. The Panel, noting that ICCAT has established a working group on FADs, recommends that ICCAT prioritise this work and, in parallel, pursue the initiative across all tuna RFMOs to pool the information, knowledge and approaches on how to introduce effective management of FADs into the tropical tuna fisheries on a worldwide scale.</p>	<p>PA1</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Work on matters related to FADs is already underway, in particular within the context of the FAD WG. This should continue and Panel 1 should consider this work when discussing conservation and management measures for tropical tuna fisheries.</p>	<p>FAD WG should also work on this in association with Panel 1.</p>	<p>Technical WG being establish within the FAD joint tRFMO WG to conduct some preliminary work as agreed during the 1st meeting of the FAD joint rRFMO.</p>	

<p>Bigeye</p>	<p>16. The Panel notes that, according to the SCRS, the area and time closure has not worked and therefore its impact on reducing juvenile catches of bigeye and yellowfin, is negligible. The Panel recommends that this policy needs to be re-examined and this can, in part, be done through initiatives on limiting the number and use of FADs.</p>	<p>PA1</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to Panel 1 for consideration when reviewing conservation and management measures for the tropical tunas fishery.</p>	<p>Additional information on this matter is expected from SCRS and FAD Working Group which has already started work on this issue.</p>	<p>The SCRS will conduct an analysis to be presented to the Commission.</p>	
<p>Yellowfin</p>	<p>19. The Panel recommends that a quota allocation scheme be adopted by ICCAT to manage the fishery, as is already the case for bigeye.</p>	<p>PA1</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S/M</p>	<p>Refer to Panel 1 for annual review of the implementation of Rec. 15-01 as revised by Rec. 16-01 and consider any necessary action. The Panel should further review YFT management measures and take appropriate action in light of new scientific advice stemming from the next assessment.</p>	<p>Paragraph 11 of Recs. 15-01 and 16-01 require review of management measures if the total catch exceeds the TAC.</p>	<p>To be reviewed in view of updated catch information and the next stock assessment.</p>	

<p>Skipjack</p>	<p>22. The Panel recommends that vessels which fish bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas in the Convention area should be covered by Rec. 15-01. For reasons that are not clear to the Panel, skipjack fisheries in the West Atlantic seem to be outside the remit of Rec. 15-01.</p>	<p>PA1</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Refer to Panel 1 for annual review of the implementation of Rec. 15-01 (as revised by Rec. 16-01). The Panel should further review SKJ management measures and take appropriate action in light of new scientific advice stemming from next assessment.</p>		<p>No further actions required as the combination of fishery methods are different in the East and the West Atlantic. For the Western SKJ Stock no actions for the fleet are required under Rec. 15-01 as the combination of fishery methods are different from the Eastern Stock.</p>	
<p>Data Collection and Sharing</p>	<p>6. The Panel recommends that a mechanism be found to allow minor occasional harvesters without allocations to report their catches without being subject to sanctions.</p>	<p>COC</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Refer matter to the COC in cooperation with the other relevant bodies for consideration and also to the Panels as the issue could also be addressed in the context of management recommendations.</p>	<p>Overall efforts should be coordinated initially by the PWG.</p>	<p>To be taken into account as the Commission develops new management recommendations.</p>	

<p>Data Collection and Sharing</p>	<p>6bis. The Panel concludes that ICCAT scores well in terms of agreed forms and protocols for data collection but, while progress has been made, more needs to be done particularly for bycatch species and discards.</p>	<p>SCRS</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>M</p>			<p>Rec. 17-01 was adopted for the reduction of discards and should address this item.</p>	
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<p>Bigeye</p>	<p>12. The Panel recommends that bigeye, which is fished in association with juvenile yellowfin and skipjack on FADs, should form part of the long term management strategy for the tropical tuna stocks.</p>	<p>SWGSM</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S/M</p>	<p>Refer to SWGSM where work is already ongoing.</p>	<p>FAD WG should also work on this in association with Panel 1.</p>	<p>Panel 1 notes that this work is ongoing for all three main tropical tuna species. An MSE project has been initiated for the tropical tuna species considering a multi-species approach.</p>	
<p>Yellowfin</p>	<p>18. The Panel recommends that yellowfin, which is fished in association with juvenile bigeye and skipjack on FADs, should form part of the long term management strategy.</p>	<p>SWGSM</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S/M</p>	<p>Refer to SWGSM where work is already ongoing.</p>	<p>FAD WG should also work on this in association with Panel 1.</p>	<p>Panel 1 notes that this work is ongoing for all three main tropical tuna species. An MSE project has been initiated for the tropical tuna species considering a multi-species approach.</p>	

Skipjack	21. The Panel recommends that skipjack, which is fished in association with juvenile yellowfin and bigeye on FADs, should form part of the long term management strategy.	SWGSM	X	S/M	Refer matter to SWGSM where work is already ongoing.	FAD WG should also work on this in association with Panel 1.	Panel 1 notes that this work is ongoing for all three main tropical tuna species. An MSE project has been initiated for the tropical tuna species considering a multispecies approach.	
Rebuilding Plans	47. The Panel recommends that ICCAT move away from the current re-active management to re-redress the status of stocks through re-building plans, to a more pro-active policy of developing comprehensive long term management strategies for the main stocks. Such management strategies would encompass management objectives, harvest control rules, the stock assessment method, fishery indicators and the monitoring programme.	SWGSM	X	S/M	Refer to SWGSM where work is already underway; also relevant to the future work of the Panels.			

Fishing Allocations and Opportunities	63. The Panel considers that there are legitimate expectations among Developing CPCs that quota allocation schemes need to be reviewed periodically and adjusted to take account of a range of changing circumstances, notably, changes in stock distribution, fishing patterns and fisheries development goals of Developing States.	COM	X	S/M	Refer to Panels for consideration and appropriate action. Commission to coordinate action among the Panels.			
	64. The Panel considers it appropriate that quota allocation schemes should have a fixed duration, up to seven years, after which they should be reviewed and adjusted, if necessary.	COM	X	S/M	Refer to Panels for consideration and appropriate action. Commission to coordinate action among the Panels.			

	<p>65. In determining quota allocation schemes in the future, the Panel proposes that ICCAT could envisage establishing a reserve within new allocation schemes (for instance, a certain percentage of the TAC), to respond to requests from either new CPCs or Developing CPCs, which wish to develop their own fisheries in a responsible manner.</p>	COM	X	S/M	<p>Refer to Panels for consideration and appropriate action. Commission to coordinate action among the Panels.</p>			
<p>Integrated MCS Measures</p>	<p>71. Evaluates the need and appropriateness of further expanding coverage by national and non-national on-board observers for fishing and fishing activities.</p>	PWG	X	M	<p>Refer to PWG for consideration and also the Panels as observer program requirements can be and some have been agreed as part of management measures for specific fisheries.</p>	<p>SCRS evaluation of current observer program requirements is pending due to lack of reporting.</p>	<p>Expansion of observer coverage by ICCAT remains under consideration. CPCs concerned are also requested to report on their observer coverage by way of their annual report. Request the Compliance Committee to confirm whether CPCs are complying with the requirements contained in Rec. 16-14.</p>	

	72. Considers expanding VMS coverage, adopting uniform standards, specifications and procedures, and gradually transforming its VMS system into a fully centralized VMS.	PWG	X	S	Refer to PWG for consideration as Rec. 14-07 must be reviewed per para 6 in 2017. Also refer to the Panels as VMS requirements can be and some have been agreed as part of management measures for specific fisheries.		Discussed at the April 2018 IMM Meeting; Agenda item 5a; A proposal was introduced and discussions are ongoing.	
Reporting Requirements	85. The Panel recommends that ICCAT, though its Panels 1 to 4, should undertake an overall review of the current reporting requirements, on a stock by stock basis, both in relation to Task I and Task II data contained in the myriad of recommendations, in order to establish whether the reporting obligations in question could be reduced or simplified.	PWG	X	M	Refer to PWG to undertake this review and present its findings and suggestions to the Panels for their approval.	Such a review will involve many recommendations including proposals developed by virtually all the Panels. PWG is well placed to take a comprehensive look at all these measures. SCRS and the Secretariat could also provide support for this work where appropriate.	Requests that, after receiving input from the Online Reporting Working Group by 30 June, the Secretariat circulate to Subsidiary Bodies a list of reporting requirements and how they are used. The Panel can consider which of these reporting requirements is redundant or unnecessary.	

<p>Reporting Requirements</p>	<p>87. The Panel recommends that ICCAT consider introducing a provision in new recommendations, whereby the introduction of new reporting requirements would only become effective after a 9 to 12 month period has elapsed. This would assist Developing States to adapt to new requirements. This is particularly relevant where the volume and/or nature of the reporting have changed significantly. The difficulties Developing States encounter in introducing new administrative/reporting requirements at short notice, is well documented in the compliance context. The option for Developed CPCs to apply immediately the new reporting requirements may of course be maintained, if those CPCs consider it opportune.</p>	<p>COM</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to all ICCAT bodies that can recommend binding reporting requirements for consideration when developing such recommendations. Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.</p>			
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Decision-Making	91. Reviews its working practices in order to enhance transparency in decision-making, in particular on the allocation of fishing opportunities and the work of the Friends of the Chair.	COM	X	S	Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.	The Implementation of Res. 16-22 will assist with improving transparency in the COC Friends of the Chair process.	An observation: Transparency, openness and participatory opportunities for all CPCs taken into account the ICCAT criteria in the allocation of fishery opportunities. Item not related to COC / or Friends of the Chair.	
Presentation Scientific Advice	114. The Panel recommends that the Commission adopts specific management objectives and reference points for all the stocks. This would guide the SCRS in its work and increase the consistency of the SCRS advice.	SWGSM	X	S	Refer to SWGSM where work is already ongoing.			
	115. The Panel recommends that the development of harvest control rules through Management Strategy Evaluation should be strongly supported.	SWGSM	X	S	Refer to SWGSM and the Panels for consideration; work is already ongoing regarding this matter.		ICCAT has started MSE process for 3 main tropical tuna species in 2018.	

<p>Presentation Scientific Advice</p>	<p>116. The Panel recommends that in a precautionary approach, the advice with more uncertainty should, in fact, be implemented more readily.</p>	<p>COM</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Commission to coordinate action among the bodies including referring for their consideration when drafting a new or revising an existing conservation and management measures.</p>	<p>Related to Rec. 43.</p>	<p>Panel 1 will take this recommendation into account in the development of new management measures.</p>	
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4.7 REPORT OF THE 2018 MEETING OF THE PORT INSPECTION EXPERT GROUP FOR CAPACITY BUILDING AND ASSISTANCE (18-19 September 2018, Madrid, Spain)

1. Opening and logistical arrangements

The meeting was held at the ICCAT Secretariat offices in Madrid, Spain, from 18-19 September 2018, with financial assistance for many of the participants being provided by the FAO Common Oceans/ABNJ Tuna Project. The ICCAT Executive Secretary, Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel, welcomed the participants to the meeting. Mr. Todd Dubois (United States) who chaired the meeting, welcomed the meeting participants (“the Group”), and requested the Group’s concurrence to serve as both the Chairman of the meeting as well as the CPC representative from the United States to which there was no objection. The meeting agenda was adopted with minor changes (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.7**). The List of Participants is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.7**. Dr. Katheryn Patterson (United States) was nominated from the floor and served as Rapporteur for the meeting.

2. Review of 2017 Expert Group Meeting and Outcomes

The Rapporteur provided an overview of the last meeting’s proceedings, reviewed the Group’s terms of reference (ToR), and provided updates on completed actions since the last meeting. The Group reflected on last year’s efforts to develop and adopt a two-phased approach for assessing capacity building needs through the use of a pre-assessment form to be completed by a developing CPC seeking assistance and a subsequent in-country assessment to be conducted in person during the second phase of the assessment. Since the last meeting, the Commission adopted the Group’s pre-assessment and detailed assessment forms (*2017 PWG Report in Report for Biennial Period, 2016-17, Part II (2017) – Vol. 1. (ANNEX 10, Addendum 3 to Appendix 3)*) and approved the Group’s proposed procedure for reviewing and evaluating submitted self pre-assessments. During the last meeting, it was agreed that the information provided in the assessments should not be used to evaluate compliance concerns in order to establish confidence and trust from a CPC seeking assistance without judgement. Lastly, the Group recalled the existing port-inspection training materials and tools that were discussed during the last meeting and noted the outstanding action to continue the evaluation of available port inspection training materials and develop ICCAT specific training tools from these resources.

3. Review of pre-assessment Forms Submitted by CPCs

In response to ICCAT Circular #1619/18, seven CPCs submitted a self-pre-assessment to request assistance with implementation of ICCAT Recommendation 12-07 on Port Inspection. The CPC submissions included: Côte d’Ivoire, Republic of Guinea, Mauritania, Namibia, Nigeria, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Senegal. The Group acknowledged that all CPCs needed and deserved assistance.

Two of the CPCs seeking port inspection capacity building assistance noted they had corrections/updates to provide to their submissions. The Secretariat agreed to receive these updates and requested that all updates be submitted electronically prior to the Group’s evaluation of the assessments.

Recognizing that there are not sufficient funds to conduct the second phase of the assessments in all seven requesting CPCs immediately, the Group reviewed the self-pre-assessments and developed a fair and repeatable method for prioritizing which CPCs should receive the second-phase in-country assessment first, noting that the next phase of assessments will eventually be conducted in all seven CPCs. The Group then grouped the seven CPCs into three different groups (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.7**) based on the following criteria:

- Group A (Côte d’Ivoire and Nigeria)
 - CPCs that reported they were conducting some level of inspections of foreign-flagged vessels carrying ICCAT managed species;
 - CPCs that reported their inspectors received at least a basic level of training in eight or less of the training modules identified in the pre-assessment;

- Group B (Namibia and Senegal)
 - CPCs that reported conducting a higher level of inspections of foreign-flagged vessels carrying ICCAT managed species than Group A.
 - CPCs that reported their inspectors received at least a basic level of training in more than eight of the training modules identified in the pre-assessment.
- Group C (Republic of Guinea, Mauritania, and São Tomé and Príncipe)
 - CPCs that reported no level of inspections of foreign-flagged vessels carrying ICCAT managed species were being conducted.

The Group determined that the best way forward in the future was to refine the self pre-assessment and request that the CPCs provide additional information on the quantity of ICCAT species being landed by foreign-flagged vessels in that CPC as well as the number of foreign-flagged vessels landing ICCAT species in the port(s) designated by the CPC. Because only two of the CPCs requesting assistance are currently sharing their inspection reports with the Secretariat, the Secretariat was not able to provide this information at the time of the meeting.

4. Identification of CPCs and other entities with possible existing capacity building programmes that may be able to provide assistance to developing CPCs

The Group noted that global capacity building efforts to enhance port inspection capacities have increased over the last year, and that capacity building is not limited to providing training. The European Fisheries Control Agency (under the “PESCAO” EU funded project) and the United States provided updates on their respective existing port inspection capacity building initiatives and port-inspector training programs. The Group also mentioned and provided updates on existing programs of other CPCs and entities that were not in attendance of the meeting such as Norway (West Africa Task Force-WATF, in partnership with the Fishery Committee of the Western Central Gulf of Guinea and FAO).

It was noted that all seven CPCs seeking port inspection capacity building from the Group, are also engaged in and receiving broader port inspection assistance through other partnerships. The Group acknowledged the number of broad port-inspector training programs and port-inspection capability building projects already in existence as initiatives to be leveraged and not duplicated when considering the development of a specialized ICCAT inspector training program. This led to the Group adopting a two-tiered approach to support CPC capacity building requests.

The Group recognized that it would be more effective to identify the broader port inspection needs of a CPC requesting assistance through the second phase of the assessment, and then couple the CPC with the relevant entities that are already providing that assistance whether the need(s) is legal framework assistance, enhancing port inspection infrastructure, providing broader port inspector training. This approach establishes a coordinating role for the Group with the intent to be able assist a developing CPC with the majority of their identified needs through existing efforts on those topics, while being able to maximize the resources of the Group on ICCAT specific efforts.

The Group identified that there is a universal gap in that an ICCAT specific inspector training program does not currently exist. The Group supported the development of an ICCAT inspector training program as a specialized curriculum that will be built upon existing inspector training programs. This approach suggests that the specialized ICCAT inspector training would come with a pre-requisite that inspectors within a CPC already receive basic port inspection training. For example, if the second-phase assessment determined that basic inspector training was an identified need, the Group would be able to connect that CPC with the appropriate existing efforts of another entity as a first step. Once inspectors have sufficiently received basic port inspection training, this would then be followed with a specialized ICCAT training as a more advanced training course. The Group also recognized the importance of ensuring that an ICCAT inspector training program be developed in a sustainable way with specific emphasis on adopting a train-the-trainer approach. The Group also considered the option of conducting regionally focused capacity building efforts once enough ICCAT instructors were successfully trained as an outcome of the train-the-trainer efforts. The

Group also hopes that the Secretariat will promote bilateral Agreements that enhance port inspection capacities between CPCs and allow a CPC that has implemented the ICCAT specific training requirements to work with another CPC without having to go through the formal pre-assessment/assessment process.

While the Group's current focus is on the operational port inspection aspects, the Group also recognizes that other assistance may be needed and should be considered in future. The Group discussed broader port inspection capacity building needs that it might be able to provide to complement the efforts of a fisheries inspector to adequately manage ICCAT species and upholding its obligations under the ICCAT recommendations.

5. Consideration of next steps and assignment of tasks

The Group provided recommendations for refining the assessment process based on the lessons learned during the review of the first round of submissions. The Group recommends:

- Changing a column header in the table under item three of the self-pre-assessment to identify the number of foreign-flagged vessels that carry ICCAT managed species that enters each of the designated ports and of those, what percentage are inspected?
- Add a question in the self-pre-assessment to where the CPC seeking assistance has the opportunity to list what the CPC needs for assistance.

The Group discussed the timeline for and the manner in which the second phase assessments should be conducted although no firm dates were concluded. The first assessments will be conducted in Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria. Senegal volunteered to lead the assessment team with support from the Secretariat and the consideration of including a consultant. The Secretariat agreed to look for the availability of consultants that would not require a tender to include on the assessment team. The Group determined that the assessment of the second phase in Côte d'Ivoire should be considered a pilot after which the Group will reassess the process and make any necessary refinements.

The Expert Group assessed whether a subset of the Group, or a third party would be responsible for developing the specialized ICCAT port inspection training programme and supporting materials in accordance with Recommendation 12-07. The Secretariat provided information on the process of the Call for tender for an external party to conduct the work. Noting the time and resources required to develop the curriculum, the Group agreed that a Call for tender would be the best approach. The Group drafted criteria to be included in the development of the Call for tender (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.7**) and requests to review the Terms of Reference for the tender prior to the Secretariat's submission for Commission approval. If a Call for tender is approved, the Group requests that the Commission announce the tender in early December and allow for the call to be open for two months. The Group requests that any materials developed by a third party be reviewed and approved by the Group prior to the Submission to the Commission for adoption.

With respect to last year's recommendation, "*the Group also recommends that the Commission charge the Group as the reviewing body for technical assistance requests per the ToR and develop a long-term structure that allows the Group to review rolling assistant requests on a quarterly or biannual basis after the first submission deadline has passed*" – the Group noted that they would revisit this after the pilot assessments.

6. Other matters

The Group requests that the PWG develop a database of all ICCAT port inspection reports that is accessible to all CPCs. Such a database would make the necessary data available to the Group for evaluating assessments.

7. Adoption of report and adjournment

The Rapporteur provided an overview of the draft report, highlighting its content and the major outcomes from the meeting. The Group agreed to adopt the report electronically after the report is translated. The Chair provided the opportunity for the Group to provide comments on the Report prior to adjournment of the meeting.

Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting and logistical arrangements
2. Review of 2017 Expert Group Meeting and Outcomes
3. Review of pre-assessment forms submitted by CPCs
4. Identification of CPCs and other entities with possible existing capacity building programmes that may be able to provide assistance to developing CPCs
5. Consideration of next steps and assignation of tasks
6. Other matters
7. Adoption of report and adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.7**List of Participants****CONTRACTING PARTIES****ALGERIA****Hebbache**, Hamza

Chef d'Antennes Administrative du Port de Pêche d'Alger, Direction de la Pêche et des Ressources Halieutiques de la Wilaya d'Alger, 22 Route d'el Djamilia Ain Benian

Tel: +213 21 437 815, Fax: +213 21 437 815, E-Mail: hamza.hebbache@gmail.com

CANADA**Simms**, Clayton

Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 80 East White Hills Road, Newfoundland St. John's A1C 5X1

Tel: +1 709 687 2064, E-Mail: Clayton.Simms@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

CÔTE D'IVOIRE**Fofana**, Bina

Sous-directeur des Pêches Maritime et Lagunaire, Ministère des Ressources Animales et Halieutiques de la République de Côte d'Ivoire, 29 Rue des Pêcheurs, BP V19, Abidjan 01

Tel: +225 07 655 102; +225 21 356 315, Fax: +225 21 356315, E-Mail: binafof@yahoo.fr; binafof3@gmail.com

EGYPT**Arif Khalil El Shaarawe**, Nasser

Head of central department of development and projects, General Authority for Fish Resources Development (GAFRD), 4, Tayaran Street, Nasr City District, Plot No 210, 10002 El Cairo

Tel: +201 111 119 6664, Fax: +202 281 17004, E-Mail: n_sha3rawe@hotmail.com; gafr_eg@hotmail.com; n.elshaarawe@gmail.com

EUROPEAN UNION**Kempff**, Alexandre

European Fisheries Control Agency, Edificio Odriozola Av. Garcia Barbon 4, 36201 Vigo, Spain

Tel: +34 986 120 601, E-Mail: alexandre.kempff@efca.europa.eu

GABON**Elangmane**, Jean Yvon

BP: 9498 Libreville, Estuaire, Gabon

Tel: +241 02 92 80 63, E-Mail: elangmanepaterne@yahoo.fr; Nkieabora2011@gmail.com

MAURITANIA**Moulaye LV**, Ahmed

Directeur des Opérations a la Garde Côtes Mauritanienes, Ministère des pêches et de l'Economie Maritime, Siege à Nouadhibou, 260 Dakhlet

Tel: +222 220 84909, Fax: +222 457 46312, E-Mail: ops@gcm.mr; ahmedouldmoulaye@gmail.com

MOROCCO**Ben Bari**, Mohamed

Directeur du Contrôle des Activités de la Pêche Maritime (DCAPM), Nouveau Quartier Administratif, BP 476, Haut Agdal Rabat

Tel: +212 537 688210, Fax: +212 5 3768 8196, E-Mail: benbari@mpm.gov.ma

NAMIBIA**Bester**, Desmond R.

Control Officer Operations, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Private Bag 394, 9000 Luderitz

Tel: +264 63 20 2912, Fax: +264 6320 3337, E-Mail: desmond.bester@mfmr.gov.na; desmondbester@yahoo.com

S. TOMÉ E PRÍNCIPE**Francisco Chico**, Alberto

Insoecteur des pêches, Direction des Pêches de Sao Tomé, Ponte Graça Dto de Água Grande C.P Nº 59

Tel: +239 991 3898, E-Mail: albertofranciscochico@hotmail.com

SENEGAL

Fall, Cheikh

Direction de la Protection et de la Surveillance des Pêches, Cité fenêtre mermoz, BP 3656, Dakar
Tel: +221 775 659 478, E-Mail: cheihf@gmail.com

TUNISIA

Sohlobji, Donia

Direction Générale de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture, Ministère de l'Agriculture, 32 Rue Alain Savary, 1002 Le Belvédère
Tel: +216 534 31307; +216 71 890 784, Fax: +216 71 799 401, E-Mail: sohlobji_donia@yahoo.fr;
doniasohlobji@gmail.com

UNITED STATES

Dubois, Todd C.

NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement, 1315 East West Highway, SSMC3 Room 3301, Silver Spring, MD 20910
Tel: +1 301 427 8243, Fax: +1 301 427 8055, E-Mail: todd.dubois@noaa.gov

Patterson, Katheryn

NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement, 1315 East-West Highway, Bldg. SSMC3, Ste. 3301, Silver Spring, MD, 20910
Tel: +1 301 427 8238, Fax: +1 301 427 2055, E-Mail: katheryn.patterson@noaa.gov

ICCAT Secretariat

C/ Corazón de María 8 – 6th floor, 28002 Madrid – Spain
Tel: +34 91 416 56 00; Fax: +34 91 415 26 12; E-mail: info@iccat.int

Manel, Camille Jean Pierre

Cheatle, Jenny

Campoy, Rebecca

De Andrés, Marisa

Peyre, Christine

Fiz, Jesús

García Piña, Cristóbal

Peña, Esther

Vieito, Aldana

ICCAT INTERPRETERS

Faillace, Linda

Leboulleux del Castillo, Beatriz

Liberas, Christine

Linaae, Cristina

Meunier, Isabelle

Sánchez del Villar, Lucía

Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.7

Criteria used for Prioritizing the Order of Capacity Building Assistance to be received by Requesting CPCs

<i>Developing CPC Seeking Assistance</i>	<i>Number of ICCAT Designated Ports Reported in the Self Pre-Assessment*</i>	<i>Total Number of Inspectors Assigned to the ICCAT Designated Ports within a CPC</i>	<i>Inspections of Foreign-Flagged Fishing/Support Vessels Carrying ICCAT Managed Species Identified by the CPC</i>	<i>Are CPC inspection reports being submitted to ICCAT?</i>	<i>Number of Training Modules Inspectors Currently Receive even at a Basic Level (out of 14)</i>	<i>Engagement in Other Capacity Building Initiatives Identified During the Discussions of the Meeting</i>	<i>Ordered Groupings for the second phase Assessment**</i>
Côte d'Ivoire	2	22	Some reported	No	6	PESCAO Project, FCWC, WATF, Broader Counter IUUF training provided by the U.S.	A
Guinea (Rep.)	2	10	None Reported	No	8	PESCAO Project, FAO TCP/INT/3603 (Gaps Analysis)	C
Mauritania	2	80	None Reported	No	13	PESCAO Project	C
Namibia	2	73	100%	Yes	14	FAO GCP/INT/307/NOR - Gap Analysis, and Fisheries Law and Governance Capacity Building	B
Nigeria	4	41	Some reported	No	8	PESCAO Project, FCWC, WATF, Broader Counter IUUF training provided by the U.S.	A
São Tomé and Príncipe	4	8	None reported	No	8	FAO Gap Analysis	C
Senegal	1	10	100%	Yes	13	PESCAO Project	B

*Not all CPCs have provided their designated port information to ICCAT, and are encouraged to provide this information.

**Priority Groupings with A being the first groups to go through the second phase assessment and C group being the last.

**Draft Elements to be Included in a
Call for Tender for the Development of a specialized ICCAT Inspector Training Curriculum**

Elements to be included in the Call for Tender

- The Call for tender should include:
 - A third Party shall develop a specific training program and supporting materials (e.g., training manual, job aides, etc.) to assist ICCAT foreign-flagged vessel inspections in accordance with Recommendation 12-07 and other applicable ICCAT measures;
 - Request a third Party to also provide a quote for delivering the training (if capable) as an optional item within the tender.
- All training materials should be in English, French, and Spanish in accordance with ICCAT provisions.
- All training materials should be developed as digital copies, but noting that image quality should allow for successful printing later.

Elements of the ICCAT Inspector Training Curriculum

- The third Party shall review existing materials that discuss best practices for conducting port inspections and other international instruments such as legal framework and capacity need assessment guides;
- The third Party shall develop a specific training program and supporting materials (e.g., training manual, job aides, etc.) to assist ICCAT foreign-flagged vessel inspections in accordance with Recommendation 12-07 and other applicable ICCAT measures to include:
 - Pre-inspection procedures and verifications
 - Designated ICCAT ports
 - Ensure landings take place in designated ports
 - Sharing of prior inspection history among inspectors within these ports
 - Recommended list of specialized ICCAT boarding equipment
 - Prior Notifications
 - Risk analysis
 - Data collection
 - Information sharing
 - VMS-AIS data interpretation
 - Conducting Port Inspections (to include practical exercises)
 - Relevant ICCAT recommendations for conducting inspections, particularly ones that lead to violations (e.g., quotas)
 - Document analysis and verification
 - How to check the catch (minimum size, measurements) / Species ID training module and guide
 - Checking fishing gear
 - Fishing areas (VMS, logbook, etc.) – information analysis.
 - Prohibitions
 - Procedure in the event of apparent infringements
 - Post inspection procedures and reporting
 - Use of ICCAT inspection form
 - Sharing of inspection reports to relevant entities

- The third Party shall avoid simply repeating the text from ICCAT recommendations, and should put the items outlined in 12-07 into context;
- The third Party shall develop the training curriculum from the inspector's perspective;
- The third Party should implement a train-the-trainer component in the training to promote sustainability of the program in CPCs receiving assistance;
- The third Party shall develop a guidebook/training manual for trainers (train-the-trainer);
- The third Party shall develop a guidebook/training manual for inspectors receiving training;
- The third Party should develop and provide an indicative timeline for the training and include this information in the training manual;
- Guidebook/Manual for trainers (train-the-trainer);
- Guidebook/Manual for inspectors receiving training.

4.8 REPORT OF THE INTERSESSIONAL MEETING OF THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE (COC) (Dubrovnik, 10-11 November 2018)

This year the Compliance Committee held a two-day special session preceding the Commission meeting, as called for in Resolution 16-22. It was decided that only one report covering all sessions of the Compliance Committee would be produced. The List of Participants has been attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.8**.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.8**List of Participants****CONTRACTING PARTIES****ALBANIA****Palluqi, Arian***

Responsible in charge sector, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Fisheries Directorate, Fisheries and Aquaculture Blv. "Dëshmoret e Kombit", Nr.2 kp.1001, Tiranë, Shqipëri
Tel: + 355 695 487 657; +355 4223 2796, Fax: +355 4223 2796, E-Mail: Arian.Palluqi@bujqesia.gov.al

ALGERIA**Kaddour, Omar ***

Directeur du Développement de la Pêche, Ministère de l'Agriculture, du Développement Rural et de la Pêche, Route des Quatre Canons, 16001
Tel: +213 21 43 31 97, Fax: +213 21 43 38 39, E-Mail: dpmo@mpeche.gov.dz; kadomar13@gmail.com

BRAZIL**Leonardi, Renato ***

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Office for Ocean, Antarctic and Outer Space Affairs, Esplanada dos Ministerios, Bloco H Sala 736, 70170-900 Brasilia DF
Tel: +55 61 9996 78330; +55 61 2030 8625, E-Mail: renato.leonardi@itamaraty.gov.br; dmae@itamaraty.gov.br

Figueiredo de Oliveira Reis, Thaiz

Coordinación General de Monitorización y Control de la Agricultura y Pesca (CGMCAP/DRMC/SEAP), Ministerio de Industria, Comercio Exterior y Servicios, Setor Bancário Norte, Qd. 1 Bloco D, 5º andar, Ed. Palácio do Desenvolvimento, CEP: 70057-900 Brasília - DF Prédio Incra - Asa Norte
Tel: +55 61 2027 7000; +55 61 98177 0257, E-Mail: thaiz.reis@mdic.gov.br; thaiz.reis@presidencia.gov.br

Hazin, Fabio H. V.

Universidade Federal Rural de Pernambuco - UFRPE / Departamento de Pesca e Aqüicultura - DEPAq, Avenida Conselheiro Rosa e Silva, 1241, Apto. 1302, CEP: 52.050-225 Recife Pernambuco
Tel: +55 81 999 726 348, Fax: +55 81 3320 6512, E-Mail: fabio.hazin@ufrpe.br; fhvhazin@terra.com.br

Villaça, Carlos Eduardo

Coletivo Nacional de Pesca e Aquicultura - CONEPE - SRTVS, Quadra 701, Bloco O nº 110, sl. 186/187, Ed. Novo Centro Multiempresarial, CEP: 70340-905 Brasilia DF Asa Sul
Tel: +55 61 3323 5831, E-Mail: caduvillaca1964@gmail.com

CABO VERDE**Monteiro, Carlos Alberto ***

Technical researcher, Instituto Nacional de Desenvolvimento das Pescas, INDP SV Vicente, C.P. 132, Mindelo Sao Vicente
Tel: +238 986 48 25, Fax: +238 232 1616, E-Mail: monteiro.carlos@indp.gov.cv

CANADA**Walsh, Jerry ***

Chief of International Programs, Conservation and Protection, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 80 East White Hills Road St. John's, NL, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6
Tel: +1 709 685 9926; +1 709 697 0419, E-Mail: jerry.walsh@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Lester, Brian

Manager, Fisheries Management Plans, 200 Kent Street, Station 13S011, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6
Tel: +1 613 993 5045, Fax: +1 613 990 7051, E-Mail: brian.lester@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Mallet, Pierre

Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, P.O BOX 5030, Moncton, New Brunswick E1C 9B6
Tel: + 506 851 7792, Fax: +506 851 7732, E-Mail: malletp@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

* Head delegate.

CHINA, (P. R.)

Zhao, Liling *

Director Division of Deep-Sea Fishing, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Bureau of Fisheries, N° 11 Nongzhanguan Nanli, Chaoyang District, 100125 Beijing
Tel: +86 10 5919 2966, Fax: +86 10 5919 3056, E-Mail: liling.zhao@hotmail.com; bofdwf@agri.gov.cn

Lin, Hui

President, Fujian Yaoxiang Marine Fisheries Co., LTD, B-2 Room, 8/F, 1 Building, Hongyangxincheng, Yangqiao Road, Gulou District, Fuzhou, 350000 Fu Jian
Tel: +886 591 8365 8752; +886 139 069 31213, Fax: +86 591 8365 8752, E-Mail: agentlinhui@163.com

Liu, Ce

Deputy Director, Department of High Seas Fisheries, China Overseas Fisheries Association, Room No. 1216 Jingchao Mansion, No. 5, Nongzhanguannanlu, Chao yang district, Beijing Chaoyang District
Tel: +86 10 6585 7057, Fax: +86 10 6585 0551, E-Mail: liuce1029@163.com; admin1@tuna.org.cn

Liu, Xiaobing

Advisor, China Overseas Fisheries Association, N° 5 Nongzhanguannanlu, Chaoyang District, 100125 Beijing
E-Mail: xiaobing.liu@hotmail.com; Xiaobing.Liuc@163.com

Sui, Heng Shou

General Manager, CNFC Overseas Fisheries Co., Ltd, No. 31 Minfeng Lane. Xicheng District, 100125 Beijing
Tel: +86 10 8806 7139; +86 10 13621074385, Fax: +86 10 8806 7572, E-Mail: suihengshou@cnfc.com.cn

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Shep, Helguilè *

Directeur de l'Aquaculture et des Pêches, Ministère des Ressources Animales et Halieutiques de Côte d'Ivoire, Rue des Pêcheurs; B.P. V-19, Abidjan
Tel: +225 21 35 61 69; Mob: +225 07 61 92 21, E-Mail: shelguile@yahoo.fr; shep.helguile@aviso.ci

Djobo, Anvra Jeanson

Inspecteur Technique au MIRAH, Ministère des Ressources Animales et Halieutiques, BP V 185, Abidjan
Tel: +225 07930 344, Fax: +225 2022 9919, E-Mail: jeanson_7@hotmail.com

Fofana, Bina

Sous-directeur des Pêches Maritime et Lagunaire, Ministère des Ressources Animales et Halieutiques de la République de Côte d'Ivoire, 29 Rue des Pêcheurs, BP V19, Abidjan 01
Tel: +225 07 655 102; +225 21 356 315, Fax: +225 21 356315, E-Mail: binafof@yahoo.fr; binafof3@gmail.com

Hema, Cathérine

Coordonnatrice Adjointe de Projet de Développement Durable des Ressources Halieutiques
Tel: +225 49 924 593, E-Mail: hemacathy@yahoo.fr

Lepry Née, Amatcha Epse Yobouet Charlotte

Coordonnateur du Projet de Relance de la Production Piscicole Continentale (PREPRICO)
Tel: +225 589 70918, E-Mail: ch.lepry@gmail.com

CURAÇAO

Chong, Ramon *

President of the Fishery, Ministry of Economic Development of Curaçao, International Fisheries Commission, Directorate of Economic Affairs, Amidos Building, Pletterijweg 41, Willemstad
Tel: +5999 529 7290; +5999 462 1444, Fax: +5999 462 7590, E-Mail: ramon.chong@gobiernu.cw; ramon_chong@hotmail.com

Mambi, Stephen A.

Policy Adviser/Secretary of the Fishery Commission, Ministry of Economic Development of Curaçao, Directorate of Economic Affairs, Amidos Building, 4th floor Pletterijweg 43 A, Willemstad
Tel: +5999 4621444 ext 173; +5999 5606038, Fax: +5999 462 7590, E-Mail: stephenmambi@yahoo.com; stephen.mambi@gobiernu.cw

Pedro, Xiomar

The Minister's Cabinet, Policy Advisor, Amidos Building 5th floor, Willemstad Pletterijweg 43
Tel: +599 9 569 9821, E-Mail: xiomar.pedro@gobiernu.cw

EGYPT**Ammar, Ayman Anwar ***

Chairman of the General Authority for Fish Resources Development (GAFRD), 4 Tayaran St., Nasr City, Cairo
Tel: +202 226 20118, Fax: +202 226 20117, E-Mail: ayman59_ammam@yahoo.com; gafrd_eg@hotmail.com

Abdelmessih, Magdy Kamal Mikhail

14 Aly Abn Aby Taalep, Abo qir, Alexandria
Tel: +203 5625700, Fax: +203 5626070, E-Mail: info@elkamoush.com; m.mahmoud@elkamoush.com

Abdelnaby Kaamouh, Mohamed Ibrahim

General Authority for Fish Resources Development, 14 Aly Abn Aby Taalep, Abo Qir, Alexandria
Tel: +203 5625700, Fax: +203 5626070, E-Mail: info@elkamoush.com; m.mahmoud@elkamoush.com

Ibrahim Gaber, Mohamed Mahmoud

14 Aly Abn Aby Taalep, Abo qir, Alexandria
Tel: +203 5625700, Fax: +203 5626070, E-Mail: info@elkamoush.com; m.mahmoud@elkamoush.com

EL SALVADOR**De Paz Martínez, Celina Margarita ***

Técnico de Investigación pesquera, Dirección General de Desarrollo de la Pesca y la Acuicultura (CENDEPESCA), Final 1ª Av. Norte, 13 calle Poniente y Av. Manuel Gallardo, Santa Tecla
Tel: +503 2210 1913, E-Mail: celina.depaz@mag.gob.sv; celinam.dpaz@gmail.com

Mejía Arteaga, Sara Anabel

CENDEPESCA - Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería, Dirección de CENDEPESCA, Inspector de Monitoreo Control y Vigilancia Pesquera y Acuícola, Santa Tecla, La Libertad, Final Avenida Manuel Gallardo
Tel: +503 221 01961, Fax: +503 221 01700, E-Mail: saraarteaga.sm@gmail.com; sara.mejia@mag.gob.sv

EUROPEAN UNION**Jessen, Anders ***

Director, Head of Unit - European Commission, DG Mare B 2, Rue Joseph II, 99, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 299 24 57, E-Mail: anders.jessen@ec.europa.eu

Aláez Pons, Ester

International Relations Officer, European Commission - DG MARE - Unit B2 - RFMOs, Rue Joseph II - 99 03/057, 1049 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 296 48 14, E-Mail: ester.alaez-pons@ec.europa.eu

Khalil, Samira

European Commission, DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Unit B-1 International Affairs, Law of the Sea and RFOs, J II - 99 3/74, Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 298 03 39, E-Mail: samira.khalil@ec.europa.eu

Moya Díaz, Marta

European Commission DG MARE, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 476 401073, E-Mail: marta.moya-diaz@ec.europa.eu

Peyronnet, Arnaud

Directorate-General, European Commission _ DG MARE - UNIT B2 - RFMOs, Rue Joseph II - 99 03/33, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 2991 342, E-Mail: arnaud.peyronnet@ec.europa.eu

Sadowska, Agnieszka

European Commission DG MARE - B2, 1049 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 2957906, E-Mail: Agnieszka.SADOWSKA@ec.europa.eu

Spezzani, Aronne

Head of Sector, Fisheries control in International Waters - DG MARE-B3 J79-2/214, European Commission, Rue Joseph II, 99, 1049 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +322 295 9629, Fax: +322 296 3985, E-Mail: aronne.spezzani@ec.europa.eu

Vázquez Álvarez, Francisco Javier

European Commission DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Rue Joseph II - 99, 1049 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 295 83 64; +32 485 152 844, E-Mail: francisco-javier.vazquez-alvarez@ec.europa.eu

Ansell, Neil

European Fisheries Control Agency, Avenida García Barbón 4, 36201 Vigo, Spain
Tel: +34 986 120 658; +34 698 122 046, E-Mail: neil.ansell@efca.europa.eu

Borg, Sarah

Ministry for Sustainable Development, Environment and Climate Change Fort San Lucjan, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture Triq il-Qajjenza, BBG1283 Marsaxlokk, Malta
Tel: +356 2292 6918, E-Mail: sarah.c.borg@gov.mt

Conte, Fabio

Dipartimento delle Politiche Europee e Internazionali, Ministero delle Politiche Agricole Alimentari, Forestali e Del Turismo, Direzione Generale della Pesca Marittima e dell'Acquacoltura - PEMAC III, Via XX Settembre, 20, 00187 Rome, Italy
Tel: +39 06 4665 2838, Fax: +39 06 4665 2899, E-Mail: f.conte@politicheagricole.it

Da Silva Afonso, Inmaculada

Islatuna, Darsena Pesquera, 1ª Transversal, Parcela 47, CP 38180 Canarias Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain
Tel: +34 922 54 97 19; +34 609 604 803, Fax: +34 922 54 93 36, E-Mail: macu@islatuna.com

De Guindos Talavera, Leticia

Jefe de Servicio, Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación. Secretaría General de Pesca, S.G. Control e Inspección, C/ Velázquez, 147 - 3ª planta, 28006 Madrid, Spain
Tel: +34 676 550 515, E-Mail: Lguindos@mapama.es

Del Zompo, Michele

Senior Coordinator for Control Operations, Operational Coordination Unit, European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA), Edificio Odriozola, Avenida García Barbón, 4, 36201 Vigo, Spain
Tel: +34 986 120 610, E-Mail: michele.delzompo@efca.europa.eu

Delsaut, Clotilde

Chargée de mission, Bureau du contrôle des pêches, Fisheries Control Unit Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture, Directorate for Sea Fisheries and Aquaculture, Ministère de l'Environnement, de l'Energie et de la Mer, Ministry of the Environment, Energy and the Sea, Tour Séquoia, 1 place Carpeaux, 92800 La Défense Puteaux, France
Tel: +33 140 817 194; +33 699 009 043, E-Mail: clotilde.delsaut@agriculture.gouv.fr

Eliassen, Peter Jørgen

Senior consultant, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Fisheries Policy, Asiatisk Plads 2, M5, DK-1448 København K, Denmark
Tel: +452 261 5937, E-Mail: peteel@um.dk

Fenech Farrugia, Andreina

Director General, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change, Ghammieri, Ngiered Road, MRS 3303 Marsa, Malta
Tel: +356 229 26841; +356 994 06894, Fax: +356 220 31246, E-Mail: andreina.fenech-farrugia@gov.mt

Fernández Asensio, Pablo Ramón

Xefe Territorial de Lugo, Xunta de Galicia, Consellería do Mar, Avda. Gerardo Harguindey Banet, 2, 27863 Celeiro-Viveiro Lugo, Spain
Tel: +34 982 555 002; móvil 650 701879, Fax: +34 982 555 005, E-Mail: pablo.ramon.fernandez.asensio@xunta.es; pablo.ramon.fernandez.asensio@xunta.gal

Ferreira, Carlos

Head of Department, Direção-Geral de Recursos Naturais, Segurança e Serviços Marítimos, Direção de Serviços de Inspeção, Monitorização e controlo das Atividades Marítimas, Av. Brasília, 1449-038 Lisbon, Portugal
Tel: +351 961 344 057, Fax: +351 213 025 185, E-Mail: carlosferreira@dgrm.mm.gov.pt

Jones, Sarah

Marine and Fisheries, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Room 8A Millbank c/o Nobel House, Smith Square, London SW1P 4DF, United Kingdom
Tel: +0208 0264575, E-Mail: Sarah.Jones@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Le Galloudec, Fabien

Ministère de l'Agriculture, Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture, Tour Séquoia, 92055 La Défense, Cedex, France
Tel: +33 1 40 81 91 78; +33 674 924 493, Fax: +33 1 40 81 86 58, E-Mail: fabien.le-galloudec@developpement-durable.gouv.fr

Lizcano Palomares, Antonio

Subdirector Adjunto de la Subdirección General de Acuerdos y Organizaciones Regionales de Pesca, Ministerio de Agricultura, Alimentación y Medio Ambiente, Secretaría General de Pesca, C/ Velázquez, 144 2ª Planta, 28006 Madrid, Spain

Tel: +34 91 347 6047, Fax: 91 347 60 42, E-Mail: alizcano@mapama.es

Lopes Santos, Rita

European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA), Avenida García Barbón 4, 36201 Vigo, Spain

Tel: +34 674 784 382; +34 98 612 06 95, E-Mail: rita.santos@efca.europa.eu

Magnolo, Lorenzo Giovanni

Ministero delle Politiche Agricole Alimentari, Forestali e Del Turismo, Direzione Generale della pesca Marittima e dell'Acquacoltura, Via XX Settembre, 20, 0187 Rome, Italy

Tel: +39 659 084 446; +39 646 652 819, Fax: +39 646 652 899, E-Mail: lorenzo.magnolo@politicheagricole.it

Otero Rodríguez, José Basilio

Federación Nacional de Cofradías de Pescadores, C/ Barquillo, 7 - 1º Derecha, 28004 Madrid, Spain

Tel: +34 91 531 98 04; +34 667 668 128, Fax: +34 91 531 63 20, E-Mail: fncp@fncp.e.telefonica.net; presidente@cofradiaslugo.com

Petrina Abreu, Ivana

Ministry of Agriculture - Directorate of Fishery, Ulica Grada Vukovara 78, Planiska 2a, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia

Tel: +385 164 43171, Fax: +385 164 43200, E-Mail: ipetrina@mps.hr

Seguna, Marvin

Chief Fisheries Protection Officer, Ministry for the Environment Sustainable Development, and Climate Change, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Ngiered Road, MRS 3303 Marsa, Malta

Tel: +356 2292 6857, E-Mail: marvin.seguna@gov.mt

Skorjanec, Mario

Ministry of Agriculture, Directorate of Fisheries, Trg Hrvatske bratske zajednice 8, 21000 Split, Croatia

Tel: +385 444 069, E-Mail: mario.skorjanec@mps.hr

Ulloa Alonso, Edelmiro

ANAPA/ARPOAN Puerto Pesquero, Edificio Cooperativa de Armadores Ramiro Gordejuela S/N - Puerto Pesquero, 36202 Vigo Pontevedra, España

Tel: +34 986 43 38 44; 618175687, Fax: +34 986 43 92 18, E-Mail: edelmiro@arvi.org

Vujevic, Ante

Ulica grada Vukovara 78, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia

Tel: +385 1 6443 195, Fax: +385 1 6443 200, E-Mail: ante.vujevic@mps.hr

FRANCE (ST. PIERRE & MIQUELON)**Tourtois, Benoit ***

Chargé de mission Affaires Internationales, Bureau des Affaires Européennes et Internationales, Direction des Pêches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Alimentation, Tour Sequoia, Place Carpeaux, 92055 Cédex Paris-La Défense

Tel: +33 1 40 81 89 86; +33 7 60 15 22 12, Fax: +33 1 40 81 89 86, E-Mail: benoit.tourtois@agriculture.gouv.fr

Granger, Arnaud

Chef du Service des Affaires Maritimes et Portuaires, Adjoint au directeur de la Direction des Territoires, de l'Alimentation et de la Mer, 1 Rue Gloanec, 97500

Tel: +33 505 411 530, E-Mail: arnaud-j.granger@equipement-agriculture.gouv.fr

Laurent-Monpetit, Christiane

Chargée de Mission Pêche au Ministère des Outre-mer, Délégation Générale à l'Outre-mer, Ministry for French Overseas Territories, Département des politiques agricoles, rurales et maritimes, 27 Rue Oudinot, 75358 Paris SP07

Tel: +331 53692466, Fax: +33 1 53692995, E-Mail: christiane.laurent-monpetit@outre-mer.gouv.fr

GABON**Angueko, Davy ***

Chargé d'Etudes du Directeur Général des Pêches, Direction Générale des Pêche et de l'Aquaculture, BP 9498, Libreville Estuaire

Tel: +241 0653 4886, E-Mail: davyangueko@yahoo.fr; davyangueko83@gmail.com

Bibang Bi Nguema, Jean Noël

Chef de Service des Evaluations et de l'Aménagement des Ressources Marines, Direction Générale des pêches et de l'Aquaculture (DGPA), BP. 9498, Libreville Estuaire
Tel: +241 047 37881, E-Mail: mamienejnb@gmail.com

GHANA

Arthur-Dadzie, Michael *

Director of Fisheries, Fisheries Commission, Ministry of Fisheries & Aquaculture Development, P.O. Box GP 630, Accra
Tel: +233 244 735 506, E-Mail: michyad2000@yahoo.com

Baidoo-Tsibu, Godfrey

Ministry of Fisheries, Fisheries Commission, P.O. Box GP 630, Accra
Tel: +233 244 544 204, E-Mail: godfreytsibu@yahoo.com; godfreytsibu.gbt@gmail.com

GUATEMALA

Acevedo Cordón, Byron Omar *

Viceministro de Sanidad Agropecuaria y Regulaciones, Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación, Dirección de Normatividad de la Pesca y Acuicultura (DIPESCA), Km. 22 Carretera al Pacífico, edificio La Ceiba, 3er. Nivel, Bárcena, Villa Nueva
Tel: +502 580 82053; Whatsapp, E-Mail: byron.acevedo@gmail.com; visar.agenda@gmail.com

Cifuentes Marckwordt, Manoel José

Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación, Investigación y Desarrollo, Dirección de Normatividad de la Pesca y Acuicultura – DIPESCA, Km. 22.5 Carretera al Pacífico, Guatemala, Villa Nueva Bárcenas
Tel: +502 57 08 09 84, Fax: +502 66 40 93 34, E-Mail: manoeljose@gmail.com

HONDURAS

Chavarría Valverde, Bernal Alberto *

Dirección General de Pesca y Acuicultura, Secretaría de Agricultura y Ganadería Boulevard Centroamérica, Avenida la FAO, Tegucigalpa
Tel: +506 882 24709, Fax: +506 2232 4651, E-Mail: bchavarria@lsg-cr.com

JAPAN

Miwa, Takeshi *

Assistant Director, International Affairs Division, Resources Management Department, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8907
Tel: +81 3 3502 8460, Fax: +81 3 3504 2649, E-Mail: takeshi_miwa090@maff.go.jp

Hiruma, Shinji

Assistant Director, Fisheries Management Division, Resources Management Department, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Tokyo Chidoya-ku 100-8907
Tel: +81 3 3502 8460, Fax: +81 3 3504 2649, E-Mail: shinji_hiruma150@maff.go.jp; hirufish@gmail.com

Katsuyama, Kiyoshi

Special Advisor, International Division, Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Association, 2-31-1, Koto-ku, Tokyo 135-0034
Tel: +81 3 5646 2382, Fax: +81 3 5646 2652, E-Mail: katsuyama@japantuna.or.jp

Miura, Nozomu

Manager, International Division, Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Association, 2-31-1 Eitai Koto-ku, Tokyo 135-0034
Tel: +81 3 5646 2382, Fax: +81 3 5646 2652, E-Mail: miura@japantuna.or.jp;gyojo@japantuna.or.jp

Ogawa, Shun

Deputy Director, Agricultural and Marine Products Office, Trade Control Department, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, 1-3-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8901
Tel: +81 3 3501 0532, E-Mail: ogawa-shun@meti.go.jp

Shimizu, Satoru

Staff, National Ocean Tuna Fishery Association, 1-1-12 Uchikanda, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0047
Tel: +81 3 3294 9633, Fax: +81 3 3294 9607, E-Mail: mic-shimizu@zengyoren.jf-net.ne.jp

Takagi, Yoshihiro

Interpreter, Japan Tuna Fisheries Co-operative Association, Higashikanda, 1-2-8, Chiyoda-ku, Chiba Kashiwa 277-0903
Tel: +81 4 7193 1086; +81 80 2038 0774, E-Mail: gyojo@japantuna.or.jp; ytakagi8@yahoo.co.jp

KOREA REP.**Park, Chansoo ***

Deputy Director, International Cooperation Division, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF), Government Complex Building 5, 94, Dasom 2-ro, Sejong Special Self-governing City, 30110
Tel: +82 44 200 5339, Fax: +82 44 200 5349, E-Mail: parkchansoo@korea.kr

Choi, Bongjun

Assistant Manager, Korea Overseas Fisheries Association (KOSFA), 6th floor Samho Center Building, "A" 83, Nonhyeon-ro, Seocho-gu, Seoul
Tel: +82 2 589 1615, Fax: +82 2 589 1630, E-Mail: bj@kosfa.org

Na, Il Kang

Policy Analyst, International Cooperation Division, Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, Government Complex Sejong, 94 Dasom 2-ro, Sejong Special Self-governing City, 30110 Sejong city
Tel: +82 44 200 5347, Fax: +82 44 200 5349, E-Mail: ikna@korea.kr

Park, Minjae

Assistant Director, National Fishery Product Quality Management Service (NFQS), 8, Jungang-daero 30beon-gil, jung-gu, Busan
Tel: +82 51 602 6035; +82 103 439 8469, Fax: +82 51 602 6088, E-Mail: acepark0070@korea.kr

Sun, Kyungwon

Assistant Director, National Fishery Product Quality Management Service (NFQS), 47, Gonghang-ro 424beon-gil, Jung-gu, 22382 Incheon
Tel: +82 01026797980, E-Mail: skw2325@korea.kr

Yang, Jae-geol

Policy Analyst, Korea overseas Fisheries Cooperation Center, 6th FL, S Building, 253, Hannuri-daero, 30127 Sejong
Tel: +82 44 868 7364, Fax: +82 44 868 7840, E-Mail: jg718@kofci.org

LIBERIA**Boeh, William Y. ***

Deputy Director General for Technical Services, National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority (NaFAA), P.O. Box 10-90100, 1000 Monrovia 10 Montserrado
Tel: +231 888198006; +231 770 251 983, E-Mail: w.y.boeh@liberianfisheries.net; williamboeh92@gmail.com

LIBYA**Alghawel, Mussab. F. B. ***

Coordinator in Charge, Director of Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Zawiet Adde H'mani, Tripoli
Tel: +218 213 400 425/28; +218 911 750 811, Fax: +218 213 402 900, E-Mail: ceo@lfa.org.ly; mfl.dir-doic@mofa.gov.ly; cpc.libya.2017@gmail.com

ElKharraz, Sami Muftah Othman

Responsible of Tuna Fishing Process, Follow-up committee of Tuna and Swordfish at the General Union of Fishermen and Sponges, Zawiet Addehmani, Tripoli
Tel: +218 91 375 28 54, E-Mail: samielkharraz@gmail.com; libya5728@gmail.com

Fenech, Joseph

66 West Street, VLT 1538 Valletta, Malta
Tel: +356 9944 0044, Fax: +356 21 230 561, E-Mail: ffh@ffh2.com

Zgozi, Salem Wniss Milad

Scientific expert, Marine Biology Research Center, Fisheries Stock Assessment Division, P.O. Box 30830, Tajura, Tripoli
Tel: +218 92 527 9149, Fax: +218 21 369 0002, E-Mail: salemzgozi1@yahoo.com; info@gam-ly.org

MAURITANIA**Camara, Lamine ***

Directeur/DARE/MPPEM, Direction de l'Aménagement des Ressources et de Etudes, Ministère des Pêches, BP: 137, NKTT/R.I.
Tel: +222 45 29 54 41; +222 46 41 54 98, E-Mail: laminecam2000@yahoo.fr

Ould Sidi Boubacar, Sidi Ali
Directeur Général d'Exploitation des Ressources Halieutiques
Tel: +222 464 11705, Fax: +222 452 54 607, E-Mail: sidiali09@yahoo.fr

MOROCCO

Grichat, Hicham *
Chef de Service des espèces marines migratrices et des espaces protégés à la DDARH/DPM, Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Pêche Maritime, Département de la Pêche Maritime, Direction des Pêches Maritimes, B.P 476 Nouveau Quartier Administratif, Haut Agdal Rabat
Tel: +212 537 68 81 15, Fax: +212 537 68 8089, E-Mail: grichat@mpm.gov.ma

Sabbane, Kamal
Cadre à la Direction de Contrôle des Activités de la Pêche Maritime, Ministère de l'Agriculture de la Pêche Maritime
Tel: +212 537 688 196, E-Mail: sabbane@mpm.gov.ma

NAMIBIA

Kauaria, Ueritjiua *
Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Private Bag 13355, Windhoek
Tel: +264 61 205 3007, E-Mail: ueritjiua.kauaria@mfmr.gov.na

Bester, Desmond R.
Control Officer Operations, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Private Bag 394, 9000 Luderitz
Tel: +264 63 20 2912, Fax: +264 6320 3337, E-Mail: desmond.beste@mfmr.gov.na; desmondbeste@yahoo.com

Iilende, Titus
Deputy Director Resource Management, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Brendan Simbwaye Square C/O Kenneth Kaunda and Goethe Streets, Private Bag 13355, 9000 Windhoek Khomas Region
Tel: +264 81 149 0234, Fax: +264 61 220 558, E-Mail: titus.iilende@mfmr.gov.na

NICARAGUA

Guevara Quintana, Julio Cesar *
Comisionado CIAT - Biólogo, INPESCA, Altos de Cerro Viento, calle Circunvalación B. Casa 187, Managua, Panama
Tel: +505 2278 0319; +505 8396 7742, E-Mail: juliocgq@hotmail.com; alemsanic@hotmail.com

NIGERIA

Okpe, Hyacinth Anebi *
Assistant Director (Fisheries), Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Division, Area 11, Garki Abuja
Tel: +234 70 6623 2156, Fax: +234 09 314 4665, E-Mail: hokpe@yahoo.com; Hyacinthokpe80@gmail.com

NORWAY

Holst, Sigrun M. *
Deputy Director General, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, Pistboks 8090 Dep, 0032 Oslo
Tel: +47 91 898 733, E-Mail: Sigrun.holst@nfd.dep.no

Mjorlund, Rune
Directorate of Fisheries, Strandgaten 229, 5804 Bergen
Tel: +47 952 59 448, E-Mail: rune.mjorlund@fiskeridir.no

Rodriguez Brix, Maja Kirkegaard
Directorate of Fisheries, Strandgaten 229, postboks 185 Sentrum, 5804 Bergen
Tel: +47 416 91 457, E-Mail: mabri@fiskeridir.no

Sørdahl, Elisabeth
Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, Department for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Postboks 8090 Dep., 0032 Oslo
Tel: +47 22 24 65 45, E-Mail: elisabeth.sordahl@nfd.dep.no

PANAMA

Delgado Quezada, Raúl Alberto *
Director General de Inspección Vigilancia y Control, Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de Panamá, Edificio La Riviera - Avenida Justo Arosemena y Calle 45, Bella Vista (Antigua Estación El Árbol), 0819-05850
Tel: +507 511 6000, Fax: +507 511 6031, E-Mail: rdelgado@arap.gob.pa; ivc@arap.gob.pa

Franco, Arnulfo Luis

Asesor, Fundación Internacional de Pesca, Zona de Libre Proceso de Corozal, Edificio 297, Ancón
 Tel: +507 378 6640; Cellular: +507 66194351, Fax: +507 317 3627, E-Mail: arnulfofranco@fipesca.com; arnulfol.franco@gmail.com

RUSSIAN FEDERATION**Nesterov, Alexander ***

Head Scientist, Atlantic Research Institute of Marine, Fisheries and Oceanography (AtlantNIRO), 5, Dmitry Donskoy Str., 236022 Kaliningrad
 Tel: +7 (4012) 215645, Fax: + 7 (4012) 219997, E-Mail: nesterov@atlantniro.ru; oms@atlantniro.ru; atlantniro@atlantniro.ru

S. TOMÉ E PRÍNCIPE**Pessoa Lima, Joao Gomes ***

Director Geral das Pescas, Ministério das Finanças, Comercio e Economia Azul, Direcção Geral das Pescas, Largo das Alfandegas, C.P. 59
 Tel: +239 222 2828, E-Mail: pessoalima61@gmail.com; jpessoa61@hotmail.com

SENEGAL**Sèye, Mamadou ***

Ingénieur des Pêches, Chef de la Division Gestion et Aménagement des Pêcheries de la Direction des Pêches maritimes, Sphère ministérielle de Diarniadio Bâtiment D.1, Rue Joris, Place du Tirailleur, 289 Dakar
 Tel: +221 77 841 83 94, Fax: +221 821 47 58, E-Mail: mamadou.seye@mpem.gouv.sn; mdseye@gmail.com

Diedhiou, Abdoulaye

Chef de Division Pêche industrielle, Direction des pêches maritimes DAKAR - DPM, 1 Rue Jorris, BP 289
 Tel: +221 33 821 47 58, Fax: +221 33 823 01 37, E-Mail: layee78@yahoo.fr

Faye, Adama

Directeur adjoint de la Direction de la Protection et de la Surveillance des Pêches, Direction, Protection et Surveillance des Pêches, Cité Fenêtre Mermoz, BP 3656 Dakar
 Tel: +221 775 656 958, E-Mail: adafaye2000@yahoo.fr

Ndaw, Sidi

Chef du Bureau des Statistiques à la Direction des Pêches, Ministère de la Pêche et de l'Economie Maritime, Direction des Pêches Maritimes1, rue Joris, Place du Tirailleur, B.P. 289, Dakar
 Tel: +221 775 594 914, Fax: +221 33 821 4758, E-Mail: sidindaw@hotmail.com; dopm@orange.sn; dpm@mpem.gouv.sn

Seck, Amdy Moustapha

Assistant, PATTE D'OIE BUILDERS B/N C68, Dakar
 Tel: +221 772 225 265, E-Mail: moustaphadiatta2004@yahoo.fr

Sow, Fambaye Ngom

Chercheur Biologiste des Pêches, Centre de Recherches Océanographiques de Dakar Thiaroye, CRODT/ISRALNERV - Route du Front de Terre - BP 2241, Dakar
 Tel: +221 3 0108 1104; +221 77 502 67 79, Fax: +221 33 832 8262, E-Mail: famngom@yahoo.com

Talla, Marième Diagne

Conseiller juridique du Ministère de la Pêche et de l'Économie Maritime, Ministère de la Pêche et de l'Économie Maritime, 1, rue Joris, Place du Tirailleur, B.P. 289, Dakar
 Tel: +221 33 849 8452; +221 77 270 08 86, E-Mail: masodiagne@yahoo.fr

SOUTH AFRICA**Ndudane, Siphokazi (Mpozi) ***

Chief Director: Marine Resources Management, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Private Bag X2, 8012 Rogge Bay, Cape Town
 Tel: +27 21 402 3019, Fax: +27 21 421 5151, E-Mail: siphokazin@daff.gov.za

Kerwath, Sven

Chairman of the Large Pelagics and Sharks Scientific Working Group, Fisheries Research and Development, Inshore Research, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Foretrust Building, 9 Martin Hammerschlag Way, Foreshore, 8000 Cape Town, Private Bag X2, Vlaeberg 8018
 Tel: +27 83 991 4641; +27 214 023 017, E-Mail: SvenK@daff.gov.za; svenkerwath@gmail.com

Njobeni, Asanda

Forestry and Fisheries, Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries 3 Martin Hammerschlag Way, Foretrust Building, Private Bag X2, Vlaeberg, 8012 Cape Town
Tel: +27 21 402 3019, Fax: +27 21 421 5252, E-Mail: asandan@daff.gov.za

Qayiso Kenneth, Mketsu

Deputy Director, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 3 Martin Hammerschlag Way, Foretrust Building, Foreshore, 8002 Cape Town
Tel: +27 21 402 3048, Fax: +27 21 402 3734, E-Mail: QayisoMK@daff.gov.za

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Martin, Louanna *

Fisheries Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Land & Fisheries, Fisheries Division, 35 Cipriani Boulevard, Port of Spain
Tel: +868 634 4504; 868 634 4505, Fax: +868 634 4488, E-Mail: louannamartin@gmail.com; lmartin@fp.gov.tt

TUNISIA

M'Rabet, Ridha *

Directeur Général de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture - DGPA, Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Ressources Hydrauliques et de la Pêche, 30 Rue Alain Savary, 1002
Tel: +216 71 892 253, Fax: +216 71 799 401, E-Mail: bft@iresa.agrinet.tn; ridha.mrabet@iresa.agrinet.tn

Ben Hmida, Jaouhar

Fédération de la Pêche du Thon en Tunisie, 11 nouveau port de Pêche SFAX, 3065
Tel: +216 98 319 885, Fax: +216 74 497704, E-Mail: jaouharbh@gmail.com; jaouhar.benhmida@tunet.tn

Chaari, Youssef

Nouveau Port de Pêche N° 45, 3065 Sfax
Tel: +216 51 168 000, Fax: +216 74 497 316, E-Mail: toumi.amine2011@gmail.com

Chiha, Mohamed

Armateur de Pêche ou Thon et Fermier, 169 Av. Habib Bourguiba, 5170 La Chebba - Mahdia
Tel: +216 52 80 89 52, Fax: +216 73 64 23 82, E-Mail: chihamohamed@hotmail.fr

Mejri, Hamadi

Directeur adjoint, Conservation des ressources halieutiques, Ministère de l'agriculture et des ressources hydrauliques et de la pêche, Direction Générale de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture, 32, Rue Alain Savary - Le Belvédère, 1002
Tel: +216 240 12780, Fax: +216 71 799 401, E-Mail: hamadi.mejri1@gmail.com

Sohlobji, Donia

Direction Générale de la Pêche et de l'Aquaculture, Ministère de l'Agriculture 32 Rue Alain Savary, 1002 Le Belvédère
Tel: +216 534 31307; +216 71 890 784, Fax: +216 71 799 401, E-Mail: sohlobji_donia@yahoo.fr; doniasohlobji@gmail.com

Toumi, Amine

Nouveau Port de Pêche N° 45, 3065 SFAX
Tel: +216 744 97316; +216 51 168 000, Fax: +216 74 497 316, E-Mail: toumi.amine2011@gmail.com

Zarrad, Rafik

Institut National des Sciences et Technologies de la Mer (INSTM), BP 138 Ezzahra, Mahdia 5199
Tel: +216 73 688 604; +216 97292111, Fax: +216 73 688 602, E-Mail: rafik.zarrad@instm.rnrt.tn; rafikzarrad@gmail.com

TURKEY

Türkyilmaz, Turgay *

Deputy Director-General, Head of Fisheries and Control Department, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MoFAL), General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture (Balıkçılık ve Su Ürünleri Genel Müdürlüğü), Gıda Tarım ve Hayvancılık Bakanlığı Kampüsü, Eskişehir Yolu 9. km, 06100 Lodumlu, Ankara
Tel: +90 312 258 30 17, Fax: +90 312 258 30 39, E-Mail: turgay.turkyilmaz@tarim.gov.tr; turgay.turkyilmaz@tarimorman.gov.tr

Elekon, Hasan Alper

Senior Fisheries Officer, General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture (Balıkçılık ve Su Ürünleri Genel Müdürlüğü), Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MoFAL), Gıda Tarım ve Hayvancılık Bakanlığı Kampüsü, Eskişehir Yolu 9. km, 06100 Lodumlu, Ankara
Tel: +90 312 258 30 76, Fax: +90 312 258 30 75, E-Mail: hasanalper@gmail.com; hasanalper.elekon@tarim.gov.tr

Topçu, Burcu Bilgin

EU Expert, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture Gıda Tarım ve Hayvancılık Bakanlığı, Balıkçılık ve Su Ürünleri Genel Müdürlüğü Eskişehir yolu 9. km, 06100 Lodumlu/Ankara
Tel: +90 532 207 0632, Fax: +90 312 258 30 39, E-Mail: burcu.bilgin@tarim.gov.tr; bilginburcu@gmail.com; burcu.bilgin@tarimorman.gov.tr

Ültanur, Mustafa

Advisor, Central Union of Fishermens' Cooperatives (Su Ürünleri Kooperatifleri Merkez Birliği), SUR-KOOP Konur Sokak No. 54/8, Kızılay, Bakanlıklar, 06640 Çankaya-Ankara
Tel: +90 312 419 22 88; +90 533 424 0827, Fax: +90 312 419 2289, E-Mail: ultanur@gmail.com; sur_koop@yahoo.com.tr

Yelegen, Yener

Engineer, General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture (Balıkçılık ve Su Ürünleri Genel Müdürlüğü), Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, Gıda Tarım ve Hayvancılık Bakanlığı Kampüsü, Eskişehir Yolu 9. km, 06100 Lodumlu, Ankara
Tel: +90 505 530 26 38, Fax: +90 312 258 3039, E-Mail: yener.yelegen@tarimorman.gov.tr; yener.yelegen@tarim.gov.tr; yeneryelegen@gmail.com

UNITED KINGDOM (OVERSEAS TERRITORIES)**Warren, Tammy M. ***

Senior Marine Resources Officer, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, #3 Coney Island Road, St. George's, CR04, Bermuda
Tel: +1 441 705 2716, E-Mail: twarren@gov.bm

Benjamin, Gerald

Senior Fisheries Officer, Environment and Natural Resources Directorate, Government of Sta. Helena, STHL 1ZZ Scotland Jamestown, St. Helena
Tel: +290 24724, Fax: +290 24603, E-Mail: gerald-benjamin@enrd.gov.sh

Collins, Martin

CEFAS - Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences, Pakefield Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 OHT
Tel: +44 150 252 1382, Fax: +44 150 252 1382, E-Mail: martin.collins@cefaz.co.uk

Deary, Andrew

Head of Blue Belt Compliance, MMO, Marine Management Organisation, Lutra House. Dodd Way. Walton House. Bamber Bridge. Preston Office, PR5 8BX
Tel: +44 782 766 4112, E-Mail: andrew.deary@marinemanagement.org.uk

UNITED STATES**Lederhouse, Terra ***

Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring Maryland MD 20910
Tel: +1 202 816 2059, E-Mail: terra.lederhouse@noaa.gov

Blankenbeker, Kimberly

Foreign Affairs Specialist, NOAA Fisheries, Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection (F/IS), National Marine Fisheries Service 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring Maryland 20910
Tel: +1 301 427 8357, Fax: +1 301 713 1081, E-Mail: kimberly.blankenbeker@noaa.gov

Blankinship, David Randle

NOAA - National Marine Fisheries Service, 263 13th Ave South, Saint Petersburg, FL 33701
Tel: +1 727 824 5313, Fax: +1 727 824 5398, E-Mail: randy.blankinship@noaa.gov

Bogan, Raymond D.

Sinn, Fitzsimmons, Cantoli, Bogan & West, 501 Trenton Avenue, P.O. Box 1347, Point Pleasant Beach, Sea Girt New Jersey 08742
Tel: +1 732 892 1000; +1 732 233 6442, Fax: +1 732 892 1075, E-Mail: rbogan@lawyernjshore.com

Campbell, Derek

Office of General Counsel - International Law, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce 1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W. HCHB Room 48026, Washington, D.C. 20032
Tel: +1 202 482 0031, Fax: +1 202 371 0926, E-Mail: derek.campbell@noaa.gov

Carney, Jack Wynn

1315 East West Highway Suite 3301, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
Tel: +1 609 423 9254; +1 301 427 8246, E-Mail: wynn.carney@noaa.gov

Doherty, Carolyn

NOAA, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
Tel: +1 301 427 4385; +1 202 816 1991, E-Mail: carolyn.doherty@noaa.gov

Engelke-Ros, Meggan

Enforcement Attorney, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, 1315 East-West Highway, SSMC3-15860, Silver Spring Maryland 20910
Tel: +1 301 427 8284, Fax: +1 301 427 2202, E-Mail: meggan.engelke-ros@noaa.gov

Ferrara, Grace

NMFS - National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East West Highway, Room 10875, Silver Spring, MD 20910
Tel: +1 301 427 8371, E-Mail: grace.ferrara@noaa.gov

Graves, John E.

Professor of Marine Science, Virginia Institute of Marine Science - College of William and Mary, 1375 Great Road, P.O. Box 1346, Gloucester Point, VA Virginia 23062
Tel: +1 804 684 7352, Fax: +1 804 684 7157, E-Mail: graves@vims.edu

King, Melanie Diamond

NOAA - National Marine Fishery Service, Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection (F/IA1)1315 East West Highway (IASI), Silver Spring Maryland 20910
Tel: +1 301 427 8366, E-Mail: melanie.king@noaa.gov

Lawler, Andrew

1315 East-West Highway, Maryland Silver Spring 20910
Tel: +1 301 427 8061, E-Mail: andrew.lawler@noaa.gov

McLaughlin, Sarah

Fishery Management Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Highly Migratory Species Management Division 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, Massachusetts 01930
Tel: +978 281 9260, Fax: +978 281 9340, E-Mail: sarah.mclaughlin@noaa.gov

Miller, Alexander

NOAA Fisheries, National Seafood Inspection Lab, 3209 Frederic Street Pascagoula, MS, 39567-4163
Tel: +1 228 549 1717, Fax: +1 228 762 7144, E-Mail: alexander.miller@noaa.gov

Moore, Katie

Living Marine Resources Program Manager, Future Operations Technical Advisor, United States Coast Guard, Atlantic Area-Response, Office of Maritime Security and Law Enforcement, 431 Crawford St., Portsmouth, Virginia VA 23704
Tel: +1 757 398 6504, E-Mail: katie.s.moore@uscg.mil

Piñeiro Soler, Eugenio

Chairman, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 723 Box Garden Hills Plaza, Guaynabo, PR 00966
Tel: +1 787 224 7399, Fax: +1 787 344 0954, E-Mail: gpsfish@yahoo.com

Soltanoff, Carrie

Fishery Management Specialist, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD, 20910
Tel: +1 301 427 8503, Fax: +1 301 713 1917, E-Mail: carrie.soltanoff@noaa.gov

Walline, Megan J.

Attorney - Advisor, Office of the General Counsel for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce 1315 East-West Highway SSMC-III, Silver Spring Maryland 20910
Tel: +301 713 9695, Fax: +1 301 713 0658, E-Mail: megan.walline@noaa.gov

Warner-Kramer, Deirdre

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Marine Conservation (OES/OMC), U.S. Department of State, Rm 2758, 2201 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20520-7878
Tel: +1 202 647 2883, Fax: +1 202 736 7350, E-Mail: warner-kramerdm@fan.gov

Weber, Rick

South Jersey Marina, 1231 New Jersey 109, New Jersey Cape May 08204
Tel: +1 609 884 2400; +1 609 780 7365, Fax: +1 609 884 0039, E-Mail: rweber@southjerseymarina.com

URUGUAY

Domingo, Andrés *

Director Nacional, Dirección Nacional de Recursos Acuáticos - DINARA, Laboratorio de Recursos Pelágicos, Constituyente 1497, 11200 Montevideo
Tel: +5982 400 46 89, Fax: +5982 401 32 16, E-Mail: adomingo@dinara.gub.uy; direcciongeneral@dinara.gub.uy

VENEZUELA

Giménez Bracamonte, Carlos Enrique *

Director Ejecutivo, Fundación para la Pesca Responsable y Sostenible de Túnidos (FUNDATUN), Avenida Francisco Miranda, Multicentro Empresarial del Este, Torre Miranda - Piso 10 - Oficina 103, 1060 Municipio Chacao Caracas
Tel: +58 212 264 7713, Fax: +58 212 267 6666, E-Mail: cegimenez@fundatun.com; cegimenezb@gmail.com

Maniscalchi, Rita

AVATUN, Avenida Miranda, Quinta Maria Teresa, Cumaná-Sucré
Tel: +5829 3431 0966, Fax: +5829 3431 9117, E-Mail: debraether@gmail.com

Maniscalchi, Lillo

AVATUN, Av. Miranda, Crta. Maria Teresa, Edif. Cristal Plaza Piso 3 L65, 6101 Cumana Estado Sucre
Tel: +5829 3431 0966, Fax: +5829 3431 9117, E-Mail: lillomaniscalchi@yahoo.com

OBSERVERS FROM COOPERATING NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES, ENTITIES, FISHING ENTITIES

CHINESE TAIPEI

Chou, Shih-Chin

Section Chief, Deep Sea Fisheries Division, Fisheries Agency, 8F, No. 100, Sec. 2, Heping W. Rd., Zhongzheng District, 10037
Tel: +886 2 2383 5915, Fax: +886 2 2332 7395, E-Mail: shihcin@ms1.fa.gov.tw

Chung, I-Yin

Secretary, Overseas Fisheries Development Council, Operation Division3F., No. 14, Wenzhou St., Da'an Dist., 106
Tel: +886 2 2368 0889 ext. 154, Fax: +886 2 2368 6418, E-Mail: ineschung@ofdc.org.tw

Kao, Shih-Ming

Assistant Professor, Graduate Institute of Marine Affairs, National Sun Yat-sen University70 Lien-Hai Road, 80424 Kaohsiung City
Tel: +886 7 525 2000 Ext. 5305, Fax: +886 7 525 6205, E-Mail: kaosm@mail.nsysu.edu.tw

Lee, Chia-Yen

Section Chief, Department of Treaty and Legal Affairs, 2 Kaitakelan Blvd., 10048
Tel: +886 2 2348 2507, Fax: +886 2 2312 1161, E-Mail: cylee01@mofa.gov.tw

Lin, Yen-Ju

Specialist, International Economics and Trade Section, Deep Sea Fisheries Division, Fisheries Agency8F, No. 100, Sec. 2, Heping W. Rd., Zhongzheng Dist., 10037 Taipei
Tel: +886 2 2383 5912, Fax: +886 2 2332 7395, E-Mail: yenju@ms1.fa.gov.tw

Su, Nan-Jay

Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Biology and Fisheries Science, National Taiwan Ocean University, No. 2 Pei-Ning Rd. Keelung, 20224
Tel: +886 2 2462 2192 #5046, E-Mail: nanjay@ntou.edu.tw

OBSERVERS FROM INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION - FAO

Fabra Aguilar, Adriana

International MCS Network, Girona 85, 3, 08009 Barcelona, España
Tel: +34 655 770442, E-Mail: afabra@yahoo.es

OBSERVERS FROM NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES

FIJI ISLANDS

Rabo, Aporosa

Fisheries Officer, Republic of Fiji Ministry of Fisheries, Takayawa Building, Toorak Suva
Tel: +679 9967007, E-Mail: rabo.aporosa@gmail.com

OBSERVERS FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

ASSOCIAÇÃO DE CIÊNCIAS MARINHAS E COOPERAÇÃO - SCIAENA

Laborda Mora, Cristian Eugenio

Sciaena, La Concepción 81, Oficina 1507, 8320000 Providencia - Santiago de Chile
Tel: +562 223 52973; +569 957 85269, E-Mail: cristian.laborda@celaborda.com; mblanco@celaborda.com

ECOLOGY ACTION CENTRE - EAC

Arnold, Shannon

Marine Coordinator, Ecology Action Centre, 2705 Fern Lane, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3K 4L3, Canada
Tel: +1 902 446 4840, E-Mail: sharnold@ecologyaction.ca

ORGANIZATION FOR PROMOTION OF RESPONSIBLE TUNA FISHERIES – OPRT

Nagahata, Daishiro

Organization for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries, 9F Sankaido Bldg. 9-13, Akasaka 1-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo Chiyoda-Ku 107-0052, Japan

Tel: +81 3 3568 6388, Fax: +81 3 3568 6389, E-Mail: nagahata@oprt.or.jp

ORGANIZATION FOR REGIONAL AND INTER-REGIONAL STUDIES - ORIS

Ishii, Atsushi

Associate Professor, Center for Northeast Asian Studies, Tohoku University, Organization for Regional and Inter-regional Studies 1-6-1, Nishi-waseda, Shinjuku, Tokyo 169-8050, Japan

Tel: +81 22 795 6076, Fax: +81 22 795 6010, E-Mail: atsushi.ishii.b7@tohoku.ac.jp

Koyano, Mari

Professor, Organization for Regional and Inter-regional Studies, c/o Faculty of Law, Hokkaido University Kita-9, Nishi-7, Kita-ku, Sapporo-shi, Hokkaido 060-0809, Japan

Tel: +81 903 136 8248, Fax: +81 11 706 4948, E-Mail: koyano@juris.hokudai.ac.jp

Ohta, Hiroshi

Organization for Regional and Inter-regional Studies, ORIS, Waseda University 1-6-1 Nishi-Waseda, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 169-0051, Japan

Tel: +81 3 5286 1728, Fax: +81 3 3208 8401, E-Mail: h-otha@waseda.jp

PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS - PEW

Evangelides, Nikolas

The Pew Charitable Trusts, The Grove, 248A Marylebone Road, London NW1 6JZ, United Kingdom

Tel: +447450071205, E-Mail: nevangelides@pewtrusts.org

Galland, Grantly

Pew Charitable Trusts, 901 E Street, NW, Washington, DC 20004, United States

Tel: +1 202 540 6953, Fax: +1 202 552 2299, E-Mail: ggalland@pewtrusts.org

THE OCEAN FOUNDATION

Samari, Mona

The Ocean Foundation, 1320 19th Sr, NW 5th Floor, Washington DC 20036, United States

Tel: +1 202 887 8996, E-Mail: samarimonaocean@gmail.com

WORLD WILDLIFE FUND – WWF

García Rodríguez, Raúl

WWF Mediterranean, Gran Vía de San Francisco, 8, 28005 Madrid, España

Tel: +34 630 834 267, Fax: +34 913 656 336, E-Mail: pesca@wwf.es

ICCAT 1st VICE-CHAIRMAN

Depypere, Stefaan

Former Director International Ocean Governance and Sustainable Fisheries, Florastraat 79, B-9840 De Pinte Brussels, Belgium

Tel: + 32 498 990 713, E-Mail: stefaandepypere@gmail.com

ICCAT Secretariat

C/ Corazón de María 8 – 6th floor, 28002 Madrid – Spain

Tel: +34 91 416 56 00; Fax: +34 91 415 26 12; E-mail: info@iccat.int

Manel, Camille Jean Pierre

Neves dos Santos, Miguel

Ortiz, Mauricio

Cheatle, Jenny

Ochoa de Michelena, Carmen

Campoy, Rebecca

De Andrés, Marisa

Peyre, Christine

Fiz, Jesús

Gallego Sanz, Juan Luis

García Piña, Cristóbal

Moreno, Juan Ángel

Muñoz, Juan Carlos

Peña, Esther

GBYP PROGRAM

Aleman, Francisco

ICCAT INTERPRETERS

Baena Jiménez, Eva J.

Faillace, Linda

Gzour, Aomar

Hof, Michelle Renée

Konstantinidi-Levenheck, Melpomene

Liberas, Christine

Linae, Cristina

Meunier, Isabelle

Tabet, Mirna

RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY ICCAT IN 2018

18-01 **TRO**
RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT SUPPLEMENTING AND AMENDING RECOMMENDATION 16-01 ON A
MULTI-ANNUAL CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME FOR TROPICAL TUNAS

RECOGNIZING that *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-Annual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tunas* (Rec. 16-01), applies in 2016 and subsequent years, but that certain provisions expired in 2018,

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

1. The Annual Catch Limits in Paragraph 3 of Recommendation 16-01 shall continue to apply through 2019.
2. Paragraphs 2a and 9b of Rec. 16-01 are suspended.
3. For CPCs listed in Paragraph 3, underage or overage of an annual catch limit in 2019 shall be added to/or deducted from their 2021 annual catch limit, subject to the restrictions noted in Paragraphs 9a and 10 of Rec. 16-01.
4. The Commission shall review relevant tropical tunas conservation and management measures in place in 2019.
5. This Recommendation supplements and amends the *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-Annual Conservation And Management Programme For Tropical Tunas* (Rec. 16-01).

18-02

BFT

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ESTABLISHING
A MULTI-ANNUAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR
BLUEFIN TUNA IN THE EASTERN ATLANTIC AND THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA**

ACKNOWLEDGING that the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) noted in its 2017 advice that a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) could be set at 36,000 t to be reached in 2020 in a gradual stepwise way without undermining the success of the recovery plan;

ACKNOWLEDGING the advice from SCRS to consider moving from the current recovery plan to a management plan and that the current status of the stock no longer appears to require the emergency measures introduced under the Recovery plan for Bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (Recommendation 17-07 by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 14-04);

ACKNOWLEDGING paragraph 4 of Recommendation 17-07 which states that the Commission shall establish a management plan for the stock in 2018.

CONSIDERING that the SCRS is developing a management strategy evaluation (MSE) process, with the aim to evaluate different management procedures that are robust to the main sources of uncertainty and that MSE process is expected to deliver candidate management procedures in the short but not immediate term (e.g. by 2021-22), the selection of the desired management procedure by the Commission could also take some time. Therefore, it is proposed to have an interim management objective that can be revisited at the time the Commission adopts harvest control rules (HCR). In this context, on the basis of the latest stock assessment and on further management recommendations supported by a Management Strategy Evaluation exercise (MSE) and after the management procedure, including HCRs have been defined by the SCRS, the Commission may decide as from 2020 on changes to the management framework for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, as advised by SCRS.

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING the impacts of the Recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean on the small scale fleets, in particular with regards to the reduction of fishing capacity;

CONSIDERING the capability of the stock to respond to several consecutive years of low recruitment, it will be paramount to ensure that the fishing capacity remains within sustainable limits and that the control of capacity remains effective;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the importance of maintaining the scope and integrity of the control measures, and reinforcing traceability of the catches, in particular with regards to the transport of live fish and farming activities.

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

**Part I
General Provisions**

Objective

1. The Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities hereinafter referred to as CPCs, whose vessels have been actively fishing for bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean shall implement a management plan for bluefin tuna in that geographic area starting in 2019 with the goal of maintaining the biomass around $B_{0.1}$, achieved by fishing at or less than $F_{0.1}$, which the SCRS considers to be reasonable proxy for F_{MSY} .

This objective shall be revisited and modified, if necessary, once Management Strategy Evaluation has made sufficient progress, when alternative management objectives can be considered, and Reference Points, Harvest Control rules and/or Management procedures can be adopted.

2. When the SCRS stock evaluation indicates that the status and development of the stock (in terms of biomass and/or fishing mortality) is diverting from this objective, safeguards and review clauses as defined in the final provisions of this plan shall apply.

Definitions

3. For purposes of this Plan:

- a) "fishing vessel" means any powered vessel used for the purposes of the commercial exploitation of bluefin tuna resources, including catching vessels, fish processing vessels, support vessels, towing vessels, vessels engaged in transshipment and transport vessels equipped for the transportation of tuna products and auxiliary vessels, except container vessels.
- b) "catching vessel" means a vessel used for the purposes of the commercial capture of bluefin tuna resources.
- c) "processing vessel" means a vessel on board of which fisheries products are subject to one or more of the following operations, prior to their packaging: filleting or slicing, freezing and/or processing.
- d) "auxiliary vessel" means any vessel used to transport dead bluefin tuna (not processed) from a transport/farming cage, a purse seine or a trap to a designated port and/or to a processing vessel.
- e) "towing vessel" means any vessel used for towing cages.
- f) "support vessel" means any other fishing vessel referred to under 3a).
- g) "fishing actively" means, for any catching vessel, the fact that it targets bluefin tuna during a given fishing season.
- h) "joint fishing operation" (hereinafter referred in the text as JFO) means any operation between two or more purse seine vessels where the catch of one purse seine vessel is attributed to one or more other purse seine vessels in accordance with a previously agreed allocation key.
- i) "transfer operations" means:
 - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the catching vessel's net to the transport cage;
 - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the transport cage to another transport cage;
 - any transfer of the cage with live bluefin tuna from a towing vessel to another towing vessel;
 - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from one farm to another, or between different cages in the same farm;
 - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the trap to the transport cage independently of the presence of a towing vessel.
- j) "control transfer" means any additional transfer being implemented at the request of the fishing/farming operators or the control authorities for the purpose of verifying the number of fish being transferred.
- k) "trap" means fixed gear anchored to the bottom, usually containing a guide net that leads bluefin tuna into an enclosure or series of enclosures where it is kept prior to harvesting or farming.
- l) "trap CPC" means the CPC where a tuna trap is installed in the waters under its jurisdiction.
- m) "caging" means the relocation of live bluefin tuna from the transport cage or trap to the farming or fattening cages.
- n) "fattening" or "farming" means caging of bluefin tuna in farms and subsequent feeding aiming to fatten and increase their total biomass.
- o) "farm" means a marine area clearly defined by geographical coordinates, used for the fattening or farming of bluefin caught by traps and/or purse seiners. A farm could have several farming locations, all of them defined by geographical coordinates (with a clear definition of longitude and latitude for each one of the points of the polygon).
- p) "harvesting" means the killing of bluefin tuna in farms or traps.

- q) “transshipment” means the unloading of all or any of the fish on board a fishing vessel to another fishing vessel. However, unloading of dead bluefin tuna from the purse seiner net, the trap or the towing vessel to an auxiliary vessel shall not be considered as transshipment.
- r) “sport fishery” means non-commercial fisheries whose members adhere to a national sport organization or are issued with a national sport license.
- s) “recreational fishery” means non-commercial fisheries whose members do not adhere to a national sport organization or are not issued with a national sport license.
- t) “stereoscopic camera” means a camera with two or more lenses, with a separate image sensor or film frame for each lens, enabling the taking of three-dimensional images for the purpose of measuring the length of the fish.
- u) “control camera” means a stereoscopic camera and/or conventional video camera for the purpose of the controls foreseen in this Recommendation.
- v) “BCD or electronic BCD” means a bluefin catch document. As appropriate, the reference to BCD shall be replaced by eBCD.
- w) Lengths of vessels referred to in this Recommendation shall be understood as overall lengths.
- x) For the purpose of this recommendation, “small scale coastal vessel” is a catching vessel with at least three of the five following characteristics: a) length overall <12 m; b) the vessel is fishing exclusively inside the territorial waters of the flag CPC c) fishing trips have a duration of less than 24 hours d) the maximum crew number is established at four persons, or e) the vessel is fishing using techniques which are selective and have a reduced environmental impact.
- y) “Control caging” means any additional caging being implemented at the request of the fishing/farming operators or the control authorities for the purpose of verifying the number and or the average weight of fish being caged.

Part II Management measures

TAC and quotas and conditions associated with the allocation of quotas to CPCs

4. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the fishing effort of its catching vessels and its traps are commensurate with the bluefin tuna fishing opportunities available to that CPC in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea, including by establishing individual quotas for its catching vessels over 24 m included in the list referred in paragraph 49 a) of this Recommendation.
5. The total allowable catches (TACs), inclusive of dead discards, for the years 2019-2020 shall be set at: 32,240 t for 2019 and 36,000 t for 2020, in accordance with the following quota scheme:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Quota 2019 (t)</i>	<i>Quota 2020 (t)</i>
Albania	156	170
Algeria	1,446	1,655
China	90	102
Egypt	266	330
European Union	17,623	19,460
Iceland*	147	180
Japan	2,544	2,819
Korea	184	200
Libya	2,060	2,255
Morocco	2,948	3,284
Norway	239	300
Syria	73	80
Tunisia	2,400	2,655

Turkey	1,880	2,305
Chinese Taipei	84	90
Subtotal	32,140	35,885
Unallocated Reserves	100	115
TOTAL	32,240	36,000

*Notwithstanding the provision of this Part, Iceland may catch beyond the quota amount each year by 25% while its total catch for 2018, 2019, and 2020 combined shall not exceed 411 t (84 t + 147 t + 180 t).

This table shall not be interpreted to have changed the allocation keys shown in Recommendation 14-04. The new keys shall be established in the future for consideration by the Commission.

Mauritania may catch up to 5 t for research in each year, if they respect the rules of reporting of catches defined in this recommendation. The catch shall be deducted from the unallocated reserve.

The TAC shall be reviewed annually on the advice of the SCRS.

Depending on availability, Chinese Taipei may transfer up to 50 t and 50 t of its quotas to Korea in 2019 and 2020, respectively.

6. The flag CPC may require a catching vessel to proceed immediately to a port designated by it when the individual quota of the vessel is deemed to be exhausted.
7. Carry-over of any unused quota is not authorized. A CPC may request to transfer a maximum of 5% of its 2019 quota to 2020. The CPC shall include this request in its fishing/capacity plan for the endorsement by the Commission, in accordance with paragraph 15.
8. Carry-over of non-harvested live bluefin tuna is not authorized unless a reinforced system of control is implemented and reported to the ICCAT Secretariat as an integral part of the monitoring, control and inspection plan submitted under paragraph 14 of this Recommendation. Such reinforced system shall include at least the provisions defined in paragraphs 54, 103 and 107. Further control measures will be examined at an intersessional meeting of Panel 2 referred to in paragraph 116.
9. Farming CPCs shall ensure that, prior to the start of a fishing season, a thorough assessment is made of any live bluefin tuna carried over after bulk-harvests in the farms under their jurisdiction. To this end, all carried-over live bluefin tuna from a catching year (i.e. fish that were not subject to bulk-harvest in the farms) shall be transferred to other cages using stereoscopic camera systems or alternative methods provided they guarantee the same level of precision and accuracy. Carry-over of bluefin tuna from years that were not subject to bulk-harvest shall be controlled annually by applying the same procedure to appropriate samples based on risk assessment.

Full traceability of carried-over fish should be ensured at all times. The measures to ensure such shall be fully documented.

10. The transfer of quotas between CPCs shall be done only under authorization by the CPCs concerned. Those transfers accepted by the CPCs concerned shall be communicated to the Secretariat at least 48 hours before they enter into force.
11. No chartering operation for the bluefin tuna fishery is permitted.
12. If the catch of a CPC in any given year exceeds its allocation, the CPC shall pay back in the next subsequent management period in accordance with the provisions in paragraphs 2 and 3 of ICCAT Recommendation 96-14.
13. The SCRS shall continue its MSE work, testing candidate management procedures, including harvest control rules (HCRs), which would support management objectives to be agreed by the Commission in 2019. Based on the SCRS inputs and advice, and a dialogue process between scientists and managers, the Commission shall endeavour in 2020 to adopt a management procedure for the stock of Atlantic bluefin in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, including pre-agreed management actions to be taken under various stock conditions.

Submission of annual fishing plans, fishing and farming capacity management and inspection plans and farming management plans

14. By 15 February each year, each CPC with allocated bluefin tuna quota shall submit to the ICCAT Secretariat:
- a) An annual fishing plan for the catching vessels and traps fishing bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean drawn up in accordance with paragraphs 16-17.
 - b) An annual fishing capacity management plan ensuring that the CPC authorized fishing capacity is commensurate with the allocated quota drawn up to include the information set forth in paragraphs 18-23.
 - c) A monitoring, control and inspection plan with a view to ensuring compliance with the provisions of this Recommendation.
 - d) An annual farming management plan as appropriate, that is in line with the requirements set out in paragraphs 24-27, including the authorized maximum input per farm and the maximum capacity per farm and the total amount of fish by farm carried over from the previous year, in accordance with paragraph 8.
15. For 2019 and 2020, prior to 31 March of each year and in line with paragraph 116 of this recommendation, the Commission shall convene an inter-sessional meeting of Panel 2 to analyse and eventually endorse the plans referred to under paragraph 14. This obligation may be revised after 2020 to allow endorsement of the plans to be done by electronic means. In case of non-submission of the plans by a CPC or if the Commission finds a serious fault in the plans submitted and cannot endorse these plans, the Commission shall decide on the automatic suspension of bluefin tuna fishing in that year by that CPC. Non-submission of the plan referred to above shall automatically lead to suspension of bluefin tuna fishing in that year.

Annual fishing plans

16. Each CPC shall draw up an annual fishing plan for the catching vessels and traps fishing bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. The annual fishing plan shall identify, *inter alia*, the quotas allocated to each gear group, when applicable, the method used to allocate and manage quotas as well as the measures to ensure the respect of the individual quotas, the open fishing seasons for each gear category and the rules on by-catch.
17. Any subsequent modification to the annual fishing plan shall be transmitted to the ICCAT Executive Secretary at least one working day before the exercise of the activity corresponding to that modification. Notwithstanding this provision, quota transfers between different gear groups and transfers between by-catch quota and directed quotas from the same CPC shall be allowed, provided that information on the transfers is transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat at the latest when the transfer enters into force.

Capacity management measures

Fishing capacity

Adjustment of fishing capacity

18. Each CPC shall adjust its fishing capacity to ensure that it is commensurate with its allocated quota by using relevant yearly catch rates by fleet segment and gear proposed by the SCRS and adopted by the Commission in 2009. Those parameters should be reviewed by SCRS no later than 2019 and each time that a stock assessment for eastern bluefin tuna is performed, including specific rates for gear type and fishing area.

19. For that purpose each CPC shall establish, when appropriate, an annual fishing capacity management plan to be analysed and endorsed by Panel 2 inter-sessionally. Such plan shall adjust the number of fishing vessels to demonstrate that the fishing capacity is commensurate with the fishing opportunities allocated to the catching vessels for the same quota period. Regarding small-scale coastal vessels, the minimum quota requirement of 5 t (catch rate defined by SCRS in 2009) shall no longer be applicable and sectorial quotas may alternatively be applied to those vessels as follows:
 - a) If a CPC has small-scale coastal vessels authorised to fish for bluefin tuna, it shall allocate a specific sectorial quota for those vessels and indicate in its fishing, and monitoring, control and inspection plans which additional measures it will put in place to closely monitor the quota consumption of this fleet segment.
 - b) For the vessels from the archipelagos of Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira, a sectorial quota may be established for baitboats. Such sectorial quota and the additional conditions to monitor it shall be clearly defined in the fishing plan.
20. The adjustment of fishing capacity for purse-seiners shall be limited to a maximum variation of 20% compared to the baseline fishing capacity of 2018. When calculating this percentage CPCs can eventually round up the number of their purse-seiners.
21. For the period 2019-2020 CPCs may authorize a number of their traps engaged in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea bluefin tuna fishery which allows the full exploitation of their fishing opportunities.
22. The adjustments defined in paragraph 20 and 21 shall not apply:
 - a) if developing CPCs can demonstrate that they need to develop their fishing capacity so as to fully use their quota, by using relevant yearly catch rates by fleet segment and gear proposed by the SCRS, and if such adjustments are included in their annual fishing plan in accordance to paragraph 14,
 - b) in the Northeast Atlantic, to those CPCs that are fishing mainly in their own economic zones (the Norwegian Economic Zone and the Icelandic Economic Zone).
23. By derogation to the provisions of paragraphs 18, 19 and 21, for 2019 and 2020, CPCs may decide to include in their annual fishing plans referred to in paragraph 16, a different number of traps and vessels to fully utilise their fishing opportunities. The calculations to establish such adjustments shall be made in accordance with the methodology approved at the 2009 annual meeting and with the conditions set in paragraph 19, except when the CPCs concerned fish mainly in the Northeast Atlantic in their own economic zones (the Norwegian Economic Zone and the Icelandic Economic Zone).

Farming capacity

24. Each farming CPC shall establish an annual farming management plan. Such plan shall demonstrate that the total input capacity and the total farming capacity is commensurate with the estimated amount of bluefin tuna available for farming including the information referred to in paragraphs 25 and 27. Reviewed farming management plans, if appropriate, shall be submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat by 1 June each year. The Commission shall ensure that the total farming capacity in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea is commensurate with the total amount of bluefin tuna available for farming in the area.
25. Each CPC shall limit its tuna farming capacity to the total farming capacity of the farms that were registered in the ICCAT list or authorized and declared to ICCAT in 2018.
26. Those developing CPCs without or with less than three tuna farms and that intend to establish new tuna farming facilities shall have the right to establish such facilities with a maximum total farming capacity of up to 1,800 t per CPC. To this end, they shall communicate to ICCAT by including those in their farming plan under paragraph 14 of this Recommendation. This clause should be reviewed as from 2020.

27. Each CPC shall establish an annual maximum input of wild caught bluefin tuna into its farms at the level of the input quantities registered with ICCAT by its farms in 2005, 2006, 2007 or 2008. If a CPC needs to increase the maximum input of wild caught tuna in one or several of its tuna farms, that increase shall be commensurate with the fishing opportunities allocated to that CPC, including live bluefin tuna imports.

Growth rates

28. SCRS, on the basis of a standardized protocol to be established by the SCRS for the monitoring of recognizable individual fish, shall undertake trials to identify growth rates including in weight and size gains during the fattening period. Based on the result of the trials and other scientific information available, SCRS shall review and update the growth table published in 2009, and the growth rates utilized for farming the fish referred to under paragraph 35 c, and present those results to the 2020 Annual meeting of the Commission. In updating the growth table, the SCRS should invite independent scientists who have appropriate expertise to review the analysis. The SCRS shall also consider the difference among geographic area (including Atlantic and Mediterranean) in updating the table. Farm CPCs shall ensure that the scientists tasked by the SCRS for the trials can have access to and, as required by the protocol, assistance to carry out the trials. Farm CPCs shall endeavor to ensure that the growth rates derived from the eBCDs are coherent with the growth rates published by the SCRS. If significant discrepancies are found between the SCRS tables and growth rates observed, that information should be sent to SCRS for analysis.

Part III Technical measures

Open fishing seasons

29. Purse seine fishing for bluefin tuna shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea during the period from 26 May to 1 July.

By way of derogation, the season in the eastern Mediterranean Sea (FAO fishing areas 37.3.1 Aegean; 37.3.2 Levant), may be open 15 May if a CPC requests it in its fishing plan.

By way of derogation, the season in the Adriatic Sea (FAO fishing Area 37.2.1) may be open from 26 May until 15 July, for fish farmed in the Adriatic Sea.

By way of derogation the purse-seine fishing season in the Norwegian Economic Zone and in the Icelandic Economic Zone shall be from 25 June to 15 November.

By way of derogation, the purse seine fishing season in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean fishing zones limited to the waters under the sovereignty or jurisdiction of the Kingdom of Morocco may be open from 1 May to 15 June if a CPC requests it in its fishing plan.

30. If weather conditions prevent fishing operations, CPCs may decide that the fishing seasons referred under paragraph 29 be expanded by an equivalent number of lost days up to 10 days.
31. Bluefin tuna fishing shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean by large-scale pelagic longlines catching vessels over 24 m during the period from 1 January to 31 May with the exception of the area delimited by West of 10°W and North of 42°N, as well as in the Norwegian Economic Zone, where such fishing shall be permitted from 1 August to 31 January.
32. CPCs shall establish open fishing seasons for their fleets other than purse-seiners and vessels referred to in paragraph 31, and shall provide this information in their fishing plan defined in paragraph 16 to be analysed and endorsed by Panel 2 inter-sessional.
33. Not later than 2020, the Commission shall decide on what extent the fishing seasons for different gear types and/or fishing areas might be extended and/or modified based on the SCRS advice without negatively influencing the stock development and by ensuring the stock is managed sustainably.

Minimum size

34. The minimum size for bluefin tuna caught in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea shall be 30 kg or 115 cm fork length. Therefore, CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit catching, retaining on board, transshipping, transferring, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg or with fork length of less than 115 cm.
35. By derogation from paragraph 34, a minimum size for bluefin tuna of 8 kg or 75 cm fork length shall apply to the following situations (see **Annex 1**).
- a) Bluefin tuna caught in the eastern Atlantic by baitboats and trolling boats;
 - b) Bluefin tuna caught in the Mediterranean Sea by the small scale coastal fleet fishery for fresh fish by baitboats, longliners and handliners;
 - c) Bluefin tuna caught in the Adriatic Sea for farming purposes.

Notwithstanding the above, for bluefin tuna caught in the Adriatic Sea for the purpose of farming, the relevant CPC may define a tolerance level for specimens of bluefin tuna with a minimum weight of 6.4 kg or 66 cm fork length, with a maximum of 7% by weight of the quantities caught by Croatian vessels. In addition, up to a maximum of 100 t of bluefin tuna weighing no less than 6.4 kg or 70 cm fork length can be caught by French baitboat vessels with an overall length of less than 17 m operating in the Bay of Biscay.

36. CPCs concerned shall issue specific authorisations to vessels fishing under the derogations referred to in paragraph 35. In addition, fish below these minimum sizes that are discarded dead shall be counted against the CPC quota.

Incidental catches of fish below minimum size

37. For catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna and tuna traps, an incidental catch of maximum 5% by number of bluefin tuna weighing between 8 and 30 kg or, in the alternative, with fork length between 75-115 cm may be authorized.

This percentage shall be calculated in relation to the total catches in number of bluefin tuna retained on board a vessel at any time after each fishing operation in the above mentioned weight or length categories.

General rules on by-catches

38. All CPCs shall allocate a specific quota for by-catch of bluefin tuna. The levels of authorized by-catches as well as the methodology to calculate those by-catches in relation with the total catches on board (in weight or number of specimens) shall be clearly defined in the annual fishing plans submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat under paragraph 14 of this recommendation and shall never exceed 20% of the total catches on board at the end of each fishing trip. Calculation in number of pieces shall only apply to tuna and tuna-like species managed by ICCAT. For the small-scale coastal vessel fleet the amount of by-catch can be calculated on an annual basis.

All by-catches of dead bluefin tuna, whether retained or discarded, shall be deducted from the quota of the flag CPC and reported to ICCAT. If by-catch of bluefin tuna is caught in waters under the fishery jurisdiction of CPCs whose current domestic legislation requires that all dead or dying fish must be landed, this landing obligation shall be complied with also by vessels flying foreign flags.

If no quota has been allocated to the CPC of the fishing vessel or trap concerned or if it has already been consumed, the catching of bluefin tuna as by-catch is not permitted and CPCs shall take the necessary measures to ensure their release. If however, such bluefin tuna is dead it shall be landed, and the appropriate follow-up action taken in accordance with the national law. CPCs shall report information on such quantities on an annual basis to the ICCAT Secretariat who shall make it available to SCRS.

The procedures referred to in paragraphs 77 to 82 and 108 shall apply to by-catch.

For vessels not actively fishing for bluefin tuna, any quantity of bluefin tuna kept on board shall be clearly separated from other fish species to allow control authorities to monitor the respect of this rule. The procedures for non-authorized vessels with regard to the eBCD shall follow as laid down in the relevant provision of Recommendation 18-12.

Recreational fisheries and sport fisheries

39. When CPCs allocate, where appropriate, a specific quota to sport and recreational fisheries; that allocated quota should be set even if catch and release is compulsory for bluefin tuna caught in sport and recreational fisheries to account for possible dead fish. Each CPC shall regulate recreational and sport fisheries by issuing fishing authorizations to vessels for the purpose of sport and recreational fishing.
40. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the catch and retention on board, transshipment or landing of more than one bluefin tuna per vessel per day for recreational fisheries.

This prohibition does not apply to CPCs whose domestic legislation requires that all dead fish, including those caught by sport and recreational, shall be landed.
41. The marketing of bluefin tuna caught in recreational and sport fishing shall be prohibited.
42. Each CPC shall take measures to record catch data including weight of each bluefin tuna caught during sport and recreational fishing and communicate to the ICCAT Secretariat the data for the preceding year by 1 July each year.
43. Dead catches from sport and recreational fisheries shall be counted against the quota allocated to the CPC in accordance with paragraph 5.
44. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the release of bluefin tuna, especially juveniles, caught alive, in the framework of recreational and sport fishing. Any bluefin tuna landed shall be whole, gilled and/or gutted.
45. Any CPC wishing to conduct a sport catch-and-release fishery in the north east Atlantic may allow a limited number of sport vessels to target bluefin tuna with the purpose of "tag and release" without the need to allocate them a specific quota. This applies to those vessels operating in the context of a scientific project of a research institute integrated in a scientific research program results of which shall be communicated to the SCRS. In this context the CPC shall have the obligation to: a) submit the description and associated measures applicable to this fishery as integral part of their fishing and control plans as referred under paragraph 14 of this Recommendation; b) closely monitor the activities of the vessels concerned to ensure their compliance with the existing provisions of this Recommendation; c) ensure that the tagging and releasing operations are performed by trained personnel to ensure high survival of the specimens; and d) annually submit a report on the scientific activities conducted, at least 60 days before the SCRS meeting of the following year. Any bluefin tuna that die during tag and release activities shall be reported and deducted from the CPC's quota.
46. CPCs shall make available upon request from ICCAT the list of sport and recreational vessels which have received an authorization.
47. The format for such list referred to in paragraph 46 shall include the following information:
 - a) Name of vessel, register number
 - b) ICCAT Record Number (if any)
 - c) Previous name (if any)
 - d) Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s)

Part IV: Control measures

Section A - Records of vessels and traps

Use of aerial means

48. The use of any aerial means, including aircraft, helicopters or any types of unmanned aerial vehicles to search for bluefin tuna shall be prohibited.

ICCAT Record of vessels authorized to fish bluefin tuna

49. CPCs shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of all vessels authorized to operate for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. That record should consist of two lists:

- a) all catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.
- b) all other fishing vessels used for the purposes of commercial exploitation of bluefin tuna resources other than catching vessels, authorized to operate for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.

For vessels with a LOA >24 m (independently of the gear used excluding bottom trawlers) and for purse-seiners, CPCs shall indicate number of vessels to the Executive Secretary as part of their fishing plan defined in paragraph 14 of this recommendation and ICCAT shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of all vessels authorized to operate for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.

50. Each flag CPC shall submit electronically each year to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, at the latest 15 days before the beginning of the fishing activity the list of its catching vessels, authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea referred to in paragraph 49(a). Submissions shall be undertaken in accordance with the format set out in the *Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by ICCAT*.
51. No retroactive submissions shall be accepted. Subsequent changes shall only be accepted if the notified fishing vessel is prevented from participation due to legitimate operational reasons or *force majeure*. In such circumstances, the CPC concerned shall immediately inform the ICCAT Executive Secretary, providing:
- a) full details of the fishing vessel(s) intended to replace a vessel or vessels, included in the records referred to in paragraph 49; CPCs with less than 5 vessels on the list referred to in paragraph 49, may replace a vessel with another vessel not previously included in the records referred to in paragraph 49 and for which an ICCAT number has been provided by the Secretariat.
 - b) a comprehensive account of the reasons justifying the replacement and any relevant supporting evidence or references.

The ICCAT Secretariat will circulate such cases among CPCs. If any CPC notifies that the case is not sufficiently justified or incomplete it shall be brought to the Compliance Committee for further review and the case shall remain pending approval of the Compliance Committee.

52. 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) (except paragraph 3) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.
53. Without prejudice to paragraph 38 for the purposes of this Recommendation, fishing vessels not entered into one of the ICCAT records referred to in paragraph 49 (a) and (b) are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, tranship, transport, transfer, process or land eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna. The prohibition against retention on board does not apply to CPCs whose domestic legislation requires that all dead fish must be landed, providing that the value of the catch is subject to confiscation.

Fishing authorizations for vessels and traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna

54. CPCs shall issue special authorisations and/or national fishing licences to vessels and traps included in one of the lists described in paragraphs 45, 49 and 56. Fishing authorizations shall contain as a minimum the information set out in Annex 12. The Flag CPC shall ensure that the information contained in the fishing authorisation is accurate and consistent with the rules of ICCAT. The Flag CPC shall take the necessary enforcement measures in accordance with their legislation and may require the vessel to proceed immediately to a designated port when the individual quota is deemed to be exhausted.

ICCAT record of tuna traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna

55. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT Record of all tuna traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. For the purposes of this recommendation, tuna traps not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to be used to fish for, retain, and participate in any operation to catch, transfer, harvest or land bluefin tuna.
56. Each CPC shall submit electronically to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, as part of their fishing plan defined in paragraphs 16 to 17, the list (including the name of the traps, register number) of its authorized tuna traps referred to in paragraph 55.

Conditions and procedures referred in Recommendation 13-13 (except paragraph 3) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

Information on fishing activities

57. By 31 July each year, or within 7 months of the completion of the fishing season for those CPCs that end their fishing campaign in July, each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat detailed information on bluefin tuna catches in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea in the preceding quota allocation period. This information should include:
- a) the name and ICCAT number of each catching vessel;
 - b) the period of authorisation(s) for each catching vessel;
 - c) the total catches of each catching vessel including nil returns throughout the period of authorisation(s);
 - d) the total number of days each catching vessel fished in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea throughout the period of authorisation(s); and
 - e) the total catch outside their period of authorisation (by-catch).

For all vessels which were not authorised to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea but which caught bluefin tuna as by-catch:

- a) the name and ICCAT number or national registry number of the vessel, if not registered with ICCAT;
 - b) the total catches of bluefin tuna.
58. Each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat of any information concerning vessels not covered in paragraph 57 but known or presumed to have fished for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. The ICCAT Secretariat shall forward such information to the flag CPC for action as appropriate, with a copy to other CPCs for information.

Joint fishing operations

59. Any joint fishing operation for bluefin tuna shall only be authorized with the consent of the CPCs concerned. To be authorised, each purse-seiner shall be equipped to fish for bluefin tuna, to have a specific individual quota allocation, and to operate in accordance with the requirements defined in 65, 66 and 67. The quota allocated to a given JFO, shall be equal to the total of all the quotas allocated

to purse-seiner vessels participating in the concerned JFO. Furthermore, the duration of the JFO shall not be longer than the duration of the fishing season for purse-seiners, as referred to under paragraph 29 of this Recommendation.

60. At the moment of the application for the authorization, following the format set in Annex 5, each CPC shall take the necessary measures to obtain from its purse seine vessel(s) participating in the joint fishing operation the following information:

- the period of authorization of the JFO,
- the identity of the operators involved,
- the individual vessels' quotas,
- the allocation key between the vessels for the catches involved, and
- information on the farms of destination.

Each CPC shall transmit all the information referred above to the ICCAT Secretariat at least five days before the start of the purse-seiners fishing season as defined in paragraph 29.

In the case of *force majeure*, the deadline set out in this paragraph shall not apply regarding the information on the farms of destination. In such cases, CPCs shall provide the ICCAT Secretariat with an update of that information as soon as possible, together with a description of the events constituting *force majeure*. The Secretariat shall compile the information referred under this paragraph provided by CPCs for the review by the Compliance Committee.

61. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of all joint fishing operations authorized by the CPCs in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.

62. No JFOs between purse-seiners from different CPCs shall be permitted. However, a CPC with less than five authorized purse seiners may authorize joint fishing operations with any other CPC. Each CPC conducting a JFO shall be responsible and accountable for the catches made under this JFO.

Part IV: Control measures

Section B - Catches and transshipments

Recording requirements

63. The masters of catching vessels shall maintain a bound or electronic fishing logbook of their operations in accordance with the requirements set out in Section A of Annex 2.

64. The masters of towing vessels, auxiliary vessels and processing vessels shall record their activities in accordance with the requirements set out in Sections B, C and D of Annex 2.

Catch reports sent by masters and trap operators

65. Each CPC shall ensure that its catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna shall communicate to their authorities during the whole period in which they are authorized to fish bluefin tuna by electronic or any other effective means daily information from logbooks, including the date, time, location (latitude and longitude) the weight and number of bluefin tuna caught in the area covered by this plan, including releases and discards of dead fish under the minimum size referred to in paragraph 34. Masters shall send that information in the format set out in Annex 2 or through the CPCs reporting requirement.

66. Masters of purse seiners shall produce reports referred to in paragraph 65 on a fishing operation by fishing operation basis, including operations where the catch was zero. The reports shall be transmitted by the operator to its flag CPC authorities by 9.00 GMT for the preceding day.

67. Trap operators or their authorised representatives fishing actively for bluefin tuna shall send electronically a daily catch report, including the ICCAT register number, date, time, catches (weight and number of fish), including zero catches. They shall send that information within 48 hours electronically in the format set out in **Annex 2** to their flag CPC authorities during the whole period they are authorised to fish bluefin tuna.
68. For catching vessels other than purse seiners and traps, masters shall transmit to their control authorities, reports referred to in paragraph 65 by the latest Tuesday noon for the preceding week ending Sunday.

Designated ports

69. Each CPC who has been allocated a bluefin tuna quota shall designate ports where landing or transshipping operations of bluefin tuna are authorized. This list shall be communicated each year to the ICCAT Secretariat as part of the annual fishing plan communicated by each CPC. Any amendment shall be communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat. Other CPCs may designate ports in which landing or transshipping operations of bluefin tuna is authorised and communicate a list of these ports to ICCAT Secretariat.
70. For a port to be determined as a designated port, the port State shall ensure that the following conditions are met:
- a) established landing and transshipment times;
 - b) established landing and transshipment places; and
 - c) established inspection and surveillance procedures ensuring inspection coverage during all landing and transshipment times and at all landing and transshipment places in accordance with paragraph 73.
71. It shall be prohibited to land or tranship from catching vessels as well as processing vessels and auxiliary vessels any quantity of bluefin tuna fished in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea at any place other than ports designated by CPCs in accordance with paragraphs 69 to 70. However, exceptionally, the transport of dead bluefin tuna, harvested from a trap/cage, to a processing vessel using an auxiliary vessel, is not prohibited.
72. On the basis of the information received by CPCs under paragraph 69 the ICCAT Secretariat shall maintain a list of designated ports on the ICCAT website.

Prior notification of landings

73. Prior to entry into any port, masters of catching vessels as well as processing vessels and auxiliary vessels or their representative shall provide the relevant authorities of the port, at least 4 hours before the estimated time of arrival, with the following:
- a) estimated time of arrival;
 - b) estimate of quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board;
 - c) the information on the geographic area where the catch was taken.

If the fishing grounds are less than four hours from the port of arrival, the estimated quantities of bluefin tuna retained on board may be modified at any time prior to arrival.

CPCs may decide to apply these provisions only for catches equal or superior to three fish or one ton. They should provide this information in their monitoring control and inspection plan referred to in paragraph 14.

Port State authorities shall keep a record of all prior notices for the current year.

All landings and harvest operations shall be controlled by the relevant control authorities and a percentage shall be inspected based on a risk assessment system involving quota, fleet size and fishing effort. Full details of this control system adopted by each CPC including the target percentage of landings to be inspected shall be detailed in their annual inspection plan referred to in paragraph 14 of this recommendation.

After each trip, Masters of catching vessels shall submit within 48 hours a landing declaration to the competent authorities of the CPC where the landing takes place and to its flag CPC. The master of the authorized catching vessel shall be responsible and certify its completeness and accuracy of the declaration, which shall indicate, as a minimum requirement, the quantities of bluefin tuna landed and the area where they were caught. All landed catches shall be weighed and not only estimated. The relevant authority shall send a record of the landing to the flag CPC authority of the fishing vessel, within 48 hours after the landing has ended.

Reporting of catches from CPCs to the ICCAT Secretariat

74. CPCs shall send weekly to the ICCAT Secretariat the reports from purse-seiners and traps defined in paragraphs 66 and 67, as well as weekly reports for vessels using any other gears. On the basis of that information, the ICCAT Secretariat shall within 10 days following the monthly deadlines for receipt of the provisional catch statistics collect the information received and circulate it to CPCs.
75. CPCs shall report to the ICCAT Secretariat the dates when their entire quota of bluefin tuna has been utilized. The ICCAT Secretariat shall promptly circulate this information to all CPCs.

Cross check

76. CPCs shall verify inspection reports and observer reports, VMS data, and where appropriate e-BCDs, as well as the timely submission of logbooks and required information recorded in the logbooks of their fishing vessels, in the transfer/transshipment document and in the catch documents.

The competent authorities shall carry out cross checks on all landings, all transshipment, transfers or caging between the quantities by species recorded in the fishing vessel logbook or quantities by species recorded in the transshipment declaration and the quantities recorded in the landing declaration or caging declaration, and any other relevant document, such as invoice and/or sales notes.

Transshipment

77. Transshipment operations of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea shall be allowed only at designated ports defined and conditioned in paragraphs 69 to 72.
78. Prior to entry into any port, the receiving fishing vessel, or its representative, shall provide the relevant authorities of the port State at least 72 h before the estimated time of arrival, with the information listed in Annex 3, according to the port state's domestic law. Any transshipment requires the prior authorization from the flag CPC of the transshipping fishing vessel concerned. Furthermore, the master of the transshipping fishing vessel shall, at the time of the transshipment, inform its flag CPC of the data required in Annex 3.
79. The relevant authority of the port State shall inspect the receiving vessel on arrival and check the cargo and documentation related to the transshipment operation.
80. The masters of fishing vessels shall complete and transmit to their flag CPC the ICCAT transshipment declaration no later than 15 days after the date of transshipment in port as per Recommendation 16-15. The masters of the transshipping fishing vessels shall complete the ICCAT transshipment declaration in accordance with the format set out in Annex 3. The transshipment declaration shall be linked with the e-BCD to facilitate cross-checking of data contained thereof.
81. The relevant authority of the port State shall send a record of the transshipment to the flag CPC authority of the transshipping fishing vessel, within 5 days after the transshipment has ended.
82. All transshipments shall be inspected by the relevant authorities of the designated port CPC authorities.

Part IV: Control measures

Section C - Observer programmes

CPC Observer Programme

83. Each CPC shall ensure coverage by observers, issued with an official identification document, on vessels and traps active in the bluefin tuna fishery on at least:

- 20% of its active pelagic trawlers (over 15 m),
- 20% of its active longline vessels (over 15 m),
- 20% of its active baitboats (over 15 m),
- 100% of towing vessels;
- 100% of harvesting operations from traps.

CPCs with less than five catching vessels of the first three segments defined above authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna shall ensure coverage by observers 20% of the time the vessels are active in the bluefin tuna fishery.

The observer tasks shall be, in particular, to:

- a) monitor fishing vessels and traps compliance with the present Recommendation,
- b) record and report upon the fishing activity, which shall include, *inter alia*, the following:
 - amount of catch (including by-catch), that also includes species disposition, such as retained on board or discarded dead or alive,
 - area of catch by latitude and longitude,
 - measure of effort (e.g., number of sets, number of hooks, etc.), as defined in the ICCAT Manual for different gears,
 - date of catch.
- c) observe and estimate catches and verify entries made in the logbook,
- d) sight and record vessels that may be fishing contrary to ICCAT conservation measures.

In addition, the observer shall carry out scientific work, such as collecting all the necessary data required by the Commission, based on the instructions from the SCRS.

In implementing this observer requirement, CPCs shall:

- a) ensure representative temporal and spatial coverage to ensure that the Commission receives adequate and appropriate data and information on catch, effort, and other scientific and management aspects, taking into account characteristics of the fleets and fisheries;
- b) ensure robust data collection protocols;
- c) ensure observers are properly trained and approved before deployment;
- d) ensure, to the extent practicable, minimal disruption to the operations of vessels and traps fishing in the Convention area.

Data and information collected under each CPC's observer programme shall be provided to the SCRS and the Commission, as appropriate, in accordance with requirements and procedures to be developed by the Commission by 2019 taking into account CPC confidentiality requirements.

For the scientific aspect of the programme, the SCRS shall report on the coverage level achieved by each CPC, and provide a summary of the data collected and any relevant findings associated with that data. SCRS shall also provide any recommendations to improve the effectiveness of CPCs observer programmes.

ICCAT Regional Observer Programme

84. An ICCAT Regional Observer Programme shall be implemented to ensure observer coverage of 100%:

- on all purse seiners authorised to fish bluefin tuna;
- during all transfers of bluefin tuna from purse seiners;
- during all transfers of bluefin tuna from traps to transport cages;
- during all transfers from one farm to another;
- during all cagings of bluefin tuna in farms;
- during all harvesting of bluefin tuna from farms; and
- during the release of bluefin tuna from farming cages into the sea.

Purse seine vessels without an ICCAT regional observer shall not be authorized to fish or to operate in the bluefin tuna fishery.

ICCAT regional observers should not be of the same nationality as the catching vessel/tug boat/trap or farm for which their services are required, to the extent possible, ICCAT Secretariat should ensure that Regional observers deployed have a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag CPC of the vessel or farm or traps.

One ICCAT regional observer shall be assigned to each farm for the whole period of caging operations. In cases of *force majeure*, and following confirmation by the competent authorities of the CPC, an ICCAT regional observer could be shared by more than one farm to guarantee the continuity of farming operations. However, the farming authorities shall immediately request the deployment of an additional regional observer.

85. The ICCAT Regional observer tasks shall be, in particular, to:

- observe and monitor fishing and farming operations in compliance with the relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures, including access to stereoscopic camera footages at the time of caging that enables the measuring of length and estimating the corresponding weight;
- sign the ICCAT transfer declarations and BCDs when he/she is in agreement that the information contained within them is consistent with his/her observations. If he/she is not in agreement he/she should indicate his/her presence on the transfer declarations and BCDs and the reasons of disagreement quoting specifically the rule(s) or procedure(s) that has not been respected;
- carry out such scientific work, for example collecting samples, as required by the Commission based on the directions from the SCRS.

Part IV: Control measures

Section D - Live fish

Transfers

Transfer authorisation

86. Before any transfer operation, the master of the catching or towing vessel or its representatives or the representative of the farm or trap, where the transfer in question originates, as appropriate, shall send to its flag CPC or farm State CPC authorities before the transfer, a prior transfer notification indicating:

- name of the catching vessel or farm or trap and ICCAT number record,
- estimated time of transfer,
- estimated quantity of bluefin tuna to be transferred,
- information on the position (latitude/longitude) where the transfer will take place and identifiable cage numbers,
- name of the towing vessel, number of cages towed and ICCAT number record where appropriate,
- port, farm, cage destination of the bluefin tuna.

For this purpose, CPCs shall assign a unique number to each transport cage. If several transport cages need to be used when transferring a catch corresponding to one fishing operation, only one transfer declaration is required, but the numbers of each transport cage used need to be recorded in the transfer declaration, clearly indicating the bluefin tuna quantity transported in each cage.

Cage numbers shall be issued with a unique numbering system that includes at least the three letter CPC code followed by three numbers.

Unique cage numbers shall be permanent and not transferable (i.e. numbers cannot be changed from one cage to another).

87. The flag CPC shall assign and communicate to the master of the fishing vessel, or trap or farm as appropriate, an authorization number for each transfer operation. The transfer operation shall not begin without the prior authorization issued in accordance with a unique numbering system that includes the 3 letter CPC code, 4 numbers showing the year and 3 letters that indicate either positive authorization (AUT) or negative authorization (NEG) followed by sequential numbers, by the flag CPC authorities of the catching vessel, the towing vessel, farm or trap. Information regarding dead fish shall be recorded in accordance with the procedures set out in Annex 11.

The transfer shall be authorized or not authorized by the flag CPC of the catching vessel, farm or trap as appropriate within 48 hours following the submission of the prior transfer notification.

Refusal of transfer authorisation and release of bluefin tuna

88. If the flag CPC of the catching vessel, the towing vessel or the authorities of the CPC where the farm or trap is located considers on receipt of the prior transfer notification that:

- a) the catching vessel or the trap declared to have caught the fish does not have sufficient quota,
- b) the quantity of fish has not been duly reported by the catching vessel or trap, or had not been authorized to be caged and therefore not taken into account for the consumption of the quota that may be applicable,
- c) the catching vessel declared to have caught the fish has not a valid authorisation to fish for bluefin tuna issued in accordance with paragraph 54 of this recommendation, or

- d) the towing vessel declared to receive the transfer of fish is not registered in the ICCAT record of all other fishing vessels referred to in paragraph 49.b) or is not equipped with a fully functioning Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and/or, any other VMS equivalent tracking device,

it shall not authorize the transfer.

In case the transfer is not authorized, the catching CPC shall immediately issue a release order to the master of the catching vessel or trap or farm as appropriate to inform them that the transfer is not authorized and to proceed to the release of the fish into the sea in accordance with Annex 10 of this Recommendation.

In the event of a technical failure of its VMS during the transport to the farm, the towing vessel shall be replaced by another towing vessel with a fully functioning VMS or a new operative VMS system shall be installed on board or used if already installed, as soon as feasible and not later than 72 hours, except in case of *force majeure* or legitimate operational constraints that should be communicated to the Secretariat. In the meantime, the master or his representative shall, starting from the time that the event was detected and/or informed, communicate to the control authorities of the Flag CPC every 4 hours the up-to-date geographical coordinates of the fishing vessel by appropriate telecommunication means.

Transfer declaration

89. The masters of catching or towing vessels or the representative of the farm or trap shall complete and transmit to their flag CPC the ICCAT transfer declaration at the end of the transfer operation in accordance with the format set out in Annex 4.
- a) The transfer declaration forms shall be numbered by the flag authorities of the vessel, farm or trap from where this transfer originates. The numbering system shall include the 3 letters CPC code, followed by 4 numbers showing the year and 3 sequential numbers followed by the 3 letters ITD (CPC- 20**/xxx/ITD).
- b) The original transfer declaration shall accompany the transfer of fish. A copy of the declaration must be kept by the catching vessel or trap and towing vessel.
- c) Masters of vessels carrying out transfer operations shall report their activities in accordance with the requirements set out in Annex 2.
90. The authorization for transfer by the flag CPC does not prejudice the confirmation of the caging operation.

Monitoring by video camera of a transfer

91. For transfers of live bluefin tuna the master of the catching vessel or the representative of the farm or trap, where appropriate, shall ensure that the transfer activities shall be monitored by video camera in the water with a view to verify the number of fish being transferred. The minimum standards and procedures for the video recording shall be in accordance with Annex 8.

The CPCs shall provide copies of video records to the SCRS upon request. SCRS shall keep confidentiality of commercial activities.

Verification by ICCAT Regional observers and launching and conduct of investigation

92. The ICCAT Regional Observer on board the catching vessel and trap, as referred to in the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (Annex 6) and paragraphs 84 and 85, shall record and report upon the transfer activities carried out, observe and estimate catches transferred and verify entries made in the prior transfer authorization as referred to in paragraph 86 and in the ICCAT transfer declaration as referred to in paragraph 87.

In cases where there is more than a 10% difference by number between the estimates made by either the regional observer, relevant control authorities and/or the master of the catching vessel, or representative of the trap, an investigation shall be initiated by the flag CPC of the catching vessel, farm or trap and concluded prior to the time of caging at the farm or in any case within 96 hours of it being initiated, except on cases of *force majeure*. Pending the results of this investigation, caging shall not be authorized and the relevant section of the BCD shall not be validated.

However, in cases when the video record is of insufficient quality or clarity to make such estimations, the operator may request to the flag authorities of the vessel to conduct a new transfer operation and to provide the corresponding video record to the regional observer. If that voluntary transfer control is not performed with satisfactory results, the flag CPC shall initiate an investigation. If after that investigation, it is confirmed that the quality of the video does not permit estimate the quantities involved in the transfer/caging, the enforcement authorities of the flag CPC of the catching vessel shall order a control transfer operation and provide the corresponding video record to the Regional Observer. New transfers shall not be conducted as control transfer(s)/control caging(s) until the quality of the video record could allow estimating the quantities transferred.

93. Without prejudice to the verifications conducted by inspectors, the ICCAT Regional Observer shall sign with clearly written name and ICCAT number the ICCAT transfer declaration only when his/her observations are in accordance with ICCAT conservation and management measures and that the information contained within it is consistent with his/her observations, including a compliant video record as per the requirements in paragraph 92. He/she shall also verify that the ICCAT transfer declaration is transmitted to the master of the tug vessel or farm/trap representative where applicable. If he/she is not in agreement he/she should indicate his/her presence on the transfer declarations and BCDs and the reasons of disagreement quoting specifically the rule(s) or procedure(s) that has not being respected.

Operators shall complete and transmit to their CPC the ICCAT transfer declaration at the end of the transfer operation to their respective competent authorities, in accordance with the format set out in Annex 4.

Caging operations

Caging authorisations and possible refusal of an authorization

94. Prior to the start of caging operations for each transport cage, the anchoring of transport cages within 0.5 nautical miles of farming facilities, shall be prohibited. To this end, geographical coordinates corresponding to the polygon where the farm is placed need to be available in the farming management plans transmitted to ICCAT under paragraph 24 of this recommendation.
95. Before any caging operation into a farm, the CPC of the catching vessel or trap shall be informed by the competent authority of the farm CPC of the caging of quantities caught by catching vessels or traps flying its flag.

If the CPC of the catching vessel or trap considers on receipt of this information that:

- a) the catching vessel or trap declared to have caught the fish had not sufficient quota for bluefin tuna put into the cage,
- b) the quantity of fish has not been duly reported by the catching vessel or trap and not taken into account for the calculation of any quota that may be applicable,
- c) the catching vessel or trap declared to have caught the fish does not have a valid authorisation to fish for bluefin tuna, issued in accordance with paragraph 54 of this Recommendation,

it shall inform the competent authority of the farm CPC to proceed to the seizure of the catches and the release of the fish into the sea according to the procedures described in paragraph 87 and Annex 10.

The caging shall not begin without the prior confirmation, within 24 hours/1 working day of the request, of the catching vessels or trap CPC, or of the farm CPC authorities if agreed with the CPC authorities of the catching vessel/trap. If no response is received within 24 hours/1 working day from the CPC authorities of the catching vessel/trap, the CPC authorities of the farm may authorize the caging operation. This does not prejudice the sovereign rights of the farm CPC.

Fish shall be caged before the 22 August unless the farm CPC receiving the fish provides valid reasons including *force majeure*, which shall accompany the caging report when submitted. In any case the fish shall not be caged after 7 September.

Bluefin tuna catch documentation

96. The farm CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located shall prohibit placing bluefin tuna in cages for farming bluefin tuna that are not accompanied by the documents required by ICCAT as confirmed and validated by the catching vessel or trap CPC authorities.

Monitoring by video camera

97. The farm CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm is located shall ensure that transfer activities from cages to the farm shall be monitored by their enforcement authorities by video camera in the water.

One video record shall be produced for each caging operation in accordance with the procedures in Annex 8.

Launching and conduct investigations

98. In cases where there is more than a 10% difference by number between the estimates made by either the regional observer, relevant control authorities and/or the farm operator, an investigation shall be initiated by the farm CPC in cooperation with the CPC of the catching vessel and/or trap where appropriate. The catching and farm CPCs undertaking the investigations may use other information at their disposal, including the results of the caging programmes referred to under paragraph 99 which use stereoscopic cameras systems or alternative methods provided they guarantee the same level of precision and accuracy.

Measures and programmes to estimate the number and weight of bluefin tuna to be caged

99. A programme using stereoscopic cameras systems or alternative methods that guarantee the same level of precision and accuracy shall cover 100% of all caging operations, in order to refine the number and weight of the fish. This programme using stereoscopic cameras shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures set out in Annex 9. In case of the use of alternative methods, those methods should be duly analysed by the SCRS, who should present its conclusions regarding their precision and accuracy for endorsement by the Commission during the Annual meeting before an alternative methodology could be considered as valid for the purpose of monitoring the caging operations.

The farm CPC shall communicate the results of this programme to the catching CPC, and, to the Regional Observer. When these results indicate that the quantities of bluefin tuna being caged differ from the quantities reported caught and/or transferred, an investigation shall be launched. If the investigation is not concluded within 10 working days from the communication of the assessment of the video from the stereoscopic camera or alternative techniques conducted in accordance with the procedures laid down in Annex 9, for a single caging operation or complete assessment of all caging operations from a JFO, or if the outcome of the investigation indicates that the number and/or average weight of bluefin tuna is in excess of that declared caught and transferred, the CPC's authorities of the catching vessel and or trap shall issue a release order for the excess which must be released in accordance with the procedures laid down in paragraph 88 and Annex 10 and in the presence of enforcement authorities.

The quantities derived in the programme shall be used to decide if releases are required and the caging declarations and relevant sections of the BCD shall be completed accordingly. When a release order has been issued, the farm operator shall request the presence of a national enforcement authority and an ICCAT observer to monitor the release.

The results of this programme shall be submitted by 15 September annually to SCRS by all farm CPCs. The SCRS should evaluate such procedures and results and report to the Commission by the Annual meeting in accordance with Annex 9.

100. The transfer of live bluefin tuna from one farming cage to another farming cage shall not take place without the authorization and the presence of the farm CPC control authorities. Each transfer shall be recorded to control the number of specimens. National enforcement authorities shall monitor those transfers and ensure that each intra farm transfer is recorded in the e-BCD system.
101. A difference superior or equal to 10% between the quantities of bluefin tuna reported caught by the vessel/trap and the quantities established by the control camera at the moment of caging shall constitute a Potential Non-Compliance of the vessel/trap concerned and shall therefore be duly investigated.

Caging report

102. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located shall submit within one week of the completion of the caging operation (a caging operation is not complete until a potential investigation and release are also completed) a caging report to the CPC whose flag vessels has fished the tuna and to the ICCAT Secretariat. When the farming facilities authorized to operate for farming of bluefin tuna caught in the Convention area (hereafter referred to as FFBs) are located beyond waters under jurisdiction of CPCs, the provisions of the previous paragraph shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to CPCs where the natural or legal persons responsible for FFBs are located.

Intra-farm transfers and random controls

103. A traceability system in farms shall be required including the video-recording of internal transfers. On the basis of a risk analysis, random controls shall be undertaken by the flag CPC farm control authorities on bluefin tuna in farm cages between the time of completion of caging operations and the first caging of the following year. Each CPC shall fix a minimum percentage of fish to be controlled, which shall be reflected in its control plan referred to under paragraph 14 of this Recommendation. The results of those checks shall be communicated to ICCAT in April of the year following the correspondent quota period.

Access to and requirements for video records

104. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the video records as referred to in paragraphs 97 and 99 are made available to the national inspectors, as well as regional and ICCAT inspectors and ICCAT and CPC observers at request.

Each CPC shall establish the necessary measures to avoid any replacement, edition or manipulation of the original video records.

Part IV: Control measures

Section E - Tracking of fishing activities

VMS

105. CPCs shall implement a vessel monitoring system for their fishing vessels with a length equal to or greater than 15m, in accordance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for Vessel Monitoring Systems in the ICCAT Convention Area* (Rec. 18-10).

The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall make available without delay the information received under this paragraph to CPCs with an active inspection presence in the Plan Area and to SCRS, at its request.

On request from CPCs engaged in inspection at sea operations in the Convention area in accordance with the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection referred to in paragraphs 109 to 112 of this Recommendation, the ICCAT Secretariat shall make available the messages received from all fishing vessels under paragraph 3 of *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Data Exchange Format and Protocol in Relation to the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for the Bluefin Tuna Fishery in the ICCAT Convention Area* (Rec. 07-08).

The transmission of VMS data to ICCAT by fishing vessels with a length equal to or greater than 15m in length included in the ICCAT bluefin tuna record of 'catching' and 'other' vessels to ICCAT shall start at least 5 days before their period of authorisation and shall continue at least 5 days after their period of authorisation, unless the vessel is removed from the lists of authorized vessels by the flag CPC authorities.

For control purposes, the transmission of VMS by bluefin tuna authorised fishing vessels shall not be interrupted when vessels are in port, unless there is a system of hailing in and out of port.

The ICCAT Secretariat shall immediately inform CPCs in term of delays or non-receipt of VMS transmissions and distribute monthly reports to all CPCs with specific information on the nature and the scope of these delays. Such reports shall be sent weekly during the period 1 May to 30 July.

Part IV: Control measures

Section F - Enforcement

Enforcement

106. CPCs shall take appropriate enforcement measures with respect to a fishing vessel, where it has been established, in accordance with its law that the fishing vessel flying its flag does not comply with the provisions of this recommendation.

The measures shall be commensurate with the gravity of the offence and in accordance with the pertinent provisions of national law in such way to make sure that they effectively deprive those responsible of the economic benefit derived from their infringement without prejudice to the exercise of their profession. Those sanctions shall also be capable of producing results proportionate to the seriousness of such infringement, thereby effectively discouraging further offences of the same kind.

107. The CPC under whose jurisdiction the farm for bluefin tuna is located shall take appropriate enforcement measures with respect to a farm, where it has been established, in accordance with its law that this farm does not comply with the provisions of paragraphs 94 to 104.

The measures may include in particular depending on the gravity of the offence and in accordance with the pertinent provisions of national law, suspension or withdrawal of the record of bluefin tuna farms, together with fines.

Part IV: Control measures

Section G - Market measures

Market measures

108. Consistent with their rights and obligations under international law, exporting and importing CPCs shall take the necessary measures:

- to prohibit domestic trade, landing, imports, exports, placing in cages for farming, re-exports and transshipments of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea bluefin tuna that are not accompanied by accurate, complete, and validated documentation required by this Recommendation and the *Recommendation by ICCAT Replacing Recommendation 11-20 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program* (Rec. 18-13) and the *Recommendation by ICCAT Replacing Recommendation 17-09 on the Application of the eBCD System* (Rec. 18-12) on the Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programme.
- to prohibit domestic trade, imports, landings, placing in cages for farming, processing, exports, re-exports and the transshipment within their jurisdiction, of eastern and Mediterranean Sea bluefin tuna caught by fishing vessels or traps whose CPC either does not have a quota, catch limit or allocation of fishing effort for that species, under the terms of ICCAT management and conservation measures, or when the CPC fishing possibilities are exhausted, or when the individual quotas of catching vessels referred to in paragraph 4 are exhausted.

- to prohibit domestic trade, imports, landings, processing, and exports of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna from farms that do not comply with Recommendation 06-07.

Part V

ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection

109. In the framework of the Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna, each Contracting Party agrees, in accordance with Article IX, paragraph 3, of the ICCAT Convention, to apply the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection adopted during its 4th Regular Meeting, held in November 1975 in Madrid, as modified in Annex 7.
110. The Scheme referred to in paragraph 109 shall apply until ICCAT adopts a monitoring, control and surveillance scheme which will include an ICCAT scheme for joint international inspection, based on the results of the Integrated Monitoring Measures Working Group, established by the *Resolution by ICCAT for Integrated Monitoring Measures* (Res. 00-20).
111. When at any time, more than 15 fishing vessels of any one Contracting Party are engaged in eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishing activities in the Convention area, the Contracting Party shall, on the basis of risk assessment have an inspection vessel in the Convention area, or shall cooperate with another Contracting Party to jointly operate an inspection vessel. If a Contracting Party does not deploy its inspection vessel or conducting joint operations, the Contracting Party shall report the result of the risk assessment and its alternative measures in its inspection plan referred to in paragraph 14.
112. In the cases when enforcement measures need to be taken as a result of an inspection, the enforcement powers of the flag Contracting Party inspectors of the fishing vessel, farm or trap subject to inspection shall always prevail on their territory, their jurisdictional waters and/or on board of their inspection platform.

Part VI

Final provisions

Availability of data to the SCRS

113. The ICCAT Secretariat shall make available to the SCRS all data received in accordance with the present recommendation. All data shall be treated in a confidential manner.

Safeguards

114. When as a result of a scientific evaluation the goal of maintaining the biomass around $B_{0.1}$ (to be achieved by fishing at or less than $F_{0.1}$) is not achieved and the objectives of this plan are in danger, the SCRS shall propose a new advice on TAC for the following year.

Review clause

115. For the first time in 2020 and, in any case, after the stock assessment for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea that confirms the full recovery of the stock, the Commission following the scientific advice provided by the SCRS, shall decide on the continuity of this management plan or in a possible revision of the rules defined therein.
116. Notwithstanding paragraph 115, an ICCAT Intersessional Working Group of Panel 2 shall be established each year in March in order to:
- a) Approve the annual fishing plans, annual capacity plans, farming plans and inspection plans sent to ICCAT under paragraph 14 of this Recommendation;
 - b) Discuss any possible doubts about the interpretation of this Recommendation and produce draft amendments to this recommendation to be discussed at the Annual Commission meeting.

- c) Discuss potential additional measures to further strengthening the traceability of live bluefin tuna.

Evaluation

117. All CPCs shall submit at the request of the Secretariat regulations and other related documents adopted by them to implement this Recommendation. In order to have greater transparency in implementing this Recommendation, the ICCAT Secretariat shall elaborate bi-yearly a report on the implementation of this Recommendation.

Exemptions for CPCs with a landing obligation for bluefin tuna

118. The provisions in this recommendation prohibiting retention on board, transshipping, transferring, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale of bluefin tuna do not apply to CPCs with a domestic legislation introduced before 2013 requiring that all dead or dying fish be landed, provided that the value of such fish is confiscated in order to prevent the fishermen from drawing any commercial profit from such fish. The CPC shall take necessary measures to prevent the confiscated fish from being exported to other CPCs. The quantities of bluefin tuna in excess of the quota allocated to the CPC, in accordance with this derogation shall be deducted the following year from the CPC quota.

Repeals

119. This Recommendation repeals *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 14-04 on Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* (Rec. 17-07).

Annex 1**Specific Conditions Applying to the Catching Vessels fishing under paragraph 35**

1. CPCs shall limit:
 - The maximum number of its baitboats and trolling boats authorized to fish actively bluefin tuna to the number of the vessels participating in directed fishery for bluefin tuna in 2006.
 - The maximum number of its artisanal fleet authorized to fish actively bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean Sea to the number of the vessels participating in the fishery for bluefin tuna in 2008.
 - The maximum number of its catching vessel authorized to fish actively bluefin tuna in the Adriatic to the number of the vessel participating in the fishery for bluefin tuna in 2008. Each CPC shall allocate individual quotas to the concerned vessels.

CPCs shall issue specific authorizations to the vessels referred to in paragraph 1 of this Annex. Such vessels shall be indicated in the list of catching vessels referred to in paragraph 49 (a) of this recommendation, where the conditions for changes shall also apply.

2. Each CPC may allocate no more than 7% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its baitboats and trolling boats.
3. Each CPC may allocate no more than 2% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its coastal artisanal fishery for fresh fish in the Mediterranean Sea.

Each CPC may allocate no more than 90% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its catching vessels in the Adriatic for farming purposes.

4. CPCs whose baitboats, longliners, handliners and trolling boats are authorized to fish for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea shall institute tail tag requirements as follows:
 - a) Tail tags must be affixed on each bluefin tuna immediately upon offloading.
 - b) Each tail tag shall have a unique identification number and be included on bluefin tuna catch documents and written legibly and indelibly on the outside of any package containing tuna.

Logbook requirements

A - Catching Vessels

Minimum specification for fishing logbooks:

1. The logbook must be numbered by sheets.
2. The logbook must be filled in every day (midnight) or before port arrival.
3. The logbook must be completed in case of at sea inspections.
4. One copy of the sheets must remain attached to the logbook.
5. Logbooks must be kept on board to cover a period of one-year operation.

Minimum standard information for fishing logbooks:

1. Master name and address
2. Dates and ports of departure, dates and ports of arrival
3. Vessel name, register number, ICCAT number international radio call sign and IMO number (if available)
4. Fishing gear:
 - a) Type by FAO code
 - b) Dimension (length, number of hooks...)
5. Operations at sea with one line (minimum) per day of trip, providing:
 - a) Activity (fishing, steaming)
 - b) Position: Exact daily positions (in degree and minutes), recorded for each fishing operation or at noon when no fishing has been conducted during this day
 - c) Record of catches including:
 - i) FAO code
 - ii) round (RWT) weight in kg per day
 - iii) number of pieces per day

For purse seiners this should be recorded by fishing operation including nil returns
6. Master signature
7. Means of weight measure: estimation, weighing on board and counting
8. The logbook is kept in equivalent live weight of fish and mentions the conversion factors used in the evaluation.

Minimum information for fishing logbooks in case of landing or transshipment:

1. Dates and port of landing/transshipment
2. Products
 - a) species and presentation by FAO code
 - b) number of fish or boxes and quantity in kg
3. Signature of the Master or Vessel Agent
4. In case of transshipment: receiving vessel name, its flag and ICCAT number

Minimum information for fishing logbooks in case of transfer into cages:

1. Date, time and position (latitude/longitude) of transfer
2. Products:
 - a) Species identification by FAO code
 - b) Number of fish and quantity in kg transferred into cages
3. Name of towing vessel, its flag and ICCAT number
4. Name of the farm of destination and its ICCAT number
5. In case of joint fishing operation, in complement of information laid down in points 1 to 4, the masters shall record in their logbook:
 - a) as regards the catching vessel transferring the fish into cages:
 - amount of catches taken on board,
 - amount of catches counted against its individual quota,
 - the names of the other vessels involved in the JFO
 - b) as regards the other catching vessels not involved in the transfer of the fish:
 - the name of the other vessels involved in the JFO, their international radio call signs and ICCAT numbers,
 - that no catches have been taken on board or transferred into cages,
 - amount of catches counted against their individual quotas,
 - the name and the ICCAT number of the catching vessel referred to in a).

B - Towing Vessels

1. Masters of towing vessels shall record on their daily logbook, the date, time and position of transfer, the quantities transferred (number of fish and quantity in kg), the cage number, as well as the catching vessel name, flag and ICCAT number, the name of the other vessel(s) involved and their ICCAT number, the farm of destination and its ICCAT number, and the ICCAT transfer declaration number.
2. Further transfers to auxiliary vessels or to other towing vessels shall be reported including the same information as in point 1 as well as the auxiliary or towing vessel name, flag and ICCAT number and the ICCAT transfer declaration number.

3. The daily logbook shall contain the details of all transfers carried out during the fishing season. The daily logbook shall be kept on board and be accessible at any time for control purposes.

C - Auxiliary Vessels

1. Masters of auxiliary vessels shall record their activities daily in their logbook including the date, time and positions, the quantities of bluefin tuna taken onboard, and the fishing vessel, farm or trap name they are operating in association with.
2. The daily logbook shall contain the details of all activities carried out during the fishing season. The daily logbook shall be kept on board and be accessible at any time for control purposes.

D - Processing Vessels

1. Masters of processing vessels shall report on their daily logbook, the date, time and position of the activities and the quantities transshipped and the number and weight of bluefin tuna received from farms, traps or catching vessel where applicable. They should also report the names and ICCAT numbers of those farms, traps or catching vessel.
2. Masters of processing vessels shall maintain a daily processing logbook specifying the round weight and number of fish transferred or transshipped, the conversion factor used, the weights and quantities by product presentation.
3. Masters of processing vessels shall maintain a stowage plan that shows the location and the quantities of each species and presentation.
4. The daily logbook shall contain the details of all transshipments carried out during the fishing season. The daily logbook, processing logbook, stowage plan, original of ICCAT transshipment declarations shall be kept on board and be accessible at any time for control purposes.

No. Document

ICCAT Transshipment Declaration

Carrier vessel	Fishing Vessel	
Name of vessel and radio call sign:	Name of the vessel and radio call sign:	Final destination:
Flag:	Flag:	Port:
Flag CPC authorization No.	Flag CPC authorization No.	Country:
National Register No.	National Register No.	State:
ICCAT Register No.	ICCAT Register No.	
IMO No.	External identification:	
	Fishing logbook sheet No.	

	Day	Month	Hour	Year	2_ 0_ _ _	F.V Master's name:	Carrier vessel Master's name:
Departure	_ _	_ _	_ _		From: _ _ _ _		
Return	_ _	_ _	_ _		To: _ _ _ _	Signature:	Signature:
Tranship.	_ _	_ _	_ _				

For transshipment, indicate the weight in kg or the unit used (e.g. box, basket) and the landed weight in kilograms of this unit |_| Kg.

LOCATION OF TRANSHIPMENT

Port	Sea		Species	Number of unit of fishes	Type of product live	Type of product whole	Type of product gutted	Type of product head off	Type of product filleted	Type of product	Further transhipments
	Lat.	Long.									Date: _____ Place/Position: _____ Authorization CPC No. _____ Transfer vessel Master signature: _____
											Name of receiver vessel: _____ Flag _____ ICCAT Register No. _____ IMO No. _____ Master's signature _____
											Date: _____ Place/Position: _____ Authorization CPC No. _____ Transfer vessel Master's signature: _____
											Name of receiver vessel: _____ Flag _____ ICCAT Register No. _____ IMO No. _____ Master's signature _____

Obligations in case of transhipment:

1. The original of the transhipment declaration must be provided to the recipient vessel (processing/transport).
2. The copy of the transhipment declaration must be kept by the correspondent catching vessel or trap.
3. Further transshipping operations shall be authorized by the relevant CPC which authorized the vessel to operate.
4. The original of the transhipment declaration has to be kept by the recipient vessel which holds the fish, up to the landing place.
5. The transshipping operation shall be recorded in the logbook of any vessel involved in the operation.

Annex 4

Document No.		ICCAT Transfer Declaration			
1 - TRANSFER OF LIVE BFT DESTINATED FOR FARMING					
Fishing vessel name: Call sign: Flag: Flag State transfer authorisation No. ICCAT Register No. External identification: Fishing logbook No. JFO No. eBCD No.	Trap name: ICCAT Register No.	Tug vessel name: Call sign: Flag: ICCAT Register No. External identification:	Name of destination farm: ICCAT Register No.: Cage Number:		
2 - TRANSFER INFORMATION					
Date: / /	Place or position:	Port:	Lat:	Long:	
Number of individuals:	Species:				
Type of product: Live <input type="checkbox"/> Whole <input type="checkbox"/> Gutted <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify):					
Master of fishing vessel / trap operator / farm operator name and signature:			Observer	Names	ICCAT No. Signature
Master of receiver vessel (tug, processing, carrier) name and signature:					
3 - FURTHER TRANSFERS					
Date: / /	Place or position:	Port:	Lat:	Long:	
Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register No.		
Farm State transfer authorisation No:	External identification:	Cage no.	Master of receiver vessel name and signature:		
Date: / /	Place or position:	Port:	Lat:	Long:	
Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register No.		
Farm State transfer authorisation No:	External identification:	Cage no.	Master of receiver vessel name and signature:		
Date: / /	Place or position:	Port:	Lat:	Long:	
Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register No.		
Farm State transfer authorisation No:	External identification:	Cage No.	Master of receiver vessel name and signature:		
4 - SPLIT CAGES					
Donor Cage No.	Kg:	Nbr of fish:			
Donor Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.		
Receiving Cage No.	Kg:	Nbr of fish:			
Receiving Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.		
Receiving Cage No.	Kg:	Nbr of fish:			
Receiving Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.		
Receiving Cage No.	Kg:	Nbr of fish:			
Receiving Tug vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.		

<i>Flag CPC</i>	<i>Vessel Name</i>	<i>ICCAT No.</i>	<i>Duration of the Operation</i>	<i>Identity of the Operators</i>	<i>Vessels individual quota</i>	<i>Allocation key per vessel</i>	<i>Fattening and farming farm destination</i>	
							<i>CPC</i>	<i>ICCAT No.</i>

Date

Validation of the flag CPC

Annex 6**ICCAT Regional Observer Programme**

1. Each CPC shall require its farms, traps and purse seine vessels as referred to in paragraph 84 to deploy an ICCAT regional observer.
2. The Secretariat of the Commission shall appoint the observers before 1 April each year, and shall place them on farms, traps and on board the purse seine vessels flying the flag of Contracting Parties and of non-Contracting Cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities that implement the ICCAT observer programme. An ICCAT observer card shall be issued for each observer.
3. The Secretariat shall issue a contract listing the rights and duties of the observer and the master of the vessel or farm or trap operator. This contract shall be signed by both parties involved.
4. The Secretariat shall establish an ICCAT Observer Programme Manual.

Designation of the observers

5. The designated observers shall have the following qualifications to accomplish their tasks:
 - sufficient experience to identify species and fishing gear;
 - satisfactory knowledge of the ICCAT conservation and management measures and based on ICCAT training guidelines;
 - the ability to observe and record accurately;
 - a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag of the vessel or farm or trap observed.

Obligations of the observer

6. Observers shall:
 - a) have completed the technical training required by the guidelines established by ICCAT;
 - b) be nationals of one of the CPCs and, to the extent possible, not of the farm CPC, trap CPC or flag CPC of the purse seine vessel;
 - c) be capable of performing the duties set forth in point 7 below;
 - d) be included in the list of observers maintained by the Secretariat of the Commission;
 - e) not have current financial or beneficial interests in the bluefin tuna fishery.
7. The observer tasks shall be, in particular:
 - a) As regards observers on purse-seine vessels, to monitor the purse seine vessels' compliance with the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission. In particular the observers shall:
 - i) In cases where the observer observes what may constitute non-compliance with ICCAT recommendations, he/she shall submit this information without delay to the observer implementing company who shall forward it without delay to the flag CPC authorities of the catching vessel. For this purpose, the observer implementing company shall set up a system through which this information can be securely communicated;
 - ii) record and report upon the fishing activities carried out;
 - iii) observe and estimate catches and verify entries made in the logbook;
 - iv) issue a daily report of the purse seiner vessels' transfer activities;
 - v) sight and record vessels which may be fishing in contravention to ICCAT conservation and management measures;

- vi) record and report upon the transfer activities carried out;
 - vii) verify the position of the vessel when engaged in transfer;
 - viii) observe and estimate products transferred, including through the review of video recordings;
 - ix) verify and record the name of the fishing vessel concerned and its ICCAT number;
 - x) carry out scientific work such as collecting Task II data when required by the Commission, based on the directives from the SCRS.
- b) As regards observers in the farms and traps to monitor their compliance with the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission. In particular the observers shall:
- i) verify the data contained in the transfer declaration, caging declaration and BCDs, including through the review of video records;
 - ii) certify the data contained in the transfer declaration, caging declaration and BCDs;
 - iii) issue a daily report of the farms' and traps transfer activities;
 - iv) countersign the transfer declaration and caging declarations and BCDs only when he/she agrees that the information contained within them are consistent with his/her observations including a compliant video record as per the requirements in paragraphs 91 and 92;
 - v) carry out such scientific work, for example collecting samples, as required by the Commission, based on the directives from the SCRS;
 - vi) register and verify the presence of any type of tag, including natural marks, and notify any sign of recent tag removals. For all individuals tagged with electronic tags, conduct full biological sampling (otoliths, spine and genetic sample) following guidelines by the SCRS.
- c) Establish general reports compiling the information collected in accordance with this paragraph and provide the master and farm operator the opportunity to include therein any relevant information.
- d) Submit to the Secretariat the aforementioned general report within 20 days from the end of the period of observation.
- e) Exercise any other functions as defined by the Commission.
8. Observers shall treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing and transfer operations of the purse seiners and of the farms and traps and accept this requirement in writing as a condition of appointment as an observer.
9. Observers shall comply with requirements established in the laws and regulations of the flag or farm State which exercises jurisdiction over the vessel, farm or trap to which the observer is assigned.
10. Observers shall respect the hierarchy and general rules of behaviour which apply to all vessel, farm and trap personnel, provided such rules do not interfere with the duties of the observer under this program, and with the obligations of vessel and farm personnel set forth in paragraph 11 of this Programme.

Obligations of the flag CPCs of purse seine vessels and farm and trap State

11. The responsibilities regarding observers of the flag CPCs of the purse seine vessels and their masters shall include the following, notably:
- a) Observers shall be allowed to access to the vessel, farm and trap personnel and to the gear, cages and equipment;
 - b) Upon request, observers shall also be allowed access to the following equipment, if present on the vessels to which they are assigned, in order to facilitate the carrying out of their duties set forth in paragraph 7 of this Programme.

- i) satellite navigation equipment;
 - ii) radar display viewing screens when in use;
 - iii) electronic means of communication.
- c) Observers shall be provided accommodations, including lodging, food and adequate sanitary facilities, equal to those of officers;
 - d) Observers shall be provided with adequate space on the bridge or pilot house for clerical work, as well as space on deck adequate for carrying out observer duties; and
 - e) The flag CPCs shall ensure that masters, crew, farm, trap and vessel owners do not obstruct, intimidate, interfere with, influence, bribe or attempt to bribe an observer in the performance of his/her duties.

The Secretariat, in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality requirements, is requested to provide to the farm State, trap State or flag CPC of the purse seine vessel, copies of all raw data, summaries, and reports pertaining to the trip. The Secretariat shall submit the observer reports to the Compliance Committee and to the SCRS.

Observer fees and organization

- 12.a) The costs of implementing this program shall be financed by the farm and trap operators and purse seiner's owners. The fee shall be calculated on the basis of the total costs of the program. This fee shall be paid into a special account of the ICCAT Secretariat and the ICCAT Secretariat shall manage the account for implementing the program;
- b) No observer shall be assigned to a vessel, trap and farm for which the fees, as required under subparagraph a), have not been paid.

ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Article IX of the Convention, the Commission recommends the establishment of the following arrangements for international control outside the waters under national jurisdiction for the purpose of ensuring the application of the Convention and the measures in force thereunder:

I. Serious violations

1. For the purposes of these procedures, a serious violation means the following violations of the provisions of the ICCAT conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission:
 - a) fishing without a license, permit or authorization issued by the flag CPC;
 - b) failure to maintain sufficient records of catch and catch-related data in accordance with the Commission's reporting requirements or significant misreporting of such catch and/or catch-related data;
 - c) fishing in a closed area;
 - d) fishing during a closed season;
 - e) intentional taking or retention of species in contravention of any applicable conservation and management measure adopted by the ICCAT;
 - f) significant violation of catch limits or quotas in force pursuant to the ICCAT rules;
 - g) using prohibited fishing gear;
 - h) falsifying or intentionally concealing the markings, identity or registration of a fishing vessel;
 - i) concealing, tampering with or disposing of evidence relating to investigation of a violation;
 - j) multiple violations which taken together constitute a serious disregard of measures in force pursuant to the ICCAT;
 - k) assault, resist, intimidate, sexually harass, interfere with, or unduly obstruct or delay an authorized inspector or observer;
 - l) intentionally tampering with or disabling the vessel monitoring system;
 - m) such other violations as may be determined by the ICCAT, once these are included and circulated in a revised version of these procedures;
 - n) fishing with the assistance of spotter planes;
 - o) interference with the satellite monitoring system and/or operation of a vessel without a VMS system;
 - p) transfer activity without transfer declaration;
 - q) transshipment at sea.
2. In the case of any boarding and inspection of a fishing vessel during which the authorized inspectors observe an activity or condition that would constitute a serious violation, as defined in paragraph 1, the authorities of the flag CPC of the inspection vessel shall immediately notify the flag CPC 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 CPC 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 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 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 on Establishing a List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried Out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities* (Rec. 18-08), 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 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 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 CPC, which shall be in the form shown in paragraph 20 of this Annex.
9. Subject to the arrangements agreed under paragraph 15 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 CPC 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 Commission's recommendations in force in relation to the flag CPC 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 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.

* Master refers to the individual in charge of the vessel.

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 CPC 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 CPC 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 CPC 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 Resolution 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.
 - a) Contracting Governments shall inform the Commission by 15 February 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.
16.
 - 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.
17. 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 CPC of the vessel concerned and shall record this fact in his report.
18. 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 CPC.
19. Inspectors shall, as necessary, inspect all catch on board to determine compliance with ICCAT recommendations.

20. The model Identity Card for inspectors is as follows:

Dimensions: Width 10.4cm, Height 7cm

<p style="text-align: center;">INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNA</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">ICCAT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Inspector Identity Card</p> <p>Contracting Party:</p> <p>Inspector Name:</p> <p>Card n°:</p> <p>Issue Date: Valid five years</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 80px; margin: 10px 0; text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;"> Photograph </div>	 <p style="text-align: right;">ICCAT</p> <p>The holder of this document is an ICCAT inspector duly appointed under the terms of the Scheme of Joint International Inspection and Surveillance of the International Commission for the Conservation of the Atlantic Tuna and has the authority to act under the provision of the ICCAT Control and Enforcement measures.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> ICCAT Executive Secretary Issuing Authority </p> <p style="text-align: right; margin-right: 100px;"> Inspector </p>
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Minimum standards for video recording procedures

Transfers

- i) The electronic storage device containing the original video record shall be provided to the observer as soon as possible after the end of the transfer operation that shall immediately initialize it to avoid any further manipulation.
- ii) The original recording shall be kept on board the catching vessel or by the farm or trap operator where appropriate, during their entire period of authorization.
- iii) Two identical copies of the video record shall be produced. One copy shall be transmitted to the regional observer on board of the purse seine vessel and one to the CPC observer on board the towing vessel, the latter of which shall accompany the transfer declaration and the associated catches to which it relates. If the inspection services are present during the transfer they shall also receive a copy of the relevant video record. This procedure should only apply to CPC observers in the case of transfers between towing vessels.
- iv) At the beginning and/or the end of each video, the ICCAT transfer authorization number shall be displayed.
- v) The time and the date of the video shall be continuously displayed throughout each video record.
- vi) Before the start of the transfer, the video shall include the opening and closing of the net/door and whether the receiving and donor cages already contain bluefin tuna.
- vii) The video recording must be continuous without any interruptions and cuts and cover the entire transfer operation.
- viii) The video record should be of sufficient quality to estimate the number of bluefin tuna being transferred.
- ix) If the video record is of insufficient quality to estimate the number of bluefin tuna being transferred, then a new transfer shall be requested by the control authorities. The new transfer must include all the bluefin tuna in the receiving cage into another cage which must be empty. For those cases where the origin of the fish is a fishing trap, the bluefin tuna already transferred from the fishing trap to the receiving cage, could be sent back to the fishing trap, and the fishing transfer cancelled under the supervision of the ICCAT regional observer.

Caging operations

- i) The electronic storage device containing the original video record shall be provided to the regional observer as soon as possible after the end of the caging operation who shall immediately initialize it to avoid any further manipulation.
- ii) The original recording shall be kept by the farm where applicable, during their entire period of authorization.
- iii) Two identical copies of the video record shall be produced. One copy shall be transmitted to the regional observer deployed on the farm.
- iv) At the beginning and/or the end of each video, the ICCAT caging authorization number shall be displayed.
- v) The time and the date of the video shall be continuously displayed throughout each video record.
- vi) Before the start of the caging, the video shall include the opening and closing of the net/door and whether the receiving and donor cages already contain bluefin tuna.

- vii) The video recording must be continuous without any interruptions and cuts and cover the entire caging operation.
- viii) The video record should be of sufficient quality to estimate the number of bluefin tuna being transferred.
- ix) If the video record is of insufficient quality to estimate the number of bluefin tuna being transferred, then a new caging operation shall be requested by the control authorities. For those cases when the origin of the fish is a purse-seiner the new caging operation must include all the bluefin tuna in the receiving farm cage into another farm cage which must be empty.

Standards and procedures for stereoscopic cameras systems in the context of caging operations

Use of stereoscopic cameras systems

The use of stereoscopic cameras systems in the context of caging operations, as required by paragraph 98 of this Recommendation shall be conducted in accordance with the following:

- i. The sampling intensity of live fish shall not be below 20% of the amount of fish being caged. When technically possible, the sampling of live fish shall be sequential, by measuring one in every five specimens. Such a sample shall be made up of fish measured at a distance between 2 and 8 meters from the camera.
- ii. The dimensions of the transfer gate connecting the donor cage and the receiving cage shall be set at maximum width of 8 to 10 meters and maximum height of 8 to 10 meters.
- iii. When the length measurements of the fish present a multi-modal distribution (two or more cohorts of distinct sizes), it shall be possible to use more than one conversion algorithm for the same caging operation. The most up to date algorithm(s) established by SCRS shall be used to convert fork lengths into total weights, according to the size category of the fish measured during the caging operation.
- iv. Validation of the stereoscopic length measurements shall be undertaken prior to each caging operation using a scale bar at a distance of 2 and 8 m.
- v. When the results of the stereoscopic program are communicated, the information shall indicate the margin of error inherent to the technical specifications of the stereoscopic camera system, which shall not exceed a range of +/- 5 percent.
- vi. The report on the results of the stereoscopic program should include details on all the technical specifications above, including the sampling intensity, the way of sampling methodology, the distance from the camera, the dimensions of the transfer gate, and the algorithms (length-weight relationship). SCRS shall review these specifications, and if necessary provide recommendations to modify them.
- vii. In cases where the stereoscopic camera footage is of insufficient quality to estimate the weight of bluefin tuna being caged, a new caging operation shall be ordered by the flag CPC authorities of the catching vessel/trap, or the flag CPC authorities of the farm.

Presentation and use of stereoscopic cameras systems outcome

- i. Decisions regarding differences between the catch report and the results from the stereoscopic system programme shall be taken at the level of the Joint Fishing Operation (JFO) or total trap catches, for JFOs and trap catches destined to a farm facility involving a single CPC and/or EU Member State. The decision regarding differences between the catch report and the results from the stereoscopic system programme shall be taken at the level of the caging operations for JFO's involving more than one CPC and/or EU Member State, unless otherwise agreed by all the flag CPC/State authorities of the catching vessels involved in the JFO.
- ii. Within 15 days from the caging date, the farm CPC/State authorities shall provide a report to the flag CPC/State authorities of the catching vessel, including the following documents:
 - ii.1 Technical stereoscopic system report including:
 - general information: species, site, cage, date, algorithm;
 - sizing statistical information: average weight and length, minimum weight and length, maximum weight and length, number of fish sampled, weight distribution, size distribution.
 - ii.2 Detailed results of the programme, with the size and weight of every fish that was sampled.

- ii.3 Caging report including:
- general information on the operation: number of the caging operation, name of the farm, cage number, BCD number, ITD number, name and flag of the catching vessel, name and flag of the towing vessel, date of the stereoscopic system operation and footage file name;
 - algorithm used to convert length into weight;
 - comparison between the amounts declared in the BCD and the amounts found with the stereoscopic system, in number of fish, average weight and total weight (the formula used to calculate the difference shall be: $(\text{Stereoscopic System}-\text{BCD})/\text{Stereoscopic System} \times 100$);
 - margin of error of the system;
 - for those caging reports relating to JFOs/traps, the last caging report shall also include a summary of all information in previous caging reports.
- iii. When receiving the caging report, the flag CPC/State authorities of the catching vessel shall take all the necessary measures according to the following situations.
- iii.1 The total weight declared by the catching vessel in the BCD is within the range of the stereoscopic system results:
- no release shall be ordered;
 - the BCD shall be modified both in number (using the number of fish resulting from the use of the control cameras or alternative techniques) and average weight, while the total weight shall not be modified.
- iii.2 The total weight declared by the catching vessel in the BCD is below the lowest figure of the range of the stereoscopic system results:
- a release shall be ordered using the lowest figure in the range of the stereoscopic system results;
 - the release operations must be carried out in accordance with the procedure laid down in paragraph 89 and **Annex 10**;
 - after the release operations took place, the BCD shall be modified both in number (using the number of fish resulting from the use of the control cameras, minus the number of fish released) and average weight, while the total weight shall not be modified.
- iii.3 The total weight declared by the catching vessel in the BCD exceeds the highest figure of the range of the stereoscopic system results:
- no release shall be ordered;
 - the BCD shall be modified for the total weight (using the highest figure in the range of the stereoscopic system results), for the number of fish (using the results from the control cameras) and average weight accordingly.
- iv. For any relevant modification of the BCD, the values (number and weight) entered in Section 2 shall be consistent with those in Section 6 and the values in Sections 3, 4 and 6, shall not be higher to those in Section 2.
- v. In case of compensation of differences found in individual caging reports across all cagings from a JFO/trap, whether or not a release operation is required, all relevant BCDs shall be modified on the basis of the lowest range of the stereoscopic system results. The BCDs related to the quantities of bluefin tuna released shall also be modified to reflect the weight/number released. The BCDs related to bluefin tuna not released but for which the results from the stereoscopic systems or alternative techniques differ from those reported caught and transferred shall also be amended to reflect these differences.

The BCDs relating to the catches from where the release operation took place shall also be modified to reflect the weight/number released.

Release Protocol

The release of bluefin tuna from farming cages into the sea shall be recorded by video camera and observed by an ICCAT Regional Observer, who shall draft and submit a report together with the video records to the ICCAT Secretariat.

The release of bluefin tuna from transport cages or traps into the sea shall be observed by a national observer of the traps CPC, who shall draft and submit a report to its CPC control authorities.

Before a release operation takes place, CPC control authorities might order a control transfer using standard and/or stereoscopic cameras to estimate the number and weight of the fish that need to be released.

CPC control authorities might implement any additional measures they feel necessary to guarantee that the release operations take place at the most appropriate time and place in order to increase the probability of the fish going back to the stock. The operator shall be responsible for the fish survival until the release operation has taken place. These release operations shall take place within 3 weeks of the completion of the caging operations.

Following completion of harvesting operations, fish remaining in a farm and not covered by an ICCAT bluefin catch document shall be released in accordance with the procedures described in paragraph 87.

Treatment of dead fish

During fishing operations by purse seiners, the quantities of fish found dead in the seine shall be recorded on the fishing vessel logbook and therefore deducted from the flag CPCs quota.

Recording/treating of dead fish during first transfer

- a) The BCD shall be provided to the towing vessel with Section 2 (Total Catch), Section 3 (Live fish trade) and Section 4 (Transfer - including "dead" fish) completed.

The total quantities reported in Sections 3 and 4 shall be equal to the quantities reported in Section 2. The BCD shall be accompanied by the original ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD) in accordance with the provisions of this Recommendation. The quantities reported in the ITD (transferred live), must equal the quantities reported in Section 3 in the associated BCD.

- b) A split of the BCD with Section 8 (Trade information) shall be completed and given to the auxiliary vessel which will transport the dead bluefin tuna to shore (or retained on the catching vessel if landed directly to shore). This dead fish and split BCD must be accompanied with a copy of the ITD.
- c) With regards to BCDs, dead fish shall be allocated to the catching vessel which made the catch, or in the case of JFOs either to participating catching vessels or flags.

Minimum Information for Fishing Authorisations

A. IDENTIFICATION

1. ICCAT registration number
2. Name of fishing vessel
3. External registration number (letters and numbers)

B. FISHING CONDITIONS

1. Date of issue
2. Period of validity
3. Conditions of fishing authorisation, including when appropriate species, zone, fishing gear and any other conditions applicable derived from this recommendation and/or from national legislation.

	From... to...	From... to	From... to	From... to	From... to
Zones					
Species					
Fishing gear					
Other conditions					

18-04

BIL

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO REPLACE REC. 15-05 TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN
THE PLAN TO REBUILD BLUE MARLIN AND WHITE MARLIN STOCKS**

RECALLING the 2000 Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Populations (Rec. 00-13) from ICCAT to rebuild Atlantic blue marlin and Atlantic white marlin;

FURTHER RECALLING that the Recommendation by ICCAT to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Stocks (Rec. 12-04) established an annual landings limit for each of these stocks, along with other conservation and management measures designed to address all sources of fishing mortality, as a step toward the establishment of formal rebuilding programs for these stocks;

CONSIDERING that the 2018 SCRS stock assessment indicated that the blue marlin stock is below B_{MSY} (the stock is overfished) and that fishing mortality is above F_{MSY} (overfishing is occurring) and that catch levels of 2000 t or less would end overfishing in 2019 with a 60% probability;

RECOGNIZING that SCRS expressed concern with the significant increase in the contribution from non-industrial fisheries to the total blue marlin harvest, that landings from these fisheries are not fully accounted for in the ICCAT database, and that it is imperative to develop CPUE indices for all fleets that have substantial landings of blue marlin;

TAKING NOTE OF the results of the 2012 white marlin assessment, which indicated that the stock was overfished but most likely not undergoing overfishing, while noting significant uncertainty associated with species composition in the historical time series of catch (white marlin vs. spearfish) and the actual magnitude of the catch due to the underreporting of discards, and acknowledging SCRS advice that, at a minimum, the Commission should limit white marlin catches to less than 400 t;

HIGHLIGHTING that the SCRS indicated that circle hooks can reduce deep hooking and, therefore, increase the post-release survival of marlins in many fisheries while not negatively affecting catch rates of target species, and that the SCRS recommended that the Commission consider this approach;

FURTHER RECALLING the existing obligations of Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities (CPCs) to require the collection of discard data in their existing domestic observer and logbook programs under the Recommendation by ICCAT on Information Collection and Harmonization of Data on By-catch and Discards in ICCAT Fisheries (Rec. 11-10), and the minimum standards for scientific observer programs established in the Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Minimum Standards for Fishing Vessel Scientific Observer Programs (Rec. 16-14);

COGNIZANT that marlins are caught in industrial, artisanal and recreational fisheries, and that fair and equitable conservation actions are needed to end overfishing and support rebuilding;

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

1. An annual limit of 2,000 t for blue marlin and 400 t for white marlin/spearfish is continued for these stocks in 2019. These landings limits are implemented as follows:

<i>Blue Marlin</i>	<i>Landings Limit (t)</i>
Brazil	190
China, P.R.	45
Chinese Taipei	150
Côte d'Ivoire	150
European Union	480
Ghana	250
Japan	390
Korea Rep.	35
Mexico	70
S. Tomé & Príncipe	45
Senegal	60
Trinidad and Tobago	20
Venezuela	100
TOTAL	1,985

<i>White Marlin/Spearfish</i>	<i>Landings Limit (t)</i>
Barbados	10
Brazil	50
Canada	10
China, P.R.	10
Chinese Taipei	50
European Union	50
Côte d'Ivoire	10
Japan	35
Korea Rep.	20
Mexico	25
S. Tome & Principe	20
Trinidad and Tobago	15
Venezuela	50
TOTAL	355

The United States shall limit its landings to 250 recreationally-caught Atlantic blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish combined on an annual basis. All other CPCs shall limit their landings to a maximum of 10 t of Atlantic blue marlin and 2 t of white marlin/spearfish combined.

2. To the extent possible, as the CPC approaches its landings limits, such CPC shall take appropriate measures to ensure that all blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish that are alive by the time of boarding are released in a manner that maximizes their survival. For CPCs that prohibit dead discards, the landings of blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish that are dead when brought alongside the vessel and that are not sold or entered into commerce shall not count against the limits established in paragraph 1, on the condition that such prohibition be clearly explained in their Annual Report.
3. Any unused portion or excess of the annual landing limit established in paragraph 1 may be added to/shall be deducted from, according to the case, the respective landing limit during or before the adjustment year, in the following way:

<i>Catch Year</i>	<i>Adjustment Year</i>
2018	2020
2019	2021

However, the maximum underage that a party may carry over in any given year shall not exceed 10% of its landing limit, for those CPCs whose landing limit is larger than 45 t, or 20% of its landing limit, for those CPCs whose landing limit is lower or equal to 45 t.

4. CPCs shall work to minimize the post-release mortality of marlins/spearfish in their ICCAT fisheries.
5. CPCs with recreational fisheries shall maintain 5% scientific observer coverage of blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish tournament landings.
6. CPCs with recreational fisheries shall adopt domestic regulations that establish minimum sizes in their recreational fisheries that meet or exceed the following lengths: 251 cm LJFL for blue marlin and 168 cm LJFL for white marlin/spearfish, or comparable limits by weight.
7. CPCs shall prohibit the sale, or offering for sale, of any part or whole carcass of blue marlin or white marlin/spearfish caught in recreational fisheries.
8. In their Annual Reports, CPCs shall inform the Commission of steps taken to implement the provisions of this Recommendation through domestic law or regulations, including monitoring, control and surveillance measures.
9. CPCs with non-industrial fisheries shall provide information about their data collection programs in their Annual Reports, and the SCRS shall continue to review and evaluate this information as a basis for developing recommendations to improve or expand these programs, including through capacity building.
10. CPCs shall provide their estimates of live and dead discards, and all available data including observer data on landings and discards for blue marlin, white marlin/spearfish, annually by July 31 as part of their Task I and II data submission to support the stock assessment process. The SCRS shall review the data and determine the feasibility of estimating fishing mortalities by commercial fisheries (including longline and purse seine), recreational fisheries and artisanal fisheries. 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 2019.
11. The Secretariat, with support from the Commission and the SCRS, shall continue its review of the relevant work conducted by the regional and sub-regional international organizations, similar to the review conducted for West Africa, with a priority focus on the Caribbean and Latin America.
12. Taking into account the findings of these regional reviews, the CPCs shall take action, as appropriate, to improve data collection and reporting programs in accordance with any SCRS advice in preparation for the white marlin/spearfish stock assessment in 2019 and the next blue marlin stock assessment.
13. At its next assessments of blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish stocks, the SCRS shall evaluate progress toward the goals of the rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish.
14. This Recommendation repeals and replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Stocks* (Rec. 15-05) and repeals the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation Rec. 15-05 by ICCAT to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Stocks* (Rec. 16-10).

18-05

BIL

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON IMPROVEMENT OF
COMPLIANCE REVIEW OF CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES
REGARDING BILLFISH CAUGHT IN THE ICCAT CONVENTION AREA**

RECALLING that pursuant to *Recommendation by ICCAT to Replace Rec. 15-05 to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Stocks* (Rec. 18-04) and *Recommendation by ICCAT on Management Measures for the Conservation of Atlantic Sailfish* (Rec. 16-11), CPCs are required to report through their Annual Reports on their implementation of the requirements of these measures;

FURTHER RECALLING that the Report of the Second Independent Performance Review recommended that the Commission prioritize the issue of poor reporting on the blue and white marlin stocks, and that the Compliance Committee at its 2017 meeting recommended that in order to improve compliance in the billfish fisheries, a reporting check sheet be developed for consideration for adoption at the 2018 Annual meeting;

RECOGNIZING the need to improve the means to facilitate the review process of implementation of and compliance with billfish conservation and management measures, while reducing the reporting burden on CPCs;

DESIRING to streamline ICCAT reporting requirements, including by eliminating redundancies.

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

1. All CPCs shall submit to the ICCAT Secretariat, with their Annual Reports, details of their implementation of and compliance with billfish conservation and management measures using the check sheet in **Annex 1**, as may be revised by the ICCAT Secretariat in consultation with the COC and PA4 Chairs to reflect new billfish measures adopted by the Commission.
2. If there are no changes from the previous year in a CPC's implementation of ICCAT billfish measures covered by the check sheet in **Annex 1** and no additional reporting fields have been included to reflect new billfish measures, the CPC shall not be required to submit a billfish check sheet, provided that it confirms in its Annual Report that there are no changes. If there are changes from the previous year in a CPC's implementation, or additional reporting fields have been included in the billfish check sheet to reflect new billfish measures, the CPC shall only be required to submit such updates or responses to new reporting fields with their Annual Reports. However, CPCs shall submit updated billfish check sheets in full in the years when the Compliance Committee is scheduled to prioritize review of the billfish check sheets in accordance with paragraph 4.
3. CPCs may be exempt from the submission of the check sheet when vessels flying their flag are not likely to catch any billfish species covered by the Recommendations covered by the check sheet, on the condition that the concerned CPCs obtained a confirmation by the Billfish Species Group through necessary data submitted by CPCs for this purpose.
4. The Compliance Committee meeting shall prioritize review of CPC billfish check sheets at its 2020 Annual meeting. Future review will occur on an ICCAT meeting cycle as determined by the Committee, without prejudice to the competency of the Committee to consider billfish measure implementation issues at annual meetings during other years as appropriate.

Annex 1

Billfish 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	Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable, include text, references, or links where this information is codified)	Notes/explanations
18-04	1	Landings limits – <i>Blue marlin landings limits.</i> Para. 1 establishes CPC-specific landing limits for certain CPCs and a generally applicable landing limit for all other CPCs. Were your CPC's total landings (from all fisheries, including commercial, recreational, sport, artisanal, subsistence) for blue marlin within the applicable limit in paragraph 1 or (or in the case of CPCs with a specific landings limit), within that CPC's adjusted landings limit on the relevant marlin compliance table?	Yes or No		If No, please indicate total landings and explain steps being taken to ensure landings do not exceed the ICCAT limit or adjusted limit applicable to the CPC (N/A is not a permissible response).
18-04	1	<i>White marlin/spearfish combined landings limits.</i> Para. 1 establishes CPC-specific landings limits for certain CPCs and a generally applicable landing limit for all other CPCs. Were your CPC's total landings (from all fisheries, including commercial, recreational, sport, artisanal, subsistence) for white marlin/spearfish (combined) within the applicable limit in paragraph 1 or (or in the case of CPCs with a specific landings limit, within that CPC's adjusted landings limit on the relevant marlin compliance table)?	Yes or No		If No, please indicate total landings and explain steps being taken to ensure landings do not exceed the ICCAT limit or adjusted limit applicable to the CPC (N/A is not a permissible response).

<i>Rec. #</i>	<i>Para #</i>	<i>Requirement</i>	<i>Status of implementation</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable, include text, references, or links where this information is codified)</i>	<i>Notes/explanations</i>
18-04	2	“To the extent possible, as the CPC approaches its landings limits, such CPC shall take appropriate measures to ensure that all blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish that are alive by the time of boarding are released in a manner that maximizes their survival.”	Yes or No or N/A (Not applicable)		If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason. If “No”, please explain any steps your CPC plans to implement this requirement. (N/A is only a permissible response if your CPC did not approach its landings limit, which includes CPCs without a specific landings limit and therefore subject to the generally applicable limit in para. 1).
18-04	2	“For CPCs that prohibit dead discards, the landings of blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish that are dead when brought alongside the vessel and that are not sold or entered into commerce shall not count against the limits established in paragraph 1, on the condition that such prohibition be clearly explained.” Does your CPC prohibit dead discard of blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish?	Yes or No		If “Yes”, please also explain your dead discard prohibition and rules concerning sale/entry into commerce here (N/A is not a permissible response).
18-04	4	“CPCs shall work to minimize the post-release mortality of marlins/spearfish”	Yes or No		If "No", please explain the reason. If Yes, please explain how. Include any information on best practices for handling bycatch of marlins if those have been adopted (N/A is not a permissible response).
18-04	5-7	Does the CPC have recreational fisheries that interact with blue marlin or white marlin/spearfish?	Yes or No		(N/A is not a permissible response).
18-04	5	“CPCs with recreational fisheries shall maintain 5% scientific observer coverage of blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish tournament landings”	Yes or No or N/A (Not applicable)		If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason. If “No”, please also explain any steps your CPC plans to implement this requirement.

<i>Rec. #</i>	<i>Para #</i>	<i>Requirement</i>	<i>Status of implementation</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable, include text, references, or links where this information is codified)</i>	<i>Notes/explanations</i>
		Does your CPC meet the 5% requirement?			("N/A" only a permissible response if your CPC has confirmed in this check sheet that it does not have any recreational fisheries that interact with blue marlin or white marlin/spearfish).
18-04	6	<p>"CPCs with recreational fisheries shall adopt domestic regulations that establish minimum sizes in their recreational fisheries that meet or exceed the following lengths: 251 cm LJFL for blue marlin and 168 cm LJFL for white marlin/spearfish, or comparable limits by weight.</p> <p>Has your CPC adopted minimum size requirements consistent with these?</p>	Yes or No or N/A (Not applicable)		<p>If "Yes", please indicate what minimum size your CPC has set for each species, including if your CPC implements through a comparable weight limit.</p> <p>If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.</p> <p>If "No", please also explain any steps your CPC plans to implement this requirement.</p> <p>("N/A" is only a permissible response if your CPC has confirmed in this check sheet that it does not have any recreational fisheries that interact with blue marlin or white marlin/spearfish).</p>
18-04	7	<p>"CPCs shall prohibit the sale, or offering for sale, of any part or whole carcass of blue marlin or white marlin/spearfish caught in recreational fisheries."</p> <p>Has your CPC implemented this no sale provision?</p>	Yes or No or N/A (Not applicable)		<p>If "No" or "N/A", please explain the reason.</p> <p>If "No", please also explain any steps your CPC plans to implement this requirement.</p> <p>("N/A" may only be used if the CPC has confirmed in this check sheet that it does not have any recreational fisheries that interact with blue marlin or white marlin/spearfish).</p>

<i>Rec. #</i>	<i>Para #</i>	<i>Requirement</i>	<i>Status of implementation</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable, include text, references, or links where this information is codified)</i>	<i>Notes/explanations</i>
18-04	8	<p>“CPCs shall inform the Commission of steps taken to implement the provisions of this Recommendation through domestic law or regulations, including monitoring, control and surveillance measures.”</p> <p>Does your CPC provide this information to ICCAT?</p>	Yes or No		<p>If “Yes”, please provide here information on implementation (including monitoring, control, and surveillance measures) not otherwise covered elsewhere on this check sheet.</p> <p>If “No”, please explain the reason, and any steps your CPC plans to implement this requirement.</p>
18-04	9	Does your CPC have non-industrial fisheries that interact with blue marlin or white marlin/spearfish?	Yes or No		“N/A” is not a permissible response.
18-04	9	<p>“CPCs with non-industrial fisheries shall provide information about their data collection programs.”</p>	Yes or No or N/A (Not applicable)		<p>If “Yes”, please briefly describe the data collection program.</p> <p>If “No” or “N/A”, explain the reason.</p> <p>If “No”, please also explain any steps your CPC plans to implement this requirement.</p> <p>(“N/A” may only be used if the CPC has confirmed in this check sheet that it does not have any non-industrial fisheries that interact with blue marlin or white marlin/spearfish).</p>
18-04	10	<p>“CPCs shall provide their estimates of live and dead discards, and all available data including observer data on landings and discards for blue marlin, white marlin/spearfish, annually by July 31 as part of their Task I and II data submission to support the stock assessment process.”</p> <p>Has your CPC provided this data by the deadline?</p>	Yes or No		If “No”, please explain the reason and any steps your CPC plans to implement this requirement.

<i>Rec. #</i>	<i>Para #</i>	<i>Requirement</i>	<i>Status of implementation</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations (as applicable, include text, references, or links where this information is codified)</i>	<i>Notes/explanations</i>
16-11	1	<p>“Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) whose vessels catch Atlantic sailfish (<i>Istiophorus albicans</i>) 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:</p> <p>(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.”</p>	Yes or No		<p>If “Yes”, please explain management measures taken or maintained to implement this requirement.</p> <p>If “No”, explain the reason, and any steps your CPC plans to implement this requirement.</p> <p>(“N/A” is not a permissible response).</p>
16-11	2	<p>“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.”</p> <p>Has your CPC enhanced its data collection efforts as required?</p>	Yes or No		<p>If yes, please explain actions taken.</p> <p>If “No”, please explain the reason (and any implementation steps your CPC plans to take).</p> <p>(“N/A” is not a permissible response).</p>
16-11	3	<p>CPCs shall describe their data collection programmes and steps taken to implement this Recommendation</p> <p>Has your CPC described its data collection programmes?</p>	Yes or No		<p>If “Yes”, please provide the information here, or if the information has been reported to ICCAT through means other than this check sheet, please indicate where.</p> <p>If “No” the reason, and any implementation steps the CPC plans to take.</p> <p>(“N/A” is not a permissible response).</p>

18-06

BYC

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO REPLACE RECOMMENDATION 16-13 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 Recommendation by ICCAT on Compliance with Existing Measures on Shark Conservation and Management (Rec. 12-05) and Recommendation by ICCAT on Improvement of Compliance Review of Conservation and Management Measures regarding Sharks Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries (Rec. 16-13), which required CPCs to report on their implementation of and compliance with the shark conservation and management measures;

RECOGNIZING the need to improve the means to facilitate review process of implementation of and compliance with the shark conservation and management measures, while minimizing the reporting burden on CPCs;

DESIRING to streamline ICCAT reporting requirements, including by eliminating redundancies;

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

1. All CPCs shall submit to the ICCAT Secretariat, with their Annual Reports, details of their implementation of and compliance with shark conservation and management measures using the check sheet in **Annex 1**, as may be revised by the ICCAT Secretariat in consultation with the COC and PA4 Chairs to reflect new shark measures adopted by the Commission.
2. If there are no changes from the previous year in a CPC's implementation of ICCAT shark measures covered by the check sheet in **Annex 1** and no additional reporting fields have been included to reflect new shark measures, the CPC shall not be required to submit a shark check sheet, provided that it affirms in its Annual Report that there are no changes. If there are changes from the previous year in a CPC's implementation, or the additional reporting fields have been included in the shark check sheet to reflect new shark measures, the CPC shall only be required to submit such updates regarding implementation or responses to new reporting fields with their Annual Reports. However, CPCs shall submit updated shark check sheets in full in the years when the Compliance Committee is scheduled to prioritize review of the shark check sheets in accordance with paragraph 4.
3. 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.
4. The Compliance Committee meeting shall prioritize review of CPC shark check sheets on an ICCAT meeting cycle as determined by the Committee, without prejudice to the competency of the Committee to consider shark measure implementation issues at annual meetings during other years as appropriate.
5. This Recommendation repeals the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Compliance with Existing Measures on Shark Conservation and Management* (Rec. 12-05) and the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Improvement of Compliance Review of Conservation and Management Measures regarding Sharks Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries* (Rec. 16-13).

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.

<i>Rec. #</i>	<i>Para #</i>	<i>Requirement</i>	<i>Status of implementation</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations, as applicable (include text, references, or links to where this information is codified)</i>	<i>Note</i>
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. N/A is only permitted in the case of CPCs that have confirmed to the Secretariat that there was no relevant shark catch, in accordance with procedures implementing Rec. 11-15.
	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.

<i>Rec. #</i>	<i>Para #</i>	<i>Requirement</i>	<i>Status of implementation</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations, as applicable (include text, references, or links to where this information is codified)</i>	<i>Note</i>
		(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.

Rec. #	Para #	Requirement	Status of implementation	Relevant domestic laws or regulations, as applicable (include text, references, or links to where this information is codified)	Note
	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 (<i>Lamna nasus</i>) and North Atlantic shortfin mako sharks (<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>)	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 (<i>Alopias superciliosus</i>) 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	Yes or No or N/A		If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.

<i>Rec. #</i>	<i>Para #</i>	<i>Requirement</i>	<i>Status of implementation</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations, as applicable (include text, references, or links to where this information is codified)</i>	<i>Note</i>
		along side for taking on board the vessel			
	4	CPCs shall require the collection and submission of Task I and Task II data for <i>Alopias</i> spp other than <i>A. superciliosus</i> in accordance with ICCAT data reporting requirements. The number of discards and releases of <i>A. superciliosus</i> 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,	Yes or No or N/A		If "Yes", explain ways to monitor the compliance. If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.

<i>Rec. #</i>	<i>Para #</i>	<i>Requirement</i>	<i>Status of implementation</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations, as applicable (include text, references, or links to where this information is codified)</i>	<i>Note</i>
		transshipping, landing, storing, selling, or offering for sale any part or whole carcass of oceanic whitetip sharks in any fishery			
	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 <i>Sphyrna tiburo</i>), 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	Yes or No or N/A		If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.

Rec. #	Para #	Requirement	Status of implementation	Relevant domestic laws or regulations, as applicable (include text, references, or links to where this information is codified)	Note
		brought alongside the vessel			
	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 <i>Sphyrna</i>	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 <i>Sphyrna tiburo</i>) 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.

<i>Rec. #</i>	<i>Para #</i>	<i>Requirement</i>	<i>Status of implementation</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations, as applicable (include text, references, or links to where this information is codified)</i>	<i>Note</i>
	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	Yes or No or N/A		If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.

<i>Rec. #</i>	<i>Para #</i>	<i>Requirement</i>	<i>Status of implementation</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations, as applicable (include text, references, or links to where this information is codified)</i>	<i>Note</i>
		increase the survival rate of silky sharks incidentally caught			
	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.

<i>Rec. #</i>	<i>Para #</i>	<i>Requirement</i>	<i>Status of implementation</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations, as applicable (include text, references, or links to where this information is codified)</i>	<i>Note</i>
		(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	Yes or No or N/A		If "Yes", explain the details of the actions. If "No" or "N/A", explain the reason.

<i>Rec. #</i>	<i>Para #</i>	<i>Requirement</i>	<i>Status of implementation</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations, as applicable (include text, references, or links to where this information is codified)</i>	<i>Note</i>
		direct and incidental catches			
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.

<i>Rec. #</i>	<i>Para #</i>	<i>Requirement</i>	<i>Status of implementation</i>	<i>Relevant domestic laws or regulations, as applicable (include text, references, or links to where this information is codified)</i>	<i>Note</i>
	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.

**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 (COC);

NOTING that in 2016, ICCAT adopted *Resolution by ICCAT to Facilitate an Effective and Efficient Compliance Process* (Res. 16-22), which mandates the COC Chair and Secretariat staff to review reports, prepare compliance summary tables, and aim to circulate the tables to the Commission three weeks prior to the Commission meeting;

CONCERNED that the October 1 deadline to submit complete Annual Reports established in *Recommendation 16-16* does not allow sufficient time to the Secretariat to process the reports, seek corrections from CPCs, compile the reports, and for the COC Chair and Secretariat to then sufficiently review all Annual Reports and other relevant documents and develop and circulate the first draft of the Compliance Summary tables by the deadline set forth in Resolution 16-22;

FURTHER NOTING that the separate deadlines for Part I and Part II of the reports results in administrative delays for the Secretariat, which in turn delays the review of those reports under Resolution 16-22;

CONSIDERING that an earlier and single submission date for the entire Annual Report (both Parts I and II) and other reports that contain information relevant to assessing CPC compliance will afford a more timely review of this information and in turn provide CPCs with more time to develop responses to issues raised regarding their compliance with ICCAT requirements;

FURTHER NOTING that a change in the Annual Report deadline necessitates changes to deadlines of certain other reports, as the Annual Report requires CPCs to report on their submission of these other reports;

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

1. The first paragraph of Paragraph 2 of the *Revised Guidelines for the Preparation of Annual Reports* (Ref. 12-13), shall be replaced with the following text:

“Complete Annual Reports, comprising Part I and Part II, should be submitted by September 15 of each year, unless the SCRS meeting takes place prior to September 22, in which case Part I should be submitted to the SCRS one week before the start of the SCRS Plenary Session (i.e., by 9:00 am on the first day of the Species Groups meetings), as notified to the Commission by the Secretariat.”

2. Deadlines in the following ICCAT instruments shall be amended to September 15, as follows:
 - a) *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Program* (Rec. 01-21), paragraph 5, (data from the Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document, first semester currently due 1 October).
 - b) *Recommendation by ICCAT Establishing a Swordfish Statistical Document Program* (Rec. 01-22), paragraph 5, (data from the Swordfish Statistical Document, first semester currently due 1 October).

3. The Secretariat shall make these modifications in the published versions of the instruments amended by paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Recommendation.
4. In accordance with Recommendation 16-16, the Secretariat shall modify paragraph 1 of Recommendation 11-11 to reflect the August 15 deadline for compliance reporting tables established in Rec. 16-13 and remove Recommendation 16-16 from the Compendium.

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON ESTABLISHING A LIST OF VESSELS PRESUMED TO HAVE CARRIED OUT ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING ACTIVITIES

RECALLING that the FAO Council adopted on 23 June 2001 an International Plan of Action to prevent, to deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IPOA-IUU). This plan stipulates that the identification of the vessels carrying out Illegal Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) activities should follow agreed procedures and be applied in an equitable, transparent and non-discriminatory way,

CONCERNED by the fact that IUU fishing activities in the ICCAT area continue, and these activities diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures,

FURTHER CONCERNED that there is evidence of a large number of vessel owners engaged in such fishing activities which have re-flagged their vessels to avoid compliance with ICCAT management and conservation measures, and to evade the ICCAT-adopted non-discriminatory trade measures,

DETERMINED to address the challenge of an increase in IUU fishing activities by way of counter-measures to be applied in respect to the vessels, without prejudice to further measures adopted in respect of flag States under the relevant ICCAT instruments,

CONSIDERING the results of the ICCAT *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Measures to Combat IUU Fishing, which was held in Tokyo from 27 to 31 May 2002,

CONSCIOUS of the urgent need to address the issue of large-scale fishing vessels as well as other vessels conducting IUU fishing and fishing related activities in support of IUU fishing,

NOTING that the situation must be addressed in the light of all relevant international fisheries instruments and in accordance with the relevant rights and obligations established in the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement, and

DESIRING to streamline and improve IUU listing procedures and requirements in previous ICCAT recommendations and resolutions.

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

Definition of IUU activities

1. For the purposes of this Recommendation, vessels flying the flag of a Contracting Party or a Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity (hereinafter referred to as CPC), or a non-CPC, are presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities in the ICCAT Convention area, *inter alia*, when a CPC presents evidence that such vessels:
 - a) Harvest tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention area and are not registered on the relevant ICCAT list of vessels authorized to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention area;
 - b) Harvest tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention area, and the vessel's flag State is without quota, catch limit or effort allocation under relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures;
 - c) Do not record or report their catches made in the ICCAT Convention area, or make false reports;
 - d) Take or land undersized fish in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures;
 - e) Fish during closed fishing periods or in closed areas in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures;
 - f) Use prohibited fishing gear or fishing methods in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures;
 - g) Transship or participate in other operations, such as re-supplying or re-fueling, with vessels included in the IUU vessels list;

- h) Harvest tuna or tuna-like species in the waters under the national jurisdiction of the coastal States in the Convention area without authorization or infringe on that State's laws and regulations, without prejudice to the sovereign rights of coastal States to take measures against such vessels;
- i) Are without nationality and harvest tuna or tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention area, and/or
- j) Engage in fishing or fishing related activities contrary to any other ICCAT conservation and management measures.

Information on alleged IUU activities

2. CPCs shall transmit every year to the Executive Secretary, at least 70 days before the annual meeting, information on any vessels presumed to be carrying out IUU fishing activities within the last three years, accompanied by all available supporting evidence concerning the presumption of IUU fishing activity and vessel identification information.

This information on vessels shall be based on the information collected by CPCs, *inter alia*, under relevant ICCAT recommendations and resolutions. CPCs shall submit available information on the vessel and the IUU fishing activity in the format attached as **Addendum 1** of this Recommendation.

Upon receipt of such information, the Executive Secretary shall promptly send this information to all CPCs and to any non-CPC concerned and request that, where appropriate, CPCs and any such non-CPC investigate the alleged IUU activity and/or monitor the vessels.

The Executive Secretary shall request the flag State to notify the owner of the vessel regarding the CPC's submission of the vessel for its inclusion in the Draft IUU List and of the consequences that may result if they are included on the Final IUU Vessel List adopted by the Commission.

Development of Draft IUU List

3. On the basis of the information received pursuant to paragraph 2, the ICCAT Executive Secretary shall draw up a Draft IUU List in conformity with **Addendum 2**. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall transmit the Draft IUU List, together with all the information provided, to all CPCs, and to non-CPCs whose vessels are included on these lists, at least 55 days before the annual meeting. CPCs and non-CPCs shall transmit any comments, including any evidence showing that the listed vessels did not engage in any activity described in paragraph 1, or any actions taken to address such activity, at least 30 days before the annual meeting of ICCAT.

Upon receipt of the Draft IUU List, CPCs shall closely monitor the vessels on that List and shall promptly submit to the Secretariat any information they may have related to the vessels' activities and possible changes of name, flag, call sign or registered owner.

Development and adoption of Final IUU List

4. Two weeks in advance of the ICCAT annual meeting, the Executive Secretary shall recirculate to the CPCs and non-CPCs concerned the Draft IUU List, all information received pursuant to paragraphs 2 and 3, and any other information obtained by the Executive Secretary.
5. CPCs may at any time, and preferably before the annual meeting, submit to the Executive Secretary any additional information that might be relevant for the establishment of the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall promptly circulate any such additional information to all CPCs and to the non-CPCs concerned.
6. The Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) shall examine, each year, the Draft IUU List, as well as the information referred to in paragraphs 2, 3, 4, and 5. The results of this examination may, if necessary, be referred to the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee.

The PWG shall propose to remove a vessel from the Draft IUU List if it determines that:

- a) The vessel did not take part in any IUU fishing activities described in paragraph 1, or

- b)
- i) The flag CPC or non-CPC has adopted measures so that this vessel conforms with ICCAT conservation measures, and
 - ii) The flag CPC or non-CPC has and will continue to assume effectively its responsibilities with respect to this vessel in particular as regards the monitoring and control of the fishing activities executed by this vessel in the ICCAT Convention area, and
 - iii) Effective action has been taken in response to the IUU fishing activities in question, including, *inter alia*, prosecution and imposition of sanctions of adequate severity, or
- c) The vessel has changed ownership and that the new owner can establish the previous owner no longer has any legal, financial or real interests in the vessel or exercises control over it and that the new owner has not participated in IUU fishing.
7. Following the examination referred to in paragraph 6, at each ICCAT annual meeting, the PWG shall develop a Proposed IUU Vessel List, noting which, if any, vessels are proposed for removal from the ICCAT IUU Vessel List adopted at the previous annual meeting and the reasons therefor, and submit it to the Commission for adoption as the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List.

Actions following adoption of Final IUU Vessel List

8. On adoption of the Final IUU Vessel List, the Executive Secretary shall request CPCs and non-CPCs whose vessels appear on the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List to:
- notify the owner of the vessel identified on the Final IUU Vessel List of its inclusion on the list and the consequences which result from being included on the list, as referred to in paragraph 9;
 - take all the necessary measures to eliminate these IUU fishing activities, including if necessary, the withdrawal of the registration or of the fishing licenses of these vessels, and to inform the Commission of the measures taken in this respect.
9. CPCs shall take all necessary measures, under their applicable legislation to:
- ensure that the fishing vessels, support vessels, refuelling vessels, the mother-ships and the cargo vessels flying their flag do not assist in any way, engage in fishing processing operations or participate in any transshipment or joint fishing operations with vessels included on the IUU Vessels List;
 - ensure that IUU vessels are not authorized to land, tranship re-fuel, re-supply, or engage in other commercial transactions; prohibit the entry into their ports of vessels included on the IUU list, except in case of *force majeure*, unless vessels are allowed entry into port for the exclusive purpose of inspection and effective enforcement action;
 - ensure the inspection of vessels on the IUU list, if such vessels are otherwise found in their ports, to the extent practicable;
 - prohibit the chartering of a vessel included on the IUU vessels list;
 - refuse to grant their flag to vessels included in the IUU list, except if the vessel has changed owner and the new owner has provided sufficient evidence demonstrating the previous owner or operator has no further legal, beneficial or financial interest in, or control of, the vessel, or having taken into account all relevant facts, the flag CPC determines that granting the vessel its flag will not result in IUU fishing;
 - prohibit the import, or landing and/or transshipment, of tuna and tuna-like species from vessels included in the IUU list;
 - encourage the importers, transporters and other sectors concerned, to refrain from transaction and transshipment of tuna and tuna-like species caught by vessels included in the IUU list;

- collect and exchange with other CPCs any appropriate information with the aim of searching for, controlling and preventing false documentation (including import/export certificates) regarding tunas and tuna-like species from vessels included in the IUU list; and
 - monitor vessels included in the IUU list and promptly submit any information to the Executive Secretary related to their activities and possible changes of name, flag, call sign and/or registered owner.
10. The Executive Secretary will ensure publicity of the Final IUU Vessel List adopted by ICCAT pursuant to paragraph 8, in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality requirements, and through electronic means, by placing it, along with any additional supporting information on the vessels and IUU activities, on a dedicated portion of the ICCAT website, to be updated as information changes or additional relevant information becomes available. Furthermore, the ICCAT Executive Secretary will transmit the Final IUU Vessel List and supporting information on newly added vessels promptly to other RFMOs for the purposes of enhanced co-operation between ICCAT and these organizations in order to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing.

Intersessional modification of ICCAT's Final IUU Vessel List

Incorporation of IUU Vessel Lists of other RFMOs

11. Upon receipt of the final IUU vessel list established by another RFMO² and supporting information considered by that RFMO, and any other information regarding the listing determination, such as relevant sections of the RFMO's meeting report, the Executive Secretary shall circulate this information to the CPCs and to any relevant non-CPC. Vessels that have been included on the respective lists shall be included on the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List, unless any Contracting Party objects to the inclusion on the Final ICCAT IUU List within 30 days of the date of transmittal by the Executive Secretary on the grounds that:

- a) there is satisfactory information to establish that:
 - i. The vessel did not engage in the IUU fishing activities identified by the other RFMO, or
 - ii. That effective action has been taken in response to the IUU fishing activities in question, including, *inter alia*, prosecution, and imposition of sanctions of adequate severity that have been complied with,
 - b) There is insufficient supporting information and other information regarding the listing determination to establish that none of the conditions in sub-paragraph 11.a) above have been met.
- or
- c) In the case of vessels listed by a non-tuna RFMO, there is an insufficient nexus to the conservation and management of ICCAT species to warrant cross-listing.

In the event of an objection to a vessel listed by another RFMO being included on the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List pursuant to this paragraph, such vessel shall be placed on the Draft IUU Vessel List and considered by the PWG pursuant to paragraph 6.

12. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall implement paragraph 11 in accordance with the following procedures:
- a) The ICCAT Secretariat shall maintain appropriate contacts with the Secretariats of other RFMOs in order to obtain copies of these RFMOs' IUU vessel lists in a timely manner upon adoption or amendment, including by requesting a copy of these RFMOs' IUU vessel lists annually upon conclusion of the RFMO's meeting at which its final IUU list is adopted.

² The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), the North Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO), the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO), and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).

- b) As soon as possible after adoption or amendment of an IUU vessel list by another RFMO, the ICCAT Secretariat shall collect all supporting documentation available from that RFMO regarding the listing/delisting determinations.
- c) Once the ICCAT Secretariat has received/collected the information outlined in paragraphs (a) and (b), it shall, consistent with paragraph 11 of this Recommendation, promptly circulate the other RFMO's IUU vessel list, supporting information, and any other relevant information regarding the listing determination to all CPCs. The requisite circular shall clearly state the reason the information is being provided, explain that ICCAT Contracting Parties have 30 days from the date of the circular to object to the inclusion of the vessels on the ICCAT IUU vessel list, and that absent any such objection the vessel will be added at the expiration of the 30 day period to the Final IUU Vessel List.
- d) The ICCAT Secretariat shall add any new vessels contained in the other RFMOs' IUU vessel list to the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List at the end of the 30-day period provided no objection to such inclusion is received from a Contracting Party pursuant to paragraph 11 of this Recommendation.
- e) Where a vessel has been included on the ICCAT Final IUU Vessel List solely due to its inclusion on another RFMO's IUU Vessel List, the ICCAT Secretariat shall immediately remove that vessel from the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List when it has been deleted by the RFMO that originally listed it.
- f) Upon the addition or deletion of vessels from the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List pursuant to paragraph 11 or 12(e) of this Recommendation, the ICCAT Secretariat shall promptly circulate the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List as amended to all ICCAT CPCs and non-CPCs concerned.

Intersessional removal from the Final IUU Vessel List

- 13. A CPC or non-CPC whose vessel appears on the Final IUU Vessel List that wishes to request the removal of its vessel from the Final IUU Vessel List during the intersessional period shall submit this request to the ICCAT Executive Secretary no later than 15 July of each year accompanied by information to demonstrate that it meets one or more of the grounds for removal specified in paragraph 6.
- 14. On the basis of the information received by the 15 July deadline, the Executive Secretary will transmit the removal request, with all supporting information to the Contracting Parties within 15 days following receipt of the removal request.
- 15. The Contracting Parties shall examine the request to remove the vessel and reply within 30 days following the notification by the Executive Secretary if they object to the removal of the vessel from the Final IUU Vessel List.
- 16. The result of the examination of the request by mail will be checked by the Executive Secretary at the end of the 30-day period following the date of the notification by the Executive Secretary referred to in paragraph 15.

If a Contracting Party objects to the removal request, the Executive Secretary shall maintain the vessel on the Final ICCAT IUU List and the removal request shall be forwarded to the PWG for consideration at the annual meeting, if requested by the CPC seeking intersessional removal. If no Contracting Party objects to request to remove the vessel, the Executive Secretary shall promptly remove the vessel concerned from the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List, as published on the ICCAT website.

- 17. The Executive Secretary shall promptly communicate the result of the delisting process to all CPCs as well as non-CPCs concerned. Moreover, the ICCAT Executive Secretary shall forward the decision to remove the vessel to other RFMOs.

General dispositions

18. This Recommendation shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to fish processing vessels, tug and towing vessels, vessels engaged in transshipment, and support vessels, and other vessels engaged in fishing related activities managed by ICCAT.
19. This Recommendation repeals and replaces 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) and the *Resolution Establishing Guidelines for the Cross-Listing of Vessels Contained on IUU Vessel Lists of Other Tuna RFMOs on the ICCAT IUU Vessel List in Accordance with Recommendation 11-18* (Res. 14-11).

ICCAT reporting form for IUU activity

Pursuant to paragraph 2 of this Recommendation, attached are details of alleged IUU activity and available vessel information.

A. Details of vessel

(Please detail information on the vessel and the incidents(s) in the format below, where such information is applicable and available)

Item		Available Information
A	Name of vessel and previous names	
B	Flag and previous flags	
C	Owner and previous owners, including beneficial owner	
D	Owner's place of registration	
E	Operator and previous operators	
F	Call sign and previous call signs	
G	IMO number	
H	Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI), or, if not applicable, any other vessel identifier	
I	Length overall	
J	Photographs	
K	Date first included on the ICCAT IUU list	
L	Date of alleged IUU fishing activities	
M	Position of alleged IUU fishing activities	
N	Summary of alleged IUU activities (see also section B)	
O	Summary of any actions known to have been taken in response to the activities	
P	Outcome of any actions taken	
Q	Other relevant information, as appropriate (e.g., possible false flags or vessel names used, <i>modus operandi</i> , etc.)	

B. Details of alleged IUU activity

(Indicate with an "X" the applicable elements of the activity and provide relevant details including date, location, source of information. Extra information can be provided in an attachment if necessary.)

Rec. XX para. xx	Vessel fished for species covered by the ICCAT Convention within the Convention area and:	Indicate and provide details
a	Harvest tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention area and are not registered on the relevant ICCAT list of vessels authorized to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention area	
b	Harvest tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention area, and the vessel's whose flag State is without quotas, catch limit or effort allocation under relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures	
c	Do not record or report their catches made in the ICCAT Convention area, or make false reports	
d	Take or land undersized fish in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures	
e	Fish during closed fishing periods or in closed areas in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures	
f	Use prohibited fishing gear or fishing methods in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures	
g	Transship with, or participate in other joint operations, such as re-supplying or re-fueling, with vessels included in the IUU vessels list	
h	Harvest tuna or tuna-like species in the waters under the national jurisdiction of the coastal States in the Convention area without authorization and/or infringes on that State's laws and regulations, without prejudice to the sovereign rights of coastal States to take measures against such vessels	
i	Are without nationality and harvest tunas or tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention area	
j	Engage in fishing or fishing related activities contrary to any other ICCAT conservation and management measures	

Information to be included in all IUU Lists (Draft and Final)

The Draft IUU List shall include information on vessels listed on ICCAT's Final IUU List as well as information on new vessels submitted by CPCs for listing. The Draft IUU List shall contain the following details, where applicable and available:

- i) Name of vessel and previous name(s);
- ii) Flag of vessel and previous flag(s);
- iii) Name and address of owner of vessel and previous owners, including beneficial owners, and owners' place of registration;
- iv) Operator of vessel and previous operator(s);
- v) Call sign of vessel and previous call sign;
- vi) Lloyds/IMO number;
- vii) Photographs of the vessel;
- viii) Date vessel was first included on the IUU List;
- ix) Summary of activities which justify inclusion of the vessel on the List, together with references to all relevant documents informing of and evidencing those activities;
- x) Other relevant information.

18-09

GEN

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON PORT STATE MEASURES TO PREVENT, DETER
AND ELIMINATE ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING**

RECALLING the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing;

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

ACKNOWLEDGING that port State measures provide a powerful and cost effective means of preventing, deterring, and eliminating IUU fishing;

RECALLING *Recommendation by ICCAT for a Revised ICCAT Port Inspection Scheme* (Rec. 97-10);

ALSO RECALLING the *Recommendation by ICCAT further Amending the Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a List of Vessels Presumed to have carried out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities in the ICCAT Convention Area* (Rec. 11-18) and the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Ban on Landings and Transshipments of Vessels from non-Contracting Parties Identified as Having Committed a Serious Infringement* (Rec. 98-11);

EMPHASIZING the importance of ensuring that the challenges faced by developing CPCs in the implementation of port State measures are adequately addressed and maximizing the use of funding established under 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) in that regard;

AWARE of the ongoing work of the Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity Building and Assistance established under the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Clarify and Supplement the Process for Seeking Capacity Building Assistance Pursuant to ICCAT Recommendation 14-08* (Rec. 16-18); and

DESIRING to strengthen ICCAT's monitoring, control, and surveillance regime to promote implementation of and compliance with conservation and management measures;

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

Definitions

1. For the purposes of this Recommendation:

- a) "Fishing" means searching for, attracting, locating, catching, taking or harvesting fish or any activity that can be reasonably expected to result in the attracting, locating, catching, taking or harvesting of fish;
- b) "Fishing related activities" means any operation in support of, or in preparation for, fishing, including the landing, packaging, processing, transshipping or transporting of fish that have not previously been landed at a port, as well as the provisioning of personnel, fuel, gear and other supplies at sea;
- c) "Fishing vessel" refers to any vessel, ship of another type or boat, used for, equipped to be used for, or intended to be used for, fishing or fishing related activities; and
- d) "Port" includes offshore terminals and marine areas of the port, and other installations for landing, transshipping, packaging, processing, refueling or resupplying.

Scope

2. Nothing in this Recommendation shall prejudice the rights, jurisdiction and duties of CPCs under international law. In particular, nothing in this Recommendation shall be construed to affect the exercise by CPCs of their authority over their ports in accordance with international law, including their right to deny entry thereto as well as to adopt more stringent measures than those provided for in this Recommendation.

This Recommendation shall be interpreted and applied in conformity with international law, taking into account applicable international rules and standards, including those established through the International Maritime Organization, as well as other international instruments.

CPCs shall fulfill in good faith the obligations assumed pursuant to this Recommendation and shall exercise the rights recognized herein in a manner that would not constitute an abuse of right.

3. With a view to monitor compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures, each CPC, in its capacity as a port CPC, shall apply this Recommendation for an effective scheme of port inspections in respect of foreign fishing vessels carrying ICCAT-managed species and/or fish products originating from such species that have not been previously landed, hereinafter referred to as "foreign fishing vessels".
4. A CPC may, in its capacity as a port CPC, decide not to apply this Recommendation to foreign fishing vessels chartered by its nationals operating under its authority and returning to its port. Such chartered fishing vessels shall be subject to measures by the chartering CPC which are as effective as measures applied in relation to vessels entitled to fly its flag.
5. Without prejudice to specifically applicable provisions of other ICCAT Recommendations, and except as otherwise provided in this Recommendation, this Recommendation shall apply to foreign fishing vessels equal to or greater than 12 meters in length overall.
6. Each CPC shall subject foreign fishing vessels below 12 meters length overall, foreign fishing vessels operating under charter as referred to under paragraph 4, and fishing vessels entitled to fly its flag to measures that are at least as effective in combating IUU fishing as measures applied to vessels referred to in paragraph 3.
7. CPCs shall take necessary action to inform fishing vessels entitled to fly their flag of this and other relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures.

Points of Contact

8. Each CPC that grants access to its ports to foreign fishing vessels shall designate a point of contact for the purposes of receiving notifications pursuant to paragraph 13 of this Recommendation. Each CPC shall designate a point of contact for the purpose of receiving inspection reports pursuant to paragraph 35(b) of this Recommendation. Each CPC shall transmit the name and contact information for its points of contact to the ICCAT Secretariat no later than 30 days following the entry into force of this Recommendation. Any subsequent changes shall be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat at least 14 days before such changes take effect. The ICCAT Secretariat shall promptly notify CPCs of any such change.
9. The ICCAT Secretariat shall establish and maintain a register of points of contact based on the lists submitted by the CPCs. The register and any subsequent changes shall be published promptly on the ICCAT website.

Designated ports

10. Each CPC that grants access to its ports to foreign fishing vessels shall:
 - a) Designate its ports to which foreign fishing vessels may request entry pursuant to this Recommendation;

- b) Ensure that it has sufficient capacity to conduct inspections in every designated port pursuant to this Recommendation;
 - c) Provide to the ICCAT Secretariat within 30 days from the date of entry into force of this Recommendation a list of designated ports. Any subsequent changes to this list shall be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat at least 14 days before the change takes effect.
11. The ICCAT Secretariat shall establish and maintain a register of designated ports based on the lists submitted by the port CPCs. The register and any subsequent change shall be published promptly on the ICCAT web site.
12. Each CPC that does not grant access to its ports to foreign vessels shall so indicate in its Annual Report submitted under Ref. 12-13. Should it subsequently decide to grant access to its ports to foreign fishing vessels, it shall submit the information required under paragraphs 8 and 10(c) to the Secretariat at least 14 days before the change takes effect.

Advance request for port entry

13. Each port CPC that grants access to its ports to foreign fishing vessels shall require foreign fishing vessels seeking to enter its ports to provide the following information at least 72 hours before the estimated time of arrival at the port:
- a) Vessel identification (External identification; Name; Flag State; ICCAT Record No., if any; IMO No., if any; and IRCS);
 - b) Name of the designated port, as referred to in the ICCAT register, to which it seeks entry and the purpose of the port call (e.g., resupplying, landing or transshipment);
 - c) Fishing authorization or, where appropriate, any other authorization held by the vessel to support fishing operations on ICCAT species and/or fish products originating from such species, or to transship related fishery products;
 - d) Estimated date and time of arrival in port;
 - e) The estimated quantities in kilograms of each ICCAT species and/or fish products originating from such species held on board, with associated catch areas. If no ICCAT species and/or fish products originating from such species are held on board, a report indicating that (i.e., a "nil" report) shall be transmitted;
 - f) The estimated quantities for each ICCAT species and/or fish products originating from such species in kilograms to be landed or transshipped, with associated catch areas.

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

14. Each CPC shall require any vessels flying its flag that is seeking entry to, or is in, the port of another CPC to:
- a) comply with obligations implemented by that port CPC pursuant to this Recommendation including obligations for the Master to provide information under paragraph 13; and
 - b) cooperate with the port CPC in inspections carried out pursuant to this Recommendation.
15. The port CPC may prescribe a longer or shorter advance notification period than specified in paragraph 13, taking into account, *inter alia*, the type of fishery products landed in its ports, the distance between the fishing grounds and its ports, and its resources and procedures for considering and verifying the information. In such a case, the port CPC shall inform the ICCAT Secretariat of its advance notification period, and the reasons therefor, within 30 days from the date of entry into force of this Recommendation. Any subsequent changes shall be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat at least 14 days before the change takes effect.

Port entry, authorization or denial

16. After receiving the relevant information pursuant to paragraph 13, as well as such other information as it may require to determine whether the foreign fishing vessel requesting entry into its port has engaged in IUU fishing, the port CPC shall decide whether to authorize or deny the entry of the vessel into its port.
17. Without prejudice to paragraph 19, when a CPC has sufficient proof that a foreign fishing vessel seeking entry to its port has engaged in IUU fishing or fishing related activities in support of such fishing the CPC shall deny that vessel entry into its port and shall communicate this decision to the master of the vessel or its representative.
18. In the event that the port CPC decides to deny the entry of the vessel into its port, it shall so notify the vessel or its representative and shall also communicate the decision to the flag State of the vessel, to the ICCAT Secretariat for posting on the secure part of the ICCAT website and, as appropriate and to the extent possible, to relevant coastal States, regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements (RFMO/As) and other inter-governmental organizations (IGOs).
19. Notwithstanding paragraph 17, a port CPC may allow entry to its port of a vessel referred to in that paragraph exclusively for the purpose of inspecting it and taking other appropriate actions in accordance with international law that are at least as effective as denial of port entry in preventing, deterring and eliminating IUU fishing and fishing related activities in support of such fishing.
20. Where a vessel referred to in paragraph 17 is in port for any reason, the port CPC shall deny such vessel the use of its ports for landing, transshipping, packaging, processing and for other port services including, *inter alia*, refueling and resupplying, maintenance and dry docking. Paragraph 22 applies *mutatis mutandis* in such cases. Denial of such use of ports shall be in conformity with international law.

Force majeure or distress

21. Nothing in this Recommendation affects the entry of foreign fishing vessels to port in accordance with international law for reasons of Force Majeure or distress, or prevents a port CPC from permitting entry into port to a vessel exclusively for the purpose of rendering assistance to persons, ships or aircraft in danger or distress.

Use of ports

22. Where a foreign fishing vessel has entered one of its ports, the port State CPC shall deny, pursuant to its laws and regulations and consistent with international law, including this Recommendation, that vessel the use of the port for landing, transshipping, packaging, or processing fish that have not been previously landed and for other port services, including, *inter alia*, refueling and resupplying, maintenance and dry docking, if:
 - a) The port CPC finds that the vessel does not have a valid and applicable authorization to engage in fishing and fishing related activities in the ICCAT Convention area;
 - b) The port CPC receives clear evidence that the fish on board was taken in contravention of ICCAT conservation and management measures;
 - c) The flag CPC does not confirm within a reasonable period of time, on the request of the port CPC, that the fish on board was taken in accordance with relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures; or
 - d) The port CPC has reasonable grounds to believe that the vessel otherwise engaged in IUU fishing, or fishing related activities in support of such fishing, in the ICCAT Convention area, including in support of a vessel included in ICCAT's *List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried Out IUU Fishing Activities in the ICCAT Convention Area and other areas*, unless the vessel can establish:

- i. that it was acting in a manner consistent with relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures,
 - ii. in the case of provision of personnel, fuel, gear and other supplies at sea to a vessel on ICCAT's IUU list, that the vessel that was provisioned was not, at the time of provisioning, included in the ICCAT IUU list.
23. Notwithstanding paragraph 22, the port CPC shall not deny a vessel referred to in that paragraph the use of port services:
- a) essential to the safety or health of the crew or the safety of the vessel, provided these needs are duly proven, or
 - b) where appropriate, for the scrapping of the vessel.
24. Where a port CPC has denied a vessel the use of its ports, it shall promptly notify the vessel or its representative; the flag State of the vessel; the ICCAT Secretariat, for posting on the secure part of the ICCAT website, and, as appropriate and to the extent possible, relevant coastal States, RFMO/As, and other IGOs.
25. A port CPC shall withdraw its denial of the use of its port only if the port CPC is satisfied that there is sufficient proof to show that the grounds on which the use was denied were inadequate or erroneous, or that such grounds no longer apply.
26. Where a port CPC has withdrawn its denial of the use of its port, it shall promptly notify those to whom a notification was issued pursuant to paragraph 24.
27. In case the port CPC decides to authorize the entry of the vessel into its port in accordance with paragraph 19, the provisions set forth in the following section on port inspection shall apply.

Port inspections

28. Inspections shall be carried out by properly qualified inspectors of a competent authority of the port CPC.
29. Each year CPCs shall inspect at least 5% of landing and transshipment operations in their designated ports as are made by foreign fishing vessels.
30. In determining which foreign fishing vessels to inspect, the port CPC shall, in accordance with its domestic law, give priority to:
- a) a vessel that has failed to provide complete and accurate information as required in paragraph 13;
 - b) a vessel that has been denied port entry by another CPC in accordance with this Recommendation;
 - c) requests from other CPCs or relevant RFMO/As that a particular vessel be inspected, particularly where such requests are supported by evidence of IUU fishing, or fishing related activities in support of such fishing, by the vessel in question;
 - d) other vessels for which clear grounds exist for suspecting that a vessel has engaged in IUU fishing or fishing related activities in support of such fishing, including information derived from inspection reports submitted under this scheme and information from other RFMO/As.

Inspection procedure

31. Each inspector shall carry a document of identity issued by the port CPC. In accordance with domestic laws, port CPC inspectors shall examine all relevant areas, decks and spaces of the fishing vessel, catches processed or otherwise, nets or other fishing gears, equipment both technical and electronic, records of transmissions and any documents, including fishing logbooks, Cargo Manifests and Mates Receipts and landing declarations in case of transshipment, relevant to verifying compliance with the ICCAT conservation and management measures. They may also question the Master, crew members, or any other person on the vessel being inspected. They may take copies of any documents they consider relevant.
32. In case the vessel is landing or transshipping ICCAT species, inspections shall involve the monitoring of the landing or transshipment and include a cross-check between the quantities by species notified in the prior notification message in paragraph 13 above and held on board. Inspections shall be carried out in such a way that the fishing vessel suffers the minimum interference and inconvenience, and that degradation of the quality of the catch is avoided, to the extent practicable.
33. On completion of the inspection, the port CPC inspector shall provide the Master of the foreign fishing vessel with the inspection report containing the findings of the inspection, including possible subsequent measures that could be taken by the port CPC, to be signed by the inspector and the master. The master's signature on the report shall serve only as acknowledgment of the receipt of a copy of the report. The Master shall be given the opportunity to add any comments or objection to the report, and to contact the competent authority of the flag State, in particular where the master has serious difficulties in understanding the content of the report. A copy of the report shall be provided to the Master.

Where the inspection includes a finding of potential non-compliance, the port CPC shall transmit a copy of the inspection report to the ICCAT Secretariat no later than 14 days following the date of completion of the inspection. If the inspection report cannot be transmitted within 14 days, the port CPC should notify the ICCAT Secretariat within the 14 day time period the reasons for the delay and when the report will be submitted.

In order to facilitate risk analysis by other CPCs, port CPCs are encouraged to transmit inspection reports that do not include findings of potential non-compliance as practicable.

34. Flag CPCs shall take necessary action to ensure that Masters facilitate safe access to the fishing vessel, cooperate with the competent authorities of the port CPC, facilitate the inspection and communication and do not obstruct, intimidate or interfere, or cause other persons to obstruct, intimidate or interfere with port CPC inspectors in the execution of their duties.

Procedure in the event of apparent infringements

35. If the information collected during the inspection provides evidence that a foreign fishing vessel has committed an infringement of the ICCAT conservation and management measures, the inspector shall:
 - a) record the infringement in the inspection report;
 - b) transmit the inspection report to the port CPC competent authority, which shall promptly forward a copy to the ICCAT Secretariat and to the flag State point of contact and, as appropriate, the relevant coastal State;
 - c) to the extent practicable, ensure safekeeping of the evidence pertaining to such infringement, including original documents where appropriate. If the port CPC refers the infringement to the flag State for further action, the port CPC shall promptly provide the evidence collected to the flag State.
36. Nothing in this Recommendation prevents a port CPC from taking actions that are in conformity with international law in addition to those specified in paragraph 38. The port CPC shall promptly notify the action taken to the flag State, the relevant coastal State, as applicable, and the ICCAT Secretariat, which shall promptly publish this information in the secure part of the ICCAT website.

37. Infringements that do not fall within the jurisdiction of the port CPC, and infringements referred to in paragraph 35 for which the port CPC has not taken action, shall be referred to the flag State and, as appropriate, the relevant coastal State. Upon receiving the copy of the inspection report and evidence, the flag CPC shall promptly investigate the infringement and notify the ICCAT Secretariat of the status of the investigation and of any enforcement action that may have been taken within 6 months of such receipt. If the flag CPC cannot notify the ICCAT Secretariat this status report within 6 months of such receipt, the flag CPC should notify the ICCAT Secretariat within the 6 month time period the reasons for the delay and when the status report will be submitted. The ICCAT Secretariat shall promptly publish this information in the secure part of the ICCAT website. CPCs shall include in their Annual Report (Ref. 12-13) information regarding the status of such investigations.
38. Should the inspection provide evidence that the inspected vessel has engaged in IUU activities as referred to in Rec. 18-08, the port CPC shall deny the vessel the use of port in accordance with paragraph 22, promptly report the case to the flag State, and the relevant coastal CPC, as applicable. The port CPC shall also notify as soon as possible the ICCAT Secretariat that the vessel has engaged in IUU fishing or fishing related activities, and provide supporting evidence. The ICCAT Secretariat shall include the vessel in the draft IUU list.

Requirements of developing CPCs

39. CPCs shall give full recognition to the special requirements of developing CPCs in relation to a port inspection scheme consistent with this Recommendation. CPCs shall, either directly or through the ICCAT Secretariat, provide assistance to developing CPCs in order to, *inter alia*:
- a) Develop their capacity including by providing technical assistance and funding to support and strengthen the development and implementation of an effective system of port inspection at national, regional and international levels and to ensure that a disproportionate burden resulting from the implementation of this Recommendation is not unnecessarily transferred to them;
 - b) Facilitate their participation in meetings and/or training programmes of relevant regional and international organizations that promote the effective development and implementation of a system of port inspection, including monitoring, control and surveillance, enforcement and legal proceedings for infractions and dispute settlements pursuant to this Recommendation; and
 - c) Either directly or through the ICCAT Secretariat, assess the special requirements of developing CPCs concerning the implementation of this Recommendation.

General provisions

40. CPCs are encouraged to enter into bilateral or multilateral agreements/arrangements that allow for an inspector exchange program designed to promote cooperation, share information, and educate each party's inspectors on inspection strategies and methodologies which promote compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures. Information regarding such programs, including a copy of such agreements or arrangements, should be included in Annual Reports of CPCs (Ref. 12-13).
41. Without prejudice to domestic laws of the port CPC, the flag CPC may, in the case of appropriate bilateral or multilateral agreements or arrangements with the port CPC or at the invitation of that CPC, send its own officials to accompany the inspectors of the port CPC and observe or take part in the inspection of its vessel.
42. Flag CPCs shall consider and act on reports of infringements from inspectors of a port CPC on a similar basis as the reports from their own inspectors, in accordance with their domestic laws. CPCs shall cooperate, in accordance with their domestic laws, in order to facilitate judicial or other proceedings arising from inspection reports as set out in this Recommendation.
43. The Commission shall review this Recommendation no later than its 2020 Annual Meeting and consider revisions to improve its effectiveness.
44. The *Recommendation by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme of Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port* (Rec. 12-07) is repealed and replaced by this Recommendation.

18-10

GEN

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT CONCERNING MINIMUM
STANDARDS FOR VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEMS IN THE ICCAT CONVENTION AREA**

RECALLING previous recommendations by ICCAT establishing minimum standards for satellite-based vessel monitoring systems (VMS), in particular Recommendation 03-14;

RECOGNIZING the developments in satellite-based VMS, and their utility within ICCAT;

RECOGNIZING the legitimate right of coastal States to monitor the vessels fishing in waters under their jurisdiction;

CONSIDERING that real-time transmission to the Fishing Monitoring Center (FMC) of the coastal State of VMS data of all the vessels (including catching, carrier and support vessels) flying the flag of a CPC authorised to fish ICCAT species facilitates monitoring, control and surveillance by the coastal State to ensure the effective implementation of ICCAT conservation and monitoring measures;

MINDFUL that the SCRS acknowledged in its 2017 report that the higher the frequency of reporting the more useful VMS data are and that a 4-hour frequency of transmission is insufficient to detect fishing activity for many gear types;

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

1. Notwithstanding stricter requirements that may apply in specific ICCAT fisheries, each flag Contracting Party, Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity (hereinafter referred to as CPC) shall implement a Vessel Monitoring System (hereinafter referred to as VMS) for its commercial fishing vessels exceeding 20 meters between perpendiculars or 24 meters length overall (LOA) as well as, beginning no later than 1 January 2020, those above 15 meters LOA authorized to fish in waters beyond jurisdiction of the flag CPC and:
 - a) Require its fishing vessels to be equipped with an autonomous, tamper-evident system that continuously, automatically, and independent of any intervention by the vessel, transmits messages to the FMC of the flag CPC to track the position, course, and speed of a fishing vessel by the flag CPC of that vessel.
 - b) Ensure that the satellite tracking device fitted on board the fishing vessel collects and transmits continuously to the FMC of the flag CPC the following data:
 - i) the vessel's identification;
 - ii) the geographical position of the vessel (longitude, latitude) with a margin of error lower than 500 meters, with a confidence interval of 99%; and
 - iii) the date and time.
 - c) Ensure that the FMC of the flag CPC receives an automatic notification if communication between the FMC and the satellite tracking device is interrupted.
 - d) Ensure, in cooperation with the coastal State, that the position messages transmitted by its vessels while operating in waters under the jurisdiction of that coastal State are also transmitted automatically and in real time to the FMC of the coastal State that has authorized the activity. In implementing this provision, due consideration should be given to minimizing the operational costs, technical difficulties, and administrative burden associated with transmission of these messages.

- e) In order to facilitate the transmission and receipt of position messages, as described in subparagraph 1(d), the FMC of the flag CPC and the FMC of the coastal State shall exchange their contact information and notify each other without delay of any changes to this information. The FMC of the coastal State shall notify the flag CPC FMC of any interruption in the reception of consecutive position messages. The transmission of position messages between the FMC of the flag CPC and that of the coastal State shall be carried out electronically using a secure communication system.
2. Each CPC shall take appropriate measures to ensure that the VMS messages are transmitted and received, as specified in paragraph 1, and use this information to continuously track the position of its vessels.
 3. Each CPC shall ensure that the masters of fishing vessels flying its flag ensure that the satellite tracking devices are permanently and continuously operational and that the information identified in paragraph 1b) is collected and transmitted³ at least once every hour for purse seine vessels and at least once every two hours for all other vessels⁴. In addition, CPCs shall require that their vessel operators ensure that:
 - a) the satellite tracking device is not tampered with in any way;
 - b) VMS data are not altered in any way;
 - c) the antennae connected to the satellite tracking device is not obstructed in any way;
 - d) the satellite tracking device is hardwired into the fishing vessel and the power supply is not intentionally interrupted in any way; and
 - e) the satellite tracking device is not removed from the vessel except for the purposes of repair or replacement.
 4. In the event of a technical failure or non-operation of the satellite tracking device fitted on board a fishing vessel, the device shall be repaired or replaced within one month from the time of the event, unless the vessel has been removed from the list of authorized LSFVs, where applicable, or for vessels not required to be included on ICCAT's authorized vessel list, the authorization to fish in areas beyond the jurisdiction of the flag CPC no longer applies. The vessel shall not be authorized to commence a fishing trip with a defective satellite tracking device. Furthermore, when a device stops functioning or has a technical failure during a fishing trip, the repair or the replacement shall take place as soon as the vessel enters a port; the fishing vessel shall not be authorized to commence a fishing trip without the satellite tracking device having been repaired or replaced.
 5. Each CPC shall ensure that a fishing vessel with a defective satellite tracking device shall communicate to the FMC, at least daily, reports containing the information in paragraph 1b) by other means of communication (radio, web-based reporting, electronic mail, telefax or telex).
 6. A CPC may allow a vessel to power down its satellite tracking device only if the vessel will not be fishing for an extended period of time (e.g., in dry dock for repairs), and it notifies the competent authorities of its flag CPC in advance.

The satellite tracking device must be re-activated, and collect and transmit at least one report, prior to the vessel leaving port.

7. CPCs are encouraged to extend the application of this Recommendation to their fishing vessels not already covered pursuant to paragraph 1, as appropriate, to ensure the effective monitoring of compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures.
8. CPCs are encouraged to cooperate, as appropriate and in accordance with their domestic laws, by sharing data reported under paragraph 1b) to support Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) activities.

³ In the event that the connection between the satellite tracking device and the satellite is unavailable, the information identified in paragraph 1b) shall still be collected in accordance with paragraph 3 but may instead be transmitted as soon as the satellite connection becomes available.

⁴ Developing CPCs may choose to apply this polling and transmission requirement (two hours) to their purse seiners targeting small tuna species in the Mediterranean.

9. The Commission shall review this Recommendation no later than 2020 and consider the need for revisions to improve its effectiveness.
10. To inform this review, the SCRS is requested to provide advice on the VMS data that would most assist the SCRS in carrying out its work, including frequency of transmission for the different ICCAT fisheries.
11. This measure repeals and replaces 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).

18-12

SDP

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT REPLACING RECOMMENDATION 17-09
ON THE APPLICATION OF THE EBCD SYSTEM**

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the multi-annual recovery plan for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna and the commitment to develop an electronic bluefin tuna catch document (eBCD) system;

RECOGNIZING the developments in electronic information exchange and the benefits of rapid communication with regard to the processing and management of catch information;

NOTING the ability of electronic catch documentation systems to detect fraud and deter IUU shipments, expedite the validation/verification process of bluefin tuna catch documents (BCDs), prevent erroneous information entry, reduce pragmatic workloads and create automated links between Parties including exporting and importing authorities;

RECOGNIZING the necessity to implement the eBCD system to strengthen the implementation of the bluefin tuna catch documentation program;

FOLLOWING the work of the eBCD Technical Working Group (TWG) and the system design and cost estimates presented in the feasibility study;

CONSIDERING the commitments previously made in *Recommendation by ICCAT Supplementing the Recommendation for an Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (eBCD) System* [Rec. 13-17] and the decision made at the 19th Special Meeting regarding the status of program implementation;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the technical complexity of the system and the need for ongoing development and resolution of outstanding technical issues;

ACKNOWLEDGING the full implementation of the eBCD system since 2016;

NOTING the review in 2017 of the relevance of specific derogations and their associated deadlines;

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

1. All CPCs concerned shall, as soon as possible for eBCD system implementation, submit to the Secretariat the data necessary to ensure the registration of their users in the eBCD system. Access to and use of the system cannot be ensured for those who fail to provide and maintain the data required by the eBCD system.
2. Use of the eBCD system is mandatory for all CPCs and paper BCDs shall no longer be accepted, except in the limited circumstances specified in paragraph 6 below.
3. CPCs may communicate to the Secretariat and the TWG their experiences on technical aspects of system implementation including any difficulties experienced and identification of improvements to functionalities to enhance eBCD implementation and performance. The Commission may consider these recommendations and financial support to further develop the system.
4. The substantive provisions of Recommendation 18-13 will be applied *mutatis mutandis* to the electronic BCDs (eBCDs).
5. Notwithstanding paragraph 4 of this recommendation, the following provisions shall be applied with respect to the BCD program and its implementation through the eBCD system:
 - a) Following the recording and validation of catch and first trade in the eBCD system in accordance with part II of Recommendation 18-13, the recording of information on internal sales of bluefin tuna in the eBCD (i.e. sales occurring within one Contracting Party or Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity (CPC) or, in the case of the European Union, within one of its Member States) is not required.

- b) Following the recording and validation of catch and first trade in the eBCD, the domestic trade between Member States of the European Union shall be completed in the eBCD system by the seller consistent with paragraph 13 of Recommendation 18-13; however, in derogation to Recommendation 18-13, where such trade is of bluefin tuna that is in the following product forms listed on the eBCD, validation shall not be required: “fillets” (FL) or “other, specified” (OT). “Gilled and gutted” (GG), “dressed” (DR), and “Round” (RD) product forms will require validation. When such product (FL and OT) is packaged for transport, however, the associated eBCD number must be written legibly and indelibly on the outside of any package containing any part of the tuna except for exempted products specified in paragraph 10 of Recommendation 18-13.

For such product (FL and OT), in addition to the requirements in the above paragraph, subsequent domestic trade to another Member State shall only take place when the trade information from the previous Member State has been recorded in eBCD system. Export from the European Union shall take place only if the previous trade between Member States has been properly recorded, and such export shall continue to require validation in the eBCD system consistent with paragraph 13 of Rec. 18-13.

The derogation in this paragraph expires on 31 December 2020. The European Union shall report to the Commission on the implementation of this derogation by 1 October each year of the derogation. This report shall include information on its process for verification and the outcomes of that process and data about these trade events, including relevant statistical information. Based on these reports and any other relevant information brought to the Commission, the Commission shall review the validation derogation at its 2020 annual meeting for decision on its possible extension.

The trade of live bluefin tuna including all trade events to and from bluefin farms must be recorded and validated in the eBCD system in accordance with the provisions of Recommendation 18-13 unless otherwise specified in this recommendation. The validation of sections 2 (catch) and 3 (live trade) in the eBCD may be completed simultaneously in derogation to paragraph 3 of Recommendation 18-13. The amending and re-validation of sections 2 and 3 in the eBCD as required by Paragraph 99 of Recommendation 18-02 may be completed following caging operation.

- c) Bluefin tuna harvested in sport and recreational fisheries for which sale is prohibited is not subject to the terms of Recommendation 18-13 and need not be recorded in the eBCD system.
- d) The provisions of paragraph 13 of Recommendation 18-13 for waiving government validation of tagged fish only apply when the domestic commercial tagging programs of the flag CPC for the vessel or trap that harvested the bluefin tuna under which the fish are tagged are consistent with the requirements of paragraph 21 of that recommendation and meet the following criteria:
- i) All bluefin tuna in the eBCD concerned are individually tagged;
 - ii) Minimum information associated with the tag includes:
 - Identifying information on the catching vessel or trap;
 - Date of capture or landing;
 - The area of harvest of the fish in the shipment;
 - The gear utilized to catch the fish;
 - The type of product and individual weight of the tagged bluefin tuna, which may be done through the appending of an Annex. Alternatively for those fisheries concerned by the derogations to minimum size under the *Recommendation by ICCAT Establishing a Multi-Annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea* (Rec. 18-02), CPCs may instead provide the approximate weight of individual fish within the catch upon offloading, which is determined through representative sampling. This alternative approach shall apply through 2020 unless extended by the Commission after considering CPC reports on its implementation;
 - Information on the exporter and importer (where applicable);
 - The point of export (where applicable).

- iii) Information on tagged fish is compiled by the responsible CPC.
 - e) Bluefin tuna that die during the transfer, towing, or caging operations foreseen by paragraphs 86 to 102 of Recommendation 18-02 prior to harvesting may be traded by the purse seine vessel, auxiliary/support vessel(s), and/or farm representatives, where applicable.
 - f) Bluefin tuna that are caught as by-catch in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean by vessels not authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna pursuant to Rec. 18-02 may be traded. In order to improve the functioning of the eBCD system access to the system by CPC authorities, port authorities and/or through authorised self-registration shall be facilitated, including by way of their national registration number. Such registration only permits access to the eBCD system and does not represent an authorisation by ICCAT; hence no ICCAT number will be issued. Flag CPCs of the vessels concerned are not required to submit a list of such vessels to the ICCAT Secretariat.
 - g) The requirement in paragraph 13 b) of Recommendation 18-13 providing that BCDs may only be issued when the accumulated validated amounts are within their quotas or catch limits of each management year, does not apply to CPCs whose domestic legislation requires that all dead or dying fish be landed, provided that the value of the catch is subject to confiscation in order to prevent the fishermen from drawing any commercial profit from such fish. The CPC shall take necessary measures to prevent the confiscated fish from being exported to other CPCs.
 - h) Paper BCDs shall continue to be used for the trade of Pacific bluefin tuna until such time as the functionality for such tracking is developed within the eBCD system. Such functionality will include the data elements listed in Annexes 1 and 2 unless otherwise decided to address future data collection needs.
 - i) The trade section of an eBCD shall be validated prior to export. The buyer information in the trade section must be entered into the eBCD system as soon as available and prior to re-export.
 - j) Access to the eBCD system shall be granted to ICCAT non-CPCs to facilitate trade of bluefin tuna. Until such time as the functionality is developed that allows non-CPC access to the system, this shall be accomplished through completion by the non-CPC of paper BCD program documents consistent with the terms of paragraph 6 and submission to the ICCAT Secretariat for entry into the eBCD system. The Secretariat shall communicate without delay to those non-CPCs known to trade in Atlantic bluefin tuna to make them aware of the eBCD system and the provisions of the BCD program applicable to them.
 - k) To the extent possible, reports generated from the eBCD system shall fulfill the annual reporting requirements in paragraph 34 of Recommendation 18-13. CPCs shall also continue to provide those elements of the annual report that cannot be produced from the eBCD system. The format and content of any additional reports will be determined by the Commission taking into account appropriate confidentiality rules and considerations. At a minimum, reports shall include catch and trade data by the CPCs that are appropriately aggregated. CPCs shall continue to report on their implementation of the eBCD system in their Annual Reports.
6. Paper BCD documents (issued pursuant to Recommendation 18-13) or printed eBCDs may be used in the following cases:
- a) Landings of quantities of bluefin tuna less than one metric ton or three fish. Such paper BCDs shall be converted to eBCDs within a period of seven working days or prior to export, whichever is first.
 - b) Bluefin tuna caught prior to the full implementation of the eBCD system as specified in paragraph 2.
 - c) Notwithstanding the requirement to use the eBCD system in paragraph 2, paper BCDs or printed eBCDs may be used as a back-up in the limited event that technical difficulties with the system arise that preclude a CPC from using the eBCD system, following the procedures as set forth in **Annex 3**. Delays by CPCs in taking necessary actions, such as providing the data necessary to ensure the registration of users in the eBCD system or other avoidable situations, do not constitute an acceptable technical difficulty.

- d) In the case of trade of Pacific bluefin tuna as specified in paragraph 5(h).
- e) In the case of trade between ICCAT CPCs and non-CPCs where access to the eBCD system through the Secretariat (pursuant to paragraph 5(j) above) is not possible or is not timely enough to ensure the trade is not unduly delayed or disrupted.

The use of a paper BCD document in the cases specified in sub-paragraphs a) through e) shall not be cited by importing CPCs as a reason to delay or deny import of a bluefin tuna shipment provided it complies with the existing provisions of Recommendation 18-13 and relevant provisions of this recommendation. Printed eBCDs that are validated in the eBCD system satisfy the validation requirement stipulated in paragraph 3 of Recommendation 18-13.

Where requested by a CPC, conversion of paper BCDs to eBCDs shall be facilitated by the ICCAT Secretariat or through the creation in the eBCD system of user profiles for CPC authorities at their request for this purpose, as appropriate.

- 7. The Technical Working Group shall continue its work and, through the ICCAT Secretariat, inform the developing consortium of the specifications on required system developments and adjustments and steer their implementation.
- 8. This recommendation clarifies Recommendation 18-02 and clarifies and amends Recommendation 18-13.
- 9. This Recommendation repeals and replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 15-10 on the application of the eBCD system* (Rec. 17-09).

Annex 1**Data requirement for the Trade of Pacific Bluefin Tuna under the BCD program**

Section 1: Bluefin Tuna Catch Document Number

Section 2: Catch information

Name of catching vessel/trap

Flag/CPC

Area

Total weight (kg)

Section 8: Trade information

Product description

- (F/FR; RD/GG/DR/FL/OT)

- Total weight (NET)

Exporter/seller information

- Company name

- Point of export/departure

- State of destination

Transportation description

Government validation

Importer/buyer

- Company name, license number

- Point of import or destination

Annex 2**ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Re-Export Certificate**

Section 1. Bluefin Tuna Re-Export Certificate Number

Section 2: Re-export section

Re-export country/entity/fishing entity

Point of re-export

Section 3: Description of imported bluefin tuna

Net weight (kg)

BCD (or eBCD) number and date(s) of importation

Section 4: Description of bluefin tuna for re-export

Net weight (kg)

Corresponding BCD (or eBCD) number

State of destination

Section 6: Government validation

**Procedures to allow the issuance of paper BCDs or printed eBCDs
due to technical difficulties with the eBCD system**

A. If the technical difficulty occurs during working hours of the Secretariat and the eBCD implementing consortium:

1. As an initial step, the CPC encountering the technical difficulty shall contact the implementing consortium to confirm and try to resolve the technical difficulty and also include the Secretariat in these communications. The implementing consortium shall provide an acknowledgement of the technical difficulty to the CPC.
2. In the case where a technical difficulty that has been confirmed by the implementing consortium cannot be resolved before a trade event must occur, the CPC shall inform the Secretariat of the nature of the technical difficulty and provide it with the information set out in the attached Appendix as well as a copy of the confirmation of the technical difficulty from the implementing consortium.
3. The Secretariat shall notify other CPCs that paper BCDs may temporarily be used by the CPC encountering the technical difficulty by posting the information provided in paragraph 2 above on the public part of the ICCAT website without delay. The CPC may then use a paper BCD or a printed eBCD for the trade event.
4. A CPC encountering the technical difficulty shall continue to work with the implementing consortium and, as appropriate, the Secretariat to resolve the issue.
5. The CPC shall report when the technical difficulty has been resolved, either through the eBCD system self-reporting incident site or to the Secretariat, for immediate posting on the ICCAT website. The CPC will then follow the procedures in Section C, below.

B. If the technical difficulty occurs outside working hours of the Secretariat and the eBCD implementing consortium:

1. The CPC encountering the technical difficulty shall immediately communicate to the Secretariat and the implementing consortium via email that it is unable to use the eBCD system with an explanation of the technical difficulty encountered. To proceed with a trade, the CPC must then access the self-reporting incident site to enter the required information specified in the attached **Appendix**. Through the site, this information will be automatically uploaded to the ICCAT website to notify other CPCs that paper BCDs or printed eBCDs may temporarily be used by the CPC encountering the technical difficulty. The CPC may then use a paper BCD or a printed eBCD for the trade event.
2. 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 in order to resolve the technical difficulty.
3. The CPC shall report when the technical difficulty has been resolved, either through the self-reporting incident site or the Secretariat, for immediate posting on the ICCAT website. The CPC will then follow the procedures in Section C, below.

C. In all cases where a paper BCD or printed eBCD has been used in accordance with the procedures specified in sections A or B above, the following also applies:

1. The CPC shall resume use of the eBCD system as soon as the technical difficulty is resolved.
2. Paper BCDs shall be converted into an eBCD by the CPC that used the paper BCD or by the ICCAT Secretariat if the CPC requests it to do so, as soon as possible following resolution of the technical difficulty. In case that conversion cannot be fully completed by the CPC that used the paper BCD, it shall contact those CPCs which received the paper BCD and request its cooperation to complete the conversion for the e-BCD sections directly under the responsibility of the CPC which received a paper BCD. Such CPC that carried out or requested the conversion of the paper BCD shall be responsible for reporting to the Secretariat that the

technical difficulty has been resolved, and, where appropriate, uploading relevant information to the self-reporting incident site. As soon as possible after resolution of the technical difficulty, a CPC that has received a paper BCD shall take appropriate actions to ensure that the paper BCD is not used for subsequent trade events.

3. Where a printed eBCD has been used, CPCs shall ensure that any missing data from the eBCD record is uploaded into the eBCD system as soon as the technical difficulty is resolved for the sections under their direct responsibility.
 4. Paper BCDs or printed eBCDs may continue to be used until such time as the technical difficulty is resolved and the paper BCDs concerned are converted into eBCDs in accordance with the procedure above.
 5. Once a paper BCD has been converted to an eBCD, all subsequent trade events of product associated with that paper BCD shall be carried out only in the eBCD system.
- D. In the case of technical difficulties experienced by importing CPCs, the importing CPC may request the exporting CPC concerned to issue a paper BCD or printed eBCD to support trade after notice of the technical difficulty has been posted on the ICCAT website in accordance with the procedures specified in sections A or B above. The exporting CPC shall verify that the notification of the technical difficulty is posted on the ICCAT website before issuing the paper BCD or printed eBCD. Importing CPCs shall report when the technical difficulty has been resolved, either through the self-reporting incident site or the Secretariat, for immediate posting on the ICCAT website.
- E. Throughout the year, the Secretariat shall compile information on cases where a CPC reported a technical difficulty and/or paper documents were issued, for review by the PWG at the subsequent ICCAT Annual meeting. If the PWG determines that the reporting procedures set forth above were not followed or that the use of paper was not otherwise consistent with the provisions of this Recommendation, the PWG will consider appropriate actions, including possible referral to the Compliance Committee, if appropriate.
- F. The procedures set forth above will be reviewed in 2019 and revised, as appropriate.

Appendix

- Date
- CPC
- BCD(s) concerned
- Summary of Issue
- Date of resolution
- Incidence Number (if available)

18-13

SDP

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT REPLACING RECOMMENDATION 11-20
ON AN ICCAT BLUEFIN TUNA CATCH DOCUMENTATION PROGRAM**

RECOGNIZING the situation of Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks and the impact that market factors have on the fishery;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the rebuilding plan for western Atlantic bluefin tuna and the recovery plan for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna that ICCAT has adopted, including the need for complementary market related measures;

RECOGNIZING the necessity to clarify and improve the implementation of the bluefin tuna catch documentation scheme, providing detailed instructions for the issuance, numbering, completion and the validation of the bluefin tuna catch document;

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

**PART I
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. Each Contracting Party, Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity and Fishing Entity (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall take the necessary steps to implement an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Scheme for the purpose of identifying the origin of any bluefin tuna in order to support the implementation of conservation and management measures.
2. For the purpose of this Program:
 - a) "Domestic trade" means:
 - trade of bluefin tuna harvested in the ICCAT Convention area by a vessel or trap, which is landed in the territory of the CPC where the vessel is flagged or where the trap is established, and
 - trade of farmed bluefin tuna products originating from bluefin tuna harvested in the ICCAT Convention area by a vessel which is flagged to the same CPC where the farm is established, which is supplied to any entity in this CPC, and
 - trade between the Member States of the European Union of bluefin tuna harvested in the ICCAT Convention area by vessels flagged to one Member State or by a trap established in one Member State.
 - b) "Export" means:

Any movement of bluefin tuna in its harvested or processed form (including farmed) from the territory of the CPC where the fishing vessel is flagged or where the trap or farm is established to the territory of another CPC or non-Contracting Party, or from the fishing grounds to the territory of a CPC which is not the flag CPC of the fishing vessel or to the territory of a non- Contracting Party.
 - c) "Import" means:

Any introduction of bluefin tuna in its harvested or processed form (including farmed) into the territory of a CPC, which is not the CPC where the fishing vessel is flagged or where the trap or the farm is established.
 - d) "Re-export" means: Any movement of bluefin tuna in its harvested or processed form (including farmed) from the territory of a CPC where it has been previously imported.
 - e) "flag CPC" means the CPC where the fishing vessel is flagged; "trap CPC" means the CPC where the trap is established; and "farm CPC" means the CPC where the farm is established.

3. A Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (BCD) shall be completed for each bluefin tuna in accordance with **Annex 3**.

Each consignment of bluefin tuna domestically traded, imported into or exported or re-exported from its territories shall be accompanied by a validated BCD, except in cases where paragraph 13(c) applies and, as applicable, an ICCAT transfer declaration or a validated Bluefin Tuna Reexport Certificate (BFTRC). Any such landing, transfer, delivery, harvest, domestic trade, import, export or re-export of bluefin tuna without a completed and validated BCD or a BFTRC shall be prohibited.

4. In order to support an effective BCD, CPCs shall not place bluefin tuna into a farm not authorized by the CPC or listed in the ICCAT record.
5. Farm CPCs shall ensure that bluefin tuna catches are placed in separate cages or series of cages and partitioned on the basis of flag CPC origin. By derogation, if the bluefin tuna are caught in the context of a joint fishing operation (JFO) between different CPCs, farm CPCs shall ensure that bluefin tuna are placed in separate cages or series of cages and partitioned on the basis of joint fishing operations.
6. At the time of caging, relevant BCDs may be grouped as a "Grouped BCD" with a new BCD number in the following cases, provided that caging of all the fish is conducted on the same day and all the fish is caged in the same farming cage:
 - a) Multiple catches made by the same vessel
 - b) Catches made by JFO

The Grouped BCD shall replace all the related original BCDs and be accompanied by the list of all the associated BCD numbers. The copies of such associated BCDs shall be made available upon request of CPCs.

7. Farm CPCs shall ensure that bluefin tuna are harvested from farms in the same year in which they were caught, or before the beginning of the purse seiners fishing period, if harvested in the following year. In the case where harvesting operations are not completed before this date, farm CPCs shall complete and transmit an annual carry-over declaration to the ICCAT Secretariat within 15 days after this date. Such declaration shall include:
 - Quantities (expressed in kg) and number of fish intended to be carried over,
 - Year of catch,
 - Average weight,
 - Flag CPC,
 - References of the BCD corresponding to the catches carried over,
 - Name and ICCAT number of the farm,
 - Cage number, and
 - Information on harvested quantities (expressed in kg), when completed.
8. Quantities carried over in accordance with paragraph 7 shall be placed in separate cages or series of cages in the farm on the basis of the catch year.
9. Each CPC shall provide BCD forms only to catching vessels and traps authorized to fish bluefin tuna in the Convention area, including as by-catch. Such forms are not transferable. Each BCD form shall have a unique document identification number. Document numbers shall be specific to the flag or trap CPC and assigned to the catching vessel or trap.
10. Domestic trade, export, import and re-export of fish parts other than the meat (i.e., heads, eyes, roes, guts and tails) shall be exempted from the requirements of this Recommendation.

**PART II
VALIDATION OF BCDs**

11. The catching vessel master or trap operator, or its authorized representative, or the operator of farms, or the authorized representative of the flag, farm, or trap CPC, shall complete the BCD by providing the required information in appropriate sections and request validation in accordance with paragraph 13 for a BCD for catch landed, transferred to cages, harvested, transhipped, domestically traded or exported on each occasion that it lands, transfers, harvests, transships, domestically trades or exports bluefin tuna.
12. A validated BCD shall include, as appropriate, the information identified in **Annex 1** attached. A BCD format is attached as **Annex 2**. In cases where a section of the BCD format does not provide enough room to completely track movement of BFT from catch to market, the needed information section of the BCD maybe expanded as necessary and attached as an annex using the original BCD format and number. The authorized representative of the CPC shall validate the annex as soon as possible but not later than the next movement of BFT.
13. a) The BCD must be validated by an authorized government official, or other authorized individual or institution, of the flag CPC of the catching vessel, the CPC of the seller/exporter, or the trap or farm CPC that caught, harvested, domestically traded or exported the bluefin tuna.
b) The CPCs shall validate the BCD for all bluefin tuna products only when all the information contained in the BCD has been established to be accurate as a result of the verification of the consignment, and only when the accumulated validated amounts are within their quotas or catch limits of each management year, including, where appropriate, individual quotas allocated to catching vessels or traps, and when those products comply with other relevant ICCAT provisions of the conservation and management measures.

The requirement that CPCs shall only validate BCDs when the accumulated validated amounts are within their quotas or catch limits of each management year, does not apply to CPCs whose domestic legislation requires that all dead or dying fish be landed, provided that the value of the catch is subject to confiscation in order to prevent the fishermen from drawing any commercial profit from such fish. The CPC shall take necessary measures to prevent the confiscated fish from being exported to other CPCs.

- c) Validation under 13(a) shall not be required in the event that all bluefin tuna available for sale are tagged by the flag CPC of the catching vessel or the trap CPC that fished the bluefin tuna.
- d) Where the bluefin tuna quantities caught and landed are less than 1 metric ton or three fish, the logbook or the sales note may be used as a temporary BCD, pending the validation of the BCD within seven days and prior to export.

**PART III
VALIDATION OF BFTRCs**

14. Each CPC shall ensure that each bluefin tuna consignment which is re-exported from its territory be accompanied by a validated Bluefin Tuna Re-export Certificate (BFTRC). In cases where bluefin tuna is imported live, the BFTRC shall not apply.
15. The operator who is responsible for the re-export shall complete the BFTRC by providing the required information in its appropriate sections and request its validation for the bluefin tuna consignment to be re-exported. The completed BFTRC shall be accompanied by a copy of the validated BCD(s) relating to the bluefin tuna products previously imported.
16. The BFTRC shall be validated by an authorized government official or authority.
17. The CPC shall validate the BFTRC for all bluefin tuna product only when:

- a) all the information contained in the BFTRC has been established to be accurate,
 - b) the validated BCD(s) submitted in support to the BFTRC had been accepted for the importation of the products declared on the BFTRC and
 - c) the products to be re-exported are wholly or partly the same product on the validated BCD(s),
 - d) a copy of the BCD(s) shall be attached to the validated BFTRC.
18. The validated BFTRC shall include the information identified in **Annex 4** and **Annex 5** attached.

PART IV VERIFICATION AND COMMUNICATION

19. Each CPC shall communicate a copy of all validated BCDs or BFTRCs, except in cases where paragraph 13(c) applies, within five working days following the date of validation, or without delay where the expected duration of the transportation should not take more than five working days, to the following:
- a) the competent authorities of the country where the bluefin tuna will be domestically traded, or transferred into a cage or imported, and
 - b) the ICCAT Secretariat.
20. The ICCAT Secretariat shall extract from the validated BCDs or BFTRCs communicated under paragraph 19 above the information marked with an asterisk (*) in **Annex 1** or **Annex 4** and enter this information in a database on a password protected section of its website, as soon as practicable.

At its request, the SCRS shall have access to the catch information contained in the database, except the vessel or trap names.

PART V TAGGING

21. CPCs may require their catching vessels or traps to affix a tag to each bluefin tuna preferably at the time of kill, but no later than the time of landing. Tags shall have unique country specific numbers and be tamper proof. The tag numbers shall be linked to the BCD and a summary of the implementation of the tagging program shall be submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat by the CPC. The use of such tags shall only be authorized when the accumulated catch amounts are within their quotas or catch limits of each management year, including, where appropriate, individual quotas allocated to vessels or traps.

PART VI VERIFICATION

22. Each CPC shall ensure that its competent authorities, or other authorized individual or institution, take steps to identify each consignment of bluefin tuna landed in, domestically traded in, imported into or exported or re-exported from its territory and request and examine the validated BCD(s) and related documentation of each consignment of bluefin tuna. These competent authorities, or authorized individuals or institutions, may also examine the content of the consignment to verify the information contained in the BCD and in related documents and, where necessary, shall carry out verifications with the operators concerned.
23. If, as a result of examinations or verifications carried out pursuant to paragraph 22 above, a doubt arises regarding the information contained in a BCD, the final importing State/CPC and the CPC whose competent authorities validated the BCD(s) or BFTRCs shall cooperate to resolve such doubts.
24. If a CPC involved in trade of bluefin tuna identifies a consignment with no BCD, it shall notify the findings to the exporting CPC and, where known, the flag CPC.
25. Pending the examinations or verifications under paragraph 22 to confirm compliance of the bluefin tuna consignment with the requirements in the present Recommendation and any other relevant Recommendations, the CPCs shall not grant its release for domestic trade, import or export, nor, in the case of live bluefin tuna destined to farms, accept the transfer declaration.

26. Where a CPC, as a result of examination or verifications under paragraph 22 above and in cooperation with the validating authorities concerned, determines that a BCD or BFTRC is invalid, the domestic trade, import, export or re-export of the bluefin tuna concerned shall be prohibited.
27. The Commission shall request the non-Contracting Parties that are involved in domestic trade, import, export or re-export of bluefin tuna to cooperate with the implementation of the Program and to provide to the Commission data obtained from such implementation.

PART VII NOTIFICATION AND COMMUNICATION

28. Each CPC that validates BCDs in respect of its flag catching vessels, traps or farms in accordance with paragraph 13(a), shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat of the government authorities, or other authorized individuals or institutions (name and full address of the organization(s) and, where appropriate, name and title of the validating officials who are individually empowered, sample form of document, sample impression of stamp or seal, and as appropriate tag samples) responsible for validating and verifying BCDs or BFTRCs. This notification shall indicate the date at which this entitlement comes into force. A copy of the provisions adopted in national law for the purpose of implementing the bluefin tuna catch documentation program shall be communicated with the initial notification, including procedures to authorize nongovernmental individuals or institutions. Updated details on validating authorities and national provisions shall be communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat in a timely fashion.
29. The information on validating authorities transmitted by notifications to the ICCAT Secretariat shall be placed on the password protected page of the database on validation held by the ICCAT Secretariat. The list of the CPCs having notified their validating authorities and the notified dates of entry into force of the validation shall be placed on a publicly accessible website held by the ICCAT Secretariat. CPCs are encouraged to access this information to help verify the validation of BCDs and BFTRCs.
30. Each CPC shall notify to the ICCAT Secretariat the points of contact (name and full address of the organization(s)) that should be notified when there are questions related to BCDs or BFTRCs.
31. Copies of validated BCDs and notification pursuant to paragraphs 28, 29 and 30 shall be sent by CPCs to the ICCAT Secretariat, by electronic means, whenever possible.
32. Copies of BCDs shall follow each part of split shipments or processed product, using the unique document number of the BCD to link them.
33. CPCs shall keep copies of documents issued or received for at least two years.
34. CPCs shall provide to the ICCAT Secretariat a report each year by September 15 for the period from January 1 to December 31 of the preceding year to provide the information described in **Annex 6**.

The ICCAT Secretariat shall post these reports on the password protected section of the ICCAT website, as soon as practicable.

At its request, the SCRS shall have access to the reports received by the ICCAT Secretariat.

35. This Recommendation repeals and replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 09-11 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Document Program* (Rec. 11-20).

Data to be Included in Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (BCD)**1. ICCAT Bluefin tuna catch document number*****2. Catch Information**

Name of the Catching Vessel or Trap name*
 Name of the Other Vessels (in case of JFO)
 Flag*
 ICCAT Record No.
 Individual Quota
 Quota used for this BCD
 Date, area of catch and gear used*
 Number of fish, total weight, and average weight*¹
 ICCAT Record number of Joint Fishing Operation (if applicable)*
 Tag No. (if applicable)
Government validation
 Name of authority and signatory, title, signature, seal and date

3. Trade Information for live fish trade

Product description
Exporter/Seller information
Transportation description
Government validation
 Name of authority and signatory, title, signature, seal and date
Importer/buyer

4. Transfer information

Towing vessel description
 ICCAT Transfer Declaration No. Vessel
 name, flag
 ICCAT Record No.
 Number of fish dead during transfer Total
 weight of dead fish (kg)
Towing cage description
 Cage number

5. Transshipment information

Carrier vessel description
 Name, Flag, ICCAT Record No., Date, Port name, Port state, position
Product description
 (F/FR; RD/GG/DR/FL/OT)
 Total weight (NET)
Government validation
 Name of authority and signatory, title, signature, seal and date

* Information to be entered by the Secretariat in the BCD database (see paragraph 20).

¹ Weight shall be reported by round weight where available. If round weight is not used, specify the type of product (e.g. GG) in the "Total Weight" and "Average Weight" section of the form.

6. Farming information

Farming facility description

Name, CPC*, ICCAT FFB No.* and location of farm
Participation in national sampling program (yes or no)

Cage description

Date of caging, cage number

Fish description

Estimates of number of fish, total weight, and average weight*¹

ICCAT Regional observer information

Name, ICCAT No., signature

Estimated size composition (<8 kg, 8-30 kg, >30 kg)

Government validation

Name of authority and signatory, title, signature, seal and date

7. Harvesting information

Harvesting description

Date of harvest*

Number of fish, total (round) weight, and average weight*

Tag numbers (if applicable)

ICCAT regional observer information

Name, ICCAT No., signature

Government validation

Name of authority and signatory, title, signature, seal and date

8. Trade information

Product description

(F/FR; RD/GG/DR/FL/OT) ²

Total weight (NET)*

Exporter/Seller information

Point of export or departure*

Export company name, address, signature and date

State of destination*

Description of transportation (relevant documentation to be attached)

Government validation

Name of authority and signatory, title, signature, seal and date

Importer/buyer information

Point of import or destination*

Import company name, address, signature and date³

² When different types of products are recorded in this section, the weight shall be recorded by each product type.

³ DATE to be filled by IMPORTER/BUYER in this section is the date of signature.

Annex 2

1. ICCAT BLUEFIN TUNA CATCH DOCUMENT (BCD)			No :		1/2	
2. CATCH INFORMATION						
VESSEL / TRAP INFORMATION						
	NAME OF THE CATCHING VESSEL / TRAP	FLAG / CPC	ICCAT RECORD NO	INDIVIDUAL QUOTA	CATCH	
	NAME OF THE OTHER FISHING VESSELS	FLAG	ICCAT RECORD NO	INDIVIDUAL QUOTA	CATCH	
CATCH DESCRIPTION						
	DATE (dd/mm/yy)	AREA	GEAR			
	No. of FISH	TOTAL WEIGHT(kg)	AVG. WEIGHT(kg)			
	ICCAT RECORD No. of Joint Fishing Operation					
	TAG Numbers (If applicable)					
GOVERNMENT VALIDATION						
	NAME OF AUTHORITY				SEAL	
	TITLE					
	SIGNATURE					
	DATE (dd/mm/yy)					
3. TRADE INFORMATION						
PRODUCT DESCRIPTION						
	LIVE WEIGHT (kg)	No. of FISH	ZONE			
EXPORTER/ SELLER						
	POINT OF EXPORTATION/DEPARTURE	COMPANY	ADDRESS			
	FARM OF DESTINATION	CPC	ICCAT FFB No.			
	SIGNATURE					
	DATE (dd/mm/yy)					
TRANSPORTATION DESCRIPTION (Relevant documentation to be attached)						
GOVERNMENT VALIDATION						
	NAME OF AUTHORITY				SEAL	
	TITLE					
	SIGNATURE					
	DATE (dd/mm/yy)					
IMPORTER/ BUYER						
	COMPANY	PT. of IMPORT/DESTINATION (City, Country, State)				
	ADDRESS					
	DATE OF SIGNATURE (dd/mm/yy)	SIGNATURE				
	ANNEX(ES): YES/NO (circle one)					
4. TRANSFER INFORMATION						
TOWING VESSEL DESCRIPTION						
	ICCAT TRANSFER DECLARATION No.	FLAG	ICCAT REC. No.			
	NAME					
	No. Of FISH DEAD DURING TRANSFER	TOTAL WEIGHT OF DEAD FISH (kg)				
TOWING CAGE DESCRIPTION						
	CAGE No.					
	ANNEX(ES): YES/NO (circle one)					
5. TRANSHIPMENT INFORMATION						
CARRIER VESSEL DESCRIPTION						
	NAME	FLAG	ICCAT REC. No.			
	DATE (dd/mm/yy)	PORT NAME	PORT STATE			
	POSITION (Lat./Long.)					
PRODUCT DESCRIPTION (Indicate net weight in kg. for each type of product)						
F	RD(kg):	GG(kg):	DR(kg):	FL(kg):	OT(kg):	TOTAL WEIGHT "F" (kg)
FR	RD(kg):	GG(kg):	DR(kg):	FL(kg):	OT(kg):	TOTAL WEIGHT "FR" (kg)
GOVERNMENT VALIDATION						
	NAME OF AUTHORITY				SEAL	
	TITLE					
	SIGNATURE					
	DATE (dd/mm/yy)					
	ANNEX(ES): YES/NO (circle one)					

ICCAT BLUEFIN TUNA CATCH DOCUMENT (BCD)				No :		2/2	
6. FARMING INFORMATION							
FARMING FACILITY DESCRIPTION	NAME		CPC		ICCAT FFB NO.		
	NATIONAL SAMPLING PROGRAM? YES or NO(circle one)			LOCATION			
CAGE DESCRIPTION	DATE (dd/mm/yy)		CAGE No.				
FISH DESCRIPTION	NO. of FISH :		TOTAL WT (kg) :		AVG WT (kg) :		
ICCAT REGIONAL OBSERVER INFORMATION	NAME		TITLE		SIGNATURE		
	SIZE COMPOSITION		<8 kg	8-30 kg	>30 kg		
GOVERNMENT VALIDATION							
NAME OF AUTHORITY					SEAL		
TITLE							
SIGNATURE							
DATE (dd/mm/yy)							
ANNEX(ES): YES/NO (circle one)							
7. HARVESTING INFORMATION							
HARVESTING DESCRIPTION							
DATE (dd/mm/yy)		NO. of FISH		TOTAL ROUND WT (kg)			
AVG. WEIGHT (kg)		TAG NOS. (If applicable)					
ICCAT REGIONAL OBSERVER INFORMATION	NAME		TITLE		SIGNATURE		
GOVERNMENT VALIDATION							
NAME OF AUTHORITY					SEAL		
TITLE							
SIGNATURE							
DATE (dd/mm/yy)							
8. TRADE INFORMATION							
PRODUCT DESCRIPTION (Indicate net weight in kg. for each type of product)							
F	RD(kg):	GG(kg):	DR(kg):	FL(kg):	OT(kg):	TOTAL WEIGHT "F" (kg)	
FR	RD(kg):	GG(kg):	DR(kg):	FL(kg):	OT(kg):	TOTAL WEIGHT "FR" (kg)	
EXPORTER/ SELLER							
PT of EXPORT/DEPARTURE		COMPANY			ADDRESS		
STATE of DESTINATION							
SIGNATURE							
DATE (dd/mm/yy)							
TRANSPORTATION DESCRIPTION				(Relevant documentation to be attached)			
GOVERNMENT VALIDATION							
NAME OF AUTHORITY					SEAL		
TITLE							
SIGNATURE							
DATE (dd/mm/yy)							
IMPORTER/ BUYER							
COMPANY					PT. of IMPORT/DESTINATION (City, Country, State)		
ADDRESS							
DATE (dd/mm/yy)					SIGNATURE		
ANNEX(ES): YES/NO (circle one)							

Instructions for the Issuance, Numbering, Completion and Validation of the Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (BCD)

1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

(1) Language

An official ICCAT language (English, French and Spanish) shall be used in completing the BCD.

(2) Numbering

CPCs shall develop unique numbering system for BCDs using their ICCAT country code or ISO code in combination with an 8-digit number, of which two digits shall indicate the year of catch.

Example: CA-09-123456 (*CA stands for Canada*)

In case of split shipments, or processed products, copies of the original BCD shall be numbered by supplementing the number of the original BCD with a 2-digit number.

Example: CA-09-123456-01, CA-09-123456-02, CA-09-123456-03.

The numbering shall be sequential and preferably printed. The serial numbers of blank BCDs issued shall be recorded by the name of the recipient.

In case of producing a "Grouped BCD", the farm operator or his authorized representative shall request a new BCD number from the farm CPC. The number for Grouped BCDs shall contain "G" as in "CA-09-123456-G".

2. CATCH INFORMATION

(1) Completion

(a) *General principles:*

This section is applicable to all catches of bluefin tunas.

The master of the catching vessel or the trap operator or their authorised representative or the authorised representative of the flag or trap CPC shall be responsible for the completion and the request for validation of the CATCH INFORMATION section.

CATCH INFORMATION section shall be completed no later than the end of transfer, transhipment or landing operation.

Remark: in case of JFO between different flags, one BCD for each flag shall be produced. In this case, each BCD shall indicate the same information in VESSEL/TRAP INFORMATION concerning the vessel which actually made the catch and all the other fishing vessels involved in that JFO, whereas CATCH DESCRIPTION shall indicate the catch information attributed to each flag based on the allocation key of the JFO.

In case of catches originating from one JFO comprising vessels of the same flag, the master of the catching vessel which actually made such catches, or its authorized representative or the authorized representative of the flag, shall complete the BCD form on behalf of all the vessels participating in such JFO.

(b) Specific instructions:

"NAME OF THE CATCHING VESSEL/TRAP": list the name of the catching vessel which actually made the catches.

"NAME OF THE OTHER FISHING VESSELS": only applicable to JFOs and list the other participating fishing vessels.

"FLAG": indicate the flag or trap CPC.

"ICCAT Record No": indicate the ICCAT number of the catching vessel or trap authorised to fish bluefin tuna in the ICCAT Convention area. This information is not applicable to catching vessels which fish bluefin tuna as by-catch. In case of JFO, list the ICCAT Record Numbers of the vessel which actually made the catch as well as other vessels participating in that JFO.

"INDIVIDUAL QUOTA": indicate the amount of individual quota given to each vessel.

"QUOTA USED FOR THIS BCD": indicate the amount of catch attributed to this BCD.

"GEAR": indicate the fishing gear using the following codes:

BB	Baitboat
GILL	Gillnet
HAND	Handline
HARP	Harpoon
LL	Longline
MWT	Mid-water trawl
PS	Purse seine
RR	Rod and reel
SPHL	Sport handline
SPOR	Sport fisheries unclassified
SURF	Surface fisheries unclassified
TL	Tended line
TRAP	Trap
TROL	Troll
UNCL	Unspecified methods
OT	Other type

"No. of FISH": in case of JFO comprising vessels of the same flag, indicate the total number of fish caught in such operation. In case of JFO between different flags, indicate the number of fish attributed to each flag in accordance with the allocation key.

"TOTAL WEIGHT": indicate the total round weight in kilograms. If round weight is not used at the time of catch, indicate the type of product (e.g. GG). In case of JFO between different flags, indicate the round weight attributed to that flag in accordance with the allocation key.

"AREA": indicate Mediterranean, western Atlantic, eastern Atlantic or Pacific.

"TAGS No (if applicable)": additional lines may be added to allow the listing of each tag number by individual fish.

(2) Validation

The flag or trap CPC shall be responsible for the validation of the CATCH INFORMATION section unless bluefin tuna are tagged in accordance with Paragraph 21 of the Recommendation.

3. TRADE INFORMATION FOR LIVE FISH TRADE

(1) Completion

(a) General principles:

This section is only applicable to export of live bluefin tunas.

The master of the catching vessel or his authorised representative or the authorised representative of the flag CPC shall be responsible for the completion and the request for validation of the TRADE INFORMATION FOR LIVE FISH TRADE section.

The TRADE INFORMATION FOR LIVE FISH TRADE section shall be completed before the first transfer operation, i.e. the transfer of fish from the catching vessel net to the transport cage.

Remark: in case that a quantity of fish dies during the transfer operation and is domestically traded or exported, the original BCD (CATCH INFORMATION section completed shall be copied for the fish, and TRADE INFORMATION section of the copied BCD shall be completed by the master of the catching vessel or his authorised representative or the authorised representative of the flag CPC and transmitted to the domestic buyer/importer. Government validation of this copy shall guarantee that it is a valid copy and has been recorded by authorities of the CPC. Without the government validation, any BCD copy is null and void.

In case of JFO comprising vessels of the same CPC, the master of the catching vessel which actually made the catches, or its authorized representative or the authorized representative of the flag, shall be responsible for the completion.

(b) Specific instructions:

"ZONE": indicate the area of transfer, Mediterranean, western Atlantic, eastern Atlantic or Pacific. "POINT OF EXPORT/DEPARTURE": indicate the CPC name of the fishery zone where the bluefin tuna were transferred or indicate "high seas" otherwise.

"TRANSPORTATION DESCRIPTION": attach any relevant document certifying the trade.

(2) Validation

The flag CPC shall not validate documents where the CATCH INFORMATION section is not completed.

4. TRANSFER INFORMATION

(1) Completion

(a) General principles:

This section is only applicable to live bluefin tunas.

The master of the catching vessel or his authorised representative or the authorised representative of the flag CPC shall be responsible for the completion of the TRANSFER INFORMATION section. In case of JFO comprising vessels of the same CPC, the master of the catching vessel which actually made the catches, or its authorized representative or the authorized representative of the flag, shall be responsible for the completion.

The TRANSFER INFORMATION section shall be completed no later than the end of the first transfer operation, i.e. the transfer of fish from the catching vessel net to the transport cage.

At the end of the transfer operation, the master of the catching vessel (or the master of the catching vessel which actually made the catches in case of JFO comprising vessels of the same CPC) shall provide the BCD (CATCH INFORMATION, TRADE INFORMATION FOR LIVE FISH TRADE and TRANSFER INFORMATION sections completed and, where applicable, validated) to the master of the tug vessel.

The completed BCD shall accompany the transfer of fish during transport to farm, including transfer of live bluefin tuna from the transport cage to another transport cage or transfer of dead bluefin tuna from the transport cage to an auxiliary vessel.

Remark: in case that some fish die during the transfer operation, the original BCD (CATCH INFORMATION, TRADE INFORMATION FOR LIVE FISH TRADE and TRANSFER INFORMATION sections completed and, where applicable, validated) shall be copied, and TRADE INFORMATION section of the copied BCD shall be completed by the domestic seller/exporter or his authorised representative or the authorised representative of the flag CPC and transmitted to the domestic buyer/importer. Government validation of this copy shall guarantee that it is a valid copy and has been recorded by authorities of the CPC. Without the authorized government validation, any BCD copy is null and void.

(b) Specific instructions:

"No. OF FISH DEAD DURING TRANSFER" and "TOTAL WEIGHT OF DEAD FISH": information completed (if applicable) by the master of the tug vessel.

"CAGE No.": indicate each number of cages in the case of a tug vessel having more than one cage.

(2) Validation

Validation of this section is not required.

5. TRANSHIPMENT INFORMATION

(1) Completion

(a) General principles:

This section is only applicable to dead bluefin tunas.

The master of the transshipping fishing vessel or his authorized representative or the authorized representative of the flag CPC shall be responsible for the completion and the request for validation of the TRANSHIPMENT INFORMATION section.

The TRANSHIPMENT INFORMATION section shall be completed at the end of the transshipment operation.

(b) Specific instructions:

"DATE": indicate the date of the transshipment.

"PORT NAME": indicate the designated port of transshipment.

"PORT STATE": indicate the CPC of the designated port of transshipment.

(2) Validation

The flag CPC shall not validate documents where the CATCH INFORMATION section is not completed and validated.

6. FARMING INFORMATION

(1) Completion

(a) General principles:

This section is only applicable to live caged tunas.

The master of the tug vessel shall provide the BCD (CATCH INFORMATION, TRADE INFORMATION FOR LIVE FISH TRADE and TRANSFER INFORMATION sections completed and, where applicable, validated) to the farm operator at the time of caging.

The farm operator or his authorized representative or an authorized representative of the farm CPC shall be responsible for the completion and the request for validation of the FARM INFORMATION section.

The FARM INFORMATION section shall be completed at the end of the caging operation.

(b) Specific instructions:

"CAGE No": indicate each number of cage.

"ICCAT Regional Observer Information": indicate name, ICCAT # and signature.

(2) Validation

The farm CPC shall be responsible for the validation of the FARM INFORMATION section.

The farm CPC shall not validate BCDs where the CATCH INFORMATION, TRADE INFORMATION FOR LIVE FISH TRADE and TRANSFER INFORMATION sections are not completed and, where applicable, validated.

7. HARVESTING INFORMATION

(1) Completion

(a) *General principles:*

This section is only applicable to dead farmed tunas.

The farm operator or his authorized representative or an authorized representative of the farm CPC shall be responsible for the completion and the request for validation of the HARVESTING INFORMATION section.

The HARVESTING INFORMATION section shall be completed at the end of the harvesting operations.

(b) *Specific instructions:*

"TAGS No (if applicable)": additional lines may be added to allow the listing of each tag number by individual fish.

"ICCAT Regional Observer Information": indicate name, ICCAT # and signature.

(2) Validation

The farm CPC shall be responsible for the validation of the HARVESTING INFORMATION section.

The farm CPC shall not validate BCDs where the CATCH INFORMATION, TRADE INFORMATION FOR LIVE FISH TRADE, TRANSFER INFORMATION and FARMING INFORMATION sections are not completed and, where applicable, validated.

8. TRADE INFORMATION

(1) Completion

(a) General principles:

This section is applicable to dead bluefin tunas.

The domestic seller or exporter or their authorized representative or an authorized representative of the CPC of the seller/exporter shall be responsible for the completion and the request for validation of the TRADE INFORMATION section.

The TRADE INFORMATION section shall be completed prior to the fish being domestically traded or exported.

(b) Specific instructions:

"TRANSPORTATION DESCRIPTION": attach any relevant document certifying the trade.

(2) Validation

The CPC of the seller/exporter shall be responsible for the validation of the TRADE INFORMATION section unless bluefin tuna are tagged in accordance with Paragraph 20 of the Recommendation.

Remark: in cases where more than one domestic trade or export results from a single BCD, a copy of the original BCD shall be validated by the CPC of the domestic seller or exporter and shall be used and accepted as an original BCD. Government validation of this copy shall guarantee that it is a valid copy and has been recorded by authorities of the concerned CPC. Without the authorized government validation, any BCD copy is null and void.

In cases of re-export, the RE-EXPORT CERTIFICATE (**Annex 5**) shall be used to track further movements, which shall be related to the catch information of the original BCD of the catch via the original BCD number.

When bluefin tuna is caught by a CPC using the tagging system, exported dead to a country, and re-exported to another country, the BCD accompanying the re-exported certificate does not have to be validated. However, the re-exported certificate shall be validated.

After import, a bluefin tuna may be divided into several pieces, which then may be subsequently exported. The re-exporting CPC shall confirm that the re-exported piece is part of the original fish accompanied by the BCD.

Data to be Included in the Bluefin Tuna Re-export Certificate (BFTRC)**1. Document number of the BFTRC*****2. Re-export section**

Re-exporting Country/Entity/Fishing Entity
Point of re-export*

3. Description of imported bluefin tuna

Product type F/FR RD/GG/DR/FL/OT⁴
Net weight (kg)*
BCD number(s) and date(s) of importation*
Flag CPC (s) of fishing vessel(s) or CPC of establishment of the trap, where appropriate

4. Description of bluefin tuna to be re-exported

Product type F/FR RD/GG/DR/FL/OT*¹
Net weight (kg)*
Corresponding BCD number(s) from section 3
State of destination

5. Statement of re-exporter

Name
Address
Signature
Date

6. Validation by governmental authorities

Name and address of the authority
Name and position of the official
Signature
Date
Government seal

7. Import section

Statement by the importer in the CPC of import of the bluefin tuna consignment
Name and address of the importer
Name and signature of the importer's representative and date
Point of import: City and CPC*

Note: Copies of the BCD(s) and Transport document(s) shall be attached.

* Information to be entered by the Secretariat in the BCD database (see paragraph 20).

⁴ When different types of products are recorded in this section, the weight shall be recorded by each product type.

**Report on the Implementation of the
ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programme**

Reporting CPC:

Period of reference: 1 January to 31 December [2XXX]

1. Information extracted from BCDs

- Number of BCDs validated
- Number of validated BCDs received
- Total amount of bluefin tuna products traded domestically, with breakdown by fishing areas and fishing gears
- Total amount of bluefin tuna products imported, exported, transferred to farms, re-exported with breakdown by CPC of origin, re-export or destination, fishing areas and fishing gears
- Number of verifications of BCDs requested to other CPCs and summary results
- Number of requests for verifications of BCDs received from other CPCs and summary results
- Total amount of bluefin tuna consignments subject to a prohibition decision with breakdown by products, nature of operation (domestic trade, import, export, re-export, transfer to farms), reasons for prohibition and CPCs and/or non-Contracting Parties of origin or destination

2. Information on cases under Part VI paragraph 22.

- Number of cases
- Total amount of bluefin tuna with breakdown by products, nature of operation (domestic trade, import, export, re-export, transfer to farms), CPCs or other countries referred to in Part VI paragraph 22.

18-14

SDP

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING FOUR
RECOMMENDATIONS AND ONE RESOLUTION**

RECOGNISING that the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program replaced the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program;

NOTING that many previously adopted Recommendations and Resolutions make reference to the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document and to Statistical Document Programs in general;

CONSIDERING that the coverage of bluefin tuna is intended in references to Statistical Document Programs in general;

FURTHER NOTING that the measures adopted for the previous bluefin tuna statistical document program pertained to the bigeye tuna and swordfish statistical document programs;

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

1. References to the 'bluefin tuna statistical document program' and 'bluefin tuna statistical documents' be replaced by 'bluefin tuna catch document program' and 'bluefin tuna catch documents' in the following provisions:
 - i) *Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Farming* (Rec. 06-07): paragraphs 2b and 2f, paragraph 4, paragraph 8, paragraph 9f and the Caging Declaration contained in the Annex to the Recommendation;
 - ii) *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures* (Rec. 06-13), paragraph 2b.
2. The phrases 'Statistical Document Programs' and 'Statistical Documents' be replaced respectively by the phrases 'Statistical or Catch Document Programs' and 'Statistical Documents or Catch Documents' in the *Resolution by ICCAT on Compliance with the ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* (Res. 94-09), paragraph 5 and paragraph 7.
3. The first sentence of paragraph 2(3) of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Program* (Rec. 01-21) and the *Recommendation by ICCAT Establishing a Swordfish Statistical Document Program* (Rec. 01-22) be replaced, *mutatis mutandis*, by paragraphs A-D of the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning Validation by a Government Official of the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document* (Res. 93-02).
4. Paragraph 14 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Program* (Rec. 01-21) and paragraph 13 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Establishing a Swordfish Statistical Document Program* (Rec. 01-22) be replaced *mutatis mutandis* by the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Validation of the Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document by the European Community* (Rec. 98-12).
5. This measure repeals and replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Ten Recommendations and Three Resolutions* (Rec. 08-11).

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY ICCAT IN 2018

18-03

BFT

RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON DEVELOPMENT OF INITIAL MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES FOR EASTERN AND WESTERN BLUEFIN TUNA

RECALLING that one of the main goals of the SCRS Science Strategic Plan 2015-2020 is to evaluate precautionary management reference points and robust harvest control rules (HCRs) through management strategy evaluations (MSE);

ANTICIPATING the transition to using management procedures, which the Commission has recommended for bluefin tuna and other priority stocks to manage fisheries more effectively in the face of identified uncertainties, consistent with the Convention and the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Principles of Decision Making for ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* (Rec. 11-13);

CONSIDERING that the Commission intends to complete an MSE for Atlantic bluefin tuna by 2020;

UNDERSTANDING that conceptual objectives are high-level aspirational objectives that verbalize a desired generic goal without including any specifics on a measurable target or timeframe for achievement, while operational objectives are more refined and more specific about measurable targets and the associated likelihood of achieving those targets over determined timeframes. Operational objectives are the key foundational component of any MSE;

SEEKING to advance the development of management procedures, as agreed by the Commission pursuant to the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Development of Harvest Control Rules and of Management Strategy Evaluation* (Rec. 15-07);

NOTING ICCAT's need to commit to developing operational management objectives for bluefin tuna in 2019;

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

1. Management objectives should be established for Atlantic bluefin tuna. Operational objectives are to be based on the Convention's objective: to maintain populations at levels that will support maximum sustainable catch (usually referred to as MSY).
2. Panel 2 should undertake, preferably during a 2019 intersessional meeting of Panel 2, the development of initial operational management objectives for each stock of bluefin tuna. To facilitate this development, the following candidate management objectives should be considered:
 - a) Stock Status
 - a. The stock should have a greater than [__]% probability of occurring in the green quadrant of the Kobe matrix;
 - b) Safety
 - a. There should be a less than [__]% probability of the stock falling below B_{LIM} (to be defined);
 - c) Yield
 - a. Maximize overall catch levels; and

d) Stability

- a. Any increase or decrease in TAC between management periods should be less than [__]%.
3. In developing initial operational management objectives, the candidate management objectives in paragraph 2 may be rejected, modified, or supplemented, as appropriate. Further, the Panel will need to consider the inclusion of timeframes. Additionally, the quantitative elements within each candidate management objective may be different between the western and eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks.
 4. Panel 2 will provide its recommendations for initial management objectives to the Bluefin Tuna MSE Technical Modelling Group and the SCRS Bluefin Tuna Species Group for review and consider any SCRS input before forwarding objectives to the Commission for consideration at its 2019 annual meeting.
 5. This resolution will be repealed upon adoption of final operational management objectives for Atlantic bluefin tuna by the Commission.

18-11

GEN

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM
FOR THE VOLUNTARY EXCHANGE OF INSPECTION PERSONNEL IN FISHERIES MANAGED BY ICCAT**

RECALLING Ref. 75-02 for a Scheme of Joint International Inspection and Annex 7 of Recommendation 18-02 establishing a joint international inspection scheme for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery, both relating to areas beyond national jurisdiction;

FURTHER RECALLING paragraph 3 of Article IX of the ICCAT Convention and the General Outline of Integrated Monitoring Measures adopted at the 13th Special Meeting of the Commission (Ref. 02-31);

NOTING the joint inspection activities that have been carried out by CPCs in the Atlantic and other oceans; and,

RECOGNIZING that exchanges of inspectors and observers through a voluntary pilot program will contribute to the capacity of CPCs, particularly developing CPCs, to conduct at sea inspections in ICCAT fisheries;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS RESOLVES THAT:

Program Objectives

1. A pilot program is established for the voluntary exchange of inspection personnel to participate in boarding and inspection activities as inspectors or as observing members of the inspection party (hereinafter referred to as “observers” for purposes of this Resolution), conducted by Contracting Parties in fisheries managed by ICCAT pursuant to their existing authorities. Such exchanges are intended to facilitate the sharing of information and expertise needed to strengthen at-sea inspection capabilities and capacities, enhance cooperation and collaboration among Contracting Parties on this important area of fisheries monitoring, control, and surveillance, and inform future discussions on this issue within ICCAT.

Participation and Points of Contact

2. All Contracting Parties are encouraged to participate in the pilot program and may join or leave it at any time.
3. Contracting Parties interested in participating in the pilot program should submit to the Executive Secretary the following information:
 - a) National authority responsible for at-sea inspection and other supporting maritime agencies as may be appropriate, and
 - b) Designated point(s) of contact (POC) within that authority with responsibility for program implementation, including name, telephone, fax numbers, and e-mail address.
4. The Executive Secretary will make the information provided under paragraph 3 available on the public portion of the ICCAT website.

Pilot Program Process and Procedures

5. Contracting Parties that have elected to participate in the pilot program should communicate with one another to identify opportunities for exchanges of inspectors or observers pursuant to this program.
6. Contracting Parties deploying patrol vessels in fisheries managed by ICCAT should:

- a) Consider their participation in the pilot program in developing patrol plans and strive, where possible, to arrange patrols that can accommodate one or more personnel from other Contracting Parties; and
 - b) Provide relevant information to other participating Contracting Parties, as appropriate, in order to determine their interest in an exchange of inspectors or observers, either on a particular patrol or on a patrol that may be planned in the future.
7. Contracting Parties wishing to place inspectors or observers on another Contracting Party's inspection vessel should contact the POC of the Contracting Party that has provided information under paragraph 6, to indicate its interest.
 8. When a Contracting Party has provided notice of its interest in an exchange of inspectors or observers under paragraph 7, the concerned Contracting Parties should consult to determine whether such an exchange could be accommodated, taking into consideration operational limitations as well as training, operational and information security, and medical and physical requirements. Contracting Parties deploying inspection vessel(s) should make special efforts to accommodate requests from developing Contracting Parties, in particular.
 9. Contracting Parties that have chosen to establish an exchange of personnel under the pilot program should enter into a standing or *ad hoc* bilateral agreement or arrangement to address relevant details of the deployment, including whether the scope of the agreement should be limited to inspections in areas beyond national jurisdiction or include national EEZs, the role of personnel deployed under the arrangement or agreement, as well as further provisions for the cooperative deployment of inspectors or observers and the use of vessels, aircraft or other resources for fisheries surveillance and control purposes, and the protection of law enforcement sensitive or otherwise confidential or protected information from inappropriate disclosure.

Reporting and Review

10. Contracting Parties who engage in such exchanges should coordinate reporting to the Commission annually on any activities carried out under the pilot program for consideration by the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of Statistics and Conservation (PWG). Contracting Parties are also encouraged to provide information related to joint inspection activities undertaken outside the context of this pilot program, as appropriate.
11. This pilot program should be reviewed no more than 3 years after adoption.

OTHER DOCUMENTS DISCUSSED IN 2018

7.1 AGREED WORKPLAN TO FINALIZE THE PROPOSALS FOR CONVENTION AMENDMENT

In the opening session of Plenary, the Commission adopted the report of the 6th Meeting of the Convention Working Group (**ANNEX 4.5**) and its recommendations. The Commission agreed to take the output of the Working Group forward for finalization and adoption, including the proposed text to amend the ICCAT Convention, the associated draft Resolution Regarding Participation by Fishing Entities under the Amended ICCAT Convention, and the amended draft Recommendation on Species Considered to be tuna and tuna-like Species or Oceanic, Pelagic, and Highly Migratory Elasmobranchs (**Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.5**). The Commission agreed that these constitute a package, and the texts are final and not subject to any further substantive negotiation and discussion.

Next Steps:

- The text of the proposed amendments will undergo a legal and technical review in the first quarter of 2019, according to the following terms of reference:

The Technical and Legal Editing Group of the Contracting Parties is charged with reviewing the existing text by addressing the following:

- a. Consistency check of use of terminology within the Convention text;
- b. Issues related to format (e.g. punctuation, spelling, format for numbering, cross references, etc.);
- c. Correct use of language; and
- d. Consistency of language among the English, French, and Spanish versions of the text.

The mandate of the Technical and Legal Editing Group does not include making any changes to the negotiated text unless absolutely necessary from a legal drafting point of view, and provided that any new language conveys the same meaning. Participants per Contracting Party are limited to a maximum of two.

- Once reviewed by the Technical and Legal Editing Group, the Executive Secretary will circulate the text in all three languages to all CPCs, so that they may review the text in each of the three ICCAT official languages and, within 45 days, identify any issues or discrepancies found among the different versions of the text.
- The Chair of the Commission, in consultation with the Chair of the Working Group on Convention Amendment, will prepare a draft Protocol by which the proposal for amendment will be adopted by the Commission. The Executive Secretary will circulate this draft to all CPCs at least six months in advance of the 2019 Commission meeting.
- The draft Protocol will:
 - Set out the text of the proposed amendments
 - Highlight the associated Resolution and Recommendation that will be adopted concurrently
 - Specify that the amendments involve new obligations
 - Affirm that the amendments will enter into force pursuant to the second scenario in Article XIII, i.e. they will take effect on the 90th day after three-fourths of the Contracting Parties have deposited their notification of acceptance with the Depository, and thereafter for each remaining Contracting Party upon its acceptance.
 - Note that any Contracting Party that is not yet bound by the amendments may choose to implement them provisionally.

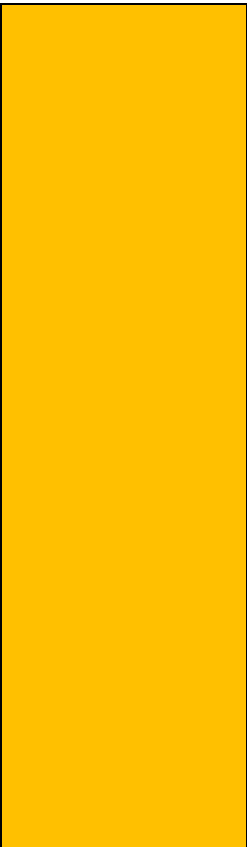

- Encourage all Contracting Parties expeditiously to complete their approval or ratification process in order that the amendments may enter into force as soon as possible.
- Provide any necessary policy guidance for how the Commission intends to function during the period until the amendments have taken effect for all Contracting Parties.
- Contracting Parties will ensure that they have completed their respective internal procedures in order to have all necessary mandates and powers to adopt the Protocol at the time of the 2019 annual meeting of the Commission.
- At the opening of the session for the adoption of the Protocol, the Executive Secretary shall inform the Commission whether all of the Contracting Parties have provided documents showing explicitly that they are mandated to adopt the Protocol.
- During the course of the 2019 annual meeting, the Contracting Parties will adopt the Protocol containing the proposal for amendment, and concurrently the Commission will adopt the fishing entity Resolution and species Recommendation.
- The adopted Protocol with Proposal for Amendment will be deposited with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, who will transmit a certified copy of the text to all Contracting Parties so that they may begin their ratification process.

7.2 FOLLOW-UP OF THE ICCAT PERFORMANCE REVIEW – PLENARIES & CONVENTION

Report chapter	Recommendations	LEAD	PLE	Term	Proposed Next Steps	Action to be taken, or already taken	Completion status following Annual meeting	Comments
Draft Amended ICCAT Convention	2. Urge its Members, following the conclusion of the work of the WG on Convention Amendment, to make all necessary efforts to ensure that the amendments to the ICCAT Convention enter into force as soon as soon as possible.	COM	X		Issue would need to be considered once Convention amendments are agreed.	To be decided once current package is adopted		
Precautionary Approach (PA)	44. The Panel recommends (a) that the content of Res. 15-12 be transformed into an ICCAT recommendation and (b) that the new Convention contains an explicit commitment to apply the precautionary approach.	COM	X	S/M	(a) Refer to the Commission for consideration and appropriate action.	(b) CWG has already developed agreed amendments to the Convention on the matter of the PA.		
Pollution, Waste and Discarded Gears	57. The Panel notes the measures adopted by ICCAT to date and recommends that ICCAT expands the range of its measures addressing these policy matters. In this regard, the Panel would refer to CCAMLR CM 26-01 on general environmental protection during fishing.	COM	X	M	Refer to the Commission for consideration. FAD WG is also addressing this issue, and should be guided by Panel 4. Work also being carried out through Kobe process.			

Previously Unregulated Fisheries	58. Considering the important role played by the sport and recreational fisheries in a number of key fisheries, notably billfishes, the Panel recommends that: a) the Working Group is re-activated to complete its mandate; and	COM	X	S	Refer to the Commission for consideration	Lack of the submission of relevant information on recreational fisheries by many CPCs has limited the utility of this Working Group.		
	b) mechanisms are developed by ICCAT to engage this sector in the deliberations of ICCAT on management and control measures for these fisheries.	COM	X	M	Refer to the Commission for consideration	CPC's have an important role in engaging their stakeholders on ICCAT matters.		
Fishing Allocations and Opportunities	63. The Panel considers that there are legitimate expectations among Developing CPCs that quota allocation schemes need to be reviewed periodically and adjusted to take account of a range of changing circumstances, notably, changes in stock distribution, fishing patterns and fisheries development goals of Developing States.	COM	X	S/M	Refer to Panels for consideration and appropriate action. Commission to coordinate action among the Panels.	Some progress has been made in individual Panels		
	64. The Panel considers it appropriate that quota allocation schemes should have a fixed duration, up to seven years, after which they should be reviewed and adjusted, if necessary.	COM	X	S/M	Refer to Panels for consideration and appropriate action. Commission to coordinate action among the Panels.	Most schemes are for 3-4 years; there is a need to keep step with stock assessments, as well as developments in the fishery / new entrants		Not necessarily appropriate to all ICCAT species, so no further action necessary

	65. In determining quota allocation schemes in the future, the Panel proposes that ICCAT could envisage establishing a reserve within new allocation schemes (for instance, a certain percentage of the TAC), to respond to requests from either new CPCs or Developing CPCs, which wish to develop their own fisheries in a responsible manner.	COM	X	S/M	Refer to Panels for consideration and appropriate action. Commission to coordinate action among the Panels.	Has been done for some species	
Port State Measures	66. Encourages its CPCs to become Contracting Parties to the PSM Agreement.	COM	X	S		Port State Recommendation updated to take account of PSM and to bring ICCAT measures more into line	

<p>Reporting Requirements</p>	<p>87. The Panel recommends that ICCAT consider introducing a provision in new recommendations, whereby the introduction of new reporting requirements would only become effective after a 9 to 12-month period has elapsed. This would assist Developing States to adapt to new requirements. This is particularly relevant where the volume and/or nature of the reporting have changed significantly. The difficulties Developing States encounter in introducing new administrative/reporting requirements at short notice, is well documented in the compliance context. The option for Developed CPCs to apply immediately the new reporting requirements may of course be maintained, if those CPCs consider it opportune.</p>	<p>COM</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to all ICCAT bodies that can recommend binding reporting requirements for consideration when developing such recommendations. Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.</p>	<p>Has been discussed in some cases, but needs to be considered on a case by case basis and may not be appropriate to all measures</p>		<p>See comment PWG from IMM WG</p>
<p>Decision-making</p>	<p>88. Chairs of the Commission, Panels, COC and PWG should be prepared, once there has been sufficient discussion, to put draft Recommendations to a vote.</p>	<p>COM</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to the Commission for consideration</p>	<p>Consensus is the preferred option in ICCAT, but voting has taken place when requested</p>		

	91. Reviews its working practices in order to enhance transparency in decision-making, in particular on the allocation of fishing opportunities and the work of the Friends of the Chair.	COM	X	S	Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.	The Implementation of Res. 16-22 will assist with improving transparency in the COC Friends of the Chair process.		
Confidentiality	97. Considers further improvements, for instance by making more of its data and documents publicly available and - as regards documents - explaining the reasons for classifying certain documents as confidential.	COM	X	M	Refer the issue to the Commission / PWG and SCRS to begin a review of ICCAT's rules on confidentiality and their application and needed adjustments can be identified, if any.	All Commission documents are now open to the public. Only data sets containing fine scale data made available on the grounds of confidentiality are considered confidential, but PWG suggests that the rules be revised.		See comment PWG from IMM WG
Relationship to Cooperating Non-Members	100. Considers formalising the procedure for inviting non-CPCs.	COM	X	M	Refer to COC for consideration.			Needs to be added to COC list and agenda for 2019
Cooperation with Other RFMOs and Relevant International Organisations	103. Continues and enhances its cooperation and coordination with other tuna RFMOs in the context of the Kobe process and otherwise, in particular on the harmonization of their conservation and management measures.	COM	X	S/M	Refer to the Commission to consider ways to enhance cooperation with other tuna RFMOs.	Input from the Secretariat should help inform this discussion. Future of Kobe process discussed in 2018, and online reporting		

						working group will take this into consideration	
	104. Continue and enhances its cooperation and coordination with other intergovernmental bodies, in particular in relation to the conservation and management of sharks.	COM	X	S/M	Refer to the Commission to consider how to enhance cooperation with other IGOs on sharks and other matters.	Work is ongoing with GFCM, WECAFC and OSPAR. ICCAT will also follow UN BBNJ process, and continue to participate in the Common Oceans project of FAO	
	105. Considers becoming a member of the IMCS Network.	COM	X	S/M	Refer to the Commission for consideration.		
	106. Considers making more information on its cooperation with other RFMOs and intergovernmental bodies available on a dedicated part of the ICCAT website.	COM	X	S/M	Refer to the Commission to consider what, if any, additional information to put on the website. The Secretariat would post any identified information.		

Participation and Capacity Building	107. Adopts institutional arrangements to ensure that Chairs of the main ICCAT bodies come from a wider number of Contracting Parties, while taking due account of the necessary qualifications for such important positions.	COM	X	S/M	Refer to the Commission to consider if it wants to pursue development of such institutional arrangements and, if so, to determine how a proposed approach should be developed.	There has been increased widening of scope in recent years, as well as funding through MPF		
Presentation Scientific Advice	116. The Panel recommends that in a precautionary approach, the advice with more uncertainty should, in fact, be implemented more readily.	COM	X	S	Commission to coordinate action among the bodies including referring for their consideration when drafting a new or revising an existing conservation and management measures.	Related to recommendation 43.		
Adequacy SRCS and Secretariat	117. The Panel recommends that clear guidelines / processes on how the scientific resources of the Secretariat should be allocated to species should be agreed.	COM	X	S	Commission to consider appropriate action, including referring to SCRS for input on this matter.	SCRS to revisit strategic plan. May also need be considered by STACFAD		To include on STACFAD sheet for 2019

	<p>118. The Panel recommends that ICCAT evaluates the benefits of outsourcing its stock assessments to an external science provider while retaining the SCRS as a body to formulated the advice based on the stock assessments.</p>	COM	X	M/L	<p>For additional information, SCRS could advise on the pros and cons from a scientific perspective and STACFAD from a financial perspective. Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.</p>			See comments SCRS -BIL SG
<p>SCRS Long-Term Strategy</p>	<p>122. The Panel recommends that a process to formally incorporate scientific priorities with funding implications into the budget be implemented to fund the activities in the strategic plan. This could be achieved by a scientific research quota.</p>	COM	X	S	<p>Refer to the Commission to request that the Secretariat include relevant SCRS recommendations with financial implications in the draft biennial budget. SCRS should continue to prioritize its recommendations. STACFAD should consider and advise on any viable options to fund scientific priorities that cannot or should not be funded through the regular budget.</p>	<p>Linked to 117. Currently under consideration by STACFAD</p>		

Decision-Making	<p>1. Urges its CPCs to make all necessary efforts to bring the work of the WG on Convention Amendment to a successful conclusion. This also includes agreement:1. b) on a (de facto) provisional application of some or all amendments to the ICCAT Convention from the time of their adoption.</p>	<p>CWG</p>	<p>X</p>		<p>Issue would need to be considered once Convention amendments are agreed.</p>	<p>To be decided once current package is adopted</p>		
ICCAT Basic Texts	<p>3. The Panel recommends that ICCAT make consolidated versions of individual basic ICCAT instruments available on the ICCAT website.</p>	<p>STACFAD</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer this and related recommendations, in particular those concerning revisions to ICCAT's Rules of Procedure and observer rules, to STACFAD for consideration and appropriate action, including providing advice to the Commission on the timing for posting of these documents on the ICCAT website.</p>	<p>Mail voting procedures (Rule 9) need attention. In addition, several other recommendations from the Performance Review relate to revisions to ICCAT's Rules of Procedure and should be considered as a package by STACFAD.</p>		<p>Revised version published 2017. Further revision will be ensured once Convention package is adopted.</p>

<p>Decision-making</p>	<p>90. Ensures that the amendments to the ICCAT Convention relating to decision-making and opt-out procedures are provisionally applied from the moment of their formal adoption</p>	<p>CWG</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>See Recommendation 1(b) for proposed action.</p>	<p>Agreed, pending formal adoption</p>		
<p>Dispute Settlement</p>	<p>93. The Panel recommends that ICCAT urges its CPCs to reach agreement on the inclusion of compulsory dispute settlement procedures entailing binding decisions in the Amended ICCAT Convention, which also devote attention to provisional arrangements of a practical nature pending the establishment of a dispute settlement procedure.</p>	<p>CWG</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer dispute settlement recommendation to CWG to consider in ongoing discussion of this issue.</p>		<p>Agreed, pending formal adoption</p>		

7.3 COORDINATION AND COOPERATION BETWEEN T-RFMO¹: ADJUSTING THE WORK UNDER THE KOBE PROCESS - A CONCEPT NOTE (Draft by the KOBE process Steering Committee Chair)

Introductory remarks

In the present Ocean Governance set-up, RFMOs have been entrusted with a critical role to manage highly migratory² stocks properly. The t-RFMOs constitute a sub-set of RFMOs with a particular responsibility in this context.

Generally speaking, the performance of the t-RFMOs can be qualified as rather satisfactory.³ The scientific processes function, decisions about management measures are taken, compliance is monitored and measures are regularly reviewed to take account of changing circumstances. The performance of all the t-RFMOs has been assessed at least once.

Yet, occasionally t-RFMOs attract criticism about their performance. Sometimes also other organisations⁴, relying on a separate conservation mandate, venture into their activity domain. At times there are even suggestions that more over-arching global organisations ought to be set-up.⁵

The best reply to such criticism and challenges is for the t-RFMO to continue working on their performance and to continue working jointly on issues of common interest. There has been, for more than a decade, a systematic effort to pursue such cooperation under the “Kobe process”.

During the first meeting in Kobe, Japan in January 2007 fourteen key issues and challenges and a process for future work were defined. After a second meeting in San Sebastian, Spain in April 2009, several technical workshops were set up and at a third meeting in La Jolla, USA in July 2011 the focus of “Kobe process” activities shifted away from plenary-type meetings to a steering committee. The Steering Committee consists of the Chairs and Executive Secretaries (or directors) of the five t-RFMOs.

According to a self-assessment, t-RFMOs report achieving 70-80% of the original Kobe process goals. Other relevant work on FAD management, management strategy evaluation, the ecosystem approach to fisheries, by-catch and other topics has been carried out.

The continuation of a cross t-RFMO cooperation process in some form is important for conveying key messages regarding progress in fisheries management to all stakeholders, including producers, consumers and civil society. This should be relevant also for the UNFSA review process.

The Steering Committee has been trying to assess its own performance and to improve the cooperation mechanisms. During its most recent meeting⁶ at the occasion of the COFI meeting at the FAO in Rome, an exchange of views resulted in a broad agreement on a way forward.

Basic principles

The process will continue to work as a lean -virtual- organisation. It will continue to rely on the t-RFMO, on Contracting Parties and on efforts and contributions by various stakeholders (civil society, fleet operators, processors, retail organisations etc.).

The FAO will continue to support the process and will also offer a light Secretariat service. Various communication tools will be used but efforts will be made to enhance the website “www.tuna-org.org” which is hosted by ICCAT.

¹ Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations

² And other stocks of common interest like straddling stocks

³ See argumentation in: S.DEPYPERE, *Ocean Governance for Sustainable Fisheries, in Nordquist e.a. 372-378* © Koninklijke Brill nv, Leiden, 2017.

⁴ Which arguably, are less performing or less committed to following good practices than t-RFMOs.

⁵ e.g. during the BBNJ preparatory discussions.

⁶ 11/07/2018

It has been made very clear that the process should not provide oversight of the t-RFMOs and also should not set binding frameworks for t-RFMOs or their members. Rather the Kobe process should provide for a platform for enhanced coordination and collaboration instead of being a decision-making platform. It should avoid prescriptive guidance and make this very clear within the RFMO community.

As many of the previous goals were reached, new and achievable goals need to be defined recognizing that there are inherent differences between the t-RFMOs, both structurally and on specific issues.

There are benefits to a Kobe process associated with improved public perceptions of transparency and progress, particularly given the importance of tuna to a variety of market sectors. While small meetings are more manageable and efficient, it was noted that large meetings are costly but relatively more transparent. In order to be successful the agenda needs to be well crafted.

Fostering strategic communications is considered to be very important, including communication between t-RFMOs to identify shared priorities, identifying joint actions which would benefit all t-RFMOs, and then having an outward-facing communications strategy aimed at members and all stakeholders, including civil society.

The spirit of the Kobe process is grounded in sharing knowledge and building on commonalities, for example catch documentation schemes, data collection and reporting, as well as a number of other topics⁷. It can serve as an important focal point for mutually beneficial cooperation.

It is important for the representatives of each t-RFMO at the steering committee to obtain a clear mandate from their membership to participate in cross t-RFMO activities. As already previously agreed, the Kobe process will feature as a point on the agenda of the annual meeting of each t-RFMO.

Practical work

Work would be arranged in three main categories:

Cooperation, exchange of information and coordination within the Steering Committee. This may involve participation in the Annual meeting or other events organised by fellow t-RFMOs.

Organisation of meetings of existing⁸ or new Working Groups covering particular topics (MSE, FADs, by-catch, catch documentation, external communication, best practices in science, compliance).

Such cooperation will need to rely on the initiatives and on the voluntary contributions (intellectually, financially, and logistically) by Contracting Parties, stakeholders and t-RFMOs themselves. Participation would be open to everybody who wishes to cooperate.

All parties are invited to reflect on possible topics and to consider contributing. The Steering Committee will act as a broker for such information and will facilitate forms of cooperation.

The organisation of a new large-scale meeting⁹ will also be considered. On the one hand, such a large-scale meeting poses quite a challenge. Preparation is a daunting task. On the other hand, it is considered very beneficial in terms of inclusiveness and transparency. It would only make sense, however, if all t-RFMOs and enough Contracting Parties and stakeholders were ready to prepare this content-wise and to attend actively. The FAO is considering whether it can finance and host such a meeting. Tentative timing would be September 2019.

Invitation

All t-RFMOs are invited to discuss these ideas at their annual meeting or otherwise.¹⁰

⁷ Advanced also under the Common Oceans (ABNJ) Tuna Project.

⁸ The list of existing Working Groups and their Chairs will be communicated separately.

⁹ A "Kobe IV".

¹⁰ Due to the scheduling of Annual Meetings, fixing suitable calendars and deadlines is very difficult.

7.4 DRAFT PROPOSAL FOR AMENDING THE PROCEDURE TO STREAMLINE ICCAT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

1. Each year, at least 45 days before the entry into force of the Recommendations adopted by the Commission the previous year, the Secretariat will review the measures in the Active Compendium and circulate to all CPCs a list of possibly outdated or redundant measures to be removed from the Active Compendium, together with a brief rationale for their proposed removal.
2. Before circulation, the Secretariat will also review the reference numbers of Resolutions and Recommendations cited in the measures contained in the Active Compendium and update any outdated references as appropriate. In order to allow the historical record to be maintained, a footnote to that effect will be included in such updated measures. CPCs will be invited to review these references and inform the Secretariat within 45 days of any discrepancies.
3. In the event that any CPC objects, within 45 days of circulation, to the removal of any measure on this list, such measure shall be maintained in the Active Compendium.
4. In the case that no CPC has objected to their removal, the Secretariat will remove such measures from the Active Compendium at the time of entry into force of the Recommendations adopted the previous year.
5. A list of all measures removed will be submitted each year to the Commission at its annual meeting, at which time the Commission may agree to reinstate any measure removed. Any CPC wishing to propose the reinstatement of a measure may do so at that time.
6. Where measures are not sufficiently outdated to be repealed but may contain provisions which require updating or consolidation into another measure, the Secretariat will bring such provisions to the attention of the relevant subsidiary body Chairs for consideration and review in advance of the annual meeting. The Chairs of the relevant subsidiary bodies, assisted by the Secretariat as required, may develop draft revised measures that incorporate suggested revisions. The relevant subsidiary body should include an agenda item for review of such measures on its meeting agenda and, as appropriate, propose amendments to be adopted by the Commission.
7. At the time of entry into force of the Recommendations adopted the previous year, the Secretariat should also review the reference numbers of Resolutions and Recommendations cited in the measures contained in the Active Compendium and update any outdated references as appropriate. In order to allow the historical record to be maintained, a footnote to that effect will be included in such updated measures.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION (STACFAD)

1 Opening of the meeting

The meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) was opened on Wednesday 14 November 2018 by its Chair, Mr. Hasan Alper Elekon (Turkey).

2 Appointment of Rapporteur

The ICCAT Secretariat was appointed Rapporteur.

3 Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, was adopted (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8**).

4 Consideration of the outcome of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second Performance Review of ICCAT

The Chair summarized the progress and work carried out during 2018 to follow up on the recommendations of the second performance review. He indicated that the *Basic Texts* had already been revised and that other revisions would be made following the entry into force of the amended Convention. He also signalled that a roadmap should be developed with indications to the Commission and Secretariat. In addition, he stated that recommendation 130 on review and assessment of the Secretariat's human resources must be addressed on a priority basis. He further informed that the Secretariat had contacted three external consultancies regarding performance of the ICCAT audit to assess the Secretariat's excessive workload.

The European Union expressed its concerns regarding the loss of competent ICCAT staff to other RFMOs, and proposed that the foreseen assessment of the Secretariat's human resources should also include an analysis of the grades currently being applied in the Secretariat compared to the grades for similar positions in other RFMOs and relevant international organisations.

Uruguay indicated that the issue of participation and communication with NGOs (Recommendations 94, 95, 96) should be assessed. Uruguay added that there should be more available information on representativeness and the economic interests of these organizations in ICCAT, and that it should be confirmed whether they are really related to the fisheries. Japan supported this opinion and signalled that the aim and the purpose of these organizations should be checked for consistency with the ICCAT objectives. A procedure already exists for this purpose and should be used.

Progress to date made by STACFAD on the follow-up of the second performance review is included in **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 8**.

5 Secretariat reports

5.1 2018 Administrative Report

The 2018 Administrative Report was presented by the Chair. The report summarised the activities carried out by the Secretariat in 2018, highlighting the substantial work load experienced this year. The Chair signalled that the ICCAT recommendations and resolutions adopted in 2017 by the Commission had been circulated within the timeframes stipulated in Article VIII.2 of the Convention, and referred to the numerous intersessional meetings and ICCAT working group meetings which were held in 2018. He also made reference to the meetings at which ICCAT was represented, and signalled that Appendix 1 to the 2018 Administrative Report contained the summaries of these meetings. He also pointed out that the Secretariat continues to send annually two letters of reminder regarding compliance with budgetary obligations.

The Chair informed that in the month of July, Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel took up office as Executive Secretary. He also informed of the following appointments: Dr Ai Kimoto, as Population Dynamics Expert, Dr Nathan Taylor, as By-catch Coordinator, Dr Francisco Alemany, as Coordinator of the ICCAT Atlantic-wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (GBYP), and Dr Lisa Ailloud, as Assistant Coordinator of the ICCAT Atlantic Ocean Tropical tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP).

In addition, he indicated that it was necessary to select an auditing firm to carry out the audits of financial years 2018-2022, and that this issue would be addressed under item 6 of the Agenda.

He further indicated that Article 22 of the ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules had been modified to align it with the amendment to Article 33 "Separation from service due to retirement", which was approved and made in 2017.

The 2018 Administrative Report was adopted.

5.2 2018 Financial Report

The Head of Administration and Finance Department presented the Secretariat's 2018 Financial Report. He indicated that the 2017 auditor's report had been sent to the Contracting Parties in June 2018, and that the financial report set out the situation of the Commission's budgetary statements at 15 October 2018, as well as the trust funds managed by the Secretariat. He also signalled that the Working Capital Fund stood at 33.20% of the total budget. He explained the most significant aspects of the financial statements and informed that the expenses incurred amounted to 65.97% and revenue received amounted to 72.98% of the budget approved for 2018. Regarding extra-budgetary expenses, he highlighted that expenses in the amount of €1,070,943.48 had been incurred, which corresponded in particular to all the intersessional and Commission meetings, and to financing of the Atlantic Ocean Tropical tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP).

As for extra-budgetary revenue, he informed that voluntary contributions had been received from the European Union to cover the costs of the 2018 Commission meeting (€375,842.92), as well as the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1 (€51,170.50), from the United States to cover the costs of the Meeting of the Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) and the Meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment (€82,579.17), from the FAO for the 2017 Meeting of the Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity Building and Assistance (€15,812.32), and the special contribution from Chinese Taipei (€100,000.00), the overhead received from the ICCAT programmes (€268,023.36), as well as other extra-budgetary revenue such as observer fees, bank interest and the VAT refund.

In addition, he highlighted that five new contributions had been received from the following Contracting Parties after the date of the report i.e. 15 October 2018: Ghana (€217,507.22), Liberia (€5,474.69), St. Vincent and the Grenadines (€42,341.21), Senegal (€37,808.29) and Syria (€3,418.40). He also encouraged delegations to meet their financial commitments so as to end the financial year with the Working Capital Fund within the stipulated range.

Finally, he indicated that the costs estimated by the Secretariat until year-end amounted to €1,451,259.02 and that, once the revenue referred to above has been received and if no new revenue is received before year-end, the Working Capital Fund will stand at 2.99% of the budget (€114,156.89).

The Head of Administration and Finance Department observed that in 2018 an alarming situation had arisen which had been forecast in recent years, as a result of overuse of the Working Capital Fund, and requested that the subsidiary bodies also informed of the financial implications of any new activities being required or requested.

Ghana commented that an attempt could be made to reduce costs under some chapters of the budget such as chapter 4 "Publications", through use of electronic support. The Chair highlighted that for this meeting 400,000 copies had already been made, and that this had an impact on the budget.

The Chair observed that the financial report presented indicated that at the 15 October 2018, when the five contributions had not been received, the level of revenue of the Working Capital Fund was below the expenses that had been incurred by the Commission, and that for the purposes of efficient use of this fund, it should not be depended on to such an extent.

The United States reminded that the possibility of this type of situation arising had been highlighted in recent years, and asserted that the Working Capital Fund should not be used for regular expenditure. The United States also indicated that the situation was cause for grave concern and could potentially lead to a financial crisis.

Brazil expressed its concern, and reminded that the Working Capital Fund had been used more than it should, in particular, to finance the eBCD system and the AOTTP, and that the current situation was the consequence of this overuse.

The 2018 Financial Report was adopted.

5.3 Review of progress on payment of arrears and voting rights

The Head of Administration and Finance Department presented the document “Detailed Information on the Accumulated Debt of the ICCAT Contracting Parties & Review of the Payment Plans of Past-Due Contributions”, which reflected the accumulated debt of the Contracting Parties by year. He highlighted that six Contracting Parties had had their voting rights suspended (Article X of the ICCAT Convention). He requested that the CPCs included in the document contact the Secretariat to regularise their situation and to provide payment plans.

He indicated that the document set out the total debt of the Contracting Parties, which amounted to nearly two million euros. He pointed out that two letters had been sent to highlight the situation and the implications of non-payment. He also commented that this situation directly affected the Working Capital Fund and the Secretariat, and called on Contracting Parties to take all the necessary action to resolve their arrears.

The delegations of Brazil, Libya, Uruguay, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Liberia and Honduras indicated that they would settle their debts in the coming months.

6 Selection of new auditors for the next five years (2018-2022)

The Chair explained that in 2018 the Secretariat had contacted ten auditing firms requesting a quotation for auditing services over the next five years of the Commission’s accounts. He indicated that three proposals had been received, one of which was rejected because it did not meet the timeframes required by the Financial Regulations. The other two offers had been presented to the Commission so that a firm could be selected. The Chair proposed that the Secretariat make the selection.

The United States enquired as to the prices offered by each firm and the price of the outgoing auditing firm.

The Head of Administration and Finance Department informed that the firm BDO had indicated the price of €12,700.00 in their proposal, and Ernst and Young €24,000.00, and that the current cost of auditing was €11,700. All these amounts were exclusive of tax. Given the price difference, the Secretariat preferred the firm BDO.

7 Assistance to developing CPCs and identification of the mechanism to finance the Meeting Participation Fund and other capacity building activities

7.1 Meeting Participation Fund

The Head of Administration and Finance Department presented the document “Meeting Participation Fund”, which informed about the financial situation of the Meeting Participation Fund (MPF). He highlighted that in addition to the initial balance of €143,657.90, the fund had received €50,000.00 from chapter 13 of

the budget, a voluntary contribution from the United States (€16,533.03), one from Canada (€50,000.00), and two from the European Union, through the European Union Funds for Capacity Building, one from 2018 (€84,000.00) and another one from the 2017 carryover of the same fund (€21,771.32). He also explained that until 7 November 2018, trip expenses had been covered for 121 participants from 27 CPCs. Finally, he indicated that it had been estimated that for 2019 the same funds would be required as in 2018 (€315,000.00), but that available funds stood at around €122,000.00. He also stressed that it is important for applicants to follow the procedure protocols that had been approved for the fund, so that efficient use is made of the Secretariat's financial and human resources. He informed that new rules of procedure were to be presented to improve existing resources, and that these included an item on how to proceed in the event of lack of funds, on account of the estimated balance for 2019.

The Chair indicated that the estimated expenditure for 2019 was much higher than the forecast available funds, and that a request had been submitted to the Committee for guidelines to be developed on the action that should be taken by the Secretariat in this case scenario.

The Executive Secretary pointed out that this fund had been created to help developing countries participate in the work undertaken at meetings. Given the lack of funds, he called on the Commission to develop guidelines that prioritise meetings, and to provide to the Secretariat a procedure that should be adopted if no funds remain (MPF).

A number of delegations highlighted the importance of this fund for the work carried out by the Commission, and several alternatives were considered, including allocation of a quota to each CPC so that it is each country's decision how to use its quota, or holding back to back meetings to economise on funding.

The European Union stressed the importance of this fund, and indicated that its delegation could make voluntary contributions, but that it was important to adhere to deadlines set out in the rules of procedure for the fund.

Japan also stressed the importance of this fund, and highlighted that it is difficult to take decisions on priorities for its use, since each country has different interests in relation to ICCAT species. Therefore, Japan proposed dividing the funds into two semester tranches, so that funds would be available for the second semester.

The United States indicated that the budget for this fund must be increased, and that its delegation would also provide funding through voluntary contributions. The United States agreed with the division into semesters, and proposed that periodic reports be produced so as to know the status of the fund and to encourage delegations to make additional contributions when necessary.

Following a long discussion, the Chair provided the following conclusions: in 2019, the funds would be divided into two semesters, so that funds would be available for meetings held later in the year, and that periodic reports would be produced throughout the year to inform CPCs as to the status of the funds and so that these can be monitored in a fair and transparent manner. He also signalled the approval of the new "Rules of Procedure for Administration of the Special Meeting Participation Fund" which establish new procedures to optimise resources (included in **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 8**). Finally, he expressed his gratitude to the European Union and the United States for their intended voluntary contributions to the MPF.

7.2 Mechanism for financing the special Scientific Capacity Building Fund

The Head of Administration and Finance Department presented the document "Special Scientific Capacity Building Fund" which reflected the financial situation of the fund in 2018. He signalled that financing had been provided for attendance by two scientists of a training workshop, and that the carryover had been transferred to the Science Strategic Program, leaving the fund with a zero balance, as approved in 2017.

8 Consideration of financial implications of ICCAT management and conservation measures proposed

The United States indicated that this issue had already been addressed in other meetings and that it was a priority. The United States indicated that a template could be prepared for 2019, which would be included in each proposal. Each template would contain the financial and human resources necessary for the associated proposal. This way, a cost-benefit analysis can be carried out for adoption of new measures.

The Chair stated that this template would be prepared for 2019, and that it would be used to assess the impact of implementation of recommendations on the Secretariat's workload and the associated financial resources, thereby addressing recommendation 86 "Reporting requirements" of the second performance review.

9 Consideration of the financial implications of SCRS requests

The Chair reminded that in 2017 a new chapter had been created in the Commission's budget to cover SCRS requests. He indicated that the cost of the activities requested by the SCRS for 2019 amounted to €1,070,000.00.

The SCRS Chair presented the document "SCRS research activities requiring funding for 2019", which included a table with the financial implications of SCRS requests and contained the activities which are part of the Science Strategic Plan, as well as the tactical activities which are envisaged for 2019, in addition to the activities of the MSE process. He highlighted that the activities had been grouped under four headings: biology, fisheries indicators, assessments and MSE.

The United States indicated that its delegation could finance the activities related to the billfish research programme.

Following several enquiries in connection with the document, Dr David Die presented a revision containing a budget for the different areas i.e. research, groups and panels, and requested guidance on the available funds and the best way to use them.

Japan welcomed the document which provided an overview of the MSE process by species, and proposed focusing on a species, gathering insights and using this work as the basis for the other species. This way, the cost could be transferred to the following financial year.

Dr Die indicated that should the MSE process be postponed to next year, the requested budget would decrease considerably.

Uruguay indicated that the SCRS should seek external financing mechanisms. He also signalled that funds could be obtained globally from some NGOs, and that the ABNJ project could provide funds for some activities, in addition to contributions from some CPCs.

The FAO representative confirmed that there was a possibility of financing through the ABNJ project for management strategy evaluation, as well as for meetings of the Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers, etc.

Angola indicated that the inclusion would affect CPC contributions and that funds covered through fishing vessels could be sought.

The Chair indicated that, in addition to the above-mentioned activities, the SCRS had expressed the view that travel by rapporteurs and chairs of the SCRS groups from developing countries should be financed as well as travel by the new SCRS Vice-Chair to the 2019 Species Groups and SCRS meetings, since the SCRS Chair and Vice-Chair will take turns to attend the other meetings. He also proposed to include the creation of the new post of SCRS Vice-Chair in Article 2 of the ICCAT Internal Regulations, and that this inclusion be presented to the Commission at its 2019 meeting for approval.

The Head of Administration and Finance Department indicated that these travel expenses had been calculated (rapporteurs and chairs of the SCRS groups from developing countries and travel by the Vice-Chair) which amounted to €65,000.00, and he indicated that for 2019 these expenses could be financed through the Working Capital Fund and that for the next biennial period, they would be included in the Commission's budget.

The delegation of Japan expressed its support for the post of SCRS Vice-Chair and the financing presented.

The European Union indicated that its delegation could provide financial support to cover the expenses of the SCRS Vice-Chairmanship, in addition to other activities it supported in recent years.

10 Consideration of other programs/activities which may require additional or extra-budgetary funding

10.1 Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP)

In relation to the Atlantic Ocean Tropical tuna Tagging Programme, it was reminded that it had a budget of €15,000,000.00, to which the European Union contributes up to a maximum of €13,480,000.00 (90%) and the remaining 10% must be financed through the ICCAT Working Capital Fund or voluntary contributions from ICCAT Contracting Parties. It was informed that in 2016, €194,397.00 were transferred from the Working Capital Fund to this programme, in 2017, €345,578.99, and in 2018, €462,544.32, and that in 2019, if no voluntary contributions are received from any CPCs, ICCAT would need to transfer €78,100.90 from the Working Capital Fund.

10.2 Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document Programme (eBCD)

The Chair of the Technical Working Group on eBCD (TWG) reminded that implementation of the eBCD had been financed through the Working Capital Fund and that, in 2016, the Commission requested that the Group put forward options to guarantee financing and estimate the forecast costs for maintenance, support and for the improvements identified by the Technical Working Group. He also indicated that this Group had been working and that an initial proposal had been presented which was included in the document "Draft proposed addition to ICCAT Financial Regulation 4 for an eBCD system funding scheme". He explained that the proposal had taken into account the Madrid Protocol to provide a fair and equitable solution, and that it was based on the weighting of three elements: total live weight of bluefin tuna catch, the total number of trades by Contracting Party in the eBCD system, and the total volume of Atlantic bluefin tuna of the Contracting Party exported and imported, as recorded in the eBCD system; all the data must correspond to the same time period. He explained that a basic fee had been considered (USD 700), which would be independent from the previous calculations, in conjunction with weightings of 30%, 40% and 30% assigned respectively to the three elements described above. He explained that the proposal would be included in Regulation 4 of the Financial Regulations.

China signalled that the data described must correspond to the same period so that the framework is appropriate and comparable.

Japan commented that this calculation should be carried out for bluefin tuna and not for the other species.

The European Union indicated that the trade data referred to imports and that the cost was estimated at around €300,000.00 a year, but that this cost could be reduced in time with use of the system.

The United States indicated that the matter of imports should be included in the document, and that the timeframe of the Commission's regular budget could be applied.

The Head of Administration and Finance Department indicated that for the ICCAT budget, the average of 2013, 2014 and 2015 had been used in this biennial.

The delegations of China and Turkey expressed their agreement with the proposal.

Tunisia and Libya called for these funds to be requested outside of the Commission's regular budget in the event that the same action needed to be taken for other species in the future.

A revised document was presented with the discussed contributions (included in **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 8**), which was approved by the Committee for inclusion in the Financial Regulations.

10.3 Integrated Online Management System (IOMS)

The United States explained that in 2018 the matter of online communication had been discussed and that the Compliance Committee endorsed the Online Reporting Expert Working Group recommendations, including funding for Phase I (main module of the Integrated Online Management System (IOMS), as well as the Annual Report Part II, Section 3 as a first module within this system). The recommendation included a suggestion for STACFAD to explore using existing ABNJ Common Oceans Program funds, as well as voluntary contributions, to fund Phase I in 2019. The Compliance Committee referred this financial action item to STACFAD for consideration. The total budget, proposed in the document "ICCAT Integrated Online Management System (IOMS): Phase 1 (IOMS Main Module plus Module 1 - Annual Report Part II, Section 3)" amounts to €197,000. No opposition to the proposal was expressed by the CPCs. STACFAD agreed to fund Phase I through existing ABNJ Common Ocean Program funds, as well as through voluntary contributions.

11 Consideration of options for a sustainable financial position, level of Working Capital Fund and cost recovery approach for ICCAT

The Chair informed that the current situation of the Working Capital Fund is a grave cause for concern and set out possible options to solve this problem.

The Head of Administration and Finance Department indicated that the situation of the Working Capital Fund presented had improved with the recent contributions received, and that the fund now stood at 2.99% of the 2018 budget. He signalled that until now many activities had been financed from the Working Capital Fund, but that the fund does not currently have enough capital and that the way of financing some activities, including intersessional meetings to be held in 2019, had to be defined. On this point, he called on CPCs to pay their arrears of contributions and stated that it was necessary to know the funds that would be provided by CPCs through voluntary contributions to organize financial year 2019.

The Executive Secretary commented that it was necessary to know the actual amount of the contributions, since any delay in receipt has a direct impact on the activities scheduled. He also indicated that there was considerable uncertainty in this regard, and that arrears of contributions currently amounted to two million euros. He highlighted that it was essential to know the budget of the new requests and what means could be used to finance SCRS activities, and that it was also necessary for all new activities to have an associated means of financing for the purposes of sound management.

The Chair presented the document "Options for a sustainable financial position and cost recovery approach in ICCAT", with the aim of reviewing options to reduce costs and increase revenue so as to ensure a sustainable position for ICCAT, through creation of an expert group open to all CPCs which will work intersessionally by correspondence to propose solutions to this matter.

Honduras indicated that its delegation would be a part of this group.

Japan proposed that the scope of the group could be broader than cost reduction, and proposed improvements to the Group's mandate which were included in the document.

Uruguay, the European Union and the United States agreed with the creation of the new virtual group.

The Chair indicated that during the second performance review, it was indicated that the level of the Working Capital Fund should be 70%, which is higher than the level that is currently set, which is 15%. He indicated that, following consultation with the Secretariat, he had concluded that a more realistic level for the Working Capital Fund would be 30%, and this would be reflected in the report.

12 Review of budget and Contracting Party contributions for 2019

The expenditure budget for 2019 did not contain any changes and the revenue budget was modified to include Nicaragua as a new member of Panel 1 and Guinea-Bissau in the membership of Panels 1 and 4. In addition, the exchange rate was updated to the month of November 2018.

The 2019 budget was approved (**Tables 1-5 to ANNEX 8**).

13 Other matters

13.1 Streamlining of ICCAT conservation and management measures

The Head of the Compliance Department presented the document “Streamlining of ICCAT conservation and management measures”, which she had already partly presented in other forums. The Committee approved the “Draft proposal for amending the procedure to streamline ICCAT conservation and management measures”, (**ANNEX 7.4**).

13.2 Review of observer fees

The Chair informed that observer fees were reduced in 1999 to USD 500 for a two-person delegation, and that there was an additional charge of USD 350 for a third participant. These fees were currently lower than the financial costs of attendance per person, which is what prompted the suggestion that STACFAD review these fees.

The delegation of Japan proposed that this matter be addressed by the group opened to work intersessionally by correspondence on sustainable financing.

14 Adoption of the Report and adjournment

The STACFAD meeting was adjourned by the Chair, Mr. Hasan Alper Elekon and the STACFAD Report was adopted by correspondence.

Table 1. 2019 ICCAT Budget (Euros).

Chapters	2018	2019	2019 Revised	Increase
1. Salaries	1,694,148.36	1,728,031.33	1,728,031.33	0.00%
2. Travel	26,000.00	26,520.00	26,520.00	0.00%
3. Commission meetings (annual & inter-sessional)	160,000.00	163,200.00	163,200.00	0.00%
4. Publications	27,500.00	28,050.00	28,050.00	0.00%
5. Office Equipment	15,000.00	15,300.00	15,300.00	0.00%
6. Operating Expenses	140,000.00	142,800.00	142,800.00	0.00%
7. Miscellaneous	7,600.00	7,752.00	7,752.00	0.00%
8. Coordination of Research				
a) Salaries	1,102,825.15	1,124,881.65	1,124,881.65	0.00%
b) Travel to improve statistics	26,000.00	26,520.00	26,520.00	0.00%
c) Statistics-Biology	17,500.00	17,850.00	17,850.00	0.00%
d) Computer-related items	39,000.00	39,780.00	39,780.00	0.00%
e) Database maintenance	25,500.00	26,010.00	26,010.00	0.00%
f) Phone line-Internet domain	26,000.00	26,520.00	26,520.00	0.00%
g) Scientific meetings (including SCRS)	76,500.00	78,030.00	78,030.00	0.00%
h) Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
<i>Sub-total Chapter 8</i>	<i>1,313,325.15</i>	<i>1,339,591.65</i>	<i>1,339,591.65</i>	<i>0.00%</i>
9. Contingencies	5,000.00	5,100.00	5,100.00	0.00%
10. Separation from Service Fund	60,500.00	61,710.00	61,710.00	0.00%
11. Strategic Research Programme				
a) Strategic Research Programme	50,000.00	150,000.00	150,000.00	0.00%
<i>Sub-total Chapter 11</i>	<i>50,000.00</i>	<i>150,000.00</i>	<i>150,000.00</i>	<i>0.00%</i>
12. Compliance				
a) Compliance database maintenance	250,000.00	250,000.00	250,000.00	0.00%
<i>Sub-total Chapter 12</i>	<i>250,000.00</i>	<i>250,000.00</i>	<i>250,000.00</i>	<i>0.00%</i>
13. Travel				
a) Travel by ICCAT Chairs	18,500.00	18,500.00	18,500.00	0.00%
b) Special Meeting Participation Fund	50,000.00	72,000.00	72,000.00	0.00%
<i>Sub-total Chapter 13</i>	<i>68,500.00</i>	<i>90,500.00</i>	<i>90,500.00</i>	<i>0.00%</i>
TOTAL BUDGET	3,817,573.51	4,008,554.98	4,008,554.98	0.00%

Table 2. Basic information to calculate the Contracting Party contributions in 2019.

Contracting Parties	Groups ^a	GNP ^b 2014	GNP ^b 1991	Catch ^c	Canning ^d	Catch + Canning	Panels ^e				Total Panels	Contracting Parties
							1	2	3	4		
Albania	D	4,642	2,731	28	0	28	-	X	-	-	1	Albania
Algérie	D	5,484	3,226	2,866	1,770	4,636	-	X	-	X	2	Algérie
Angola	D	6,054	3,561	3,005	0	3,005	X	-	-	X	2	Angola
Barbados	C	15,360	9,035	387	0	387	-	-	-	-	0	Barbados
Belize	C	4,831	2,842	8,552	0	8,552	X	X	X	X	4	Belize
Brazil	B	11,387	6,698	36,937	13,141	50,078	X	X	X	X	4	Brazil
Canada	A	50,169	29,511	2,460	0	2,460	X	X	-	X	3	Canada
Cabo Verde	C	3,609	2,123	28,734	1,825	30,559	X	-	-	X	2	Cabo Verde
China, People's Rep. of	C	7,617	4,481	4,052	0	4,052	X	X	X	X	4	China, People's Rep. of
Côte d'Ivoire	C	1,546	909	7,011	0	7,011	X	-	-	X	2	Côte d'Ivoire
Curaçao	A	52,129	30,664	26,875	0	26,875	X	-	-	-	1	Curaçao
Egypt	D	3,151	1,854	1,002	0	1,002	-	X	-	X	2	Egypt
El Salvador	C	4,120	2,424	11,263	5,580	16,843	X	-	-	-	1	El Salvador
France (St. P. & M.)	A	42,733	25,137	12	0	12	X	X	-	X	3	France (St. P. & M.)
Gabon	C	10,317	6,069	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Gabon
Ghana	C	1,388	816	78,232	20,000	98,232	X	-	-	-	1	Ghana
Grenada	C	8,313	4,890	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	0	Grenada
Guatemala, Rep. de	C	3,673	2,161	10,637	0	10,637	X	-	-	X	2	Guatemala, Rep. de
Guinea Ecuatorial	C	20,382	11,989	75	0	75	X	-	-	X	2	Guinea Ecuatorial
Guinea, Rep. of	C	536	315	8,555	0	8,555	X	-	-	X	2	Guinea, Rep. of
Guinée-Bissau	D	672	395	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Guinée-Bissau
Honduras	D	2,449	1,441	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Honduras
Iceland	A	52,048	30,616	24	0	24	-	X	-	-	1	Iceland
Japan	A	36,298	21,352	30,001	0	30,001	X	X	X	X	4	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	C	28,166	16,568	1,682	0	1,682	X	X	X	X	4	Korea, Rep. of
Liberia	D	483	284	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Liberia
Libya	D	6,602	3,884	1,008	160	1,168	X	X	-	X	3	Libya
Maroc	C	3,243	1,908	7,395	957	8,352	X	X	-	X	3	Maroc
Mauritania	D	1,283	755	0	0	0	X	X	-	X	3	Mauritania
Mexico	C	10,326	6,074	1,502	0	1,502	X	X	X	X	4	Mexico
Namibia	D	5,589	3,288	3,739	0	3,739	X	-	X	X	3	Namibia
Nicaragua, Rep. de	D	1,963	1,155	0	0	0	X	-	-	-	1	Nicaragua, Rep. de
Nigeria	D	3,203	1,884	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Nigeria
Norway	A	97,226	57,192	3	0	3	-	X	-	X	2	Norway

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Panama	B	12,712	7,478	20,888	0	20,888	X	X	X	X	4	Panama
Philippines, Rep. of	D	2,871	1,689	2,068	0	2,068	X	-	X	-	2	Philippines, Rep. of
Russia	C	12,898	7,587	1,217	0	1,217	X	-	-	-	1	Russia
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	D	6,669	3,923	1,403	0	1,403	X	X	-	X	3	Saint Vincent and Grenadines
São Tomé e Príncipe	D	1,811	1,065	2,783	0	2,783	X	-	-	X	2	São Tomé e Príncipe
Senegal	C	1,067	628	17,571	199	17,770	X	-	X	X	3	Senegal
Sierra Leone	D	775	456	0	0	0	X	-	-	-	1	Sierra Leone
South Africa	C	6,482	3,813	6,062	0	6,062	X	-	X	X	3	South Africa
Syrian Arab Republic	D	1,821	1,071	34	0	34	-	X	-	-	1	Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad & Tobago	C	20,723	12,190	2,642	0	2,642	X	-	-	X	2	Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisie	C	4,261	2,506	6,615	2,190	8,805	-	X	-	X	2	Tunisie
Turkey	B	10,299	6,058	13,789	0	13,789	X	X	X	X	4	Turkey
Union Européenne	A	37,939	22,317	234,544	268,721	503,265	X	X	X	X	4	Union Européenne
United Kingdom (O.T.)	A	46,281	27,224	187	0	187	X	-	-	-	1	United Kingdom (O.T.)
United States	A	53,990	31,759	19,071	10,803	29,874	X	X	X	X	4	United States
Uruguay	C	16,807	9,886	480	0	480	X	-	X	X	3	Uruguay
Vanuatu	D	3,138	1,846	185	0	185	-	-	-	-	0	Vanuatu
Venezuela	B	16,615	9,774	6,606	1,076	7,682	X	X	-	X	3	Venezuela

a), b), c), d), e): See the legends in the **Annex**.

Table 3. Contracting Party Contributions 2019 (Euros).

Contracting		Catch +		% Catch +	% Member +	Membership	Panel	Variable fees	Variables fees	Total	Contracting
Party	Group ^a	Canning ^a	Panels ^a	Canning ^b	Panels ^c	fee ^d	Membership ^e	for Member ^f	Catch-Canning ^g	fees ^h	Party
Albania	D	28	1	0.14%	3.85%	880.00	880.00	1,725.96	125.33	3,611.29	Albania
Algérie	D	4,636	2	23.12%	5.77%	880.00	1,760.00	2,588.94	20,751.13	25,980.07	Algérie
Angola	D	3,005	2	14.99%	5.77%	880.00	1,760.00	2,588.94	13,450.64	18,679.58	Angola
Barbados	C	387	0	0.17%	1.47%	880.00	0.00	3,833.12	864.32	5,577.44	Barbados
Belize	C	8,552	4	3.66%	7.35%	880.00	3,520.00	19,165.60	19,099.86	42,665.47	Belize
Brazil	B	50,078	4	54.18%	26.32%	880.00	3,520.00	40,728.65	167,692.92	212,821.57	Brazil
Canada	A	2,460	3	0.42%	12.50%	880.00	2,640.00	103,216.12	6,854.36	113,590.48	Canada
Cabo Verde	C	30,559	2	13.09%	4.41%	880.00	1,760.00	11,499.36	68,249.86	82,389.22	Cabo Verde
China, People's Rep. of	C	4,052	4	1.74%	7.35%	880.00	3,520.00	19,165.60	9,049.66	32,615.26	China, People's Rep. of
Côte d'Ivoire	C	7,011	2	3.00%	4.41%	880.00	1,760.00	11,499.36	15,658.23	29,797.59	Côte d'Ivoire
Curaçao	A	26,875	1	4.53%	6.25%	880.00	880.00	51,608.06	74,882.50	128,250.56	Curaçao
Egypt	D	1,002	2	5.00%	5.77%	880.00	1,760.00	2,588.94	4,485.04	9,713.98	Egypt
El Salvador	C	16,843	1	7.22%	2.94%	880.00	880.00	7,666.24	37,616.82	47,043.06	El Salvador
France (St. P. & M.)	A	12	3	0.00%	12.50%	880.00	2,640.00	103,216.12	33.44	106,769.56	France (St. P. & M.)
Gabon	C	0	2	0.00%	4.41%	880.00	1,760.00	11,499.36	0.00	14,139.36	Gabon
Ghana	C	98,232	1	42.08%	2.94%	880.00	880.00	7,666.24	219,389.37	228,815.61	Ghana
Grenada	C	0	0	0.00%	1.47%	880.00	0.00	3,833.12	0.00	4,713.12	Grenada
Guatemala, Rep. de	C	10,637	2	4.56%	4.41%	880.00	1,760.00	11,499.36	23,756.46	37,895.82	Guatemala, Rep. de
Guinea Ecuatorial	C	75	2	0.03%	4.41%	880.00	1,760.00	11,499.36	167.50	14,306.86	Guinea Ecuatorial
Guinea, Rep. of	C	8,555	2	3.67%	4.41%	880.00	1,760.00	11,499.36	19,106.56	33,245.93	Guinea, Rep. of
Guinée-Bissau	D	0	2	0.00%	5.77%	880.00	1,760.00	2,588.94	0.00	5,228.94	Guinée-Bissau
Honduras	D	0	2	0.00%	5.77%	880.00	1,760.00	2,588.94	0.00	5,228.94	Honduras
Iceland	A	24	1	0.00%	6.25%	880.00	880.00	51,608.06	66.87	53,434.93	Iceland
Japan	A	30,001	4	5.06%	15.63%	880.00	3,520.00	129,020.15	83,592.55	217,012.70	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	C	1,682	4	0.72%	7.35%	880.00	3,520.00	19,165.60	3,756.54	27,322.15	Korea, Rep. of
Liberia	D	0	2	0.00%	5.77%	880.00	1,760.00	2,588.94	0.00	5,228.94	Liberia
Libya	D	1,168	3	5.83%	7.69%	880.00	2,640.00	3,451.92	5,228.07	12,199.99	Libya

Exchange rate: 1 €= 1.136 US\$ (11/2018)

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Maroc	C	8,352	3	3.58%	5.88%	880.00	2,640.00	15,332.48	18,653.19	37,505.67	Maroc
Mauritania	D	0	3	0.00%	7.69%	880.00	2,640.00	3,451.92	0.00	6,971.92	Mauritania
Mexico	C	1,502	4	0.64%	7.35%	880.00	3,520.00	19,165.60	3,354.54	26,920.14	Mexico
Namibia	D	3,739	3	18.65%	7.69%	880.00	2,640.00	3,451.92	16,736.08	23,708.00	Namibia
Nicaragua, Rep. de	D	0	1	0.00%	3.85%	880.00	880.00	1,725.96	0.00	3,485.96	Nicaragua, Rep. de
Nigeria	D	0	2	0.00%	5.77%	880.00	1,760.00	2,588.94	0.00	5,228.94	Nigeria
Norway	A	3	2	0.00%	9.38%	880.00	1,760.00	77,412.09	8.36	80,060.45	Norway
Panama	B	20,888	4	22.60%	26.32%	880.00	3,520.00	40,728.65	69,946.28	115,074.93	Panama
Philippines, Rep. of	D	2,068	2	10.31%	5.77%	880.00	1,760.00	2,588.94	9,256.54	14,485.49	Philippines, Rep. of
Russia	C	1,217	1	0.52%	2.94%	880.00	880.00	7,666.24	2,718.02	12,144.26	Russia
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	D	1,403	3	7.00%	7.69%	880.00	2,640.00	3,451.92	6,279.95	13,251.87	t Vincent and Grenadines
São Tomé e Príncipe	D	2,783	2	13.88%	5.77%	880.00	1,760.00	2,588.94	12,456.94	17,685.89	São Tomé e Príncipe
Senegal	C	17,770	3	7.61%	5.88%	880.00	2,640.00	15,332.48	39,687.16	58,539.64	Senegal
Sierra Leone	D	0	1	0.00%	3.85%	880.00	880.00	1,725.96	0.00	3,485.96	Sierra Leone
South Africa	C	6,062	3	2.60%	5.88%	880.00	2,640.00	15,332.48	13,538.75	32,391.23	South Africa
Syrian Arab Republic	D	34	1	0.17%	3.85%	880.00	880.00	1,725.96	152.19	3,638.15	Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad & Tobago	C	2,642	2	1.13%	4.41%	880.00	1,760.00	11,499.36	5,900.59	20,039.95	Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisie	C	8,805	2	3.77%	4.41%	880.00	1,760.00	11,499.36	19,664.91	33,804.27	Tunisie
Turkey	B	13,789	4	14.92%	26.32%	880.00	3,520.00	40,728.65	46,174.32	91,302.97	Turkey
Union Européenne	A	503,265	4	84.91%	15.63%	880.00	3,520.00	129,020.15	1,402,260.10	1,535,680.25	Union Européenne
United Kingdom (O.T.)	A	187	1	0.03%	6.25%	880.00	880.00	51,608.06	521.04	53,889.10	United Kingdom (O.T.)
United States	A	29,874	4	5.04%	15.63%	880.00	3,520.00	129,020.15	83,238.69	216,658.84	United States
Uruguay	C	480	3	0.21%	5.88%	880.00	2,640.00	15,332.48	1,072.02	19,924.50	Uruguay
Vanuatu	D	185	0	0.92%	1.92%	880.00	0.00	862.98	828.08	2,571.06	Vanuatu
Venezuela	B	7,682	3	8.31%	21.05%	880.00	2,640.00	32,582.92	25,724.21	61,827.13	Venezuela

a), b), c), d), e), f), g), h): See the legends in the Annex.

Table 4. Contributions by group 2019. 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 feesⁱ
A	9	23	592,701	---	62.50%	7,920.00	20,240.00	2,477,186.86	2,505,346.86
B	4	15	92,437	3.00%	12.00%	3,520.00	13,200.00	464,306.60	481,026.60
C	21	47	233,415	1.00%	21.00%	18,480.00	41,360.00	781,956.55	841,796.55
D	18	34	20,051	0.25%	4.50%	15,840.00	29,920.00	134,624.97	180,384.97
TOTAL	52	119	938,604		100.00%	45,760.00	104,720.00	3,858,074.98	4,008,554.98

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	2013			2014			2015			Parties
	Catch	Canning	Total	Catch	Canning	Total	Catch	Canning	Total	
Albania	9 t		9	34 t		34	40 t		40	Albania
Algérie	2,320	1,573	3,893	2,434	1,980	4,414	3,844	1,758	5,602	Algérie
Angola	6,429 t		6,429	2,551 t		2,551	35 t		35	Angola
Barbados	323 t		323	369 t		369	469 t		469	Barbados
Belize	2,423 t		2,423	1,116 t		1,116	22,117 t		22,117	Belize
Brazil	38,727 co	13,141 co	51,868	39,296 t	13,141 coo	52,437	32,787 t	13,141 coo	45,928	Brazil
Canada	2,345 co	0	2,345	2,449 t	0	2,449	2,585 t	0	2,585	Canada
Cabo Verde	18,697	1,726	20,423	29,168	1,856	31,024	38,337	1,892	40,229	Cabo Verde
China, People's Rep. of	3,518		3,518	2,796		2,796	5,842		5,842	China, People's Rep. of
Côte d'Ivoire	15,548 t		15,548	4,211 t		4,211	1,274 t		1,274	Côte d'Ivoire
Curaçao	23,964 co	0 co	23,964	27,009 t		27,009	29,653 t		29,653	Curaçao
Egypt	1,405 co	0 co	1,405	1,447 t		1,447	155 t		155	Egypt
El Salvador	11,263 coo	7,217	18,480	11,263 coo	4,237	15,500	11,263	5,287	16,550	El Salvador
France (St. P. & M.)	23 co		23	4 t		4	9 t		9	France (St. P. & M.)
Gabon			0			0			0	Gabon
Ghana	67,454 t	20,000 coo	87,454	76,679 t	20,000 coo	96,679	90,564 t	20,000 coo	110,564	Ghana
Grenada			0			0			0	Grenada
Guatemala, Rep. de	9,108		9,108	10,184		10,184	12,619		12,619	Guatemala, Rep. de
Guinea Ecuatorial	46	0	46	46	0	46	132	0	132	Guinea Ecuatorial
Guinea, Rep. of	10,778 t		10,778	7,444 t		7,444	7,444 coo		7,444	Guinea, Rep. of
Guinée-Bissau			0			0			0	Guinée-Bissau
Honduras	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Honduras
Iceland	4		4	30		30	37		37	Iceland
Japan	30,871		30,871	29,848		29,848	29,285		29,285	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	2,642 t		2,642	1,552 t		1,552	851 t		851	Korea, Rep. of
Liberia			0			0			0	Liberia
Libya	933	200	1,133	935	160	1,095	1,155	120	1,275	Libya
Maroc	7,324 t	957 coo	8,281	5,577 t	957 coo	6,534	9,285 t	957 coo	10,242	Maroc
Mauritania			0			0			0	Mauritania
Mexico	1,401	0	1,401	1,585	0	1,585	1,521	0	1,521	Mexico
Namibia	2,451	0	2,451	4,134	0	4,134	4,633	0	4,633	Namibia
Nicaragua, Rep. de			0			0			0	Nicaragua, Rep. de
Nigeria			0			0			0	Nigeria
Norway	0		0	0		0	8		8	Norway
Panama	25,224 t		25,224	23,805 t		23,805	13,634 t		13,634	Panama
Philippines, Rep. of	1,944 co		1,944	2,130 t		2,130	2,130 coo		2,130	Philippines, Rep. of
Russia	1,443 co		1,443	1,168 t		1,168	1,039 t		1,039	Russia
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	851	0	851	2,229	0	2,229	1,130	0	1,130	Saint Vincent and Grenadines
São Tomé e Príncipe	2,359 co	0 co	2,359	2,512 t		2,512	3,479 t		3,479	São Tomé e Príncipe
Senegal	21,693 t	199 coo	21,892	12,487 t	199 coo	12,686	18,532 t	199 coo	18,731	Senegal
Sierra Leone			0			0			0	Sierra Leone
South Africa	5,008 t		5,008	6,754 t		6,754	6,423 t		6,423	South Africa
Svrian Arab Republic	22 t		22	40 coo		40	40 t		40	Svrian Arab Republic
Trinidad & Tobago	2,928 co	0 co	2,928	3,471 t		3,471	1,528 t		1,528	Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisie	5,235 co	2,190 co	7,425	5,214 t	2,190 coo	7,404	9,395 t	2,190 coo	11,585	Tunisie
Turkey	15,574		15,574	20,331		20,331	5,463		5,463	Turkey
Union Européenne	241,611	270,194	511,805	229,737	267,442	497,179	232,284	268,527	500,811	Union Européenne
United Kingdom (O.T.)	104	0	104	215	0	215	241	0	241	United Kingdom (O.T.)
United States	20,369	12,949	33,318	18,331	10,045	28,376	18,512	9,415	27,927	United States
Uruguay	480 t		480	480 coo		480	480 coo		480	Uruguay
Vanuatu	369		369	106		106	81		81	Vanuatu
Venezuela	7,206	685	7,891	6,245	1,175	7,420	6,367	1,367	7,734	Venezuela
TOTAL	612,426	331,031	943,457	597,416	323,382	920,798	626,702	324,853	951,555	TOTAL

co = Transfer of the data received (S15-01519).
 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 6 June 2017)

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 1,70 (Source: CPI Inflation/Bureau of Labor Statistics/United States Department of Labor)
c	Average 2013-2014-2015 Catches (t)
d	Average 2013-2014-2015 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

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Consideration of the outcome of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second Performance Review of ICCAT
5. Reports from the Secretariat
 - 5.1 2018 Administrative Report
 - 5.2 2018 Financial Report
 - 5.3 Review of progress on payment of arrears and voting rights
6. Selection of new auditors for the next five year period (2018-2022)
7. Assistance to developing CPCs and identification of the mechanism to finance the Meeting Participation Fund and other capacity building activities
8. Consideration of financial implications of ICCAT conservation and management measures proposed
9. Consideration of financial implications of measures proposed and SCRS requests
10. Consideration of other programs/activities which may require additional or extra-budgetary funding
11. Consideration of options for a sustainable financial position, level of Working Capital Fund and cost recovery approach for ICCAT
12. Review of budget and Contracting Party contributions for 2019
13. Other matters
14. Adoption of the Report and adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 8

Follow-up of the Second Performance Review of ICCAT – STACFAD

							Not started/little progress
							Progress/requiring additional work
							Completed/significant progress made
Chapter	Recommendations	LEAD	Time-frame	Proposed Next Steps	Observations / Comments	Actions to be taken, or already taken	Completion status following annual meeting
ICCAT Basic Texts	3. The Panel recommends that ICCAT make consolidated versions of individual basic ICCAT instruments available on the ICCAT website.	STACFAD	S	Refer this and related recommendations, in particular those concerning revisions to ICCAT's Rules of Procedure and observer rules, to STACFAD for consideration and appropriate action, including providing advice to the Commission on the timing for posting of these documents on the ICCAT website.	Mail voting procedures (Rule 9) need particular attention. In addition, several other recommendations from the Performance Review relate to revisions to ICCAT's Rules of Procedure and should be considered as a package by STACFAD.	The 6th revision of ICCAT Basic Texts and updated version of Staff Rules & Regulations were posted on ICCAT web-site following the 2017 Commission meeting. The Basic Texts reflects further changes to Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure concerning mail voting. A revised version of the Basic Texts will need to be published in line with the outcomes of the Convention amendment process.	Progress to require additional work.
Decision Making	92. Reviews its Rules of Procedure, among other things to integrate its 2011 Deadlines and Guidelines for the Submission of Draft Proposals, Rec. 03-20 and Res. 94-06.					The STACFAD needs to consider this recommendation at the 2018 annual meeting.	

Transparency	94. Considers codifying its practices on participation by NGOs - which are consistent with international minimum standards and comparable to those of other tuna RFMOs - by amending the ICCAT Observer Guidelines and Criteria or the ICCAT Rules of Procedure.	M				No action has yet to be taken in regard to review of the policy on NGOs' attendance at ICCAT meetings The STACFAD needs to consider this recommendation at the 2018 annual meeting.	Not started/little progress
	95. Considers requiring Contracting Parties that object to an application by an NGO for Observer Status with ICCAT to provide their reasons in writing.	S					
	96. Considers that closing formal ICCAT meetings to observers requires an explicit and reasoned decision supported by a simple majority of Contracting Parties.	S/M					

<p>Reporting Requirements</p>	<p>87. The Panel recommends that ICCAT consider introducing a provision in new recommendations, whereby the introduction of new reporting requirements would only become effective after a 9 to 12 month period has elapsed. This would assist Developing States to adapt to new requirements. This is particularly relevant where the volume and/or nature of the reporting have changed significantly. The difficulties Developing States encounter in introducing new administrative/reporting requirements at short notice, is well documented in the compliance context. The option for Developed CPCs to apply immediately the new reporting requirements may of course be maintained, if those CPCs consider it opportune.</p>	<p>COM - to be considered by all bodies</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to all ICCAT bodies that can recommend binding reporting requirements for consideration when developing such recommendations. Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.</p>		<p><i>Discussed at the April 2018 IMM; A global standard (application) may not be appropriate and could be handled on a case-by-case basis rather than a blanket coverage for all recommendations. The STACFAD needs to consider this recommendation at the 2018 annual meeting.</i></p>	<p>Not started/little progress</p>
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	<p>86. The Panel recommends that before the adoption of each new recommendation there should be an assessment as to the likely impact on the Secretariat's workload that its implementation implies.</p>	<p>STACFAD</p>		<p>Refer to STACFAD to develop options for implementing this recommendation.</p>	<p>Option 1 - The Secretariat with guidance from the STACFAD shall develop a "cover note" template that would be embedded in a new recommendation with a view to indicating <i>inter alia</i>, the timeframe for implementation, the resources it will require to achieve implementation and the potential impact on the Secretariat's workload.</p>	<p>The STACFAD needs to consider this recommendation at the 2018 annual meeting.</p>	
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Decision Making	89. Revises the opt-out procedures included in Res 12-11 and the most recent text of the Amended ICCAT Convention to bring them more in line with modern opt- out procedures used by RFMOs that have been recently established or that have recently amended their constitutive instruments.	STACFAD	M - re/ Res 12-11; NOAC - re/ Conv. amendme nt opt-out provisions	Refer recommendati on to revise Res. 12-11 to STACFAD for consideration	The opt-out procedures developed by the CWG was a topic of intense negotiation.No further actions are considered necessary until such time the Commission adopts such procedures.	The STACFAD needs to consider this recommendation at the 2018 annual meeting.	Not started/little progress
Participation and Capacity Building	108. Considers pursuing capacity building initiatives to strengthen participation in ICCAT meetings in a broader sense - including for key ICCAT positions - for instance by human resource development (e.g. by training courses on participation in, and chairing of, intergovernmental negotiations and bodies).	STACFAD	S/M	Refer to STACFAD to consider and advise on this issue.	Option 1 = Organization of regional workshops / consultation meetings by Commission Chair to provide inputs to formulate an overarching strategy built on needs of Developing CPCs. Option 2 = To this end, SWGSM Terms of Reference could be amended to	The STACFAD needs to consider this recommendation at the 2018 annual meeting.	Not started/little progress

	<p>109. Develops an overarching strategy for capacity building and assistance programs, which integrates the various existing capacity building initiatives.</p>			<p>Refer to STACFAD to undertake a review of its capacity building and assistance work and advise on how to improve it.</p>	<p>incorporate focused actions to be undertaken by SWGSM towards identification of specific mechanisms and strategies for streamlining capacity building and assistance works in ICCAT. Option 3 = The Secretariat with guidance from the STACFAD shall develop a Terms of Reference for establishment of an ad hoc working group (or an internal correspondence group) with the mandate to develop an overarching strategy on capacity building to that end.</p>		
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<p>Total Quality Management Process</p>	<p>126. The Panel recommends that ICCAT provides training in efficient chairing meetings to current Chairs and to new ones when they assume their duties.</p>	<p>STACFAD</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to STACFAD to consider and advise on options for acquiring such training and on financial aspects; the Secretariat should assist STACFAD in considering this matter as needed.</p>	<p>Option 1 = The Secretariat shall facilitate and organize bilateral meetings between outgoing/incoming chairs with a view to ensuring continuity of the works, efficiency and transfer of knowledge to the incoming chairs. Option 2 = Whenever there is a new assignment or a change in current assignment of chairs of ICCAT's main and subsidiary bodies, the ICCAT Secretariat shall undertake to provide a two days training on procedural and substantive roles of the chairs and in efficient chairing meetings to current chairs and to new ones when they assume their duties. Option 3 = In order to avoid creating an additional workload on the Secretariat, outsource such task to an external training company.</p>	<p>The STACFAD needs to consider this recommendation at the 2018 annual meeting.</p>	<p>Not started/little progress</p>
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<p>Adequacy SRCS and Secretariat</p>	<p>118. The Panel recommends that ICCAT evaluates the benefits of outsourcing its stock assessments to an external science provider while retaining the SCRS as a body to formulated the advice based on the stock assessments.</p>	<p>COM</p>	<p>M/L</p>	<p>For additional information, SCRS could advise on the pros and cons from a scientific perspective and STACFAD from a financial perspective. Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.</p>	<p>It was noted that the proposed changes on the current structure and functioning of SCRS would require further deliberations in future meetings of SCRS. (2018 SCRS REPORT)</p>	<p>This item is primarily pending SCRS and COM action.The STACFAD needs to consider this recommendation at the 2018 annual meeting.</p>	<p>Not started/little progress</p>
<p>Capacity Building Initiatives</p>	<p>119. The Panel recommends that specific mentoring projects to include trainees in stock assessment teams be implemented.</p>	<p>SCRS</p>	<p>M/L</p>	<p>Refer to SCRS to advise on the merits of this idea and how it might be implemented effectively. STACFAD should assess any financial implications.</p>	<p>SCRS has conducted some training on stock assessment techniques in the past.</p>	<p>This item is primarily pending SCRS action. The STACFAD needs to consider this recommendation at the 2018 annual meeting.</p>	<p>Progress to require additional work.</p>

<p>Capacity Building Initiatives</p>	<p>120. The Panel recommends that ICCAT develop specific mechanisms to ensure that more scientists with knowledge of the fisheries participate in stock assessment meetings and are directly involved in assessment teams.</p>	<p>SCRS</p>	<p>S/M</p>	<p>Refer to SCRS to advise CPCs/ Commission on key participants needed at science meetings and any other relevant matters. STACFAD should assess any financial implications.</p>	<p>It was noted that the proposed changes on the current structure and functioning of SCRS would require further deliberations in future meetings of SCRS. (2018 SCRS REPORT)</p>	<p>This item is primarily pending SCRS action. The STACFAD needs to consider this recommendation at the 2018 annual meeting.</p>	<p>Not started/little progress</p>
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<p>Capacity Building Initiatives</p>	<p>121.The Panel also recommends that formal training in stock assessment be provided, possibly in cooperation with other organizations.</p>	<p>SCRS</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Refer to SCRS to advise on the merits and how it might be implemented effectively. STACFAD should assess the financial implications.</p>	<p>Several sessions were organized by SCRS to improve the capacity in MSE processes with the involvement of external experts / in cooperation with other organizations at different times. The proposed changes on the current structure and functioning of SCRS would require further deliberations in future meetings of SCRS. (2018 SCRS REPORT)</p>	<p>STACFAD needs to consider this recommendation at the 2018 annual meeting though it is first pending SCRS action.</p>	<p>Progress to require additional work.</p>
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<p>SCRS Long-Term Strategy</p>	<p>122. The Panel recommends that a process to formally incorporate scientific priorities with funding implications into the budget be implemented to fund the activities in the strategic plan. This could be achieved by a scientific research quota.</p>	<p>COM</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to the Commission to request that the Secretariat include relevant SCRS recommendations with financial implications in the draft biennial budget. SCRS should continue to prioritize its recommendations. STACFAD should consider and advise on any viable options to fund scientific priorities that cannot or should not be funded through the regular budget.</p>	<p>In 2017, the financing of SCRS was included in the regularization process of the Commission's budget (Chapter 11 – Strategic Research Programme) and the new budget maintained the inclusion of the funds allocated for SCRS activities and of other expenses that had been financed through the Working Capital Fund.</p> <p>In 2015, SCRS recommended to develop a formal process to establish a scientific research quota to facilitate required research to improve the science. However, ICCAT has not yet approved such a fund.</p>	<p>The STACFAD needs to consider this recommendation at the 2018 annual meeting.</p>	<p>Progress to require additional work.</p>
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<p>Implementation Res. 11-17</p>	<p>125. The Panel recommends that ICCAT considers adopting a system with scientists from external organisations, universities or otherwise are contracted to review SCRS assessments.</p>	<p>SCRS</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to SCRS to review and update the current TORs for these reviewers</p>	<p>A mechanism already exists for external reviewers to participate in SCRS stock assessments.</p>	<p>This recommendation is primarily pending SCRS action.</p>	<p>Progress to require additional work.</p>
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<p>Financial and Administrative Issues</p>	<p>127.The Panel recommends that a Working Capital Fund equivalent to 70% of the Annual Budget is prudent. This fund needs to be kept at that level in the interest of sound financial management. It should also be borne in mind that there are no guarantees that the costs of Annual meetings and scientific programmes etc., will continue to be financed by extra budgetary funds.</p>	<p>STACFAD</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to STACFAD to consider and advise on options.</p>	<p>The level of working capital fund (WCF) has been set by ICCAT at 15% of the total annual budget. This level is now recommended by the Panel to be advanced to 70% of the Annual Budget in the interest of a sound financial management. STACFAD needs to provide advice to the Commission for adoption of a more practical and realistic level of WCF</p>	<p>The STACFAD needs to consider this recommendation at the 2018 annual meeting.</p>	<p>Not started/little progress</p>
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<p>Financial and Administrative Issues</p>	<p>128.The Panel, taking account of the clear progress made by ICCAT in reducing outstanding debts on annual contributions by CPCs, recommends that ICCAT consider erasing CPCs debts for annual contributions outstanding for more than two years i.e. debts before 2015. This measure would alleviate the debt burden for certain Developing States. However, in parallel, ICCAT should amend its financial procedures and introduce an automatic sanction whereby, if the previous two years' contributions have not been paid in full by the following Annual meeting, then the right to vote and be a quota holder is withdrawn for that CPC, until those debts are acquitted in full.</p>	<p>STACFAD</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to STACFAD consider and on advise options.</p>	<p>Total amount due from pending contributions of Contracting Parties has reached to a level above 2 million Euros. Article X of the Convention and Rule 9 of ICCAT Rules of Procedure stipulates that the Commission may suspend the voting rights of any Contracting Party when its arrears of contributions equal or exceed the amount due from it for the two preceding years.</p>	<p>The STACFAD needs to consider this recommendation at the 2018 annual meeting.</p>	<p>Not started/little progress</p>
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<p>Financial and Administrative Issues</p>	<p>129. The Panel also recommends that ICCAT consider cost recovery to finance key parts of their activities and thereby reduce the CPCs budgetary contributions and/or expand ICCAT's activities (e.g. the High Seas Inspection Scheme). This cost recovery approach is based on the principle that the vessels of CPCs, which benefit from access to profitable fisheries, should share the financial burden for the science and monitoring programmes, which are crucial for the sustainability of those resources. An annual fee could be envisaged which would be paid per vessel of a certain size to ICCAT, via if necessary, the Flag CPC.</p>	<p>STACFAD</p>	<p>M/L</p>	<p>Refer to STACFAD to consider and advise on options.</p>	<p>STACFAD needs to decide on the draft proposed addition to ICCAT Financial Regulation 4 for an EBCD System Funding Scheme (STF-207/2018). Option 1 = The Secretariat with guidance from the STACFAD shall develop a Terms of Reference for establishment of an <i>ad hoc</i> working group (that may be considered in the form of an internal correspondence group) with the mandate to develop a cost-recovery policy towards a sustainable financial position at ICCAT</p>	<p>The STACFAD needs to consider this recommendation at the 2018 annual meeting.</p>	<p>Not started/little progress</p>
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<p>Financial and Administrative Issues</p>	<p>130. The Panel recommends, in line with good management practice, that ICCAT reviews every five years, through an independent human resources consultancy company, the staffing profile and workload of the Secretariat and, if necessary, adjust it to accurately reflect current and programmed workloads. In that review, the company should also review the staff assessment process.</p>	<p>STACFAD</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to STACFAD to consider and advise on financial and other considerations. Contracting process would be undertaken by the Secretariat</p>	<p>The nature of workload question in the Secretariat needs to be identified first. In this regard, ICCAT Secretariat has taken initiative to make a preliminary examination in the interim period, and contacted a few HRs consultancy companies to receive proposals for an independent review of the staffing profile, staff assessment process and workload of the Secretariat.</p>	<p>The STACFAD needs to consider this recommendation at the 2018 annual meeting.</p>	<p>Progress to require additional work.</p>
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<p>Financial and Administrative Issues</p>	<p>131.The Panel recommends that STACFAD be responsible for the terms of reference and the follow-up to the report of the consultancy.</p>	<p>STACFAD</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Please refer to the above-cited observations</p>	<p>The STACFAD needs to consider this recommendation at the 2018 annual meeting.</p>	<p>Progress to require additional work.</p>
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Rules of Procedure for the Administration of the Special Meeting Participation Fund

1. Definitions

Developing ICCAT Contracting Parties are considered to be those CPCs that are classified under Groups B, C or D, in accordance with the criteria used in the contributions calculation (Regulation 4 - Provision of funds, ICCAT Financial Regulations).

2. Eligibility criteria

Participation in ICCAT scientific meetings

Applicants will be selected in accordance with the protocol established by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (Addendum 2 to Appendix 7 to the 2011 SCRS Report).

Any delegate from a developing CPC should submit a completed application by the established deadline, including a detailed description of the contribution by the applicant to the meeting. After obtaining the approval of the rapporteurs of the Species Groups involved and/or the SCRS Chair, the Secretariat will carry out the necessary procedures for financing the travel.

Procedure

1. The Secretariat will publish the travel form by invitation 90 days in advance of the commencement of the meeting.
2. MPF applicants shall send the duly completed form 45 days in advance, including:
 - a. An official letter of nomination for the request for assistance signed by the Head of Delegation.
 - b. All the contact details of the candidate, including personal mobile telephone number.
 - c. A copy of the person's current passport.
 - d. A copy of the necessary bank details (including name of bank, address of bank, precise name of the account holder, account number, IBAN and SWIFT).
 - e. Indicate whether the person requires a note verbale to apply for a visa and the place where it will be processed.
 - f. A detailed description of the applicant's contribution to the meeting.
3. The Secretariat will review the applications to determine those which meet the eligibility criteria and will offer a period of 5 additional days to those applicants that have not sent all the information required.
4. The Secretariat will send an invitation to the selected candidates with a travel itinerary based on the dates indicated in the form (no less than 30 days prior to commencement of the meeting).
5. Applicants must apply for a visa and send a copy of the visa together with the verification and acceptance of the itinerary no less than 20 days prior to commencement of the meeting.
6. If a reply is not received with all the requirements set out above, the Secretariat will send a notification of rejection of application.

Participation in ICCAT non-scientific meetings

All applications shall be selected for attendance at a single meeting by one participant per Contracting Party, and shall be subject to the approval of the Commission Chair, the STACFAD Chair and the Executive Secretary and, in the case of subsidiary bodies, the Chair of the meeting for which funding is being sought.

Any delegate of a developing CPC shall submit a completed application by the established deadline.

Procedure

1. The Secretariat will publish the travel form by invitation 90 days in advance of the commencement of the meeting.
2. MPF applicants shall send the duly completed form 60 days in advance, including:
 - a. An official letter of nomination for the request for assistance signed by the Head of Delegation.
 - b. All the contact details of the candidate, including personal mobile telephone number.
 - c. A copy of the person's current passport.
 - d. A copy of the necessary bank details (including name of bank, address of bank, precise name of the account holder, account number, IBAN and SWIFT).
 - e. Indicate whether the person requires a note verbale to apply for a visa and the place where it will be processed.
3. The Secretariat will review the applications to determine those which meet the eligibility criteria and will offer a period of 5 additional days to those applicants that have not sent all the information required.
4. The Secretariat will send an invitation to the selected candidates with a travel itinerary based on the dates indicated in the form (no less than 45 days prior to commencement of the meeting).
5. Applicants must apply for a visa and send a copy of the visa together with the verification and acceptance of the itinerary no less than 30 days prior to commencement of the meeting.
6. If a reply is not received with all the requirements set out above, the Secretariat will send a notification of rejection of application.

Acceptance of applications in the absence of funds

Instructions in the absence of funds.

**Amendment to ICCAT Financial
Regulation 4 for an eBCD system funding scheme**

1bis. In addition to paragraph 1 above, appropriations for a financial period to meet the anticipated costs associated with support, maintenance, and functionality development of the electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation (eBCD) system shall be financed by additional annual contributions made by those members of the Commission that catch and/or trade Atlantic bluefin tuna. These contributions shall be calculated consistent with the principles in paragraph 1 above and shall consist of the following:

- (a) A basic fee of [US\$ 700] and;
- (b) A variable fee that finances the remaining eBCD system costs, after subtracting the amount collected pursuant to para (a) above. Consistent with paragraph 1(b) above, this remaining amount shall be assigned to each of the four groups (A-D) according to the formula specified in paragraph 1(b)(ii). Within each group, the contribution for each of the relevant Contracting Parties shall be calculated on the following basis:
 - i. [30%] of the contribution shall be in proportion to the Contracting Party's total round weight of bluefin tuna catch;
 - ii. [40%] of the contribution shall be in proportion to the Contracting Party's total number of trades in the eBCD system; and
 - iii. [30%] of the contribution shall be in proportion to the Contracting Party's overall volume of Atlantic bluefin tuna imported, as recorded in the eBCD system¹.

¹ The relevant trade and import data from the eBCD system shall reflect the same time period used to determine the relevant catch and canning data pursuant to paragraph 1(b)(ii).

REPORTS OF THE MEETINGS OF PANELS 1 TO 4**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 1****1. Opening of the meeting**

The meeting was opened by the Chair of Panel 1, Mr. Shep Helguilè (Côte d'Ivoire).

2. Nomination of the rapporteur

Grace Ferrara (United States) was designated as the rapporteur.

3. Adoption of the Agenda and meeting arrangements

A CPC requested that the discussion of agenda item 7, "Consideration of the Outcome of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review", take place at the end of the Panel's meeting after all other agenda items had been discussed. This was agreed and the agenda was adopted without change (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**).

4. Review of Panel membership

Panel 1 has 40 members: Angola, Belize, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canada, China (P.R.), Côte d'Ivoire, Curaçao, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon), Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea (Rep.), Honduras, Japan, Korea (Rep.) Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Panama, Philippines, Russia, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela. Two additional members, Nicaragua and Guinea Bissau, joined the Panel at this meeting.

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

The SCRS Chairman, Dr David Die, presented an overview of the status of the stocks considered by this Panel, including the results of the 2018 stock assessment for bigeye tuna. He also provided an update of the activities of the Atlantic Ocean Tropical tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP). The expected results of this programme include obtaining tag-recapture data for tropical tuna species, the estimation of key parameters used for stock assessments, and capacity building for developing Contracting Parties to participate in scientific tagging and data collection. The results of the programme so far have contributed to a greater understanding of the growth of juvenile tropical tunas. Information obtained through the AOTTP is already in use by scientists under contract for the initial stage of MSE development as well as for the bigeye and yellowfin stock assessments. The final results of the AOTTP will be presented at a scientific symposium in 2020. Dr Die emphasized the importance of the continuation of this programme and urged CPCs to continue pledging voluntary funds for the programme.

The 2018 bigeye stock assessment results indicated that bigeye tuna are overfished and subject to overfishing. Dr Die indicated that there is greater confidence in the results of the model used this year because it was able to incorporate more data, particularly set-by-set data from longline fisheries, than the models used in past years and it accounted for the size selectivity of the various fleets. Dr Die indicated that developing a similar index using data from the purse seine fishery would also be helpful, however due to the complicated nature of the purse seine fishery including the added capacity of supply vessels, this analysis is not yet possible. He noted that the overall catch of bigeye tuna exceeded the TAC in 2016 and 2017, and that the mean size of bigeye caught continues to decrease, with the smallest fish being caught in the FAD fishery. Due to the fishing mortality rate and the size selectivity of the fisheries, the MSY and the spawning stock biomass of bigeye tuna have declined below historical levels. The current TAC of 65,000 t has a 44% probability of ending overfishing and recovering the stock by 2033. However, reported catches have been well in excess of this level.

Dr Die also reviewed the most recent assessments for yellowfin tuna and skipjack tuna. The 2014 yellowfin assessment indicated that the stock was overfished but not subject to overfishing. However, because the TAC has been exceeded every year since then with the exception of 2013, it is likely that the stock is now experiencing overfishing. The eastern and western Atlantic skipjack stocks are not likely overfished or experiencing overfishing, despite the difficulty in assessing the eastern skipjack stock. Therefore, the SCRS recommends moving the 2020 yellowfin assessment to 2019, and pushing the skipjack assessment back one year to 2020. This recommendation was supported by the Panel. Dr Die recommended that the Commission hire a contractor to develop a consolidated index of abundance for yellowfin using longline data, as was done for bigeye tuna.

In response to the Commission's earlier requests to the SCRS, Dr Die indicated that no information had been provided to the SCRS from Ghana regarding their capacity management plan, so the SCRS has not been able to respond to the request for their input on the plan. With regard to the time area closure for FADs, there have been no observed changes in fish length inside or outside of the closure, and the SCRS recommends that a larger area may be more effective in reducing juvenile catch as the current closure may be resulting in displacement of fishing on FADs rather than decreased mortality of juveniles in FAD fisheries. The SCRS did, however, make progress toward developing a standardized set of FAD definitions and updated reporting forms for buoys and FADs.

Dr Die also reported that the SCRS had completed the fishery impact analysis requested by the Commission to investigate the relative impact of the different gear types used in the fishery on the stock. The results indicate that a reduction in catches by the gear types that catch a large proportion of juvenile fish, in particular the purse seine fishery utilizing FADs, would have the greatest positive impact on MSY for both bigeye and yellowfin tuna. However, an overall reduction in catch is required to improve the health of the stock.

6. Review of the report of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1, and consideration of any necessary actions

The Chair reviewed the results of the Panel 1 intersessional meeting that was held from July 21 to 23 in Bilbao, Spain. Although the bigeye stock assessment was not complete at the time, it was apparent from the preliminary results that the stock was overfished and subject to overfishing. The Panel identified three main issues to be addressed: the overall level of the TAC, catch levels that have exceeded the TAC since it was set to 65,000 t in 2016, and the level of juvenile mortality that is too high to allow the stock to recover. Several CPCs also raised concerns over the allocation of the TAC and the threshold over which CPCs not on the quota table would be added. Some CPCs also expressed their desire for the interests of developing coastal States to develop their tropical tuna fisheries to be considered in any potential management measure that may be adopted at the annual meeting. All CPCs present expressed their willingness to work together to address these issues. A list of possible elements and options for a new conservation and management measure was developed and included in the Intersessional Panel 1 meeting report contained in **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.6**.

7. Consideration of the outcome of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review

The Panel had reviewed the progress on addressing the recommendations resulting from the Performance Review at the intersessional meeting in July 2018 and reflected these updates in **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.6**. These were briefly reviewed by the Chair, but no further updates were made. Progress to date made by Panel 1 on the follow-up of the Second Performance Review is included in **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9**.

8. Review of compliance tables

The Chair of the Compliance Committee referred three matters regarding the compliance tables to Panel 1. The first concerned the pro rata payback provision of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tunas* (Rec. 16-01). Two CPCs were identified as having reported different figures for their 2017 catch in the compliance tables from what was presented in the Task I data in the SCRS report. They both clarified that these discrepancies were related to the methods in which their data were collected. Another CPC was listed as having overharvested bigeye tuna, but they asserted that this number was a mistake and agreed to work with the Secretariat to correct it.

The Compliance Committee also asked about the purpose of the bigeye quarterly reports. The Panel agreed that this provision should be reviewed in any proposal to replace Rec. 16-01 with clarifying language.

9. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities

Although Recommendation 16-01 does not include a sunset provision, the allocation table is set to expire at the end of 2018. Three CPCs (the European Union, Guatemala and South Africa) submitted draft proposals with the same title “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Replace Recommendation 16-01 on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tunas” to replace Recommendation 16-01, based on the updated stock status for bigeye provided by the SCRS. At the request of the Chair, the proponents of the three proposals collaborated to draft a unified proposal with the input of all interested CPCs. It was clear from an initial discussion on the floor that there was a preference for South Africa’s text, and the proponents agreed to work off that proposal. An updated proposal was drafted by South Africa and discussed, but unfortunately, there was no consensus on several of the provisions, so the draft recommendation was not adopted. The overall discussion of the draft recommendation did reveal some general points of both agreement and disagreement that the Panel will take into consideration in the development of a new draft recommendation in 2019.

CPCs largely acknowledged the poor state of the stock and the need for a new multiannual management measure with strong MCS measures to recover the stock. There was also general agreement that the needs of developing coastal States should be taken into consideration in the drafting of a new measure. However, disagreement remains regarding the proper measures to adopt to recover the stock and the level of capacity development that should be allowed in the bigeye fishery, and in particular the required level of accountability with regards to possible capacity increase.

One source of disagreement was in the level of the TAC, as well as how the TAC should be distributed among CPCs. Several CPCs argued that because the TAC has been exceeded every year since it was set at 65,000 t, the Panel should focus on reducing actual catches below that level. Some CPCs underlined that the issue was the lack of enforcement of the current TAC rather than its actual level, and that this was linked to the threshold currently in place for non quota holders. Other CPCs argued that the chances of ending overfishing and recovering the stock were too low at a TAC of 65,000 t, pointing to the SCRS report which indicates that the current TAC has only a 35% chance of placing the stock in the green zone (not subject to overfishing and not overfished) of the Kobe plot by 2030. A subsequent version of the draft recommendation proposed reducing the TAC to 62,500 t, which some CPCs argued was still too high. Other figures were discussed but no consensus was reached. The draft recommendation also proposed lowering the threshold for quota allocation to 1575 t from 3500 t, which would add several CPCs to the major harvester category and require them to adhere to an annual quota. Several CPCs expressed concern about how the quotas for major harvesters would be reallocated, as the allocation table in the draft recommendation was not populated. These CPCs asserted that they could not adopt the recommendation without a better understanding of the resulting allocations.

There was general agreement that a new measure should be aimed at reducing juvenile mortality of both bigeye and yellowfin tuna; however there was no consensus on the methods for doing so. Many CPCs expressed concerns over the disproportionate impact on juvenile mortality of purse seiners fishing on FADs. The three draft recommendations included several measures specifically aimed at managing FADs, including an Atlantic-wide time area closure, increased observer coverage, limits on the number of FAD sets per vessel, mandatory use of non-entangling and biodegradable FADs, guidelines for FAD management plans, and reporting requirements for support vessels. Again, however, there was no consensus on these measures.

A ban on transshipment at sea was also discussed at length as a possible control measure to reduce IUU fishing of bigeye and yellowfin tuna. Several CPCs felt that this measure would disproportionately reduce capacity in the longline fishery and questioned the need for such a measure given the existing transshipment regional observer program. One CPC argued that the current scheme only covers reported transshipments and that in order to be effective, an observer programme should concern the fishing vessels. In addition, one CPC highlighted that a ban on transshipment at sea was already implemented for some fleets and that such ban has obvious economic benefits for the developing coastal States where the landings are taking

place. There was also a great deal of discussion on increasing observer coverage for purse seine and longline vessels. Several CPCs urged the need for greater observer coverage to ensure compliance with the TAC. However, there was some concern about the capacity of some of the fleet and their ability to accommodate an additional person onboard.

In lieu of adopting a new conservation and management measure, the Panel adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT Supplementing and Amending Recommendation 16-01 on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tunas* (Rec. 18-01) (**ANNEX 5**). This measure extends the annual catch limits from Recommendation 16-01 through 2019 and suspends paragraphs 2a and 9b. Some Panel members expressed interest in continuing informal discussions over the intersessional period and to hold a meeting of Panel 1 to come up with a new measure to replace Recommendation 18-01.

10. Identification of outdated measures in light of item 9 above

The Chair noted that measures currently in force related to Panel 1 include Recs. 14-02, 16-01, 16-02, and 17-01. It was agreed that there are not currently any outdated measures related to Panel 1, but that any revisions to tropical tuna measures in the future should repeal and replace Rec. 16-01 and any other relevant measures.

11. Research

Dr Die summarized the ongoing and future research of the SCRS relating to tropical tunas. In 2019, the SCRS will focus its work on the yellowfin stock assessment and the development of a consolidated longline index for yellowfin like that which was used for the bigeye assessment. The development of the MSE process will also continue, although at a slower pace to allow that work to continue while the tropical tunas working group focuses on the yellowfin assessment. Several CPCs expressed concerns about the workload associated with the MSE process, while others urged the SCRS to continue the momentum that has been built through the initial contract. Dr Die assured the Panel that MSE work will continue to move forward for bluefin tuna and swordfish, which will inform the MSE process for tropical tunas in the future.

12. Other matters

No other matters were raised by the Panel.

Statements were made to Panel 1 by the following Contracting Parties: Brazil, El Salvador, Gabon, and the United States. Statements were also made by the observers Blue Water Fishermen's Association and Europêche. In addition, Europêche submitted a statement specifically in relation to the combined draft recommendation that was not adopted with the title "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Replace Recommendation 16-01 on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tunas". These statements are included in **Appendices 3 to 9 of ANNEX 9**.

13. Adoption of the report and adjournment

The meeting was adjourned and the report was adopted by correspondence.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 2

1. Opening of the meeting

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

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Dr William Goldsmith (United States) was appointed as Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**).

4. Review of Panel membership

The Executive Secretary reported that Panel 2 was comprised of the following 24 members: Albania, Algeria, Belize, Brazil, Canada, China (P.R), Egypt, European Union, France (St. Pierre and Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Panama, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, United States, and Venezuela. Syria was not present.

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 eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean and western Atlantic stocks of bluefin tuna. Dr Die also provided a short summary of the Atlantic-wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (ICCAT GBYP) and progress on management strategy evaluation (MSE) relevant to bluefin tuna and northern albacore. These summaries can be found in sections 9.4 and 9.5, 10.1, and 15 of the 2018 SCRS Report, respectively.

5.1 Albacore

5.1.1 North Atlantic albacore

The North Atlantic albacore stock assessment was conducted in 2016 using a production model with data through 2014. This assessment found with a 97% probability that the stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring. The SCRS Chair reviewed the interim harvest control rule (HCR) adopted in Rec. 17-04 that set the limit biomass reference point at $0.4B_{MSY}$ and the target fishing mortality at $0.8F_{MSY}$. In 2018, an external peer review of the MSE framework for North Atlantic albacore confirmed that the framework was both scientifically sound and robust to uncertainty. The SCRS responded to the Commission's request to define exceptional circumstances with regard to HCRs and developed two principles for identifying such circumstances: 1) the stock is in a state not considered to be plausible by the MSE; or 2) there is evidence that data required to apply the HCRs are not available or no longer appropriate. There is a need for the Commission to decide what actions to take should such exceptional circumstances occur. The SCRS continues to recommend that CPCs with albacore fisheries are represented at meetings of the Albacore Species Group, and that such nations are made aware of capacity building funds available for participating. In addition, the SCRS recommends continued funding of the albacore research program for North Atlantic albacore.

5.1.2 Mediterranean albacore

The Mediterranean albacore stock assessment was conducted in 2017 using a length-based catch curve analysis and a production model. While the stock status is highly uncertain, it is likely that the stock is neither overfished nor experiencing overfishing. Considering this high level of uncertainty, the SCRS recommends maintaining the total allowable catch (TAC) at a level below MSY until abundance trends are further updated.

5.2 Bluefin tuna

5.2.1 Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean

The SCRS Chair reviewed the results of the 2017 stock assessment, which indicated that the stock is not experiencing overfishing. Given the increase in stock abundance indicated by the 2017 stock assessment, the SCRS recommends that the Commission consider moving from the current rebuilding plan to a management plan, while not weakening monitoring and control measures. The SCRS recommends that abundance indices for the eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna stock continue to be evaluated annually as the TAC continues a stepwise increase through 2020.

5.2.2 Western Atlantic

The SCRS Chair reviewed the results of the 2017 stock assessment, which indicated that overfishing is not occurring and that while recruitment has been low in recent years, biomass has shown a slight increase. The SCRS indicated that the TAC of 2,350 t for 2019 and 2020 from Rec. 17-06 is unlikely to lead to overfishing in the interim management period and recommends maintaining these catch levels.

5.3 Responses of the SCRS to the Commission requests

The SCRS Chair addressed the SCRS responses to the following requests by the Commission.

1. *The SCRS is requested to develop in 2018 criteria for the identification of exceptional circumstances. Rec. 17-04 paragraph 12.*

This response is presented in point 19.7 of the 2018 SCRS report.

2. *The SCRS is requested to initiate a peer-review, in time for the 2018 Commission meeting. Rec. 17-04 paragraph 15.*

This response is presented in point 19.8 of the 2018 SCRS report.

3. *Review on specific spawning times and areas of bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic. Rec. 17-06 paragraph 23.*

This response is presented in point 19.9 of the 2018 SCRS report.

4. *Provide guidance on a range of fish size management measures and their impact on yield per recruit and spawner per recruit considerations. Rec. 17-06 paragraph 27.*

This response is presented in point 19.10 of the 2018 SCRS report.

5.4 Comments on the SCRS presentation

5.4.1 North Atlantic albacore

The European Union asked the SCRS Chair how to build robustness into the MSE so that the Commission can avoid triggering exceptional circumstances, if possible. Dr Die referred back to the two principles identified by the SCRS as a basis for determining whether exceptional circumstances are occurring, and stressed that the SCRS should be as broad as possible in terms of hypotheses and uncertainties when developing the MSE. The Panel Chair suggested that the panel revisit the question of exceptional circumstances later in the session. See agenda item 9.1.1.

The European Union asked whether proposed criteria for exceptional circumstances developed for the North Atlantic albacore MSE could be applicable to other stocks. The SCRS Chair explained that the principles of the proposed criteria for the North Atlantic albacore stock would be applicable to other stocks, although the specific indicators may differ.

The European Union also referred to the paragraph in Rec. 17-04 that calls for the merging of Rec. 16-06 with Rec. 17-04, but suggested that it would be premature to merge the two and recommended revisiting such an action following the development of final HCRs by 2020.

5.4.2 *Bluefin tuna*

CPCs asked several questions that focused on the development and timing of the MSE as well as on mixing rates between the eastern and western Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks.

Norway stated its support for the development of an MSE for bluefin tuna and emphasized that it strongly supports the work of the GBYP. Norway described that the proposed Norwegian quota for 2019 and 2020 is 239 t and 300 t, respectively, and asked whether the SCRS sees any biological or scientific reasons why the existing purse seine fishing season in Norway should be reduced by 70% and subject to an annual evaluation, while the Mediterranean fleets will be able to expand their seasons but these proposed changes will not be subject to evaluation until 2020. The SCRS Chair responded that he was unaware of any information the SCRS has provided to the Commission on this subject. He emphasized that the current stock assessments are completed for each of the two bluefin tuna stocks, and that the SCRS does not provide advice on fishing mortality at a regional or spatial level. However, he explained that the bluefin tuna MSE currently in development is spatially structured and can provide information on the spatial effects of regulations.

Japan asked about the latest scientific information on the mixing rate of the eastern and western Atlantic stocks. The SCRS Chair responded that the SCRS continues to evaluate new genetic, tagging, and otolith microchemistry data each year and is constantly updating estimates of mixing rates used for the MSE operational model. He emphasized that, in certain parts of the Atlantic, mixing rates can be very different and highly variable. For example, the mixing rates detected in Morocco's trap fishery change year by year.

Japan expressed its appreciation for the SCRS' extensive effort to complete the bluefin tuna MSE, and stressed the need for clear scientific guidance as a basis for the next bluefin tuna management recommendation. Japan asked whether, if in 2019 it became evident that the MSE would not be completed by 2020, the SCRS would be able to conduct a stock assessment to inform management for 2021. The SCRS Chair explained that by the end of 2019 the SCRS will know if it is on schedule to complete the MSE by 2020, and if the SCRS is not on schedule, it would have to conduct a bluefin tuna stock assessment in 2020, which would slow down the completion of the MSE.

The United States asked the SCRS Chair to clarify the difference between conceptual and operational management objectives in the context of MSE. The SCRS Chair confirmed that conceptual objectives refer to high-level policy goals such as maintaining stability in the fishery, whereas operational objectives refer to the setting of targets that articulate the conceptual objectives quantitatively. The United States asked, if the Commission were able to develop conceptual objectives during intersessional meetings in 2019, whether that timing would be appropriate for meeting the 2020 target for completion of the MSE. The SCRS Chair confirmed that the SCRS Bluefin Tuna MSE Technical Group has asked Panel 2 to provide its input on operational objectives through an intersessional meeting in March 2019.

The European Union noted that the current grid of operational models considers a single scenario of stock mixing although mixing is a significant source of uncertainty. The European Union emphasized its understanding that there are alternative models but that agreement needs to be reached as soon as possible. The EU asked whether the SCRS has encompassed enough hypotheses and whether the grid of operating models sufficiently addresses uncertainty in the bluefin tuna stock assessments. The SCRS Chair explained that the initial set of operating models was not considered sufficient and was subsequently expanded. He noted that hypotheses can always be expanded but that, at some point, agreement needs to be reached on an initial set of models. He indicated that the SCRS is very close to reaching such agreement.

Tunisia asked for further clarity on recent information regarding stock mixing, and also asked whether the SCRS was examining the ecosystem-level interaction of bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean Sea with forage species, such as sardines, to understand the impact of bluefin tuna on small pelagic species. The SCRS Chair explained that GBYP data on mixing continue to be added and that the 2017 analysis confirmed that stock mixing is far more important for the western stock because the eastern stock is much larger. In some cases, however, such as off the coast of Morocco, there can be major contributions from the western stock. Regarding ecosystem interactions, the SCRS Chair responded that the SCRS Sub-committee on Ecosystems is currently developing an indicator sheet covering all of the stocks and will continue to think about whether changes in bluefin tuna abundance affect the abundance of small pelagic species.

Japan raised the issue of weight gain and growth factors in farmed bluefin tuna. In 2009, the SCRS produced a table indicating the expected weight for farmed bluefin tuna based on the best available data at the time. However, the growth rate in the table is overestimated because it does not consider mortality during farming. Japan explained that it has recently observed higher growth rates in farms than those indicated in the 2009 growth table. This could be due to the growth rates truly being higher, underreporting of weight from farmed fish at time of transfer into the cage (for instance, because live fish cannot be weighed during the transfer process), or other reasons. Japan emphasized its concern regarding potential underreporting and, referring to Rec. 17-07, paragraph 96, asked if any progress had been made by SCRS in the study of growth rates. The SCRS Chair responded that the growth tables had not been updated since 2009. He stressed that there is variability in growth rates at farms due to areas, seasons, and farming practices, and that growth information may need to be estimated at the level of individual farms. The SCRS Chair requested that Japan present its analysis of growth rates to the SCRS. He mentioned that one SCRS study at a single farm had followed fish during the grow-out period and that another SCRS study compared stereoscopic video camera data to eBCD harvesting data from many farms. This latter study did not follow individual fish but rather groups of fish, and found growth rates that were slightly but not dramatically different from those in the 2009 growth rate table. A new overall evaluation of growth rates would be feasible but would require careful design and collaboration with farming operations to account for regional differences and differences between individual farms. The SCRS Chair mentioned that such work could be conducted under the GBYP if the Commission thought it was important. The European Union expressed support for an updated analysis of the growth rates as understanding and knowledge of farming operations has advanced since 2009.

Morocco asked whether the major mixing rates of bluefin tuna stocks in Moroccan fisheries have been confirmed by genetics. The SCRS Chair explained that genetic, electronic tagging, and otolith studies all indicate the presence of fish in Moroccan waters that appear to be from the western stock. He stated that genetic and electronic tagging data suggest lower mixing rates (i.e., a lower proportion of bluefin tuna from the western stock) than those indicated by otolith studies. He stressed that all three of these types of studies can only provide a probability of whether a fish belongs to a given stock, and cannot assign a fish to a stock with absolute certainty.

6. Review of the report of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2, and consideration of any necessary actions

The Panel Chair reviewed the actions taken during the intersessional meeting held in Madrid, Spain, March 5-7, 2018, which are described in the “Report of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2” (**ANNEX 4.1**). Fishing, inspection, and capacity management plans were submitted by each CPC and were approved during the intersessional meeting for all CPCs except Norway, who had lodged an objection to Rec. 17-07 and for whom endorsement was thus not appropriate, and Syria, who was not in attendance. Questions that arose on Syria’s plan were forwarded by email for response. Syria subsequently addressed the questions posed and revised its plan, which was endorsed by correspondence.

Adjustments to the eastern bluefin tuna quotas for 2019 and 2020 using the unallocated reserves in Rec. 17-07 were developed at the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 and forwarded to the Commission for consideration. Next steps with regard to this matter were taken up under agenda item 9.

The Panel endorsed the report of the 2018 Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2.

7. Consideration of the outcome of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review

The Panel Chair described two major issues needing follow-up by Panel 2, as listed in the document “Follow up of the ICCAT Performance Review – Panel 2”. The first was a recommendation that the Panel take advantage of the favorable condition of the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna stock to resolve outstanding quota allocation issues among CPCs. This matter was deferred for discussion under agenda item 9. The second was a recommendation that called on ICCAT to assure itself that Mediterranean albacore was not overfished and overfishing was not occurring. The Panel noted that action had been taken for Mediterranean albacore in 2017 and that the stock was not overfished nor experiencing overfishing as of the last assessment. Progress to date made by Panel 2 on the follow-up of the Second Performance Review of ICCAT is included in **Appendix 10 to ANNEX 9**.

8. Review of Compliance Tables

The Panel Chair opened the floor for discussion of the “Issues referred by COC to other ICCAT subsidiary bodies” contained in **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**. On the issue of clarification regarding the transfer of western bluefin tuna quota from Mexico to Canada, Canada explained and Mexico concurred that the transfer was from the 2017 underage by Mexico and was added to Canada’s adjusted 2018 quota. The confusion as a result of this time lag would be resolved with the Secretariat and clarified in a footnote on the compliance table.

The second issue discussed was the suggestion by the Secretariat that, from 2019 onward, the compliance review timing for bluefin tuna be aligned with that of other species. Specifically, the previous year’s data and other fishery related information should be reviewed rather than that of the current year. There was general support for this approach; however, one CPC noted that fishery information that becomes available for the current year, such as from ROP observer reports or other means, which may have implications with respect to a CPC’s compliance should be able to be considered during the Commission meeting. This issue was later discussed under 9.2.1. The Panel agreed that the compliance review would be aligned with other species by removing “all the CPCs involved in the bluefin tuna chain shall submit each year, no later than 15 October, a detailed report on their implementation of this Recommendation” from the paragraph for “Evaluation” (as had been in para 101 of Rec. 17-07).

The third issue discussed was the question of whether all CPCs that do not authorize ports for eastern bluefin tuna activity have to specifically state such prohibition through a submission or through the Annual Report. The Panel agreed that if a CPC does not designate and submit a list of ports for landing/transshipment of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, such activities are not authorized under ICCAT’s rules and a vessel should not attempt to use non-designated ports for the purpose of landing/transshipping eastern bluefin tuna. While there is no requirement in ICCAT for CPCs that do not designate such ports to specifically state this or to take other actions, the annual report template requests information on whether CPCs have designated ports for landing eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna and the eBCD system includes the list of designated ports in it as well.

9. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*

9.1 *Albacore*

9.1.1 *North Atlantic albacore*

The Panel 2 Chair revisited the need identified by the SCRS for the Commission to decide what actions to take with regard to HCRs should exceptional circumstances occur. He reiterated the hope that exceptional circumstances do not occur, but that they can happen, as demonstrated by the loss of aerial survey data used for MSE by the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna.

The United States and Canada raised the issue of timing for adopting the criteria for exceptional circumstances, and whether the Commission needed to make a decision on this matter at this annual meeting. The SCRS Chair suggested that since Rec. 17-04 established HCRs to be applied on an interim basis for 2018-2020, the criteria for exceptional circumstances and the range of appropriate management responses could be formally adopted as late as 2020. However, the SCRS hoped for some earlier consideration of exceptional circumstances by the Commission so that the ongoing HCR simulations could include potential Commission actions in the event of exceptional circumstances. The Panel 2 Chair concluded that this issue could be discussed at an intersessional meeting.

9.2 *Bluefin tuna*

Canada introduced its “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on conceptual management objectives for eastern and western bluefin tuna” to provide an initial framework for management objectives for eastern and western bluefin tuna, which is needed for advancing MSE for the stocks. Canada recalled that the Commission must adopt operational management objectives in order for the SCRS to complete the MSE by 2020, as anticipated in the roadmap. The proposal contains five candidate operational objectives but without the quantitative elements needed to make them operational. Canada emphasized that the adoption of specific quantitative elements is not being proposed at this time, but rather a framework is being offered to support future Panel 2 discussion.

Norway and Iceland expressed concern that the SCRS roadmap proposes seven meetings in 2019 related to development of the bluefin tuna MSE, and that attending these meetings will be difficult for some CPCs due to both budget and personnel limitations. The SCRS Chair clarified that participation in the MSE process happens at various levels of detail and expertise and that it is not expected for CPCs to attend all seven meetings. The Panel 2 Chair stressed that a high degree of consultation and engagement with CPCs was necessary to develop the MSE and commented that the only 2019 meetings that require the attendance of managers would be the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 and the Intersessional Meeting of the Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM), if held.

Japan sought clarification on whether operational management objectives would be adopted for the two bluefin stocks separately, or whether one set of operational objectives would be adopted for both stocks. Of the two options, Japan preferred setting separate objectives for each stock.

Japan also expressed the opinion that Paragraph 2a (the minimum probability of the stock occurring in the green quadrant of the Kobe matrix) negated the need for Paragraph 2b (the maximum probability of the stock entering the red quadrant of the Kobe matrix). Regarding Paragraph 2c (the maximum probability of the stock falling below B_{LIM}), Japan believed B_{LIM} should be defined as $0.4 \cdot B_{MSY}$ as it is for North Atlantic albacore. Japan proposed deleting “while achieving B_{MSY} ” from Paragraph 2d due to its redundancy with Paragraph 2a.

The United States summarized the key aspects of its comments on the draft resolution, which it had provided to Canada. First, it suggested that management objectives should be associated with the performance indicators used by the SCRS for the North Atlantic albacore MSE: stock status; safety; yield; and stability. It also expressed the view that the connection between conceptual and operational objectives should be made explicit. Generally, the United States believed that the draft resolution was too prescriptive. It did not believe that operational objectives should necessarily specify a timeframe, and that those references should be removed or bracketed for further discussion. The United States reiterated that the focus at the Commission meeting should be on laying out the clear process through which operational objectives are developed, with thorough discussion of the details deferred to the 2019 Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2.

Tunisia stated that each stock has its own specific qualities and that more information may be needed from the SCRS to inform the development of the operational objectives.

Canada revised the proposal based on input received. The European Union expressed support for the resolution and offered to co-sponsor the measure with Canada. Panel 2 approved the “Draft Resolution by ICCAT on Development of Initial Management Objectives for Eastern and Western Bluefin Tuna” and forwarded it to the Commission for adoption.

9.2.1 Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna

The European Union introduced its “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT establishing a Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea” and noted that consultations with other CPCs on the proposal were reinitiated following the intersessional meeting in March 2018, and a number of CPCs and NGOs sent comments on the proposal. The European Union reminded the Panel of the SCRS advice to move from a recovery to a management plan in light of the healthy state of the stock, while not weakening monitoring and control measures.

Turning to management objectives, the European Union stressed that, given continued uncertainties with regard to the stock, it is paramount to ensure that fishing capacity remains within sustainable limits and that control of capacity remains effective. To this end, the European Union proposed limiting adjustments of fishing capacity for purse seiners in 2019 and 2020 to 20% of the 2017 level, and limiting the fishing season for purse seiners to a maximum of five weeks. In recognition that eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna distribution has grown and seasonality has changed, some flexibility in the fishing seasons was proposed to facilitate the ability of CPCs to catch their quota. The European Union further recognized the sacrifices made by small-scale local fleets in helping to recover the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna stock, and expressed its desire to facilitate increased access by small-scale operators to the fishery.

The proposal maintained the 30 kg minimum size for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean while providing a derogation for the eastern Atlantic baitboat and troll fisheries, the small-scale fleets in the Mediterranean Sea, and bluefin tuna caught in the Adriatic Sea for farming purposes, consistent with the provisions of the previous recovery plan.

Given the uncertainty of the assessment and the advice not to weaken monitoring, the European Union introduced text that in some cases tightened monitoring, especially with regard to farming. Due to traceability problems regarding carryover of unharvested live bluefin tuna from farming operations, the proposal limits the amount of fish that can be kept from one year to the next, while providing some flexibility. In addition, the European Union proposed a provision for random controls at farms to improve traceability and oversight during the period between the time of caging and the time of harvesting. To improve traceability in purse seine operations, in the event of a towing vessel's Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) transmission failure, the European Union proposed requiring the transmission to commence again within 48 hours. Following discussion among CPCs, the deadline for restarting VMS transmissions on towing vessels after failure was extended to 72 hours.

The United States was of the view that the management objectives of maintaining biomass at $B_{0.1}$ shall (versus may) be revisited once the MSE has made sufficient progress. The Panel agreed. The United States also suggested that the Panel further clarify that the TAC established for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin stock for 2019 and 2020 is inclusive of dead discards, which was agreed.

Norway expressed concern with the inclusion of minimum size derogations for some fleets from the 30 kg minimum size for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, citing the 2017 SCRS Report which states that the combination of size limits and catch reductions contributed to the rapid increase in the abundance of the stock.

Several CPCs expressed concern about limited opportunities to take advantage of increased quotas due to purse seine capacity limits and seasons. Norway and Iceland explained that they need longer seasons than the Mediterranean Sea to catch their quota due to the scattered nature of foraging bluefin tuna schools and poor weather conditions in the northeast Atlantic. Both CPCs explained that when combined with limitations on increasing capacity, a season reduction would prevent them from harvesting their quota. The European Union modified the text to exempt Iceland and Norway from the capacity limitation and also granted a modest extension of the fishing season for their purse seine fleets along with a 10-day season extension allowance in the event of bad weather.

Algeria and Tunisia described the sacrifices and reductions made by their fleets that led to the rebuilding of the stock, and opposed the restriction in developing purse seine capacity. Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia, Turkey, and Libya requested a derogation from the purse seine capacity limitation, similar to that for Iceland and Norway. Japan stressed its belief that a CPC's fishing capacity must be commensurate with its allocated quota. The European Union modified the text to exempt developing CPCs from the capacity limitation if they demonstrate the need to develop their fishing capacity so as to fully use their quota, as long as the minimum catch rates for purse seiners continue to apply. The European Union stressed that there would also be a need for securing proper controls given the compliance issues with the purse seine fishery detected in previous years.

Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Turkey also contended that there should be an extended uniform season, from May 20 through July 8, for the purse seine fleet throughout the Mediterranean Sea. This extended season would ensure that these nations could be selective and safely harvest their quota in the event of the bad weather. The proponents of this extension stressed that they would be willing to adopt additional controls measures along with the season increase. The European Union maintained a May 26 to July 1 purse seine season for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea but provided additional derogations for CPCs if a request is made in a CPC's fishing plan. Morocco requested that a derogation be added for the western Mediterranean and eastern Atlantic allowing a season of May 1 to June 15 if a CPC so requests, so that Morocco can harvest bluefin tuna when they are present in its waters. The European Union complied with Morocco's request.

In response to the concern about a 20% cap on purse seine capacity increase, the European Union stated that purse seine capacity may have already increased by 20% during 2018, and recalled that one of the problems experienced when the stock collapsed was insufficient control of purse seine capacity. The European Union emphasized that it is not against allowing development at all but that the capacity increase in 2018, plus the one week season extension included in the proposal, need to be considered. Serious control measures are needed to avoid past problems.

Norway, Algeria, Libya, Turkey, and Tunisia asked to remove the requirement that a specific quota be allocated to each CPC's small-scale coastal vessel fleet authorized to fish for eastern bluefin tuna but this was not accepted.

Japan expressed concern that capacity estimates are based on the SCRS catch rates (by fleet segment and gear) from 2009, which could be out of date, and recommended freezing capacity until the SCRS updates catch rates in 2019. The SCRS Chair indicated that, while multiple analytical methods demonstrated increased capacity from 2014 through 2018, capacity calculation methods that use catch rates in a fishery managed by a TAC do not necessarily indicate a CPC's ability to catch fish because the catch rate may be limited by the quota.

With regard to carryover of unused quota, Norway and Japan asked who would decide when such a carryover is "duly justified" and what the criteria would be. The European Union responded that whether a carryover is "duly justified" would be decided by the Commission; it could, for example, be if poor weather conditions prevented a CPC from harvesting its quota. The European Union expressed the opinion that it did not make sense for the Panel to define such criteria during the session.

Japan asked about the timing of the request to carryover unused quota, since Japan's fishing season is in the fall and is ongoing around the time of the Commission meeting. Japan asked if it was possible to transfer quota to the following year if the current fishing year had not yet completed. The European Union cited the need for transparency from year to year in terms of what is transferred.

The United States expressed concern about setting the bluefin tuna bycatch tolerance for CPCs at 20%, which appeared unreasonably high. The European Union indicated that as bluefin tuna abundance has increased, fisheries targeting other species are encountering increased numbers of bluefin tuna and exceeding the 5% bycatch threshold, resulting in discards. The European Union explained that incentivizing CPCs to instead report that bycatch was preferable.

Norway questioned why the timing requirement for a vessel to transmit an ICCAT transshipment declaration to their flag CPC was extended from 48 hours in Rec. 17-07 to 15 days in the current proposal. The European Union explained that the change is due to the fact that the transshipment declarations are not urgent. Japan added that the 15-day timeframe had been articulated in Rec. 16-15 and that it would be preferable to maintain consistency.

Substantial discussion arose concerning the presence of ICCAT regional observers aboard purse seiners, towing vessels and during intra-farm transfers. The European Union, stating that one of the weakest control points is the transfer of fish to the transporter cage, proposed 100% regional observer coverage on towing vessels. Turkey and Tunisia expressed that the 100% ICCAT regional observer requirement on towing vessels could have a huge cost impact on the industry since towing vessels can be at sea for several months, and indicated a preference for maintaining CPC observers on towing vessels. They also objected to the need for regional, rather than CPC, observers for intra-farm transfers because such transfers may need to happen quickly, due for example to bad weather. The European Union responded that it understood the cost argument but that the risk needs to be appropriately covered.

Regarding transfers between transport cages prior to caging, Turkey and Tunisia opposed the proposed prohibition on subsequent transfers between transport cages after the initial transfer from the purse seine to a transport cage/cages, arguing that it presented a logistical problem with large catches. For example, if a purse seine were to make a 50 ton set, multiple transfers may be needed because the initial number of cages needed would be so high as to be infeasible. The European Union responded that the measure was important for improving controls on caging, and asked those opposing the idea to link the limit on transfers between transport cages to a certain amount of catch.

Algeria and Libya expressed concern about restricting the ability to increase farming capacity. They stressed that all CPCs, especially developing nations, should have the right to develop farming capacity. The European Union indicated that the proposal does not put an absolute cap on farming developments.

On the issue of farming capacity and maximum annual input of live bluefin tuna into farms, Algeria referred to the several reference input capacity baselines available to CPCs - input capacity during 2017, or if no farms were operative in a given CPC during 2017, input capacity of 2005, 2006, 2007, or 2008. Algeria stated that these baselines would be a limiting factor for nations that want to develop their farming capacity and had no capacity during those baseline years. Algeria requested removing the requirement that CPC establish an annual maximum input of wild-caught bluefin tuna into farms. Turkey, Tunisia, Libya, Albania, Morocco, and Egypt supported Algeria's proposal. The European Union contended that it did not want to remove the maximum annual input of live bluefin tuna altogether. Algeria and Egypt clarified that they had been exporting catches to other CPCs but want to develop their own farming capacity, which the proposal does not allow. Egypt and Libya explained that they wanted to have the ability to increase their farming capacity and import live bluefin tuna given their limited quotas. Algeria reiterated that it did not want its limits on farming capacity to be bound by its quota. In response, the European Union added to the proposal the ability for developing CPCs without tuna farms to establish farming facilities with a maximum farming capacity of 1,800 t. Morocco asked if this capacity maximum be extended to nations with less than three farms, which was agreed to by the European Union.

Several CPCs, including Turkey, Tunisia, and Algeria, expressed concern with the limitation of carryover of live fish for farming operations, which could threaten the right of free trade and result in companies needing to harvest or release live bluefin tuna or sell them at poor prices. Instead, they expressed their preference for strengthening monitoring and control measures for farming operations, including measures to improve traceability of carried-over live bluefin tuna—although opposition for random checks at farms, which could stress the fish, was also noted. The European Union responded by authorizing carry-over of non-harvested live bluefin tuna if a reinforced system of control is implemented. A requirement for a system of risk-based random controls was maintained.

Turkey and Tunisia objected to the requirement that ICCAT regional observers dive in bluefin tuna cages to estimate the number of fish caged and harvested during underwater operations, arguing that such an activity puts observers' lives at risk and creates a liability. In addition, only about 20% of regional observers were properly trained in such activities, presenting logistical difficulties. Turkey contended that video recordings are a sufficient control. The European Union understood the argument for the caging process, but asked about requiring divers during harvesting, where irregularities have been detected.

Japan reiterated its concern about potential underestimation of fish size at the time of capture and the need for the SCRS to review the growth rates of bluefin tuna in farming operations, and a provision instructing the SCRS to update growth rates of farmed bluefin tuna for both the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean was added.

Japan argued that, for the daily report of the catch, currently utilized means such as facsimile should be accepted. Iceland asked whether facsimile should be interpreted as an electronic mean. Panel 2 confirmed its understanding that facsimile is one of the electronic means.

After significant debate, there was consensus that CPCs with an allocated eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna quota must designate ports for landing or transshipment. Morocco noted that, to avoid product degradation, it is sometimes necessary to transport dead bluefin tuna harvested from a trap or cage to a processing vessel using an auxiliary vessel and asked for a derogation from the requirement to land or transship such bluefin tuna in designated ports, which could be far away. The European Union agreed to make this amendment to its proposal under the condition of ongoing supervision by national observers.

Several observers provided comments on the proposal.

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) expressed their disappointment at the Commission's willingness to increase fishing and farming opportunities without commensurate increases in controls, and articulated ongoing concerns regarding illegal fishing in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea that the proposal did not address. It contended that the discussion represented a systematic weakening of the proposal that compromised measures needed for full recovery of the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna stock. Specific concerns expressed included increasing fishing and farming capacity, extending the fishing season, and adding minimum size derogations. WWF emphasized that these measures risked reversal of the hard-earned gains achieved for the stock since 2009.

These concerns were echoed by The Ocean Foundation, Sciaena, Pew Charitable Trusts, and the Ecology Action Centre.

Europêche generally agreed with the proposal but articulated concerns regarding the limitation on carryover in farming operations, and also urged that the European Union allocation key not be reduced further than its current 5% reduction. The Federation of Maltese Aquaculture Producers (FMAP) emphasized that there is no point in establishing monitoring and control measures if they cannot be enforced, and also said that the rules of the market should not be changed whenever there's an irregularity in a way that punishes those who play by the rules; instead, those bad actors should be expelled from the fishery. FMAP reiterated the concern regarding the carryover limitation in farming operations.

Since Panel 2 could not agree on the proposal by the end of the time allotted, the Chair indicated that the *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Establishing a Multi-Annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea* would be forwarded to Plenary for further consideration.

10. Identification of outdated measures in light of item 9 above

The Panel Chair proposed to repeal Rec. 16-09, which included a special one-year provision allowing Algeria to harvest up to 500 t of bluefin tuna for 2017 and is now outdated. The Panel agreed.

The next item concerned Rec. 96-14, which includes payback provisions in bluefin tuna and North Atlantic swordfish fisheries. The Panel Chair suggested adding the text of Paragraphs 2 and 3 from Rec. 96-14 to the European Union proposal currently being considered for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea bluefin tuna management. The addition of Paragraphs 2 and 3 to the European Union proposal was agreed to by the Panel, but as the draft only cross referenced those paragraphs rather than including the relevant text itself, the Chair indicated that Rec. 96-14 could not be repealed at this time. In addition, the United States reminded the Panel that it had objected to repealing Rec. 96-14 when this matter was raised in Panel 4.

The Panel Chair reminded the Panel that Rec. 14-04 had been repealed by Rec. 17-07 and Rec. 16-08 had been repealed by Rec. 17-06. No objection was raised among Panel members.

11. Research

11.1 Albacore

SCRS current and proposed future research activities for albacore can be found in Appendix 12 of the 2018 SCRS Report. The SCRS Chair mentioned that the SCRS intends to continue to conduct basic biological research for both the North Atlantic and Mediterranean albacore stocks.

11.1.1 North Atlantic albacore

In 2019, the SCRS intends to continue to improve the testing of HCRs using different variations, and will also complete the peer review of the consultation and development process for the North Atlantic albacore MSE. The SCRS Chair reiterated that if the SCRS were to receive input on Commission actions under exceptional circumstances, those actions could be incorporated into the HCR simulations.

11.2 Bluefin tuna

SCRS current and proposed research activities related to the GBYP and the MSE/HCR roadmap for bluefin tuna can be found in Appendices 4 and 15 of the 2018 SCRS Report, respectively. The SCRS Chair explained that the GBYP program continues to recover basic fishery data, conduct aerial surveys, deploy tags (primarily electronic tags), conduct biological and genetic sampling to develop an age-length key for bluefin tuna and inform stock differentiation, and develop MSE models. For non-GBYP bluefin tuna research, the species group will update scientific advice for the Commission on bluefin tuna after updating fishery indicators.

For the bluefin tuna MSE, the technical working group of modelers will meet twice during 2019, and the two intersessional bluefin tuna working group meetings during 2019 will also have a substantial MSE component. The SCRS Chair stressed that input from Panel 2 regarding operational objectives for MSE was needed in 2019 so that development of candidate management procedures could proceed.

12. Other matters

Statements to Panel 2 were made by Asociación de Pesca, Comercio y Consumo Responsable del Atún Rojo (APCCR) and Europêche, which are contained in **Appendices 11 and 12 of ANNEX 9**.

13. Adoption of the report and adjournment

The Chair thanked the Secretariat and interpreters for all their hard work and adjourned the meeting. The Panel 2 report was adopted by correspondence.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 3

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by Mr. Asanda Njobeni (South Africa), the Chair of Panel 3.

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Ms. Melanie King (United States) was designated as the rapporteur.

3. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted with no modifications (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**).

4. Review of Panel membership

Panel 3 is currently comprised of the following 15 members: Belize, Brazil, China (P.R.), European Union, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Mexico, Namibia, Panama, Philippines, Senegal, South Africa, Turkey, the United States and Uruguay.

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

The SCRS Chair, Dr David Die, reviewed the results of the last stock assessment (conducted in 2015) for southern albacore with the Panel. At that time, the SCRS concluded that the stock was not overfished, nor was it experiencing overfishing. As a result of that assessment, the TAC was set at 24,000 t in 2016. The total reported landings in 2017 decreased from previous years to 13,806 t, which is among the lowest values in the time series available to the SCRS. Therefore, it is likely that the stock is still not overfished or experiencing overfishing. The next stock assessment will take place in 2020.

Dr Die noted that several countries with important southern albacore fisheries have not been represented at meetings of the Albacore Species Group. This limited the ability of the Group to properly revise the basic fishery data and some standardized CPUEs that were submitted electronically. This continues to result in unquantified uncertainties which prevent the Group from successfully achieving the objectives of the meetings. To overcome this, the Group continues to recommend that CPCs make additional efforts to participate and be made aware of capacity building funds available for participation in and contributing to Species Group meetings.

The SCRS plans to continue to explore the feasibility of a joint South Atlantic albacore CPUE analyses for longline fleets using fine scale, operational level data, and will continue efforts to produce new standardized CPUE series from swordfish directed pelagic longline fisheries throughout the Atlantic.

Dr Die noted that each year the SCRS reviews the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) report in order to know the research on southern bluefin tuna and the stock assessments carried out. The CCSBT is charged with assessing the status of southern bluefin tuna. This year the SCRS and CCSBT staff collaborated in MSE initiatives through the tRFMO MSE Technical Working Group and ICCAT Secretariat staff attended the Informal Operating Model and Management Procedure Technical Meeting for the CCSBT. These reports are available through the CCSBT. Dr Die indicated that the opportunity to attend the CCSBT technical meeting was helpful in informing the SCRS on the ways in which CCSBT conducts the MSE process and that a meaningful exchange of ideas took place.

One CPC wondered why the landings of southern albacore had dropped so far below the TAC in recent years when catches historically had been as high as 70,000 t. Dr Die indicated that the reason for this was primarily a change in the targeting of effort of the longline fleet to different species.

6. Consideration of the outcome of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review

The Chair noted that Panel 3 is not identified as the lead of any particular recommendation, however some are of interest to Panel 3, which were discussed at the 2017 annual meeting. There were no additional comments on this point. Progress to date made by Panel 3 on the follow-up of the second performance review of ICCAT is included in **Appendix 13 to ANNEX 9**.

7. Review of compliance tables

The southern albacore compliance tables and the carryover of underages from 2017 were reviewed by the Panel. South Africa, Brazil, EU, China, Uruguay, Korea, and Chinese Taipei informed the Panel of their intent to carry forward underages. There was some discussion on the application of the carryover provisions in Recommendation 16-07, so requests for carryover were deferred until CPCs had the chance to meet with the Secretariat to determine their allowable amount of carryover to adjust their 2019 catch limits. The interpretation of paragraph 4b of Recommendation 16-07 was discussed by several CPCs who noted the importance of ensuring clarity of intent and common understanding, and most importantly, accurate and consistent application thereof. There was agreement that CPCs are permitted to carry forward all of their own underages up to 25% of their initial allocation. If a CPC's underages total less than 25% of their initial allocation, they can access additional pooled underage to achieve up to a total of 25% of their initial allocation. There was also discussion on the timing for the required notification of such carry-forwards. It was agreed that CPCs must inform the Commission no later than during the ICCAT annual meeting, although it was noted that including calculated underages and potential carry-forwards in the Compliance Tables in advance of the annual meeting would facilitate future discussions of this point in Panel 3. In the meantime, CPCs were encouraged to submit advance requests for underage carryovers.

8. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities

No new measures were proposed by the Panel. The *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Southern Albacore Catch Limits for the Period 2017 to 2020* (Rec. 16-07), is still in force.

9. Identification of outdated measures in light of item 8 above

No outdated measures were identified for consideration.

10. Research

Dr Die indicated that there are no requests for research for southern albacore at this time but that the requests outlined for northern albacore in Panel 2 are expected to also benefit southern albacore.

11. Other matters

No other matters were raised.

12. Adoption of the report and adjournment

It was agreed to adopt the Report of Panel 3 by correspondence, and the meeting was adjourned.

REPORT ON THE SESSION MEETINGS OF PANEL 4

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chair of Panel 4, Dr Fabio Hazin (Brazil).

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was adopted without changes (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**).

3. Appointment of the Rapporteur

The Panel appointed Ms. Brianna Elliott (USA) as Rapporteur.

4. Review of panel membership

The Executive Secretary reviewed the Panel 4 membership. The Panel is comprised of the following members: Algeria, Angola, Belize, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canada, China (People's Republic), Chinese Taipei, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Gabon, Guatemala, Guinea (Rep.), Honduras, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Liberia, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Sao Tomé & Príncipe, Senegal, South Africa, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States of America, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Guinea Bissau became a member of Panel 4. Libya expressed interest in becoming a member of Panel 4.

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

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. The SCRS Chair focused mostly on blue marlin, which was the only one of these stocks assessed in 2018.

5.1 Blue Marlin

The SCRS Chair stated that a large portion of blue marlin catch comes from longlines, but recently more catches have come from surface gear – primarily hand lines and gillnets from artisanal fleets. In 2017, blue marlin total catch was at 1,987 tons (t), just below the total allowable catch (TAC) of 2,000 t. Most catches occur around the equator, though longline catches have a broader distribution in the Atlantic. The SCRS Chair presented twelve indices of abundance from longlines, gillnets from artisanal fisheries, and some sport fisheries, with models based on production and integrated analysis. These analyses show a rapid increase of fishing mortality until year 2000, followed by an overall decline since then. Blue marlin biomass shows a general decrease through the present without much recovery. Both integration and production models show that the stock is overfished and undergoing overfishing, though the SCRS noted the high uncertainty with regard to the data for this stock and its productivity.

The SCRS Chair noted that the TAC of 2,000 t established for 2016-2018 in Recommendation 15-05 has a 46 percent chance of the stock not being overfished by 2028. The Chair noted that catches of 1,750 t would allow this stock to rebuild with more than 50 percent confidence.

The SCRS also noted that some non-industrial fishing and landings are unaccounted for, which impairs the blue marlin analysis. The SCRS Chair further noted that recent research demonstrates that, in some longline fisheries, the use of non-offset circle hooks results in a decline in billfish by-catch mortality. Concerning live releases and discards, the SCRS Chair noted that some CPCs have started reporting live releases, as is currently required in Rec. 15-05. He noted, however, that not enough information is currently being reported on live release for all fleets to evaluate the effectiveness of this measure.

The SCRS's overall recommendation was that, given current management measures and the 2018 assessment, the Commission should find ways to ensure catches do not exceed the established TAC.

5.2 White Marlin

The SCRS Chair reminded the Commission that, according to the 2012 assessment, the white marlin stock in 2010 was overfished but likely not undergoing overfishing. The SCRS Chair noted there is substantial uncertainty associated with these results. The Chair reminded the Commission that rebuilding will proceed slowly if catches continue to exceed the TAC.

5.3 Sailfish

The SCRS Chair noted that the western Atlantic sailfish stock appears to be doing better than the eastern Atlantic sailfish stock. The western stock is not overfished or subject to overfishing, and current catches are well below MSY. On the other hand, the eastern stock has seen increases in catch in 2016 and 2017. The Commission recommended that for the eastern stock, catches should not exceed 1,271 t (Rec. 16-11), and for the western stock, catches should not exceed current levels.

5.4 Dead discard estimation

Rec. 15-05, paragraph 10, requires CPCs to report estimates of live and dead discards of blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish and calls upon SCRS to review this information to determine the feasibility of estimating fishing mortalities by commercial, recreational, and artisanal fisheries. However, only two CPCs consistently reported discards (Mexico and the United States) from 2006-2015. The SCRS Chair noted that measures previously adopted by the Commission required CPCs to notify the SCRS of their estimation procedures for dead discards but since few CPCs have provided this information, further work on this is needed.

5.5 Swordfish

Kobe plots from the 2017 assessment show that the South Atlantic swordfish stock had a higher probability of being overfished than the northern stock. The Chair noted there were delays in MSE development in 2018, but that there was some progress, including the first meeting of the Swordfish Species Group focused on MSE; some participants in capacity building have already started working on MSE products. Future plans include continuing to develop an operating model until December 2018, and subsequent development of candidate management procedures. The SCRS has requested funding to continue working on biological research, stock structure, and MSE work for at least two years.

The SCRS Chair also described a recommendation to monitor and analyze minimum size and weight measures (Rec. 17-02, paragraph 10 (N-SWO) and Rec. 17-03, paragraph 3 (S-SWO)). Answers to those requests were provided in 2017, referring to Recs. 16-03 and 16-04, and the SCRS does not have updates at this time. In terms of the effect of current management recommendations, the Chair noted that the TACs for 2018-21 in both the North and South Atlantic have a 50 percent probability of maintaining the stocks in the green zone of the Kobe plot through 2028. This advice on TAC probability does not account for underreporting of landings, dead and live discards, or quota transfers or carryovers.

Based on a 2016 stock assessment of Mediterranean swordfish, the probability of this stock being in the red on the Kobe plot is 100 percent. The recommendations of the SCRS are the same as those presented after the 2016 assessment, including substantial reductions in harvest, and further research on longline catches to improve assessment and management scenario evaluations. The current management recommendation (Rec. 16-05) contains a number of provisions intended to reduce juvenile swordfish catch. The SCRS recommends a full stock assessment in 2021 in order to take into account additional years of catches under Rec. 16-05. The SCRS also intends to work in the interim to improve data sets, which will allow the use of a different assessment platform.

5.6 Small Tunas

This section of the SCRS report refers to 13 species of small tunas. The SCRS Chair noted that these are very valuable to coastal fisheries, and catch rates are underestimated. The SCRS will outline a subset of management priorities in 2019 primarily based on improving Task I and II data. The SCRS will be requesting a small amount of support for a workshop on data-limited research methods and research activities over the next year to improve knowledge of biological information.

5.7 Sharks

The SCRS conducts regular stock assessments for shortfin mako, blue sharks, and porbeagle. The SCRS conducted an Ecological Risk Assessment for these and 13 others Atlantic shark species in 2012, revealing that bigeye thresher, longfin and shortfin mako, porbeagle, and night sharks are most vulnerable.

The SCRS assessed the stock status of blue shark in 2013 and found that the North Atlantic stock is in the green area of the Kobe plot, although this is not the case for the South Atlantic where the stock is subject to overfishing. The shortfin mako stocks were assessed in 2017, finding that the North Atlantic stock is overfished and subject to overfishing, and the South Atlantic stock may share the same status. The last assessment of porbeagle shark was in 2011 and needs to be updated.

Overall shark management recommendations are: (1) To continue managing with a precautionary approach, especially those stocks with the greatest biological vulnerability; (2) For CPCs to provide better catch statistics, including on dead and live discards; and (3) To investigate the magnitude of sharks caught in FADs.

For management recommendations on blue sharks, the assessment shows high variability in their status, ranging from not undergoing overfishing to being overfished. The SCRS recommended a precautionary approach for the South Atlantic stock; the SCRS was unable to reach consensus on specific advice on a TAC for the North Atlantic stock due to uncertainty in data inputs.

Regarding North Atlantic shortfin mako, the SCRS Chair reminded the Commission that they adopted Rec. 17-08, which aims to address overfishing and begin rebuilding, and that CPCs should be implementing measures to reduce fishing mortality consistent with this recommendation. The SCRS will be doing projections in 2019 based on the 2017 stock assessment. After this work is complete, the SCRS can evaluate the effectiveness of other measures in Rec. 17-08. For the South Atlantic stock, the SCRS recommended that catch levels should not exceed the minimum catch in the last five years of the assessment.

For porbeagle shark, the SCRS recommends that the Commission work with countries catching porbeagle and relevant RFMOs to ensure recovery of North Atlantic porbeagle stocks (e.g. ICES, NAFO). In particular, porbeagle fishing mortality should be kept at levels in line with scientific advice and with catches not exceeding the current level. Management measures and data collection should be harmonized as much as possible among all relevant RFMOs dealing with these stocks, and ICCAT should facilitate appropriate communication.

Questions from the Panel

Tunisia commented that since the results for the 2016 Mediterranean swordfish assessment show the stock is overfished, it is time to suggest management scenarios as done last year. They also asked about the duration of closures, such as whether they were three months, two months, or one and a half month closures. They noted that they proposed two closure periods in 2017 and asked if it would be possible to make that change to the fishery rules for next year. In response to Tunisia, the SCRS Chair noted he would have to check with the SCRS but that the initial response was that the Mediterranean swordfish assessment was not able to give advice on which periods are best for closures. He also noted that abundance measurements are done annually, not monthly, with this model, so it is hard to say if it is better to have a closure during one month or another.

The United States expressed concern with the limited reporting of blue marlin discards (dead and live). They asked the Chair to comment on how better discard reporting by all CPCs would lead to less uncertainty. Japan asked why blue marlin biomass was not decreasing when fishing mortality increased.

In response to the U.S. question on discards improving assessments, the Chair noted this question was related to Japan's. The Chair said they could better estimate mortality with better information on discards, and that this lack of data is why they cannot fully explain trends. In regards to explaining biomass changes, the Chair noted it is a struggle in ICCAT for many species in that there is sometimes a drop in CPUE, but variation in analysis cannot always be explained, especially for species without good data.

The EU had questions on two different stocks. For shortfin mako, they asked for clarity on whether circle hooks increase or decrease mortality, given that a study presented to the Shark Species Group determined mortality is higher with circle hooks. They also asked whether the Mediterranean swordfish recommendation included data from observers under paragraph 44 regarding discards of undersized swordfish.

The Chair noted that for circle hooks, there is a difference in mortality between J and circle hooks for shortfin mako, but he would have to report back on this. For the question on Mediterranean swordfish, the Chair noted that monitoring of scientific observers just came into place this year, and the SCRS has not yet reviewed this information.

6. Consideration of the outcome of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review

The Panel 4 Chair discussed the document on the *Follow Up of the ICCAT Performance Review – Panel 4*, noting that most of those recommendations had previously been reviewed by the Panel.

The Chair briefly raised the following recommendations:

- Recommendation 4, under Report Chapter "Trends in the Status of Non-Target Species:" Recommends that the precautionary approach be consistently applied for associated species, considering that the assessments for these species are highly uncertain and that their status is often poorly known. The proposed next steps were to refer to the SCRS to provide advice to assist in applying a precautionary approach to relevant non-target species. There were no comments from the Panel on this measure.
- Recommendation 27, under Report Chapter "South Atlantic Swordfish:" This Recommendation found the high amount of underharvest of South Atlantic swordfish permitted to be transferred was inconsistent with sound management. The Panel had no comments.
- Recommendation 29, under Report Chapter "Mediterranean Swordfish:" The Review Panel recommended catch limits and/or capacity limits be introduced for this fishery. The Panel noted this was addressed at the 2016 meeting, and there were no further comments.
- Recommendation 30, under Report Chapter "Mediterranean Swordfish:" The Review Panel encouraged ICCAT to intensify its efforts to improve the scientific and fisheries database for Mediterranean swordfish and endorse the SCRS recommendation that the fishery be closely monitored. There were no comments from the floor.
- Recommendation 38, under Report Chapter "Blue and White Marlins:" There were no comments from the Panel on this recommendation, which stated that the Review Panel supports SCRS advice that ICCAT actively encourages the use of non-offset circle hooks on longline fisheries to reduce the mortality of released marlin.
- Recommendation 40, under Report Chapter "Sharks:" There were no comments on the recommendation from the Review Panel to ICCAT to introduce catch limits as a priority for the main shark populations and develop a quota allocation scheme, in line with SCRS advice.
- Recommendation 42, under Report Chapter "Sharks:" There were no comments on this recommendation that shark fins should be landed with fins naturally attached.
- Recommendation 51, under Report Chapter "Sea Turtles:" The Panel supported this recommendation, which encourages the Commission to consider the adoption of measures to minimize bycatch mortality, and noted there was a proposal under consideration by the Panel that addressed this point.
- Recommendation 54, under Report Chapter "Seabirds:" The Panel supported Recommendation 54, which commends ICCAT for the measures it has introduced to further reduce bird mortality through refining existing mitigation measures.
- Recommendation 47, under Report Chapter "Rebuilding Plans:" The Panel had no comments on this recommendation.

The Panel also reviewed Recommendation 6 and 6bis under Data Collection and Sharing, and noted that ICCAT does not have a specific recommendation to allow minor harvesters without allocations to report their catches without being subject to sanctions, except for blue marlin.

Uruguay noted that the Performance Review Panel's recommendations are not requirements, and the Panel did not necessarily need to act on all of them.

Progress to date made by Panel 4 on the follow-up of the Second performance review is included in **Appendix 14 to ANNEX 9**.

7. Review of compliance tables

The Chair presented issues referred to the Panel from COC in the document *High Level Summary of COC Referral Issues for Presentation by PA4 Chair*. For Rec. 17-02 in this document, the Panel agreed that calculations for the carryover of North swordfish quota underharvests should follow the Recommendation that goes into force that year, and apply that carryover for the entire calendar year (i.e., the percentage carryover allowed in Rec. 17-02 applies for all of 2018).

The Panel agreed that the North and South Atlantic swordfish TACs include both landings and dead discards. The United States raised concerns that some CPCs that report North swordfish dead discards in Task I data do not include those discards in their compliance table catches. Both the United States and Canada suggested that this issue be taken up at the Commission level if there is ambiguity. The Chair noted the matter of interpretation of the current recommendations should be further discussed at the Commission level and that future recommendations of this Panel should be clear on this point.

The Panel agreed that CPCs who report catches of North Atlantic swordfish to SCRS but do not have a catch limit specified in Rec. 17-02 should be included on the compliance table for North Atlantic swordfish.

Regarding Mediterranean swordfish, the Panel agreed that CPCs can modify closures if reported in advance.

8. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities

8.1 Introduction of Proposals

The Chair identified five proposals for the Panel's consideration, and proponents presented each document.

8.2 Sharks

The United States introduced *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT*. Initially co-sponsored by Albania, Belize, Canada, Guatemala, European Union, France St. P & M, Gabon, Ghana, Honduras, Liberia, Nigeria, Sao Tomé & Príncipe, Senegal, South Africa, the United Kingdom and Overseas Territories, and the United States, the number of co-sponsors grew to 26 CPCs. Proponents noted that this landing requirement with fins attached is recognized as a best practice, and is key to collecting species-specific data that are critical for science and management of species. Several CPCs added that sharks are highly vulnerable to overexploitation and have poor data reporting; thus, this proposal was needed for their conservation.

Japan, China, and Korea questioned the conservation benefit of a fins-attached requirement. The Panel did not adopt the proposal due to lack of consensus.

8.3 Cetaceans

The United States introduced *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Monitoring and Avoiding Cetacean Interactions in ICCAT Fisheries* with Canada as a cosponsor. The proponents noted that this proposal was first introduced in 2016. They noted that Rec. 11-10 and 16-14 contain provisions that require collection and reporting of data on cetacean by-catch in ICCAT fisheries but that few CPCs provide these data. The proposal would also prohibit intentional encirclement of cetaceans in purse seine fisheries, and request the SCRS to develop best practice guidelines for the safe handling and release of cetaceans caught in association with ICCAT fisheries.

Several CPCs raised hesitations with the proposal, including noting they were unsure which fisheries, and where, had bycatch issues with marine mammals. The EU requested that the measure should address a wider scope than just intentional encircling of tuna schools and purse seine fisheries, and there were also requests to use terminology consistent with the wording of the SC on ecosystems as well as in the Ecosystem report card such as replacing the word cetacean with marine mammals, expanding the scope of the proposal to include fisheries outside of purse seining. Another CPC noted that they didn't see any recommendations in SCRS reports or from the Ecosystems Working Group that provided the basis for the proposal. Several CPCs referenced IATTC, noting purse seine fisheries in IATTC and ICCAT are quite different, and that IATTC sees actual dolphin encirclement in its yellowfin tuna fisheries.

Japan stated that any ICCAT recommendation should be based on recommendations from the SCRS. In this regard, Japan stressed that, if adopted, this proposal, which is not based on a recommendation from the SCRS, should not be a precedent for future adoption of any ICCAT recommendation. Norway asked how reporting would work for an animal that was released alive but subsequently died. The United States responded that it pertained to collecting what data could be collected, noting that it could be difficult, but not always impossible, to identify the disposition of an animal.

Several CPCs offered support for the proposal, and also suggested that the SCRS analyze the impact of cetacean bycatch. The SCRS Chair noted that the SCRS receives very little information from CPCs on marine mammal bycatch in ICCAT fisheries and thus could not conduct such an analysis at that time.

On behalf of the co-sponsors, Canada introduced a revised version of the *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on By-Catch of Marine Mammals in ICCAT Fisheries, in particular the Intentional Encirclement of Cetaceans*. The European Union asked for clarification regarding the concept of "relevant coastal States" since a shipmaster cannot be entrusted with such a responsibility without a clear procedure to select the coastal State. Canada noted that was in response to CPCs that do not have purse seine fleets but have access agreements to allow distant water fleets in their EEZs. The European Union raised concerns with using the word bycatch, and noted it should be incidental catch or interaction in the proposal. Mexico and Honduras noted the proposal needed more work to make it more robust, similar to those adopted by other RFMOs. Korea expressed concern about potential compliance issues in cases of accidental interaction.

Although good progress was made, CPCs did not reach consensus on the proposal, and it was not adopted.

8.4 Blue Marlin and White Marlin

The European Union introduced *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Replace Rec. 15-05 to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Stocks*. This proposal would reduce the blue marlin annual limit from 2,000 t to 1,750 t for 2019, 2020, and 2021, in line with the SCRS recommendation that catches of 1,750 t or less are expected to provide at least a 50 percent chance of rebuilding by 2028. The measure would also call for a prompt live release at haul back and encourage CPCs to deploy electronic monitoring systems on their longline vessels and to consider an increase in observer coverage and improved data collection. Additionally, the proposal states that the SCRS should develop an inventory of sport fishing activities through collaboration with organizations such as the IGFA and The Billfish Foundation, to establish a list of countries and ports where sport-fishing activities are known to be interacting with billfish. The proposal would also encourage collaboration by CPCs with the WCPFC on fishery statistics.

The United States introduced a proposal on blue and white marlin *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish the Foundation for Rebuilding Programs for Blue Marlin and White Marlin/Spearfish*. The United States noted that in 2000, ICCAT adopted a two-phase rebuilding plan for marlins with the intention of eventually adopting a formal rebuilding program, but phase two had not been reached. They also noted that the 2018 stock assessment indicated that the stock was overfished and that overfishing was still occurring. The U.S. proposal would extend a catch limit of 2,000 tons for one more year, with a commitment from CPCs to establish formal rebuilding programs for blue and white marlin stocks in 2019. The proposal also called for live release at haul back, increased observer coverage and electronic monitoring, reporting of dead discards, and the use of circle hooks in surface longline fisheries. The United States noted that this proposal would provide a strong foundation for blue marlin and white marlin rebuilding programs.

There were several questions from Panel members on these proposals. The EU asked what was the relation between the mandatory use of circle hooks and current minimum size. Japan and other CPCs requested that catches for non-Contracting Parties be considered in the proposal, China noted what they felt some paragraphs were contradictory. The prohibition on sale of marlins was also questioned. Japan, Côte d'Ivoire, and China raised concerns with landings by CPCs that were not included in the Rec. 15-05 quota tables. The EU, China, and Japan requested compulsory requirements on circle hooks be removed. The EU also requested an exemption for subsistence small-scale fisheries from the requirements of landing dead marlins. Japan raised concerns about whether recreational fisheries could retain live marlins. Japan also pointed out that both proposals proposed making the release of live fish mandatory, whereas the current Rec. 15-05 paragraph 2 qualified that live release should be done "to the extent possible."

The Chair suggested combining the EU and U.S. proposals for further consideration by the Panel and this was agreed. Brazil requested that language in paragraph 2 in the EU's original proposal be reflected in the combined proposal in order to provide coverage for countries that prohibit dead discards, and they also requested that countries with less than a 50 t landing limit be excluded from any quota reductions.

The United States presented a *Draft recommendation by ICCAT to establish the foundation for rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish* during the last session of Panel 4, which combined portions of the EU proposal with the U.S. proposal, including bracketed options for maintaining a catch limit of 2,000 t or limiting total catches to 1,750 t, removing the sale and export prohibition, requesting the SCRS to investigate the effectiveness of circle hooks in longline fisheries, encouraging the use of circle hooks rather than requiring them, and making live release not mandatory for local subsistence fisheries. The EU noted paragraph 13bis, believing it is important for the SCRS to develop an experimental protocol on circle hooks while also providing a critical analysis of the studies on the effects of circle hooks. The EU said that the burden of reducing catches should be borne by all so they could not go along with maintaining the landings limit of 250 marlin combined for the United States. Korea and Japan noted the revised version had no provision related to carry-forward, and suggested at least five percent carry-over to avoid too much socio-economic impact. They also noted they did not support electronic monitoring.

CPCs did not reach consensus on the revised proposal, and the Chair proposed as an interim step that Recommendation 16-10 be rolled over for one year to allow management discussions on a new measure to continue in 2019. The Panel agreed to this approach.

8.5 Sea Turtles

The United States introduced a *Draft Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT on the By-Catch of Sea Turtles Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries*. Panama was an initial co-sponsor, and Cabo Verde, Nicaragua and Guatemala joined as co-sponsors on subsequent versions of the proposal. The proposal was first presented in 2017, reflecting recommendations from the SCRS that CPCs should adopt mitigation measures to reduce sea turtle by-catch in surface longline fisheries. The United States highlighted that the SCRS reported in 2017 that 10,000 turtles are taken annually in ICCAT fisheries. The U.S. noted that the analysis was conducted following a 2010 request from the Commission for the SCRS to assess impacts on sea turtles. Given this report, there was a need to address sea turtle bycatch. The proposal recommended that CPCs adopt at least one of three mitigation measures to reduce sea turtle bycatch: (1) use of circle hooks, (2) use of only whole finfish bait, and (3) other measures considered effective by the SCRS and approved by the Commission. Proponents noted that other RFMOs have adopted sea turtle by-catch reduction recommendations and that the use of circle hooks also has the potential to reduce mortality of blue and white marlins.

CPCs requested several changes to the proposal. Norway requested that language be revised to only require one report by CPCs claiming an exemption from this requirement on the basis of geographic range, rather than having to submit each year. Japan, Uruguay, and the European Union raised concerns on the effects of circle hooks, including noting there are contradictory results according to the species, with for instance a reported increase in shortfin mako mortality, and that circle hooks can increase catches of several shark species while decreasing catch rates of swordfish. The EU questioned how the proponents identified a 100m depth limit for application of this recommendation considering that sea turtles caught in deep-longlining will certainly drown whilst those caught in shallow fisheries have a higher survivability. The EU also pointed out that incidental interaction with sea turtles does also concern fisheries other than longline or FADs fishing. Canada sought clarification on the degree of offsets in circle hooks. Uruguay had several issues with the proposal, particularly noting they supported the proposal in principle, but that the proposal was not based on science and could even possibly harm some species of concern to ICCAT.

The SCRS Chair responded to some of the inquiries on circle hooks, noting that the SCRS currently does not have a conclusion on the effects of J-hooks vs circle hooks on shortfin mako and shark mortality but that circle hooks do reduce mortality of billfish and sea turtles.

The United States presented an updated *Draft Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT on the By-Catch of Sea Turtles Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries*, taking into account the comments from other CPCs. The European Union, Uruguay, and Korea continued to express concerns. As there was no consensus, the Panel did not adopt the proposal.

9. Identification of outdated measures in light of 8 above

The Panel 4 Chair raised suggested actions from the Secretariat on streamlining ICCAT conservation and management measures, presented in the document *Streamlining of ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures*. The Panel agreed with these suggestions, with the exception of repealing Recs. 96-14, 97-08, and 01-13, which the United States did not support. Japan noted that incorporating Rec. 96-14 into the northern and southern swordfish recommendations was an oversight last year and that once this was done in future measures, Rec. 96-14 could be repealed. It was noted that Recs. 10-09 and 13-11 on sea turtles and Recs. 07-07 and 11-09 on seabirds could be combined next year. Rec. 16-10 on marlins was repealed in the *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Rec. 15-05 to further strengthen the plan to rebuild blue marlin and white marlin stocks*. Regarding Rec. 16-13, the Chair noted that this measure may need to be expanded to include Rec. 17-08 if reporting is to be required as part of that measure. There was general support for this suggestion, which should be communicated to the Compliance Committee for its consideration.

10. Research

The Chair noted that SCRS work plans for sharks, ecosystems, and other topics of interest to Panel 4 were included in Appendix 12 of the *2018 Secretariat Report on Statistics and Research*. Planned activities for 2019 include: assessing white marlin; revising abundance indices for Mediterranean swordfish; updating projections of the northern stock of shortfin mako; working on the ecosystem report card; and for bycatch, continuing work on seabirds and sea turtles to help improve advice on mitigation measures.

The SCRS Chair highlighted recent efforts of the enhanced billfish research program, particularly in artisanal fisheries (responding to Rec. 15-05 paragraph 10 and Rec. 16-11 paragraph 3). He noted a study on artisanal fleets in the Latin American and Caribbean region that was completed in 2018. The SCRS intends to look at the recommendations from this study and from the original study of artisanal fisheries in West Africa, and then develop a work plan in 2019 to further advance these efforts.

Japan requested a discussion on how to proceed with the MSE process, considering that the United States had requested that the Secretariat provide an updated roadmap. They noted there needs to be a holistic approach that reviewed the whole picture to decide whether to advance this work for the various species on largely the same time frame or in a more staggered and step-wise manner to ensure the lessons learned during the MSE process for one stock informs the MSE work for another. The United States responded that they wished to see continued support for the development of MSE for North Atlantic swordfish, and suggested that this be an agenda item for Panel 4 in 2019. Canada concurred that this issue should be considered at the next annual meeting and suggested consideration be given to holding an intersessional Panel 4 meeting in 2020 to advance MSE work. The Chair agreed to add a specific agenda item in 2019 to address swordfish MSE.

11. Other matters

The Chair raised the *Draft North Atlantic Swordfish Plan Form*. The United States noted concerns about this form, including that the form went beyond the requirements in Recommendation 17-02, and requested that the form should not include vessels less than 20 meters. The Chair noted there was not consensus and the form was not approved.

The Chair also raised a document regarding the *Development of Fishing/Management Plans for North Atlantic Swordfish*, and the *Mediterranean Swordfish Fishing Plans Submitted in 2018* (Rec. 16-05). There were no comments from the floor on these documents.

The Chair noted that catches of shortfin mako sharks needed to be reviewed. Rec. 17-08 required the Commission, at its 2018 Annual meeting, to review CPC reported shortfin mako catch figures from the first 6 months of 2018 and decide whether the measures in this recommendation should be modified. These catch figures were presented in Table 12 of the *Secretariat's Report to the ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures Committee*. The total reported catch (landings and discards) for the first 6 months of 2018 was 1,530 t, which does not represent a reduction compared to recent years but covers that part of the year before Rec. 17-08 entered into force. The Panel recognized the importance of full implementation of Rec. 17-08 by all CPCs in order to end overfishing of shortfin mako sharks.

The United States reported that it took immediate action after the 2017 ICCAT meeting to implement Rec. 17-08 but noted that it was likely many other CPCs were not in a position to implement the new recommendation until June 2018. The United States stressed that the full year of 2018 catches will need to be considered when this issue is revisited in 2019. The catch levels so far in 2018 indicate that CPCs need to take action now. Canada concurred. Japan noted that one CPC has proposed shortfin mako under CITES Appendix II, and emphasized that ICCAT needs to take action on this stock to ensure its conservation and management.

An observer, Defenders of Wildlife, noted that they and multiple other organizations were very concerned about the status of shortfin mako. They noted that CPCs caught 1,500 tons in just the first half of this year, and last year's measure is leaving this vulnerable population near collapse. They called for direct and immediate action, including a complete ban on fishing for and retaining shortfin mako in the North and South Atlantic.

12. Adoption of the report and adjournment

It was agreed that the report of Panel 4 would be adopted by correspondence. The 2018 meeting of Panel 4 was adjourned.

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. Review of the report of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1, and consideration of any necessary actions
7. Consideration of the outcome of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review
8. Review of compliance tables
9. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*
10. Identification of outdated measures in light of 9 above
11. Research
12. Other matters
13. 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. Review of the report of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2, and consideration of any necessary actions
7. Consideration of the outcome of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review
8. Review of compliance tables
9. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*
10. Identification of outdated measures in light of 9 above
11. Research
12. Other matters
13. 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. Consideration of the outcome of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review
7. Review of compliance tables
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9. Identification of outdated measures in light of 8 above
10. Research
11. Other matters
12. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Panel 4

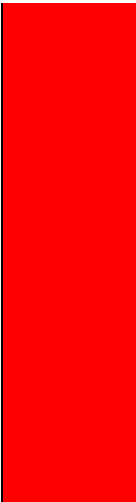
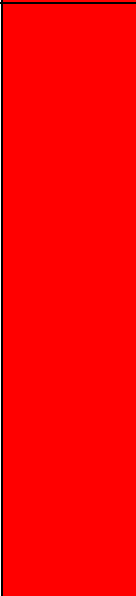
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Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9

Follow-up of the Second Performance Review of ICCAT - Panel 1

Report chapter	Recommendations	LEAD	PA1	Term	Proposed Next Steps	Observations	Action to be taken, or already taken	Completion status following annual meeting	Observations of PA1 Chair
Bigeye	13. The Panel recommends that, in view of the current poor status of the stock, the sustainable management of the tropical tunas should be a key immediate management priority for ICCAT. The same commitment devoted to eastern bluefin by ICCAT, should now be addressed to the tropical tuna stocks.	PA1	X	S	Refer to Panel 1 to review implementation of Rec. 15-01 (as revised by Rec. 16-01) in 2017 and consider any necessary action. The Panel should further review BET management measures and take appropriate action in light of new scientific advice stemming from the next assessment.	Paragraph 6 of recs 15-01 and 16-01 require review of management measures if the total catch exceeds the TAC.	Stock assessment conducted in 2018. Intersessional meeting of Panel 1.	Progress to require additional work.	

<p>14. The Panel notes that the lowered TAC has only a 49% probability of rebuilding the stock by 2028 and recommends that the TAC be decreased further to increase the probability of rebuilding in a shorter period.</p>	<p>PA1</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to Panel 1 to review implementation of Rec. 15-01 (as revised by Rec. 16-01) in 2017 and consider any necessary action. The Panel should further review BET management measures and take appropriate action in light of new scientific advice stemming from the next assessment.</p>	<p>Paragraph 6 of recs 15-01 and 16-01 require review of management measures if the total catch exceeds the TAC.</p>	<p>Stock assessment conducted in 2018. Intersessional meeting of Panel 1.</p>	<p>Progress to require additional work.</p>	
<p>15. The Panel, noting that ICCAT has established a working group on FADs, recommends that ICCAT prioritise this work and, in parallel, pursue the initiative across all tuna RFMOs to pool the information, knowledge and approaches on how to introduce effective management of FADs into the tropical tuna fisheries on a worldwide scale.</p>	<p>PA1</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Work on matters related to FADs is already underway, in particular within the context of the FAD WG. This should continue and Panel 1 should consider this work when discussing conservation and management measures for tropical tuna fisheries.</p>	<p>FAD WG should also work on this in association with Panel 1.</p>	<p>Technical WG being establish within the FAD joint tRFMO WG to conduct some preliminary work as agreed during the 1st meeting of the FAD joint rRFMO.</p>	<p>Work to continue in 2019.</p>	

<p>Bigeye</p>	<p>16. The Panel notes that, according to the SCRS, the area and time closure has not worked and therefore its impact on reducing juvenile catches of bigeye and yellowfin, is negligible. The Panel recommends that this policy needs to be re-examined and this can, in part, be done through initiatives on limiting the number and use of FADs.</p>	<p>PA1</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to Panel 1 for consideration when reviewing conservation and management measures for the tropical tunas fishery.</p>	<p>Additional information on this matter is expected from SCRS and FAD Working Group which has already started work on this issue.</p>	<p>The SCRS will conduct an analysis to be presented to the Commission.</p>		<p>No consensus on area/time closure.</p>
<p>Yellowfin</p>	<p>19. The Panel recommends that a quota allocation scheme be adopted by ICCAT to manage the fishery, as is already the case for bigeye.</p>	<p>PA1</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S/M</p>	<p>Refer to Panel 1 for annual review of the implementation of Rec. 15-01 as revised by Rec. 16-01 and consider any necessary action. The Panel should further review YFT management measures and take appropriate action in light of new scientific advice stemming from the next assessment.</p>	<p>Paragraph 11 of Recs. 15-01 and 16-01 require review of management measures if the total catch exceeds the TAC.</p>	<p>To be reviewed in view of updated catch information and the next stock assessment.</p>		<p>No measure taken although the TAC has been exceeded.</p>

<p>Skipjack</p>	<p>22. The Panel recommends that vessels which fish bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas in the Convention area should be covered by Rec. 15-01. For reasons that are not clear to the Panel, skipjack fisheries in the West Atlantic seem to be outside the remit of Rec. 15-01.</p>	<p>PA1</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Refer to Panel 1 for annual review of the implementation of Rec. 15-01 (as revised by Rec. 16-01). The Panel should further review SKJ management measures and take appropriate action in light of new scientific advice stemming from next assessment.</p>		<p>No further actions required as the combination of fishery methods are different in the East and the West Atlantic. For the Western SKJ Stock no actions for the fleet are required under Rec. 15-01 as the combination of fishery methods are different from the Eastern Stock.</p>		
<p>Data Collection and Sharing</p>	<p>6. The Panel recommends that a mechanism be found to allow minor occasional harvesters without allocations to report their catches without being subject to sanctions.</p>	<p>COC</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Refer matter to the COC in cooperation with the other relevant bodies for consideration and also to the Panels as the issue could also be addressed in the context of management recommendations.</p>	<p>Overall efforts should be coordinated initially by the PWG.</p>	<p>To be taken into account as the Commission develops new management recommendations.</p>		<p>Provision to be included in the future recommendation.</p>

<p>Data Collection and Sharing</p>	<p>6bis. The Panel concludes that ICCAT scores well in terms of agreed forms and protocols for data collection but, while progress has been made, more needs to be done particularly for bycatch species and discards.</p>	<p>SCRS</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>M</p>			<p>Rec. 17-01 was adopted for the reduction of discards and should address this item.</p>		
<p>Bigeye</p>	<p>12. The Panel recommends that bigeye, which is fished in association with juvenile yellowfin and skipjack on FADs, should form part of the long term management strategy for the tropical tuna stocks.</p>	<p>SWGSM</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S/M</p>	<p>Refer to SWGSM where work is already ongoing.</p>	<p>FAD WG should also work on this in association with Panel 1.</p>	<p>Panel 1 notes that this work is ongoing for all three main tropical tuna species. An MSE project has been initiated for the tropical tuna species considering a multifishery approach.</p>		
<p>Yellowfin</p>	<p>18. The Panel recommends that yellowfin, which is fished in association with juvenile bigeye and skipjack on FADs, should form part of the long term management strategy.</p>	<p>SWGSM</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S/M</p>	<p>Refer to SWGSM where work is already ongoing.</p>	<p>FAD WG should also work on this in association with Panel 1.</p>	<p>Panel 1 notes that this work is ongoing for all three main tropical tuna species. An MSE project has been initiated for the tropical tuna species considering a multifishery approach.</p>		

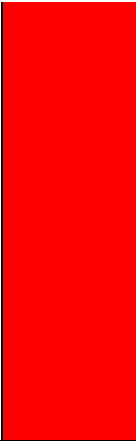
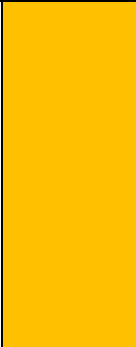
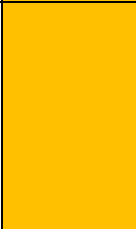
<p>Skipjack</p>	<p>21. The Panel recommends that skipjack, which is fished in association with juvenile yellowfin and bigeye on FADs, should form part of the long term management strategy.</p>	<p>SWGSM</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S/M</p>	<p>Refer matter to SWGSM where work is already ongoing.</p>	<p>FAD WG should also work on this in association with Panel 1.</p>	<p>Panel 1 notes that this work is ongoing for all three main tropical tuna species. An MSE project has been initiated for the tropical tuna species considering a multifishery approach.</p>		
<p>Rebuilding Plans</p>	<p>47. The Panel recommends that ICCAT move away from the current re-active management to re-redress the status of stocks through re-building plans, to a more pro-active policy of developing comprehensive long term management strategies for the main stocks. Such management strategies would encompass management objectives, harvest control rules, the stock assessment method, fishery indicators and the monitoring programme.</p>	<p>SWGSM</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S/M</p>	<p>Refer to SWGSM where work is already underway; also relevant to the future work of the Panels.</p>				

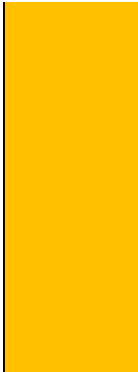
Fishing Allocations and Opportunities	63. The Panel considers that there are legitimate expectations among Developing CPCs that quota allocation schemes need to be reviewed periodically and adjusted to take account of a range of changing circumstances, notably, changes in stock distribution, fishing patterns and fisheries development goals of Developing States.	COM	X	S/M	Refer to Panels for consideration and appropriate action. Commission to coordinate action among the Panels.			
	64. The Panel considers it appropriate that quota allocation schemes should have a fixed duration, up to seven years, after which they should be reviewed and adjusted, if necessary.	COM	X	S/M	Refer to Panels for consideration and appropriate action. Commission to coordinate action among the Panels.			

	<p>65. In determining quota allocation schemes in the future, the Panel proposes that ICCAT could envisage establishing a reserve within new allocation schemes (for instance, a certain percentage of the TAC), to respond to requests from either new CPCs or Developing CPCs, which wish to develop their own fisheries in a responsible manner.</p>	COM	X	S/M	<p>Refer to Panels for consideration and appropriate action. Commission to coordinate action among the Panels.</p>				
<p>Integrated MCS Measures</p>	<p>71. Evaluates the need and appropriateness of further expanding coverage by national and non-national on-board observers for fishing and fishing activities.</p>	PWG	X	M	<p>Refer to PWG for consideration and also the Panels as observer program requirements can be and some have been agreed as part of management measures for specific fisheries.</p>	<p>SCRS evaluation of current observer program requirements is pending due to lack of reporting.</p>	<p>Expansion of observer coverage by ICCAT remains under consideration. CPCs concerned are also requested to report on their observer coverage by way of their annual report. Request the Compliance Committee to confirm whether CPCs are complying with the requirements contained in Rec. 16-14.</p>		

	72. Considers expanding VMS coverage, adopting uniform standards, specifications and procedures, and gradually transforming its VMS system into a fully centralized VMS.	PWG	X	S	Refer to PWG for consideration as Rec. 14-07 must be reviewed per para 6 in 2017. Also refer to the Panels as VMS requirements can be and some have been agreed as part of management measures for specific fisheries.		Discussed at the April 2018 IMM Meeting; Agenda item 5a; A proposal was introduced and discussions are ongoing.	
Reporting Requirements	85. The Panel recommends that ICCAT, through its Panels 1 to 4, should undertake an overall review of the current reporting requirements, on a stock by stock basis, both in relation to Task I and Task II data contained in the myriad of recommendations, in order to establish whether the reporting obligations in question could be reduced or simplified.	PWG	X	M	Refer to PWG to undertake this review and present its findings and suggestions to the Panels for their approval.	Such a review will involve many recommendations including proposals developed by virtually all the Panels. PWG is well placed to take a comprehensive look at all these measures. SCRS and the Secretariat could also provide support for this work where appropriate.	Requests that, after receiving input from the Online Reporting Working Group by 30 June, the Secretariat circulate to Subsidiary Bodies a list of reporting requirements and how they are used. The Panel can consider which of these reporting requirements is redundant or unnecessary.	

<p>Reporting Requirements</p>	<p>87. The Panel recommends that ICCAT consider introducing a provision in new recommendations, whereby the introduction of new reporting requirements would only become effective after a 9 to 12 month period has elapsed. This would assist Developing States to adapt to new requirements. This is particularly relevant where the volume and/or nature of the reporting have changed significantly. The difficulties Developing States encounter in introducing new administrative/reporting requirements at short notice, is well documented in the compliance context. The option for Developed CPCs to apply immediately the new reporting requirements may of course be maintained, if those CPCs consider it opportune.</p>	<p>COM</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to all ICCAT bodies that can recommend binding reporting requirements for consideration when developing such recommendations. Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.</p>				
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<p>Decision-Making</p>	<p>91. Reviews its working practices in order to enhance transparency in decision-making, in particular on the allocation of fishing opportunities and the work of the Friends of the Chair.</p>	<p>COM</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.</p>	<p>The Implementation of Res. 16-22 will assist with improving transparency in the COC Friends of the Chair process.</p>	<p>An observation: Transparency, openness and participatory opportunities for all CPCs taken into account the ICCAT criteria in the allocation of fishery opportunities. Item not related to COC / or Friends of the Chair.</p>		
<p>Presentation Scientific Advice</p>	<p>114. The Panel recommends that the Commission adopts specific management objectives and reference points for all the stocks. This would guide the SCRS in its work and increase the consistency of the SCRS advice.</p>	<p>SWGSM</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to SWGSM where work is already ongoing.</p>				
	<p>115. The Panel recommends that the development of harvest control rules through Management Strategy Evaluation should be strongly supported.</p>	<p>SWGSM</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to SWGSM and the Panels for consideration; work is already ongoing regarding this matter.</p>		<p>ICCAT has started MSE process for 3 main tropical tuna species in 2018.</p>		

<p>Presentation Scientific Advice</p>	<p>116. The Panel recommends that in a precautionary approach, the advice with more uncertainty should, in fact, be implemented more readily.</p>	<p>COM</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Commission to coordinate action among the bodies including referring for their consideration when drafting a new or revising an existing conservation and management measures.</p>	<p>Related to Rec. 43.</p>	<p>Panel 1 will take this recommendation into account in the development of new management measures.</p>		
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Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9**Statement by Brazil to Panel 1**

We will ask for your indulgence, Mr. Chairman, and apologize already for the rather long intervention I am about to make, but as it deals with Brazilian fundamental interests on this meeting, we believe it would be nonetheless important.

This Panel is surely facing a very difficult situation this year, due to the serious condition of the bigeye tuna stock, which will require extensive and sensitive negotiations. In our view, Mr. Chairman, the result of these negotiations need to accommodate the interests of all Contracting Parties in a fair and equitable manner, taking into account agreements achieved under other multilateral fora that highlight especial provisions for developing coastal States.

Allow us briefly to highlight some of these agreements, starting with Article 116 of UNCLOS that says that all States have the right for their nationals to engage in fishing, but subject to, inter alia, the rights and duties as well as the interests of coastal States. Moreover, in Article 119, it is agreed that in determining the allowable catch and establishing other conservation measures for the living resources in the high seas, States shall take measures which are designed, on the best scientific evidence available to the States concerned, to maintain or restore populations of harvested species at levels which can produce the maximum sustainable yield, as qualified by relevant environmental and economic factors, including the special requirements of developing States. The same article also provides for the non-discrimination in form or in fact against the fishermen of any State.

Likewise, Part VII of the United Nations Fish Stock Agreement also calls the attention to special requirements of developing States, in particular its Articles 24 and 25, that highlight the vulnerability of developing States which are dependent on the exploitation of living marine resources, and the need to avoid adverse impacts on the subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fishers. This provision is reaffirmed in Articles 5 and 7 of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and in the FAO resolution that adopted the Code, whereby all States are urged to take into account the special requirements of developing countries.

Similar understanding can be found in the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 66/288, on the future we want, in which Member States committed themselves to observe the need to ensure access to fisheries and the importance of access to markets, by subsistence, small-scale and artisanal fisherfolks and their communities, particularly in developing countries.

More recently, the Sustainable Development Goal 14B required States to provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and market, which is reflected on Paragraph 66 of the 33rd FAO Committee on Fisheries Report. The FAO Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries, which calls upon States to adopt measures to facilitate equitable access to fishery resources for small-scale fishing communities, including, as appropriate, redistributive reform, is another example that could be cited on this matter.

Finally, in the ICCAT resolution 15-13, on the Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities, this Commission has agreed, when allocating fishing opportunities, to take into account the interests of artisanal, subsistence and small-scale coastal fishers; the needs of the coastal fishing communities which are dependent mainly on fishing for the stocks; and the socio-economic contribution of the fisheries for stocks regulated by ICCAT to the developing States.

I beg your indulgence, Mr. Chairman, for the time taken to recollect all these provisions concerning small-scale fisheries and developing coastal States, but we thought it was indeed necessary since quite often they seem to be underplayed, particularly in the exercise of the application of the ICCAT criteria for the allocation of fishing possibilities. The reason for the priority treatment for small-scale fisheries and developing States is not fortuitous. It has a solid reason because these local fishing communities are much more vulnerable to the domestic and external changes, especially when their access to international markets is unilaterally suspended, which is presently our case. Small-scale fishery lacks the mobility big vessels have and this feature make this activity precisely more vulnerable and dependent.

Having said that, Mr. Chairman, we would like to refer to Recommendation 16-01, that presents a TAC of 65,000 t of bigeye tuna, of which 57,762 t, close to 90% of the TAC, are distributed among 7 countries, or 13.5% of ICCAT CPCs. Among those, 63% of the allocated TAC are given to Distant Water Fishing Nations and only 37% to Atlantic coastal States. We have 83% given to developed States and only 17% to developing States. If we consider developing coastal States, then their participation is reduced to 7%. But, even more important, except for Ghana's artisanal fishing, almost 100% of the quotas are distributed to industrial bait boats, longliners and purse-seiners.

Mr. Chairman, do these figures, by any chance, represent an equitable distribution of this important fishery resource? That is why, Mr. Chairman, Brazil attaches great importance that this Commission respect the rights of small-scale, artisanal developing coastal States, and strive to accommodate the interests of all Contracting Parties in a fair and equitable manner.

For 60 years Brazil has struggled to develop its tuna fisheries, without much success, except for the coastal fishery for skipjack. Finally, through an unexpected and surprising manner, Brazilian artisanal fishers themselves, with no help from the government or research institutions, found an efficient way to participate in the fishery for tropical tunas. This is a fishery done by artisanal boats, many of which used to fish for lobsters with traps, with a wooden hull, from 12 to 18 m in total length, and with crews with 5 to 7 fishermen, often relatives. All the fishing is done by handline and, therefore, fish by fish. Most of the boats are owned by the fishers themselves, whose whole asset in life is the boat they own. This fishery is not about making profit, Mr. Chairman, it's about making a living; it is not about an economic enterprise, it's about livelihoods and fishing communities, who are striving to feed their families. It's about food security and nutrition.

We really hope, in light of everything we have agreed in international law and instruments along the past half century that the rights of Brazilian small-scale fishers be respected and that this is reflected in a meaningful participation in the way the quotas are allocated. We are coming to this meeting, as usual, in a very positive and constructive mood, but we have to say, Mr. Chairman, that we are not in the condition to accept that our legitimate right as a developing coastal State, whose fishing are done mainly artisanally, be denied.

Mr. Chairman, we do recognize the difficult situation of the bigeye tuna stock and we are fully committed to work with other delegations to bring the TAC to a level compatible with the scientific advice and to adopt monitoring, control and surveillance measures that are necessary to improve the level of regulation in this fishery. As we have already announced, we are creating a specific license for this fishery and reducing the number of boats allowed to fish from little over 300 to 250 boats, a 20% reduction in the fishing capacity from the present level. Since the last year, however, the government already started to work with the productive sector to reduce the current level of catches. As a result of these efforts, the catches have already decreased from 7,750 t, in 2015, to 7,250 t, in 2017, already a 7% reduction. So, as you can see, Mr. Chairman, Brazil is committed to ensure the sustainability of this fishery and is looking forward to working with other delegations around this table to agree on the conservation and management measures needed to bring the bigeye tuna stock back to a healthy level.

Again, we apologize for such a lengthy intervention, Mr. Chairman, and thank you very much for granting us this opportunity.

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9

Statement by El Salvador to Panel 1

Regarding the proposal to update Rec. 16-01 presented by Guatemala, on Conservation and Management Measures for Tropical Tunas in the area of this Commission, we inform that we agree with the considerations that this CPC has expressed therein.

We believe that SCRS advice is an essential reference for achievement of objectives to improve tropical tuna populations and proper fisheries management in the Atlantic Ocean. The proposal referred to is consistent with SCRS recommendations and seeks compliance with the measures already established by the Commission. We highlight the importance of conservation of resources to ensure sustainability of the fisheries and in this regard, we support the proposal to update Rec. 16-01 submitted by Guatemala.

We appreciate your attention in this matter.

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9**Statement by Gabon to Panel 1**

ICCAT Chairman,
 ICCAT Executive Secretary,
 Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a true pleasure for me, on behalf of the Government of the Gabonese Republic, to take the floor in this Panel.

First of all, I would like, along with my accompanying delegation, to extend my sincere gratitude to the authorities of the Republic of Croatia for agreeing to organise this special meeting. My thanks also to the mayor of this beautiful city, called heaven on earth, and the ICCAT Secretariat for the excellent work that it continues to carry out on behalf of the Contracting Parties.

Gabon welcomes the willingness of all CPCs to adopt responsible measures in view of the worrying state of tropical tuna stocks. We also congratulate the proponents of the draft revisions of Recommendation 16-01.

Chairman, Gabon, for its part, does not possess a tuna fleet, but we issue fishing licenses for the tuna fishery. For this reason and given the state of these stocks, for 2017, we granted licenses subject to implementation of measures such as the limit on the number of FADS, reduction in the number of support vessels, deployment of onboard observers and strengthening of the annual surveillance programme.

For this purpose, and during this session, Gabon wishes to take new measures to ensure recovery of the overexploited stocks with reasonable probabilities, in particular:

- Adoption of an appropriate TAC, fairly distributed among CPCs, capacity limits consistent with the TAC, a reduction in the number of FADs per vessel and a limit on the number of support vessels;
- Extension of the fishing closure period/areas for purse seiners fishing off FADs beyond the current limits;
- Use of biodegradable non-entangling FADS;
- Adoption of definitions and new FAD data transmission forms recommended by the SCRS;
- Assessment in 2019 of the yellowfin tuna stock.

Gabon also anticipates that the work of this panel will be productive and will help ensure the sustainability of all the overexploited stocks.

In view of the foregoing, Gabon reiterates its willingness to work with all CPCs in improving the sustainability levels of stocks and in ensuring the durability of our resources so as to sustain the tuna fishery in the future, as well as in achieving the objectives of this meeting.

I thank you for your attention and wish you a productive meeting.

Appendix 6 to ANNEX 9**Statement by the United States to Panel 1**

This year, Panel 1 faces the significant challenge of taking strong, effective measures to ensure the recovery of bigeye and yellowfin tunas – iconic species that are critical to the lives and livelihoods of fishermen throughout the Atlantic basin. It has become clear that ICCAT tropical tuna measures to date have not been effective. The 2018 stock assessment for bigeye tuna indicates that the stock is overfished and experiencing overfishing, and the yellowfin stock remains overfished. ICCAT has no choice but to make difficult management decisions at this meeting to ensure the recovery of bigeye tuna and set the stage for adoption of comprehensive yellowfin tuna management decisions in 2019. If we continue with the status quo, the SCRS advises that the stock has a higher risk of collapse than of rebuilding. At its July intersessional, Panel 1 began working towards a meaningful and *equitable* approach to the conservation and management of tropical tunas. All CPCs must work together now to develop a comprehensive, effective recovery program to conserve this important stock.

The SCRS has told us that a key driver in the decline of bigeye and yellowfin tuna stocks has been the extremely high catches of small fish – catches that have increased without control for many years. The impacts of the various fleets harvesting these species have not been equal. The SCRS analysis identified the disproportionate effect that fishing on FADs has had in driving down the MSY for bigeye and yellowfin. While the United States recognizes that all fleets and gear types have an impact on the status of tropical tuna stocks, the conservation burden for bigeye and yellowfin tunas cannot be shared equally among CPCs. Immediate action is needed to reduce the overall catch of bigeye, as well as the catch of small fish.

Facing these realities, it is critical that ICCAT adopt a rebuilding program for bigeye tuna during the 2018 annual meeting that, in line with the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Principles of Decision-Making for ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* (Rec. 11-13), ends overfishing immediately and rebuilds with a high probability of success within as short a time as possible. An essential aspect of any rebuilding program will be provisions that reduce the catch of small fish in order to address growth overfishing, return MSY to historical levels, and support fair and equitable fishing opportunities for all gear types. Panel 1 must also consider measures to ensure that the bigeye TAC and other management measures will be effective, such as through quota allocations; tighter quota payback and carryover rules; and, where needed and appropriate, stronger MCS provisions and achievable, enforceable capacity controls.

The United States looks forward to working with all CPCs at this annual meeting to adopt fair, equitable, and effective measures that will rebuild bigeye tuna consistent with the Convention objective.

While we expect the focus of the Panel 1 management discussions this year to be on bigeye tuna, including the reduction of catch of small fish, yellowfin tuna clearly needs attention, and soon. According to the 2016 assessment, yellowfin tuna was overfished. In light of the recurring overharvest of the TAC since the quota has been adopted, the SCRS this year concluded that the stock condition may have further degraded and that it is possible it is now experiencing overfishing. While we note that actions taken to conserve and manage bigeye tuna should also benefit yellowfin tuna, it is unclear whether they will be sufficient to recover this stock. The Panel needs to discuss next steps related to the conservation and management of yellowfin tuna, including issues of process and timing. A key part of this is to endorse the SCRS conclusion that the assessment now scheduled for 2020 should be moved up to 2019.

Appendix 7 to ANNEX 9

Statement by Blue Water Fishermen’s Association to Panel 1

On behalf of the Blue Water Fishermen’s Association - the US pelagic longline fishery - which is perhaps the most intensively managed and monitored longline fishery in the world - and which only harvests mature bigeye tuna that have had the opportunity to reproduce and contribute to annual recruitment - I must express our profound disappointment in the failure of ICCAT once again to take meaningful steps to conserve and manage those fisheries which are responsible for the ongoing decline in this valuable stock which the SCRS has clearly identified as overfished and subject to overfishing.

Ironically, despite our firm commitment to science-based conservation and management, it is our small and sustainable fishery that is being held accountable in the marketplace by sustainability certification organizations and the public that are mindful of the declining status of this Atlantic-wide stock for which we are not responsible. Following this meeting, our fishermen will continue to pay that price for the failure to correctly and equitably assign accountability for this situation.

I am also sorry to say, this is nothing new. In my personal experience and observation, ICCAT’s inability to effectively manage the juvenile fish fisheries in the Gulf of Guinea has transpired more than 20 years. In the global RFMO context, this is truly an embarrassing ‘black eye’ for ICCAT, which we had held great hope would be remedied at this meeting.

We deeply appreciate the efforts of those Parties that worked so very hard and long at this meeting to develop a meaningful plan to end overfishing, rebuild the stock, and reduce the harvest of juvenile fish. We especially appreciated South Africa’s exceptional efforts in that respect and hope they will not give up.

And, we strongly endorse the crucial suggestion made by the US that the Parties not lose any momentum gained at this meeting by continuing their informal discussions during the coming year. This situation is unacceptable on so many levels; the Parties simply must sustain their efforts to reach a successful conclusion at the November 2019 meeting.

Appendix 8 to ANNEX 9**Statement by Européche to Panel 1****Bigeye Tuna*****Recitals:***

- EUROPECHE notes with concern the outcomes of the SCRS stock assessment for Bigeye Tuna (BET) which indicate that the Atlantic BET stock was estimated to be overfished and that overfishing was occurring in 2017. Maintaining the catches at 2016 and 2017 levels (78,500 tons) in the future, which exceeded the TAC of 65,000 tons by 18 %, would only reduce by 1% the probability of not achieving Convention objectives by 2033 (B>BMSY, F<FMSY);
- EUROPECHE recognizes that reduction of F cannot be achieved with current measures consisting on FAD area closures or changes in quota allocation alone, with the aim to end overfishing and allow stock recovery in accordance with Rec. 11/13;
- EUROPECHE notes with concern the increase in catches of tropical tuna stocks by other CPCs in recent years such as Senegal, China, Korea or Brazil. There is a lack of knowledge on the volume of total removals and the number of juveniles caught by these fleets. A global and integral approach is needed including all fleets targeting tropical tunas;
- EUROPECHE urges CPCs to take proportional effort and responsibility towards the positive evolution of the state of the stock. The management plan must concern all actors and also offer a certain degree of flexibility in its implementation;
- EUROPECHE recommends that impact assessments should be done as much as possible before measures are imposed but accepts the idea of interim measures of urgency when needed;
- EUROPECHE recalls that among these measures, it is essential to improve the definitions to implement the management plan and to developed the collection of the necessary fishing data;
- EUROPECHE reiterates that it is essential that all measures are controllable and enforced.

Measures proposed by EUROPECHE***Catch limits***

To end overfishing and allow stock recovery in accordance with Rec. 11/13, EUROPECHE proposes a TAC of 65.000 tons for all CPCs that are catching at least 500 tons of BET in the recent period or flagging at least one large fishing vessel (>40 m), if not all CPCs. Such TAC already implies a reduction of the current catches by 18%.

This allocation could take into account:

- Current reference period for current CPCs with a catch limit,
- A different and more recent reference period for current non-quota CPCs,
- An additional replenishment premium for developing CPCs, if the stock becomes reconstitute,
- Condition quota allocation to fisheries data reporting by the different CPCs (no data = no quota).

In addition:

- All CPCs flagging purse seiners or large longliners would be integrated in the CPCs' group subject to quota,
- Consequently CPCs would not be subject to quota if BET catches are below 500 tons,
- The maximum quantity that a CPC may carry over in any given year shall not exceed 5% of its annual initial catch limit.

EUROPECHE recalls that longline fleets account for about 50% of total catches of BET and that there are important gaps in terms of information regarding exploitation rates based on abundance indexes (CPUE), total removals and the number of juveniles caught by the non-EU longliners. This is mainly due to misreporting and non-reporting of juvenile BET tuna as a result of discarding.

In order to improve future BET SCRS assessment and avoid practices of high-grading, EUROPECHE proposes to extend ICCAT recommendation 17-01 on prohibition on discards of tropical tunas caught by purse seiners to all vessels fishing bigeye tuna.

Capacity management measures

EUROPECHE proposes to apply an effective freeze on the capacity of the tropical tuna fleet to the current capacity limitation applied in Rec. 16-01, and giving the opportunity to developing countries to develop their fleet, provided they present a fleet development plan. Clear deadlines for the provision of active fleet should be established for those CPCs catching tropical tunas by all gears.

EUROPECHE proposes to extend capacity management measures to all vessels > 20m LOA fishing bigeye tuna in the Convention area, in order to avoid transfers from other oceans to Atlantic.

Management of FADs

EUROPECHE recommends a balanced approach to tackle efficiently capacity issues and be cost-effective from a perspective of efficacy of monitoring, control and surveillance activities.

EUROPECHE notes that SCRS preliminary results show that the FAD closure set for the Gulf of Guinea has proved to be ineffective to reduce fishing mortality in the area, with an increase of effort displacement from fleets to areas outside the FAD closure area and/or future increases in effort (number of seiners, number of FAD operations, etc.) could render this measure ineffective unless additional measures are adopted to counteract these effects.

EUROPECHE is opposed to an extension of a FAD closure to the ICCAT Convention area during three months. This measure will have significant socio-economic and trade impacts, due to offer-demand imbalances.

Furthermore, EUROPECHE encourages the use of biodegradable FADs although emphasize that current trials confirm that good biodegradable materials do not exist yet.

Control measures

EUROPECHE encourages the prohibition of transshipment operations at sea and supports the obligation to land in designated ports for all vessels.

EUROPECHE considers it essential to have controllable measures and proposes to extend ICCAT regional observer program to all CPCs for purse seiners (100%) and longliners (20% - especially since electronic observation allows real progress) authorized to fish BET.

Appendix 9 to ANNEX 9**Statement by Européche to Panel 1 regarding Draft proposal for a Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 16-01 by ICCAT on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas**

In view of the current proposal, EUROPECHE wants to make the following statement:

- We are a responsible purse seine fleet and are very conscious that the recovery of the BET stock needs a balanced effort and sacrifice and contributions of all gears targeting the species.
- For that reason, we are ready to contribute accepting a progressive implementation of extraordinary management measures with an impact on purse seine fishing like:
 - Total FAD closure.
 - Progressive reduction of FAD numbers.
 - And the analysis of supply vessels' activities and their contribution to effective fishing capacity.
 - Keeping in mind that the major effort will come with the reduction of the TAC around 30% for the purse seine fleet, as currently proposed.
- We are concerned with the imbalanced measures proposed, particularly for the purse seiners compared with other gears when purse seiners only represent 33% of all BET catches in the Atlantic Ocean.
- We would like to show our frustration with the practical absence of measures for the long line fleet, responsible of 50% of the BET catches. For instance, it is difficult to understand that 100% of observer coverage is requested for supply vessels that do not catch any BET and only 5% it is requested for long liners.
- We seriously doubt about the effectiveness and control feasibility in reducing juvenile BET mortality (and for that reason we propose to delete them) of the following measures:
 - Limitation of FAD sets mentioned in paragraph 21.
 - The recovery of FAD prior to the FAD closure mentioned in paragraph. 19.bis.b).
- Furthermore, we support paragraph. 17.bis and propose to delete 17.ter., because they are inconsistent and are in conflict.
- Additionally, we would like to state that all the measures proposed will certainly be pointless unless there is an effective capacity limitation and management for all gears.
- Finally, EUROPECHE considers that the disposition of currently implemented Recommendation 16-01, paragraph 2 b) should not be applied on the revised data by Brazil as this CPC fails to report in time the mandatory annual catch. We call for a fair application of the recommendation meaning that the part of the TAC over shooting generated by Brazil misreported data cannot be paid back by the rest of the fleet, especially those who complied with their limits like EU purse-seine fleet.

Follow-up of the Second Performance Review of ICCAT - Panel 2

Report Chapter	Recommendations	LEAD	PA2	Term	Action	Observations	Action Taken by Panel 2	Completion status following annual meeting
Eastern Bluefin	9. The Panel recommends that Panel 2 takes advantage of this favourable context to resolve outstanding quota allocation issues among CPCs.	PA2	X	S	Refer to Panel 2 for consideration when discussing revisions to Rec. 14-04.	Some provisions of Rec. 14-04 have expired in 2017.	Rec. 17-07 adopted and intersessional meeting to review allocation of reserve. Following 2018 meeting, Rec. 18-02 adopted.	Done in 2018.
Mediterranean Albacore	35. The Panel reiterates the 2008 Panel recommendation that ICCAT assures itself that the stock is not overfished and over fishing is not occurring.	PA2	X	S	Refer to Panel 2 for consideration in 2017 of conservation and management measures in light of assessment outcome.	Work by SCRS is being carried out.	Stock assessment carried out in 2017 and Rec. 17-07 adopted, with significant but gradual increase in TACs. Stock not overfished. No further action necessary.	Done in 2017.
Data Collection and Sharing	6. The Panel recommends that a mechanism be found to allow minor occasional harvesters without allocations to report their catches without being subject to sanctions.	COC	X	M	Refer matter to the COC in cooperation with the other relevant bodies for consideration and also to the Panels as the issue could also be addressed in the context of management recommendations.	Overall efforts should be coordinated initially by the PWG.		

	6bis. The Panel concludes that ICCAT scores well in terms of agreed forms and protocols for data collection but, while progress has been made, more needs to be done particularly for bycatch species and discards.	SCRS	X	M			Not specific to Panel 2, but to be taken into account.	
Rebuilding Plans	47. The Panel recommends that ICCAT move away from the current re-active management to re-redress the status of stocks through re-building plans, to a more pro-active policy of developing comprehensive long term management strategies for the main stocks. Such management strategies would encompass management objectives, harvest control rules, the stock assessment method, fishery indicators and the monitoring programme.	SWGSM	X	S/M	Refer to SWGSM where work is already underway; also relevant to the future work of the Panels.		Rec. 17-04 established the interim HCR for northern albacore. An MSE process has already been started for BFT.	
Fishing Allocations and Opportunities	63. The Panel considers that there are legitimate expectations among Developing CPCs that quota allocation schemes need to be reviewed periodically and adjusted to take account of a range of changing circumstances, notably,	COM	X	S/M	Refer to Panels for consideration and appropriate action. Commission to coordinate action among the Panels.	Rec.17-07, par. 5, stipulates that the Commission may distribute the unallocated reserves for 2019 and 2020 considering: "[...] in particular the needs of coastal	A new allocation table E-BFT was agreed in 2018.	Done in 2018.

	changes in stock distribution, fishing patterns and fisheries development goals of Developing States.					developing CPCs in their artisanal fisheries."		
	64. The Panel considers it appropriate that quota allocation schemes should have a fixed duration, up to seven years, after which they should be reviewed and adjusted, if necessary.	COM	X	S/M	Refer to Panels for consideration and appropriate action. Commission to coordinate action among the Panels.	Most Recs adopted by Panel 2 have been for 3-4 years duration.		
Fishing Allocations and Opportunities	65. In determining quota allocation schemes in the future, the Panel proposes that ICCAT could envisage establishing a reserve within new allocation schemes (for instance, a certain percentage of the TAC), to respond to requests from either new CPCs or Developing CPCs, which wish to develop their own fisheries in a responsible manner.	COM	X	S/M	Refer to Panels for consideration and appropriate action. Commission to coordinate action among the Panels.		Reserve has been established in Rec. 18-02 for E-BFT.	

Integrated MCS Measures	71. Evaluates the need and appropriateness of further expanding coverage by national and non-national on-board observers for fishing and fishing activities.	PWG	X	M	Refer to PWG for consideration and also the Panels as observer program requirements can be and some have been agreed as part of management measures for specific fisheries.	SCRS evaluation of current observer program requirements is pending due to lack of reporting.		
	72. Considers expanding VMS coverage, adopting uniform standards, specifications and procedures, and gradually transforming its VMS system into a fully centralized VMS.	PWG	X	S	Refer to PWG for consideration as Rec. 14-07 must be reviewed per para 6 in 2017. Also refer to the Panels as VMS requirements can be and some have been agreed as part of management measures for specific fisheries.	IMM meeting in April 2019 may consider the possibility of expanding the VMS coverage.		
Reporting Requirements	85. The Panel recommends that ICCAT, though its Panels 1 to 4, should undertake an overall review of the current reporting requirements, on a stock by stock basis, both in relation to Task I and Task II data contained in the myriad of recommendations, in order to establish whether	PWG	X	M	Refer to PWG to undertake this review and present its findings and suggestions to the Panels for their approval.	Such a review will involve many recommendations including proposals developed by virtually all the Panels. PWG is well placed to take a comprehensive look at all these measures. SCRS and the Secretariat	Awaiting outcome of Working Group on Online Reporting.	

	the reporting obligations in question could be reduced or simplified.					could also provide support for this work where appropriate.		
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	<p>87. The Panel recommends that ICCAT consider introducing a provision in new recommendations, whereby the introduction of new reporting requirements would only become effective after a 9 to 12 month period has elapsed. This would assist Developing States to adapt to new requirements. This is particularly relevant where the volume and/or nature of the reporting have changed significantly. The difficulties Developing States encounter in introducing new administrative/reporting requirements at short notice, is well documented in the compliance context. The option for Developed CPCs to apply immediately the new reporting requirements may of course be maintained, if those CPCs consider it opportune.</p>	COM	X	S	<p>Refer to all ICCAT bodies that can recommend binding reporting requirements for consideration when developing such recommendations. Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.</p>			
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Decision-Making	91. Reviews its working practices in order to enhance transparency in decision-making, in particular on the allocation of fishing opportunities and the work of the Friends of the Chair.	COM	X	S	Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.	The Implementation of Res. 16-22 will assist with improving transparency in the COC Friends of the Chair process.	Progress on allocation of fishing opportunities has been made in respect of some species under the Panel 2 purview	
Presentation Scientific Advice	114. The Panel recommends that the Commission adopts specific management objectives and reference points for all the stocks. This would guide the SCRS in its work and increase the consistency of the SCRS advice.	SWGSM	X	S	Refer to SWGSM where work is already ongoing.		Rec. 18-03 adopted to develop indicators for BFT through MSE process	
	115. The Panel recommends that the development of harvest control rules through Management Strategy Evaluation should be strongly supported.	SWGSM	X	S	Refer to SWGSM and the Panels for consideration; work is already ongoing regarding this matter.		Rec. 18-03 adopted to develop HCRs for BFT through MSE process.	
	116. The Panel recommends that in a precautionary approach, the advice with more uncertainty should, in fact, be implemented more readily.	COM	X	S	Commission to coordinate action among the bodies including referring for their consideration when drafting a new or revising	Related to Recommendation 43.		

					existing conservation and management measures.				
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Appendix 11 to ANNEX 9

**Statement by Asociación de Pesca, Comercio y Consumo Responsable del Atún Rojo (APCCR)
to Panel 2**

ICCAT has proven to be an organization efficient in implementing management and control measures, which has led to the recovery of eastern bluefin tuna, 4 years before the target, in line with the Plan established in this city in 2006. Therefore, on behalf of our organization, we wish to congratulate you.

Measures such as establishing a minimum size of 30 kg (Bluefin tuna Catch Document, BCD, International Observer) have furthermore made this possibly one of the most regulated and controlled fisheries in the world.

In spite of everything, it is inevitable that some operators, supposedly, have evaded this control, a control that undoubtedly pertains to the governments that you represent. It is pointless to create norms in this organization if, later, some countries do not put in the same effort in enforcing them.

The measure to limit or prohibit the so-called carry over on farms in the future Management Plan (since, tuna has been bought and paid for by the farmers after a thorough control of the inspection services of each member country of the Organization) contradicts the principles of exploiting resources in a sustainable way, not only environmentally, but also economically and socially.

Putting a deadline that requires selling a resource that has become privately owned through an economic transaction, violates all the principles of free trade, restricts competition, and makes the main buyer of this product benefit by forcing us to empty our cages independently of the market situation or of the prices that the buyer wants to offer us.

Indeed, the novel system of keeping alive a wild fishing resource in breeding or fattening cages results in an improvement in the quality of the product, generating a high added value, and makes it possible to regulate the supply and demand in a difficult sector such as the Primary Sector.

On the other hand, you cannot change the rules of the market every time someone is reported for allegedly committing an infraction or irregularity. What is needed at that time is to be bold and punish those who committed the alleged infringing act, in addition to expelling them from the fishery.

If you have definite evidence, do it, but do not change the rules of the market and harm the trade of those who scrupulously comply with the resolutions emanating from this Organization. Keep in mind that millions in investments are at stake, as well as thousands of jobs.

Appendix 12 to ANNEX 9

Statement by Européche to Panel 2

Bluefin tuna

Recitals:

- EUROPECHE takes note of the outcomes of the last SCRS stock assessments of the eastern Atlantic Bluefin Tuna (BFT) which indicated that this stock is now considered optimally exploited and meets the management objectives established within ICCAT;
- In 2017, SCRS presented short-term projections in accordance with the basic case of the assessment model. Constant annual catches up to 36,000 tons have probabilities to achieve BMSY in 2022 with at least 60% probability;
- EUROPECHE recalls that SCRS have recommended in 2017 and 2018 that the ICCAT would consider replacing the current recovery strategy plan with a management plan, without weakening existing monitoring and control measures;

- EUROPECHE stresses that the obligation to slaughter all tuna at a given time, with no possibility of carry-over, would cause prices to fall especially because buyers and customers would wait to purchase the product by the end of the deadline established. This is especially true in light of the existing stock-keeping warehouses and refrigerators in certain 3rd countries which are currently regulating international markets according to the prices;
- EUROPECHE emphasizes that a measure aimed at limiting or eliminating the carry-over would terminate with one of the most sustainable and responsible fishing business models in the European Union. The lack of control by certain governments is the cause of the problems and not the carry-over;
- Considering the good state of the stock confirmed by the latest SCRS scientific advice, which recommended TAC increases and considering that the objectives of the recovery plan and the conditions for a full sustainable exploitation of the stock are today reached;

EUROPECHE :

- Proposes to move from a BFT recovery plan to a BFT management plan.
- Considers that specific control measures must be maintained, especially the minimum sizes. However, current measures are considered too complicated by many fishing enterprises which can result in particularly damaging sanctions for professional fishermen in terms of respecting the excessive procedures to control landings. New control measures should be adapted, especially for vessels that do not target as main species bluefin tuna and have BFT by-catches.
- Recalls that a progressive TAC increase as adopted last year must be maintained. European professional fishermen must also benefit from this progressive increase in the TAC. EUROPECHE notes that the European Union allocation key has already been reduced by more than 5% between 2017 and 2020 (59.24% in 2017 to 53.77% in 2020).
- EUROPECHE rejects any measure aimed at limiting or eliminating the carry-over which would terminate with one of the most sustainable and responsible fishing business models in the European Union.
- Proposes the carry-over to be filmed in the same way as the catch being introduced for the first time in pools, and that this filming, at least in Europe, is carried out by the Commission's inspection control center (EFCA).
- Recommends the mandatory registration in the eBCD, at least in Europe, of all commercial operations of specimens of fish (whole and gutted with and without head). This would be a great measure of control in the market, avoiding any possible falsification of documents.

Follow Up of the ICCAT Performance Review – PANEL 3

NOTE: There are no lead items for PA3

Chapter	Recommendations	LEAD	PANEL 3 Secondary	Timeframe	Proposed Next Steps	Observations	Action to be taken, or already taken	Completion status following annual meeting	Comments
Data Collection and Sharing	6. The Panel recommends that a mechanism be found to allow minor occasional harvesters without allocations to report their catches without being subject to sanctions.	COC	X	M	Refer matter to the COC in cooperation with the other relevant bodies for consideration and also to the Panels as the issue could also be addressed in the context of management recommendations.	Overall efforts should be coordinated initially by the PWG.			
	6bis. The Panel concludes that ICCAT scores well in terms of agreed forms and protocols for data collection but, while progress has been made, more needs to be done particularly for bycatch species and discards.	SCRS	x	M					

<p>Rebuilding Plans</p>	<p>47. The Panel recommends that ICCAT move away from the current re-active management to re-redress the status of stocks through re-building plans, to a more pro-active policy of developing comprehensive long-term management strategies for the main stocks. Such management strategies would encompass management objectives, harvest control rules, the stock assessment method, fishery indicators and the monitoring programme.</p>	<p>SWGSM</p>	<p>x</p>	<p>S/M</p>	<p>Refer to SWGSM where work is already underway; also relevant to the future work of the Panels.</p>				
<p>Fishing Allocations and Opportunities</p>	<p>63. The Panel considers that there are legitimate expectations among Developing CPCs that quota allocation schemes need to be reviewed periodically and adjusted to take account of a range of changing circumstances, notably, changes in stock distribution, fishing patterns and fisheries development goals of Developing States.</p>	<p>COM</p>	<p>x</p>	<p>S/M</p>	<p>Refer to Panels for consideration and appropriate action. Commission to coordinate action among the Panels.</p>				

	64. The Panel considers it appropriate that quota allocation schemes should have a fixed duration, up to seven years, after which they should be reviewed and adjusted, if necessary.	COM	x	S/M	Refer to Panels for consideration and appropriate action. Commission to coordinate action among the Panels.				
	65. In determining quota allocation schemes in the future, the Panel proposes that ICCAT could envisage establishing a reserve within new allocation schemes (for instance, a certain percentage of the TAC), to respond to requests from either new CPCs or Developing CPCs, which wish to develop their own fisheries in a responsible manner.	COM	x	S/M	Refer to Panels for consideration and appropriate action. Commission to coordinate action among the Panels.				
Integrated MCS Measures	71. Evaluates the need and appropriateness of further expanding coverage by national and non-national on-board observers for fishing and fishing activities.	PWG	x	M	Refer to PWG for consideration and also the Panels as observer program requirements can be and some have been agreed as part of management measures for specific fisheries.	SCRS evaluation of current observer program requirements is pending due to lack of reporting.			

	72. Considers expanding VMS coverage, adopting uniform standards, specifications and procedures, and gradually transforming its VMS system into a fully centralized VMS.	PWG	x	S	Refer to PWG for consideration as Rec. 14-07 must be reviewed per para 6 in 2017. Also refer to the Panels as VMS requirements can be and some have been agreed as part of management measures for specific fisheries.	IMM meeting in April 2018 will consider the possibility of expanding the VMS coverage			
Reporting Requirements	85. The Panel recommends that ICCAT, though its Panels 1 to 4, should undertake an overall review of the current reporting requirements, on a stock by stock basis, both in relation to Task I and Task II data contained in the myriad of recommendations, in order to establish whether the reporting obligations in question could be reduced or simplified.	PWG		M	Refer to PWG to undertake this review and present its findings and suggestions to the Panels for their approval.	Such a review will involve many recommendations including proposals developed by virtually all the Panels. PWG is well placed to take a comprehensive look at all these measures. SCRS and the Secretariat could also provide support for this work where appropriate.			

<p>Reporting Requirements</p>	<p>87. The Panel recommends that ICCAT consider introducing a provision in new recommendations, whereby the introduction of new reporting requirements would only become effective after a 9 to 12 month period has elapsed. This would assist Developing States to adapt to new requirements. This is particularly relevant where the volume and/or nature of the reporting have changed significantly. The difficulties Developing States encounter in introducing new administrative/reporting requirements at short notice, is well documented in the compliance context. The option for Developed CPCs to apply immediately the new reporting requirements may of course be maintained, if those CPCs consider it opportune.</p>	<p>COM</p>		<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to all ICCAT bodies that can recommend binding reporting requirements for consideration when developing such recommendations. Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.</p>				
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Decision-Making	91. Reviews its working practices in order to enhance transparency in decision-making, in particular on the allocation of fishing opportunities and the work of the Friends of the Chair.	COM		S	Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.	The Implementation of Res. 16-22 will assist with improving transparency in the COC Friends of the Chair process.			
Presentation Scientific Advice	114. The Panel recommends that the Commission adopts specific management objectives and reference points for all the stocks. This would guide the SCRS in its work and increase the consistency of the SCRS advice.	SWGSM		S	Refer to SWGSM where work is already ongoing.				
	115. The Panel recommends that the development of harvest control rules through Management Strategy Evaluation should be strongly supported.	SWGSM		S	Refer to SWGSM and the Panels for consideration; work is already ongoing regarding this matter.				
	116. The Panel recommends that in a precautionary approach, the advice with more uncertainty should, in fact, be implemented more readily.	COM		S	Commission to coordinate action among the bodies including referring for their consideration when drafting a new or revising an existing conservation and management measures.	Related to recommendation 43.			

Follow up of the ICCAT Performance Review – PANEL 4

Report chapter	Recommendations	LEAD	PA4	Term	Proposed Next Steps	Observations	Action to be taken, or already taken	Completion status following annual meeting
Trends in the Status of Non-Target Species	4. The Panel recommends that the precautionary approach be consistently applied for associated species considering that the assessments for these species are highly uncertainty and that their status is often poorly known.	PA4	X	M	While led by Panel 4, refer to SCRS to provide advice to assist in applying a precautionary approach to relevant non-target species.	This refers to relevant associated species as defined in the Review.		
South Atlantic Swordfish	27. The Panel notes the high underage permitted to be transferred from year to year of 30%, and indeed 50% from 2013. The Panel finds this inconsistent with sound management given the high uncertainty in the assessment, and the more modest underage/overage allowed for other ICCAT stocks (10 or 15%).	PA4	X	S/M	Refer to Panel 4 for consideration during 2017 discussion of conservation and management measures, but may need input from SCRS in medium term.	Rec. 16-04 expires in 2017.	Was reduced to 20% through Rec. 17-03	
Mediterranean Swordfish	29. The Panel recommends that catch limits and/or capacity limits are introduced for this fishery.	PA4	X	M	Refer to Panel 4 where work is already ongoing	This was addressed during the 2016 Annual meeting through the adoption of Rec. 16-05 (Recovery plan).	Addressed through 16-05	

	30. The Panel encourages ICCAT to intensify its efforts to improve the scientific and fisheries database for this stock and endorses the SCRS recommendation that the fishery be closely monitored and that every component of the Mediterranean swordfish mortality be adequately reported to ICCAT by the CPCs.	PA4	X	M	Refer to Panel 4 to consider shortcomings in data collection and reporting and ways to address them.	COC, SCRS, the Secretariat, and/or CPCs may also have roles to play in implementing this Recommendation. SCRS will carry out an assessment in 2019.		
Blue and White Marlins	38. The Panel supports the SCRS advice that ICCAT actively encourage, or make obligatory, the use of non-offset circle hooks on long line fisheries to reduce the mortality of released marlin.	PA4	X	S/M	Refer to Panel 4 for consideration when discussing stock conservation and management based on new stock assessments.		See SCRS - BIL WG comments	
Sharks	40. The Panel recommends that ICCAT introduces catch limits as a priority for the main shark populations, in line with the SCRS advice. To ensure effective application of this measure, a quota allocation scheme should be developed.	PA4	X	S/M	Refer to Panel 4 for consideration in light of new assessments.			
	42. The Panel supports the view that shark fins should be naturally attached on landings. The shark finning practice applied to stocks already depleted or severely reduced, is but another factor negatively impacting on the shark stocks.	PA4	X	S	Refer to Panel 4 for consideration and appropriate action.	The origin of this view is not clear from this statement.	No agreement on draft proposals to date	

Sea turtles	51. The Panel endorses the SCRS advice that the Commission consider the adoption of measures such as, the mandatory use of non-offset circle hooks.	PA4	X	S	Refer to Panel 4 for consideration.	Not clear that this is a recommendation from the SCRS.		
Seabirds	54. The Panel commends ICCAT on the measures it has introduced to date and recommends that it pursues its stated goal of further reducing bird mortality through the refinement of existing mitigation measures.	PA4	X	S/M	Refer to Panel 4 for consideration based on input from SCRS, as needed.			
Data Collection and Sharing	6. The Panel recommends that a mechanism be found to allow minor occasional harvesters without allocations to report their catches without being subject to sanctions.	COC	X	M	Refer matter to the COC in cooperation with the other relevant bodies for consideration and also to the Panels as the issue could also be addressed in the context of management recommendations.	Overall efforts should be coordinated initially by the PWG.	Has been included for marlins but not for SWO	
	6bis. The Panel concludes that ICCAT scores well in terms of agreed forms and protocols for data collection but, while progress has been made, more needs to be done particularly for bycatch species and discards.	SCRS	X	M			See SCRS - BIL WG comments	

<p>Rebuilding Plans</p>	<p>47. The Panel recommends that ICCAT move away from the current re-active management to re-redress the status of stocks through re-building plans, to a more pro-active policy of developing comprehensive long term management strategies for the main stocks. Such management strategies would encompass management objectives, harvest control rules, the stock assessment method, fishery indicators and the monitoring programme.</p>	<p>SWGSM</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>S/M</p>	<p>Refer to SWGSM where work is already underway; also relevant to the future work of the Panels.</p>		<p>Harvest control rules are being introduced, but Panel 4 species are not top priority for the Commission. Further work will be carried out on the basis of experience with Panel 2 species</p>	
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REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE (COC)

1. Opening of the meeting

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

The Chair introduced the new ICCAT Executive Secretary, Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel.

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Ms. Rita Santos of the European Union was appointed Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes and is attached to this report as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 10**.

This year the Compliance Committee held a two-day special session preceding the Commission meeting, as called for in Resolution 16-22. It was decided that only one report covering all sessions of the Compliance Committee would be produced.

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 in the special session of the Compliance Committee is contained in **ANNEX 4.8**.

4. Consideration of the outcome of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review

The Chair drew attention to the recommendations made in the Report of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review contained in Annex 4.3 to the Report for Biennial Period 2016-2017, Part II (2017), Vol. 1 and the actions carried out following the Commission's meeting last year.

The United States (US) made a specific reference to performance review recommendation 71 related to compliance with ICCAT observer programme requirements, stressing that their successful implementation is critical for ICCAT. The US, supported by Japan, requested that discussion on this matter take place at next year's meeting and requested that the Secretariat prepare an analysis on how CPCs implement observer program requirements.

The Chair underscored the importance of continuing work on this agenda item so as to meaningfully address the performance review recommendations, and suggested that the spreadsheet of the recommendations continue to be updated with actions and information on respective follow up, taking into account the interventions at the meeting.

Progress to date made by COC on the follow-up of the second performance review is included in **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10**.

5. Review of actions taken by CPCs in response to letters relating to issues arising from the 2017 meeting

The Chair informed participants that letters of concern on compliance issues were sent to CPCs and that the deadline for responses was the 12 October 2018, 30 days in advance of the annual meeting. The Chair noted that at the time of the meeting, replies from some CPCs were still missing and encouraged these CPCs to provide feedback during the course of the meeting.

The Chair encouraged the Committee to agree to a mechanism that facilitates the analysis of CPC replies and follow up actions. To this, the Secretariat proposed the development of a follow-up table that indicates in different columns the identified issue of non-compliance, the replies provided, and the corrective actions taken.

A CPC also suggested that the Secretariat identify the potential problems in the replies provided by CPCs in order to ease their subsequent analysis. The Chair suggested this could be incorporated, as appropriate, in the Compliance Summary Tables (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**).

The Chair noted some difficulties assessing the replies to the letters due to the use of different formats and incomplete replies, among other aspects. The Chair proposed to the Committee to work on the standardisation of the format to be used for CPC replies to simplify the analysis during the annual meeting of the Commission next year.

Some CPCs noted the importance of having information that indicates recurring non-compliance, which is not easy to determine with the current documentation format. At the Chair's suggestion, the Secretariat indicated it could publish the online version of the Compliance Summary Tables in Excel form so that CPCs can review tables for past years.

The Chair also committed to exploring other ways to track from year-to-year CPC compliance issues and actions identified in response letters, to facilitate COC review of compliance issues in subsequent years to determine if sufficient corrective action has been taken by the CPC.

6. Overview of implementation of and compliance with certain ICCAT reporting requirements

6.1 CPC Annual Reports

The Chair welcomed receipt of several reports within the deadlines and respecting the required format. However, the Chair noted the receipt of some reports after the deadline and seven reports that were still missing at the time of the meeting. The Chair also indicated that some CPCs continue to use old formats, which prevents the comparison of information. This will be noted in the compliance summary tables.

6.2 Compliance Tables

The Chair reminded the Committee of the recommendation made to the Panels at the 2017 Annual meeting to ensure that the rules on carryforward and payback are correctly followed. At this year's meeting, Panels have a dedicated point in their agendas for the analysis of the compliance tables. Any problems identified should be submitted to the COC.

Japan, the European Union (EU), and the US noted that the document containing CPCs' advance input on potential compliance issues of other CPCs required further discussion.

The Chair noted that the document presented an assessment of CPCs annual reports and other compliance-related documentation and included technical issues as well as differences in views on the application of the quota carry forward and payback rules. The Chair invited CPCs to have a discussion on the interpretation of those rules for the calculation of the quota within the Panels. The Secretariat and some CPCs also emphasized the need to describe calculations of carry forward and payback in the Compliance Annex. The Chair also invited CPCs to discuss the revision of the compliance table format to ease its use.

Several CPCs and the Secretariat expressed their inability to provide ideas to improve the compliance table format and highlighted the complexity and lack of clarity of rules as well as the origin of the difficulties faced. Following the explanation by some CPCs on their interpretation on the carry forward and payback rules and their reflection in the compliance tables, CPCs stressed the necessity to have an accurate language on the way to calculate adjusted quotas and to make clear requests to the Panels. CPCs also underlined that the problem of interpretations should be discussed in the different Panels and at the COC.

6.3 Statistical data and CPC status under Rec. 11-15

The discussion was deferred to point 7 in the agenda.

7. Review of Secretariat's Report to the Compliance Committee

The Secretariat reported an increasing volume of documents to be translated every year. It was suggested that the COC re-examine the current approach, prioritise the obligations to be examined each year, and analyse only those that are prioritized. This could allow the Committee to concentrate only on certain species, aligned with the assessments of the stocks by the SCRS, for instance.

At the suggestion of the Secretariat, the Chair proposed the consideration in 2019 of a strategic plan that would prioritise certain conservation measures for more in-depth review in certain years, reducing the workload of the COC during annual meetings and allowing it to prioritise as it considers appropriate.

Some CPCs expressed concern about focusing only on certain issues in a particular year, as that could allow other important issues to go unexamined and unaddressed. The Chair suggested that the prioritization could be in the form of a more in-depth focus on review of certain issues, while not excluding discussion of compliance issues that may arise in other areas that are not part of the priority topic that year. The Chair also confirmed that any new approach should be harmonious with the compliance review process outlined in Resolution 16-22. The United States and Brazil also emphasized that the development of the online reporting system would help ease the burden of annual reporting and COC review.

The COC agreed to request that the Secretariat prepare a draft approach for consideration at the 2019 annual meeting taking into account the SCRS schedule and how other RFMOs conduct compliance evaluation, and circulate it for input by members in advance of the 2019 annual meeting.

General comments

The EU raised several issues regarding the reporting obligations common to different species. With respect to port inspection requirements, the Secretariat was requested to indicate if it should receive information that does not contain any reference to infringements. Regarding information on access agreements (Rec. 14-07), the EU informed that a web link to its access agreement texts was provided to the Secretariat. The Chair noted that the reporting form referred to in paragraph 7 of that recommendation must still be submitted and that its summaries of the access agreements aid the Commission with its review of these agreements.

The EU also questioned the utility of the quarterly catch reports as these can create some confusion, for instance in the case of this CPC where the data are compiled quarterly and corrected if needed during the preparation of the Annual Report.

Regarding problems of overharvest, some CPCs considered it useful to have a summary of overharvest for species under quota for future meetings. The Secretariat agreed that a summary could be provided for concrete cases where overharvest is clear.

IMO number and Rec. 13-03

Japan presented the letter that it had sent to the Committee in advance of the meeting reflecting on the recent expansion by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) of its vessel numbering scheme to a broader group of vessels (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 10**). In addition, the Secretariat informed the Committee of the current status of implementation of Rec. 13-03, noting that there are 937 large-scale vessels on the ICCAT Record of Vessels that provided a justification for not having received an IMO number, and are still eligible for an LR number. There are 97 large scale vessels (>100 GT) on the ICCAT Record that do not have an IMO number and have not provided justification. These remain in the ICCAT register and under Rec 13-03, paragraph 5 bis, should not be authorised to fish.

The Committee agreed that the Secretariat should send out a circular to CPCs reminding them of the IMO's expansion of applicability of its numbering scheme and that, as a result, CPCs have an obligation to ensure that either their vessels notified for inclusion on the ICCAT large-scale authorised vessel list have an IMO or LR number or the CPC has provided an explanation to the Secretariat as to why they do not have a number.

Tropical tunas, bigeye (Rec. 16-01)

A CPC requested that Panel 1 explain the rationale for the quarterly reporting requirement, and consider whether it still needs to be in place. This matter was referred to Panel 1.

The Secretariat inquired if "auxiliary vessels", regardless of their length, should be included in the list of authorised vessels or only those 20m length or above. The Committee agreed to submit the question to Panel 1's consideration.

The US requested that the overharvest of bigeye tuna be reviewed and Rec. 16-01 reduction rules be fully applied.

Mediterranean swordfish (Rec. 16-05)

Morocco and Tunisia, among other CPCs, informed participants about their intention to change the fisheries closed season to adopt a three-month closure from January to March. Algeria informed that, in response to pressure from professionals of the swordfish fishery, it has changed the fishery closure period to 1 January to 31 March, which will be effective from 2019. This matter was referred to Panel 4.

South Atlantic albacore (Rec. 16-07)

The Secretariat issued a request for clarification on the requirement for the pro rata over-consumption deduction, which was settled very late last year. The Chair invited the Chair of Panel 3 to resolve this question earlier in the annual meeting. The interpretative issues were resolved in the Panel 3 meeting, and the compliance tables revised accordingly.

Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna (Rec. 17-07)

The Secretariat suggested that, starting in 2019, the reporting and revision of the application for E-BFT be aligned with the other species and related to the previous year and not the year of the meeting. The Committee referred this to Panel 2. Panel 2 reported that there had been general support for this approach; however, one CPC noted that fishery information that becomes available for the current year, such as from ROP observer reports or other means, which may have implications with respect to a CPC's compliance, should be able to be considered during the Commission meeting.

The Chair asked whether CPCs were required to explicitly prohibit landing and transshipment at port if they have not submitted a list of designated ports pursuant to this recommendation. CPCs did not express a clear view on the need for a landing/transshipment ban; however, all CPCs agreed that the absence of a designated port list means landing or transshipment of BFT is not permitted under ICCAT rules. China indicated that it has not submitted a list of designated ports. In the case a vessel lands in one of its ports, China would report that port as designated. The Chair referred this matter, including views expressed in COC, to Panel 2 for further discussion and clarification as appropriate. At Panel 2 it was agreed that if a CPC does not designate and submit a list of ports for landing/transshipment of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, such activities are not authorized under ICCAT rules and a vessel should not attempt to use non-designated ports for the purpose of landing/transshipping eastern bluefin tuna.

The Secretariat noted the late submission by the EU of many inspection reports, including those originating from joint inspections. With regard to the annual report of information relating to eBCD, the EU clarified that it sends these as it receives them, rather than waiting for all countries to submit and sending them together, which the EU considers is not required. In addition, the EU explained that some caging declarations had been submitted late as a result of late caging operations due to bad weather.

Billfish (Recs. 15-05, 16-10, 16-11)

Several problems were identified in the implementation of billfish recommendations. Among these are lack of reporting on activities by some segments of the fleet (e.g. artisanal and recreational fishing), landings limits overruns, and non-compliance with observer coverage requirements. 19 CPCs reported not applicable (“NA”) without a clear explanation as to why billfish requirements were “NA”. 16 CPCs did not report because they were using the old report format.

The Chair noted the problem of interpretation of the recommendations clarifying that certain requirements also apply to catch and release operations by recreational fisheries. To address reporting issues and concerns about continuing overharvest, pursuant to a recommendation by the COC last year, the Chair presented a proposed billfish check sheet through the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on improvement of compliance review of conservation and management measures regarding billfish caught in the ICCAT Convention area” that was intended to provide some clarity on the application of the recommendations, and improve reporting and conservation measures. The check sheet was based on the shark check sheet format. Following discussion and revisions to address CPC input, the COC approved the proposed check sheet recommendation and forwarded it to the Commission for adoption.

The United States also noted the large number of CPCs without a quota for blue marlin that exceeded the 10 t limit. The US also emphasized the difficulty in managing marlin mortality through landings limits and the importance of supporting bycatch reduction and control measures. This CPC also stated that the COC should consider more serious action against CPCs that repeatedly overharvest blue marlin or otherwise fail to implement other required conservation measures.

Incidental catches of seabirds (Recs. 07-07 and 11-09)

The Committee supported the suggestion of the Secretariat to merge the two recommendations to facilitate implementation, and agreed to refer this matter to Panel 4.

By-catch of marine turtles (Rec. 10-09)

CPCs were requested to include a justification when they report “non-applicable”, so the Committee can assess the compliance with the measure.

Shark implementation check sheet (Rec. 16-13)

Japan, in its capacity as a member of the Friends of the COC Chair Group, reviewed and summarized shark check sheet responses submitted by CPCs pursuant to Rec. 16-13. Japan’s evaluation was organised in the following categories: data submission, implementation of general shark requirements, and implementation of species-specific requirements. Some problems were identified in the sheets reported by CPCs: shark conservation measures are not applied by some CPCs; some CPCs do not have the legal instruments to make these measures legally binding; CPCs report “not applicable” without further justification, meaning the Committee does not have any criteria to determine if the NA derogation is acceptable or not; and some CPCs do not report Task I and Task II data, providing the justification that they do not target the species or catch sharks incidentally.

The Chair clarified that the ICCAT requirements apply to sharks caught in association with other ICCAT species. The fact of not-targeting is not a justification to say that the measure is not applicable. The Chair also suggested that the shark check sheet could be used to replace separate declarations and reports from different recommendations, including the Annual Report.

The Committee reviewed the Chair’s proposed draft revisions to the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 16-13 on improvement of compliance review of conservation and management measures regarding sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries” to extend this requirement to future years. Following revisions to take CPC input into account, the Commission approved the proposal and forwarded it to the Commission for adoption.

North Atlantic shortfin mako (Rec. 17-08)

Japan expressed its concern regarding the increase of catches and questioned the efficacy of measures in place. The Chair referred the question to Panel 4.

Penalties applicable in case of non-fulfillment of reporting obligations (Rec. 11-15)

The Chair noted for those CPCs that have not submitted Task I data or provided confirmation of zero catch by species for 2017, a ban of retention on board of such species would be put in place.

The Chair sought CPC views as to whether CPCs should be notified by the Secretariat when a ban pursuant to Rec. 11-15 for a CPC is lifted because the CPC provided the required information. Committee members supported such a notification to the Commission by the Secretariat.

Minimum standards for inspections in port (Rec. 12-07)

The EU highlighted the high volume of port inspection reports that have to be submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat, noting in particular that reports that have no infringement reported may be of no utility. The EU asked if the Secretariat should receive information that does not contain any reference to infringements (for example, situations of goods landed and transferred to reefers that go outside the EU market and reports with no infringements detected).

The US noted that it would like to have all the reports submitted, as they have utility in assessing risks and determining what vessels to further inspect.

The Chair suggested that the question of the obligation to transmit these reports should be submitted to the PWG. This was taken into consideration by the PWG through a revised Recommendation (see ANNEX 5).

8. CPC-by-CPC review of compliance with ICCAT requirements

The COC conducted the CPC-by-CPC review of compliance with ICCAT requirements. CPCs were discouraged from reiterating what they had already submitted in writing and were asked to provide updated information on actions taken or planned. The issues were discussed and outcomes are detailed in the Compliance Summary Tables (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**). Based on recommendations of the Chair, taking into account input from the Friends of the Chair group as appropriate, the COC recommended to the Commission that 48 CPCs be sent letters on compliance issues and that ICCAT lift the identification of Sierra Leone under ICCAT's Trade Measures Recommendation (Rec. 06-13).

9. Review of information relating to NCPs

The Chair informed the COC that pursuant to the COC's recommendation in 2017, letters expressing concerns had been sent to Dominica, Gibraltar, St. Kitts & Nevis and St. Lucia seeking more information on their fisheries and conservation and management measures, and encouraging their greater participation in ICCAT. No responses have been received to these inquiries.

The Committee agreed that identification be maintained for Dominica and that further letters be sent to Gibraltar, St. Kitts & Nevis and St. Lucia, encouraging greater cooperation with ICCAT in light of information on these NCPs' fisheries interactions with certain ICCAT species, and to Dominica to inform them of the decision to maintain identification.

10. Review of requests for Cooperating status

Pursuant to ICCAT Rec. 03-20, the Compliance Committee recommended that the Commission renew the cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity, and Fishing Entity status for Bolivia, Chinese Taipei, Costa Rica, Guyana, and Suriname.

The Chair, although noting the increasing cooperation from Costa Rica, shared his concerns regarding the level of data made available to ICCAT and inconsistencies in the reporting of certain ICCAT measures. The Chair suggested and the COC agreed that the letter to be sent to this non-member will refer to these points and also note the non-participation at this year's meeting. The Secretariat requested that a request for clarification on the origin of catches (Pacific or Atlantic) be included in the letter.

11. Compliance tables

11.1 Review and adoption

The Committee adopted all compliance tables except for southern albacore (pending resolution of a small error for one CPC), northern swordfish, blue and white marlin (pending further discussion by Panel 4), and bigeye (pending further discussion by Panel 1) (**Appendix 5 to ANNEX 10**). The Chair committed to working together with the Secretariat and CPCs over the intersessional period to resolve any additional outstanding issues to reduce the issues that need to be resolved at the 2019 annual meeting.

11.2 Consideration of improvements to format

One CPC offered to develop suggestions for improvements to the format of the compliance tables for consideration by the COC at its 2019 meeting. It was generally agreed, however, that while improvements to format could be offered, those improvements may not resolve the root issues of compliance reporting. It was noted that the ongoing development of the online reporting system would facilitate a broader discussion on these issues.

12. COC Recommendations of actions to address issues of non-compliance by CPCs and issues relating to NCPs

The Chair presented the "Draft recommendation by ICCAT to amend ICCAT reporting deadlines in order to facilitate an effective and efficient compliance process" (**ANNEX 5**). The proposal was to amend certain ICCAT reporting deadlines, including the Annual Report, from October 1 to September 15, in order to improve the COC's ability to carry out its work. This proposal was approved by the COC and forwarded to the Commission for adoption.

13. Streamlining ICCAT measures

Several issues were referred by the COC to other ICCAT subsidiary bodies.

The Chair noted that the streamlining of ICCAT measures is a very important exercise to be carried out in cooperation with other ICCAT subsidiary bodies to improve compliance.

14. Review of progress of the Working Group for the development of an online reporting system

The Chair of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group presented the progress made by the Working Group in 2018. The overview of the Working Group's activities for 2018 is attached as **ANNEX 4.2**, (Working Group for the Development of an Online Reporting System – 2018 Status Report).

The Working Group convened in 2018 and discussed a number of items including examples of online reporting systems currently being developed and/or used by ICCAT and other RFMOs, elements for inclusion in ICCAT's online system, and streamlining reporting requirements. The Secretariat put forward a proposal for consideration by the Working Group that would modify and adapt the ICCAT Fisheries Online Reporting System to process the ICCAT statistical forms to serve as a foundation for the construction of an ICCAT Integrated Online Management System (IOMS). This system would allow further expansion with modules to handle the information related to the 160 reporting requirements currently maintained by the Secretariat. The Working Group defined technical specifications to be included in the IOMS and agreed that the Secretariat should develop a more specific proposal for the IOMS with the Annual Report as a first module within this system. Details on the IOMS can be found in **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 10**.

The Working Group also assembled a preliminary list of duplicative reporting and shared it with the SCRS as well as the Secretariat. This information is also being fed into similar streamlining efforts identified through the Second ICCAT Performance Review recommendations.

The Chair of the Working Group presented the Working Group's recommendations for the COC to consider, as follows:

- The Commission adopt the online management system (IOMS) presented by the Secretariat, as the overarching online management system integrating all reporting requirements and tasks;
- Support the Secretariat needs, by means of funding, on the implementation of the online statistical validation system for the submission of statistical forms (Task I and Task II data);
- The Annual Report to be developed as a module within IOMS, and that the module build from the existing template, and incorporate the technical specifications identified by the Working Group;
- The Commission to fully fund the initial development of the IOMS and use opportunities such as those available under the ABNJ Common Ocean program;
- Support a Working Group meeting in 2019 to finalise the Working Group's tasks and develop a long-term budget for the IOMS.

The recommendations were endorsed by the Committee.

15. Recommendations to the Commission to improve compliance

The Chair addressed the document prepared by the Secretariat summarising information submitted by CPCs with regards the difficulties in implementing ICCAT conservation and management measures.

The Chair noted that the summary may assist the Committee in considering if technical assistance and capacity building may be useful to CPCs. Technical and capacity building are discussed in other RFMOs and the Chair would like to receive the inputs of CPCs. The Chair expects to discuss these aspects also with COC chairs from other RFMOs when they participate in the 2019 Tuna Compliance Network meeting.

The Chair suggested, and the COC approved, adding a standing agenda item for future COC meetings to discuss technical and capacity building needs of CPCs that have a bearing on fulfillment of ICCAT obligations.

16. Other matters

A representative of the FAO ABNJ project presented the state of play of the ongoing work of the Tuna Compliance Network, established in 2017. It was noted the added value of this initiative as it provides good opportunities to learn about other compliance procedures and methodologies applied in other RFMOs. The five Chairs of the tuna RFMOs' Compliance Committees will participate in the next workshop to take place in Bangkok in February 2019. ICCAT's involvement in this initiative received support from the Committee.

An observer from Pew Charitable Trusts presented a paper that analysed transshipment activity in ICCAT fisheries. The Chair noted that while the paper was not submitted in time to be considered a meeting document under Rec. 08-09, CPCs were welcome to consider it during the COC's deliberations this year. Moreover, it had met the deadline under Rec. 08-09 for the 2019 meeting, which gave CPCs ample time to consider the information. The Chair suggested that consideration could be given to adding review of transshipment as an agenda item for the 2019 COC meeting.

17. Adoption of report and adjournment

The report of the Committee was adopted by correspondence. The Committee was adjourned.

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Consideration of the outcome of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review
5. Review of actions taken by CPCs in response to letters relating to issues arising from the 2017 meeting
6. Overview of implementation of and compliance with certain ICCAT reporting requirements:
 - 6.1 CPC Annual Reports
 - 6.2 Compliance Tables
 - 6.3 Statistical data and CPC status under Rec. 11-15
7. Review of Secretariat's Report to the Compliance Committee
8. CPC-by-CPC review of compliance with ICCAT requirements
9. Review of information relating to NCPs
10. Review of requests for Cooperating status
11. Compliance tables
 - 11.1 Review and adoption
 - 11.2 Consideration of improvements to format
12. COC Recommendations of Actions to address issues of non-compliance by CPCs and issues relating to NCPs
13. Streamlining ICCAT measures
14. Review of progress of the Working Group on the development of an online reporting system
15. Recommendations to the Commission to improve compliance
16. Other matters
17. Adoption of report and adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10

Follow-up of the ICCAT Performance Review – COC

<i>Report Chapter</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>LEAD</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Proposed Next Steps</i>	<i>PR Panel Observations</i>	<i>Action to be taken, or already taken</i>	<i>Completion status following annual meeting</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Data Collection and Sharing	5. The Panel recommends that the possible non-reporting of incidental catches by vessels not on CPCs authorised list should be investigated by the Compliance Committee.	COC	M	Refer to the COC for appropriate action.	PR Panel believes that this is unlikely to be a major problem (pg 10).	At 2017 meeting, it was noted that at the moment, COC has inadequate data to fully evaluate the scope of the problem. In light of this and PR Panel's observation, no action taken but item left open.	Ongoing.	
	6. The Panel recommends that a mechanism be found to allow minor occasional harvesters without allocations to report their catches without being subject to sanctions.	COC	M	Refer matter to the COC in cooperation with the other relevant bodies for consideration and also to the Panels as the issue could also be addressed in the context of management recommendations.	Overall efforts should be coordinated initially by the PWG.	Refer to PWG.	Return to this in response to follow-up by PWG.	

<p>Blue and White Marlins</p>	<p>37. The Panel considers that ICCAT should reinforce its compliance actions, as Rec. 15-05 will not deliver results as long as the severe under-reporting continues.</p>	<p>COC</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer matter to COC for review of compliance with data reporting and other billfish obligations and recommend any needed actions.</p>	<p>SCRS has been tasked to provide the Commission with a data improvement plan for billfish in 2017, which will inform discussions of this matter in the Panel.</p>	<p>2017 COC recommended development of a billfish reporting check-sheet to improve information on CPC billfish fisheries and implementation of ICCAT billfish requirements. COC recommended ICCAT letter to NCPs known to be harvesting marlins. In recent years, certain CPCs either identified under ICCAT's trade measures recommendation or received compliance letter concerning marlin overharvest and non-implementation of ICCAT marlin requirements. In 2018, COC referred marlin compliance tables issues to PA4 for assistance in resolution and adopted Rec. 18-</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>	
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						05 to facilitate COC review of compliance with marlin conservation measures.		
Sharks	41. The Panel recommends that the Compliance Committee should prioritise the issue of data reporting on sharks, as well as poor reporting on the blue and white marlin stocks.	COC	S	Refer to COC for consideration and appropriate action.		Shark check sheet has already been adopted through Rec. 16-13. In 2017, COC recommended that ICCAT in 2018 consider extending applicability of shark check sheet to future years. COC reviewed check sheets in 2018, highlighted issues to be rectified by CPCs, and adopted Rec. 18-06 to extend the applicability of the shark check sheet. See response above regarding marlin reporting.	Ongoing.	

<p>Port State Measures</p>	<p>69. Make more efforts to assess substantive compliance with its port State measures and to specify consequences for non-compliance.</p>	<p>COC</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to PWG to review implementation and determine any technical improvements that might be needed. Refer to COC to consider any issues non-compliance and recommend appropriate actions.</p>		<p>2017 and 2018 COC raised compliance concerns with CPC implementation of certain provisions, including requirements to designate ports and submit port inspection reports to ICCAT.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>	
<p>Cooperative Mechanisms to Detect and Deter Non-Compliance</p>	<p>78. The Panel recommends that the COC should identify key compliance priorities across the range of different fisheries, and programme its work accordingly. Identification of non-respect of reporting requirements or incomplete reporting by CPCs should be entrusted to the ICCAT secretariat and its report submitted to COC in advance of the Annual meeting.</p>	<p>COC</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>COC should consider this matter in light of the terms of recently adopted Rec. 16-22.</p>		<p>COC prioritized review of shark measure implementation in 2018, and in 2018 adopted Rec 18-06 to continue the submission and prioritization of the shark check sheet in future years. The COC also adopted Rec. 18-05, a similar check sheet to improve billfish reporting. In 2018 COC also discussed development of a strategic plan to allow for prioritization and in-depth review of certain measure on an annual</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>	

						meeting cycle to be determined by the COC, taking into account a proposed schedule that the Secretariat could prepare during the intersessional period.		
Follow-Up on Infringements	81. The Panel considers the key task of the COC should be to make a qualitative assessment as to the degree to which the measures in the individual fisheries contained in the ICCAT recommendations, are being respected by the vessels of the Parties.	COC	S/M	Refer to COC for consideration and appropriate action.	Implementation of Rec 16-22 should assist with this work. Clear and timely reporting by all CPCs on the implementation of ICCAT requirements is also essential.	Chair proposes deferral of discussion of how to future meetings, including to take into account how this matter is approach by other RFMO compliance committees.	Ongoing.	
Relationship to Cooperating Non-Members	99. Reviews Rec. 03-20 in order, inter alia, to clarify the rights of States and Entities with Cooperating Status; integrate elements of Res. 94-06; replace the PWG with the COC; and include a requirement to apply for renewal of Cooperating Status.	COC	M	Refer to COC to review the issue of cooperating status and determine if additional clarity on this matter is needed.	The roles and responsibilities of the COC and PWG were clarified a few years ago and there is no longer any overlap in their mandates. Both bodies have heavy workloads during the Annual meeting.	COC Chair recommends deferral of discussion of 03-20 and 94-06 to future meetings.	Ongoing.	

Relationship to Non-Cooperating Non-Members	101. Continues to monitor fishing activities by non-cooperating non-members through cooperation between the ICCAT Secretariat and CPCs, and between CPCs.	COC	S	Secretariat, CPCs and the COC should continue to monitor fishing activities by non-members and bring them to the attention of the Commission.		In 2016-19COC has been monitoring CPCs with marlin catches and sending letters, but few responses to date.	Ongoing.	
	102. Considers taking appropriate sanctions against non-cooperating non-members that continue to ignore ICCAT's requests for information and cooperation. This is particularly relevant in relation to overfished stocks, such as marlins.	COC	S	Refer to COC to recommend appropriate action.	COC has a key role in monitoring the fishing activities of non-CPCs and recommending ways to improve cooperation, including through application of Rec. 06-13 (Trade measures Recommendation).	Actions against non-cooperating non-members have included trade restrictive measures (e.g., Georgia and Bolivia, since lifted), and in more recent years identification under ICCAT's trade measures recommendation of certain non-parties for billfish catch. The Chair has also recommended that the COC further consider ways to progressively implement the <i>Resolution by ICCAT Establishing an ICCAT Schedule of Actions to Improve</i>	Ongoing.	

						<i>Compliance and Cooperation with ICCAT Measures (16-17).</i>		
Data Collection and Sharing	6bis. The Panel concludes that ICCAT scores well in terms of agreed forms and protocols for data collection but, while progress has been made, more needs to be done particularly for bycatch species and discards.	SCRS	M			In 2018, a thorough review of the shark check sheets was carried out, as well as a more in depth analysis of possible by catch and discard gaps. The COC will be monitoring actions taken to rectify deficiencies and updated reports will be expected from CPCs for which deficiencies were found in 2018. In 2018 COC also referred to panels potential interpretive issues in ICCAT measures relating to this issue.	Ongoing.	

<p>Cooperative Mechanisms to Detect and Deter Non-Compliance</p>	<p>79. The Panel recommends that independent information from the fisheries, through inspections at sea and in port, and through effective observer programmes, are made available to the COC, in order for the COC to conduct an effective compliance assessment.</p>	<p>PWG</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Refer to PWG to consider if there are technical reasons for implementation failures and how to address them if so; Refer to COC to consider extent of any non-compliance and recommend appropriate action.</p>	<p>Some independent information is available to COC due to ICCAT requirements but implementation and reporting problems exist in some cases that can limit evaluation of compliance by CPCs.</p>	<p>In 2016-17, COC requested improvements in how potential non-compliance issues identified by ICCAT observer programs are presented to the COC for review. Some changes were made, but further consideration may be given to additional improvements.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>
<p>Reporting Requirements</p>	<p>87. The Panel recommends that ICCAT consider introducing a provision in new recommendations, whereby the introduction of new reporting requirements would only become effective after a 9 to 12 month period has elapsed. This would assist Developing States to adapt to new requirements. This is particularly relevant where the volume and/or nature of the reporting have changed significantly. The difficulties Developing</p>	<p>COM</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to all ICCAT bodies that can recommend binding reporting requirements for consideration when developing such recommendations. Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.</p>		<p>For COC, deferred discussion to future meetings.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>

	States encounter in introducing new administrative/reporting requirements at short notice, is well documented in the compliance context. The option for Developed CPCs to apply immediately the new reporting requirements may of course be maintained, if those CPCs consider it opportune.							
Decision-Making	91. Reviews its working practices in order to enhance transparency in decision-making, in particular on the allocation of fishing opportunities and the work of the Friends of the Chair.	COM	S	Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.	The Implementation of Res. 16-22 will assist with improving transparency in the COC Friends of the Chair process.	Requirements adopted in 16-22 and 18-07 that improve transparency of decision making of COC include amended deadlines and biennial special 2 day session of COC, which allow for better documented and more in-depth discussions of compliance matters, enabling CPCs to better understand the basis for COC decisions.	Ongoing.	

Compliance Summary Tables

Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance 2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>
ALBANIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No explanation for "Not applicable" category. Missing fleet characteristics and Task II catch & effort data.	Recommendation 16-14 by ICCAT to Establish Minimum Standards for Fishing Vessel Scientific Observer Program Albania has reported not applicable, but the reason for this is not explained. Explanation: Albania will set those scientific standards as necessary and good contribution to resource management. (Without that standard in Albania, is impossible to give any explanation). Albania will be careful and prepare the Annual reports based on Revised Guidelines.	Letter on reporting issues and lack of response to 2016 COC letter, while noting improvement in reporting.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Part 1 of Annual Report received late and Part II slightly late. Statistical data reported late; no national scientific observer programme data received (ST09).	Late reporting due to reporting of historical data; were trying to report all outstanding data and information and submit complete report. Only one purse seiner fishing for ICCAT species, so no national observer programme yet in place, although ROP is deployed.	Letter on reporting issues and implementation of domestic scientific observer requirements, while noting improvement in reporting.
	Conservation and Management Measures: 16-13. Shark measures implementation check sheet submitted late (at annual meeting). For other by- catch requirements, not applicable, not explained. No information on implementation of turtle by-catch mitigation and general by-catch/discard mitigation.	Regulation 1, Article 7 (3). "It is prohibited using of bottom nets or floating nets for fishing of following species: white tuna (Thunnus alalunga), Bluefin tuna (Thunnus thynnus), swordfish (Xiphias gladius), and sharks (Hexanchus griseu, Cetorhinus maximus Alopiidae; Carcharhinidae; Sphyrnidae; Isuridae; Lamnidae)". Check Sheet submitted on 29/09/2017. According the Fishery legislation all fishing vessels are obliged to avoid any incidental catch of turtles, sharks, seabirds, marine mammals, etc. When it happen should take care to free them without damaging and registering, reporting as well.	Replied to COC letter.	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-14: Not yet implemented, but actions currently being taken to implement in 2019. Rec. 16-13: No legally binding measures taken to implement shark requirements.	Albanian legislation has transposed the EU regulation Have difficulties providing data on species for which there is no catch or no authorisation. More species have been added to the legislation. Albania will send English version of Albanian legislation to show that all ICCAT Recommendations are applied.	
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

		2017		2018		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>
ALGERIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received.	SWO vessels are between 4-9 metres, no space for observers, alternative measures taken through port inspection in 43 ports equipped with coast guard services for inspection. Established a system for data collection. BFT purse seiners have national inspectors on board the vessels. With regard to Recommendation 13-11, sea turtles taken as by catch mainly by longliners (by trawlers to some extent) are systematically released live into the water, making sure that they are in perfect conditions so as to prevent vulnerability and exposure to predators. Turtles hauled on board as by-catch of trawlers, are untangled and released live into the water. We have a list of authorised sharks which may be landed - only three species. There is no finning, and no domestic consumption of sharks. Algeria is currently making new regulations to cover all the requirements of the RFMOs, including ICCAT. Collecting logbook information to this end.	Letter on implementation of ICCAT requirements on domestic scientific observers, turtles, sharks.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 13-11: Unclear from report if safe handling practices are being implemented. Rec. 16-13: No legally binding measure to implement general measure. No legally binding measures for species specific prohibitions.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: ROP-BFT PNCs presented in Doc. COC-305/17.			Other issues: ROP-BFT PNCs and responses presented in Doc. COC-305/18.		

		2017		2018		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>
ANGOLA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual report submitted late (but before previous deadline). No explanation for "Not applicable" category. No Fleet characteristics data submitted (ST01).		Letter on reporting issues and lack of response to 2016 COC letter.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Part 1 Annual Report submitted late. No size data received due to lack of sampling programme. No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received.	Angola has indicated lack of resources to implement a domestic observer programme and indicated intention to request assistance from ICCAT. For turtles and seabirds, Angola is currently trying to collect historical data.	Letter on reporting issues, no list of designated ports (Rec. 12-07), implementation of ICCAT requirements on domestic scientific observers and bycatch species, and lack of response to 2017 COC letter.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted. No information on implementation of turtle and seabird by-catch mitigation and general by-catch/discard mitigation (not applicable, not explained). Vessels not included on tropical list but small quantities of tropical tunas reported.		Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark implementation check sheet. Rec. 17-08; no response to request for N. SMA catches; Rec. 16-14: no domestic observer programme. Recs 13-11, 11-09, 11-10 - no data currently available for bycatch species. Rec. 16-01: Vessel not authorised for Tropical Species. No quarterly reports of BET tuna in 2017. Rec. 12-07: No list designated ports.			
	Quotas and catch limits:		No reply was received to COC letter.	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables submitted late.		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

		2017		2018			
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	
BARBADOS	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Part II of Annual Report submitted late.		Letter on reporting issues, N SWO development/ management plan.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received.	Barbados indicate that this requirement is not applicable, as Barbados lodged an objection to Rec. 10-10.	Letter on reporting issues; no designation of ports under Rec. 12-07; possible blue marlin overharvest; non-submission of validation seals/signatures for ICCAT statistical documents; implementation of ICCAT requirements on turtles, marlin, sailfish, sharks.	
	Conservation and Management Measures: 15-01/16-01: No quarterly BET catch reports; Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted. Rec. 16-03. No N. SWO management plan submitted.		Replied to COC letter.	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-01: Quarterly BET catches submitted late. Rec. 12-07: Not clear from report if foreign vessel access to Barbados' ports is prohibited generally. Rec. 02-21/22 No validation seals/ signatures for SDs submitted. Rec. 10-09: no information on sea turtle mitigation measures. Rec. 15-05 and 16-11: response incomplete: Rec. 17-08 no report of SMA catches for first semester of 2018. Rec. 16-13 No legally binding measures for the implementation of shark requirements.			16-01 Some procedural adjustments had to be made to facilitate this additional level of reporting. 10-09 The Fisheries Division is collaborating with the Barbados Sea Turtle project in a programme to advise fishers on best practises to reduce turtle bycatch, the introduction of circle hooks has already been noted, and to reduce turtle mortality due to accidental entanglements in fishing gear.
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest of BUM according to Task I data, but no compliance table submitted for BUM.			
	Other issues:			Other issues:			

		2017		2018		
CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2017	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2017	Potential issues of non-compliance-2018	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2018
BELIZE	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Statistics may be incomplete as unclear as to whether catches in EEZ/artisinal fisheries are included.	The artisanal fleet which operates in our EEZ does not target tuna and tuna like species regulated by ICCAT and as such no data has been included in our submitted reports. However, while a small quantity of billfishes are taken during sportfishing and game fishing events and activities these are not reported or recorded and as such no data are available. However, the authority responsible for these events and activities are currently working with our gaming associations within Belize to formalize a data report and recording system for sport fishing catches.	Letter on implementation of ICCAT requirements in waters under Belize's national jurisdiction.
	Conservation and Management Measures:					
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues: ROP-transshipment: PNC and reponse presented in COC-305/2018.		

2017			2018			
CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2017	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2017	Potential issues of non-compliance-2018	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2018
BRAZIL	Annual Reports/Statistics: No annual report received. No statistical data received.	Brazil requested a derogation of the application of the provisions of 11-15 due to very exceptional circumstances outlined in their statement to COC [313]. They will submit a plan to ensure all outstanding data are submitted.	Letter on reporting and while noting commitment to provide 2016 Task I data by March 31. Data were provided by the date specified.	Annual Reports/Statistics: No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received.	Response to Chair's letter was sent by regular mail within the deadline, but was not received by the Secretariat until 16 October. Data reporting deficiencies have been rectified and research programme re-initiated, so observers now deployed and data will be sent next year. Information on vessels was not received in time by the Federal Government from some States and Brazil is working to rectify this. Brazil did not believe it necessary to take legally binding measures regarding species not found in their fisheries but can be rectified if required. Do have normative measures for species found in their fisheries.	Letter on recurring retroactive vessel authorization issues and implementation of ICCAT requirements on domestic scientific observers, while noting positively information provided by Brazil on steps being taken to address these issues, as well as noting improvements this year in its catch data submission and appreciation of information on steps being taken to ensure continued timely submission of data.
	Conservation and Management measures: Rec. 15-01/16-01: No quarterly reports for bigeye tuna. No tropical tuna management plan. Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted. Rec. 16-03. No N. SWO management plan submitted.			Conservation and Management measures: Rec. 13-13 / 14-10: Vessels reported for inclusion on the ICCAT Record more than 45 days retroactively. Rec. 16-13: Unclear if legally binding measure is taken for some shark species.		
	Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables submitted before the deadline.		Replied after deadline to COC letter.	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables submitted late.		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

2017

2018

CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2017	Response/explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2017	Potential issues of non-compliance-2018	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2018
CABO VERDE	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No annual report received. No Task I or size data received. Some Catch & Effort data received late.		Letter on reporting issues, no tropical tuna management plan.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Part 1 of Annual Report received late. Fleet capacity submitted late; No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received.	A problem arose due to changes in personnel and designation of replacement late. Cabo Verde has problems with resources for implementing observer programmes and requests assistance from ICCAT.	Letter on reporting issues, no port inspection reports, implementation requirement of domestic scientific observers and billfish, and requesting more detailed reporting on shark and turtle measures in 2019 annual report consistent with information provided at 2018 annual meeting.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-01. No tropical tuna management plan.		Replied to COC letter.	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-01. BET quarterly catch reports for 2017 not reported for last three quarters. Rec. 17-08: No response to request for N.SMA catches. Rec. 16-15: Responses to requirements unclear / may be insufficient. Rec. 12-07: Copies of port inspection reports not received, although designated ports on ICCAT Record. Recs 15-05 and 16-11; response insufficient - legislation is required. Rec. 16-12 - response insufficient, no measures taken but are required: Rec. 10-09 - no measures taken to release turtles unharmed. Rec. 16-13: No legally binding measures for sharks.	Total ban on turtle catches and have instructed foreign flag vessels to avoid turtle by-catch; catches of nine of the species of sharks, found in Cabo Verde's waters are prohibited. Regulatory measures in place including ban on shark species.	
	Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables submitted before the deadline.			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

		2017		2018		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>
CANADA	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:	Canada confirms that 15-05 is being applied and made typing error in Annual Report.	No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

2017			2018			
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>
CHINA, People's Rep.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:	Our understanding is that the request of each CPC wishing to grant access to its ports to foreign fishing vessels shall designate its ports to which foreign fishing vessels may request entry pursuant to this Recommendation is not applicable to China as China is not Atlantic Ocean coastal state. However, from time to time, some carrier vessels carry tuna products caught only by Chinese fishing vessels operating in the ICCAT area entering into Chinese port, in this case, we are not sure such carrier vessels be regarded as foreign fishing vessels. Therefore, it is our understanding that the Rec.12-07 is not applicable to China. Up until now China has no authorized port for BFT landing and/or transshipment. In addition, China implemented the Customs Clearance system for any BFT products entering into Chinese territory, the fishing vessel owner or importer must apply the Customs Clearance Certificate to the Ministry of Agriculture, during this process, the relevant material/information including CDS, transshipment declaration, bill of lading must be showed to China fishery Authority, through this way we can monitor the BFT landing in the Chinese port.	Letter on implementation of Rec. 12-07 requirements, including designation of ports and application to foreign flagged carrier vessels carrying fish caught by China flagged vessels in ICCAT fisheries, and on list authorised BFT ports, while noting positively the steps China has already taken to control landings of ICCAT species in its ports.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:	See COC-309 for response by China to concerns previously raised by Chair. Hope to be in a position to send port list soon; are in process of joining FAO PSM, having made major efforts through consultations to establish a Port Inspection scheme.	Letter on implementation of Rec. 12-07 requirements on designation of ports, while noting positively information provided on actions taken thus far and planned as reported at 2018 meeting.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 12-07: No list of authorised ports submitted but no specific prohibition of entry by foreign vessels stipulated. Rec. 14-04: No list of authorised BFT ports submitted.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 12-07. No list of authorised ports for foreign flagged vessels.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: ROP-transshipment PNCs presented in COC-305/17.			Other issues: ROP-transshipment : PNCs and responses presented in COC-305/18.		
			Replied to COC letter.			

		2017		2018		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	Annual Reports/Statistics: Reporting summary of Annual Report incomplete. Revised version submitted, but still incomplete.	Submitted revised version [still incomplete].	Letter on reporting issues, while noting positively substantial improvement from last year, and seeking clarification on the license of two vessels fishing in ICCAT area, information on any further actions taken to address the PNCs reflected in COC-305, and information on management and monitoring of these fisheries in light of high import numbers for these two vessels.	Annual Reports/Statistics: Annual report incomplete with no response or insufficient response to many requirements. No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received. Response to letter received late.	Côte d'Ivoire does not apply ICCAT measures 100% but is making progress. They have new legislation with the support of the EU and recognise that some ICCAT provisions have not yet been transposed into national legislation.	Letter on reporting issues, implementation of requirements on national scientific observers, submission of ICCAT port inspection reports, implementation of ICCAT shark measures.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-11 - no report on implementation of this Rec as old format for Annual Report used.	Revised Annual Report received with information on sailfish annex presented as an appendix.		Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-14: No information on national observer programmes. Rec. 17-08: No response to request for SMA catches. Rec. 12-07: No port inspection reports submitted although Ports on ICCAT Record. Rec. 15-16: No Report on at-sea transshipment. Rec. 16-13. No legally binding measure taken to implement general/species specific requirements.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other Issues: ROP-transshipment PNCs presented in COC-305/17.	Owner has been notified and team set up at Ministry to investigate issues.		Other Issues: ROP-transshipment PNCs presented in COC-305/18.		

2017				2018		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>
CURAÇAO	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No explanation for "Not applicable" in all cases.		Letter on reporting issues, while noting positively improvements from last year.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Part 1 of Annual Report received late. Statistics may be incomplete as unclear as to whether catches in EEZ/ artisanal fisheries are included. ST08 (FADs) refers to 2016 data, 2017 data missing.	Data submission made during Commission meeting.	Letter on reporting issues, no list of designated ports (Rec. 12-07), implementation of shark requirements,
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 15-05. Answer insufficiently clear to cover requirements. No report on Rec. 16-11.	Curaçao is willing to work with other CPs to continue improvement.		Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: For many general/specific requirements, no legal instrument is cited. It is not clear whether the prohibition and (requirement for) release is legally binding. Rec. 12-07: No list designated ports.	Curaçao undertakes to cite relevant national legislation in next Annual Report.	blue marlin harvest.
	Quotas and catch limits:		Replied to COC letter.	Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest of BUM according to Task 1 data, but no compliance table submitted for BUM.		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

		2017		2018		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>
EGYPT	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No explanation for "Not applicable" in all cases. No data on sharks or turtles reported. Fleet characteristics (ST01) received late.	As it is prohibited to catch or trade sharks and turtles domestically or internationally, no one case has been reported since ever.	Letter on reporting issues and implementation of shark and bycatch measures, while noting positively reporting improvements from last year, and to encourage request for removal of vessels included on Med-SWO authorized list in order to align with current fishing possibilities under Rec. 16-05.	Annual Rep: No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received.	Only reports from observers on board E-BFT vessels are submitted to ICCAT. Egypt is working on establishing minimum standards for fishing vessels scientific observer program in the frame of ICCAT Rec. 10-10. Egypt is still in the process of establishing a scientific observer program, but currently their national observers who are assigned on board of the vessels are monitoring and recording the bluefin tuna fishing process.	Letter on implementation of requirements on national scientific observers, while noting positively the future steps Egypt described at the 2018 meeting.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: shark measures implementation check sheet submitted late. Rec. 16-14. No information on domestic observer programmes for fisheries other than BFT Rec. 10-09: no details on implementation reported. Rec. 16-05: inclusion of swordfish vessels on ICCAT Record in excess of capacity allowed and fishing plan for MED-SWO submitted without quota.	As it is prohibited to catch or trade sharks and turtles domestically or internationally, no one case has been reported since ever, and there is no fishing activity for this species. Unfortunately in 2016/2017 Egypt has faced some problems in the data collection, on the other hand the domestic program is under progress, unfortunately the economic circumstances doesn't support its development. Regarding Rec. 10-09 there is no by-catch for the turtles or seabirds recorded by domestic observers and due to the current economic circumstances and the high expenses, Egypt enforced the ICCAT Recommendation in this regard through the assigned inspectors in ports.	Replied to COC letter.	Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits:	Egypt confirmed that despite the vessel listing, no fishing for swordfish had taken place.		Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: information on implementation of turtle, seabird, by catch and discard measures insufficient to cover the requirements.	There is no by-catch for turtles or seabirds recorded by domestic observers in ports, also Egypt prohibits the catch of turtles and seabirds.		Other issues:		

2017			2018			
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>
EL SALVADOR	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		Letter on reporting issues, FAD management plan submitted at annual meeting, Rec. 12-07 implementation.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Part 1 of Annual Report received late. Part II received slightly late. Task 1 submitted late. No ST08 (FADs) submitted.	Some delays this year due to personnel problems.	Letter on reporting issues, implementation of requirements on billfish and sharks.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted. No list of foreign vessel authorised ports/ contact points submitted.		Replied to COC letter.	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 15-05 and 16-11 - responses may be insufficient. Rec. 16-13: Unclear as to whether all measures are binding.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables submitted late.		
	Other issues:		Other issues:			

CPC	2017			2018			
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2017	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2017	Potential issues of non-compliance-2018	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2018	
EU	Annual Reports/Statistics: Reporting on sea turtle and seabird interactions may be incomplete. Some size data missing for other EU member States.	Interaction on Sea turtles: this item is not relevant because in COC 303 the EU is not associated to incomplete submissions, and all EU data is referred in Table 10 of PLE 105. Interaction on Seabirds: as per Rec 11-09, there is no obligation to use mitigation measures north of 25° South, and referred to as on a voluntary basis for the Mediterranean Sea. Statistical data for EU Lithuania and EU Denmark: zero catch in 2016 has been confirmed for both; Rec 11-15 has been completed accordingly. Size data missing: Size data has been submitted for the whole EU, and not by EU-Member State; no non-compliance detected.	No action necessary.	Annual Reports/Statistics: A few statistical data received late (Task I, Bulgaria, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania).	These Task I data concern EU Member States that do not play a major role in ICCAT fisheries. In all cases the quantities involved are very small and of minor importance. The late submission is due to administrative problems coupled with the summer holidays period. All the EU Task I data for the major EU Member States have been submitted on time.	Letter on reporting issues, eastern bluefin issues currently under investigation in EU.	
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 14-04: Implementation report submitted late due to confusion with previous deadline (was submitted before 15 Oct). Rec. 11-20: BCD annual report incomplete - no report for EU-France, EU-Italy and EU-Netherlands. Rec. 16-05, para 28: non-respect of "ALB-Med"-vessel submission deadline (20/07/2017 set by Circular #4454/17) regarding 6 EU-Cyprus vessels and 293 EU-Greece vessels. Rec. 16-11. Previous format of Annual Report received, so no report on implementation of Rec. 16-11, although sailfish included in Task 1. Rec. 15-05, information for EU-Portugal missing. Rec. 16-12. No information included in Annual Report. Rec. 12-07: List of authorised ports have not been submitted for all EU Member States, and no specific prohibition of entry by foreign vessels stipulated for those missing from the list (ports submitted for 8 Member States).	Rec 14-04: Due to administrative reasons, the EU implementation report has been submitted after the 1 st October (new deadline in 16-16), but before 15 October (previous deadline); Rec 11-20 Reports for EU France, EU Italy and EU Netherlands have been sent to ICCAT, after 16 October; Rec 16-05 § 28: Due to administrative reasons, the SWO Med vessels lists for EU Greece and EU Cyprus have been submitted after the entry into force of Rec 16-05. For the year 2017, this is not contrary to Rec 16-05. Rec 16-11: Due to administrative reasons, the EU has used to the previous format for the Annual report. However, all the requested data has been reported. An addendum on Section III (sailfish) has been sent on 7 November, but the data was initially submitted in Task 1. Rec 15-05: EU Portugal has no vessel targeting BFT, which explains the absence of VMS data. Rec 16-12: The actions to be taken domestically by all EU Member States to monitor catches of blue sharks are detailed in the EU legislation. All EU measures have been reported in the shark check sheets in COC 302. Rec 12-07: The list of designated ports submitted by the EU is valid for the EU as a whole and includes all EU Member States concerned. The list has not been modified in 2017 from previous years.		Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-05. Late submission of SWO-MED vessel list for EU-Croatia. Rec. 17-07: Deadline of one week for caging declarations often not respected. Some caging carried out after 15 August. Rec. 11-20: Some BCD reports received late. Rec. 17-09: some eBCD requests are followed-up late by EU-Administrators entailing pending requests for several days in the eBCD system; Rec. 17-07; 16-05 and 12-07: Inspection reports received late. Rec. 14-07: No Access agreements reported, but previous reports show agreements until 2020 and also reported by Liberia, Morocco and Senegal. EU-Portugal BFT Other vessels over 15 m did not report any VMS messages. News reports of possible overharvest of bluefin tuna to be followed up in 2019.	Rec. 12-07: Submission of inspection reports not applicable as although 100% of foreign vessels are inspected, operations relate to the transfer from foreign catching vessels to reefer cargos of goods that are not for the EU market. For 17-07 and 16-05, the EU had transmission difficulties due to the volume of documents to be sent. Rec. 16-05: The transmission of these data suffered an internal IT problem that took time to solve. The listings were sent immediately after the problem had been solved. Rec. 17-07: The delay between the caging operation itself and the delivery of the related caging declaration is due to the time needed by the CPC's catching vessel flag States to amend their respective eBCD following the stereoscopic camera results. For JFOs, this may take more time, pending the completeness of the JFO related activities. The caging declarations are sent when declared as "final". Finalised caging declarations are sent once the eBCD amendments have been recorded. Caging after 15 August was due to weather conditions that hit the Mediterranean Sea, impacting the route of tug vessels. This is considered as force majeure. Rec. 14-07: The EU has concluded bilateral access agreements with Morocco, Gambia, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Cabo Verde, Mauritania, Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire and Sao Tome & Principe. Because of the volume of this material, each year the EU refers to the website where each single agreement can be consulted: https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/international/agreements_en		
	Quotas and catch limits: Continued overharvest of WHM.	The overharvest of WHM in 2016 was already expected and addressed at the 2016 Annual meeting. As stated in the response to the 2016 letter of concern, EU Spain (only EU Member State concerned by this overharvest, as by-catch) has closed the fishery for both BUM and WHM in 2017.		Quotas and catch limits:			
	Other issues: ROP-BFT PNCs presented in Doc. COC-305/17.			Other issues: ROP-BFT PNCs and responses presented in Doc. COC-305/18.			

		2017		2018		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>
FRANCE (St. Pierre & Miquelon)	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Rec. 16-14. No information on domestic scientific observer programme.	We have not transmitted information on observations (Recommendation by ICCAT to establish minimum standards for fishing vessel scientific observer programs (Rec. 16-14) because our only vessel operating in the ICCAT area did not engage in fishing activities following technical difficulties.	No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		Letter on implementation of shark measures.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13 Shark check sheet indicates that no legislation currently in place, but is being drawn up.	France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon) does not have a sharks fishery. Notwithstanding a text is being finalized for compliance with the requirements of Rec. 16-03. When signed, the document will be forwarded to the ICCAT Secretariat. It is expected to enter into force in 2019.	
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

		2017		2018			
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	
GABON	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report received late and not complete; no statistical data received.		Letter on reporting issues and lack of response to 2016 COC letter.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Responses to some requirements missing or incomplete, particularly relating to Albacore, Billfish and bycatch species. No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received.	Have improved data submission but found the form too complicated but are working on this and will submit in 2019.	Letter on reporting issues and to request additional information on implementation of certain ICCAT shark requirements.	
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted. No response to Rec. 16-11.		Replied to COC letter.	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No legally binding measures for species specific requirements.			Gabon does not target sharks and prohibits landing of any sharks which have been finned.
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables submitted more than two months after deadline reporting 0 catches.			Quotas and catch limits:			
	Other issues:			Other issues:			

CPC	2017			2018		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2017	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2017	Potential issues of non-compliance-2018	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2018
GHANA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No explanation for "Not applicable" category. Task II size data not submitted.	AVDTH protocol as prescribed to Ghana by SCRS-ICCAT cannot estimate the length frequencies in the classical format as requested on the form. All length frequencies for species have been captured in the AVDTH databases which includes yellowfin, skipjack and bigeye and other tuna-like species.	Letter on reporting issues (NAs without explanation, Rec. 16-11 on sailfish).	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		Letter on implementation of certain requirements on port inspection (Rec. 12-07) and shark measures, and no FAD management plan submitted.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-11. Sailfish catches reported in Task I, but no report on 16-11 made in annual report (reported not applicable).	Education of crew onboard have been ongoing since 2012 with seminars and training workshops being held by ISSF/AZTI officials in Ghana code named "Skippers workshops". Methods and types of FADs to use and release strategies for endangered species have been shown and illustrated to the industry. Skippers and crew are well aware of steps to reduce the entanglement and destruction of species which are endangered and becoming extinct. This initiative from ISSF will continue in subsequent years.	Replied to COC letter.	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 12-07 - no copies of port inspection reports received. Rec. 16-01: FAD management plan not submitted. Rec. 16-13: No legally binding measures for the implementation of shark requirements.	Will submit reports as soon as possible after meeting. FAD management plan to be submitted in the future. Making efforts to improve conservation of sailfish and will continue research under ABNJ.	
	Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest of bigeye tuna.			Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest of BET	Recognise that quota limitations - revisions to our species composition ongoing for four years much bigeye could be yellowfin. Request review of quota and payback plan, but is committed to improving MCS measures and reduce fishing effort.	
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>
Grenada	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No annual report submitted. No statistical data submitted. No response to Chair letter received.		Letter on reporting issues, no reply to COC Chair letter, no submission of statistical document validating authorities (Rec. 01-21), no list of designated ports (Rec. 12-07).
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark implementation check sheet submitted; Rec. 17-08: No response to request for SMA catches. Rec. 01-21: No validation seals or signatures submitted. Rec. 12-07: No list of designated ports.		
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables not submitted.		
	Other issues:		

CPC	2017			2018		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2017	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2017	Potential issues of non-compliance-2018	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2018
GUATEMALA	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No ST08 (FADs) form received; No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received; as no scientific observer programme.	Difficulties arose due to a change in officers in charge of the data, but we will try to send the data as soon as possible.	Letter on reporting issues, implementation of national scientific observer program and shark measures, no list of designated ports (Rec. 12-07), blue marlin catch.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-01 No quarterly reports of BET in 2017. FAD management plan not received. Rec. 16-13: no legally binding measures taken to implement general or species specific requirements. Rec. 12-07: No list designated ports.	BET quarterly catches received during meeting. FAD management currently being developed.	
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest of BUM according to Task 1 data, but no compliance table submitted for BUM.		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

CPC	2017			2018		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2017	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2017	Potential issues of non-compliance-2018	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2018
GUINEA BISSAU	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report received; no statistical data received.		Letter on reporting issues.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report received; no statistical data received.	Still having difficulties to understand and fulfill all the requirements and in filling out the relevant forms. Have requested assistance from Secretariat and will work with them to try to submit required information. No national tuna fleet.	Letter on reporting issues, no reply to COC Chair letter, no list of designated ports (Rec. 12-07), while noting positively commitment at 2018 meeting to work with the Secretariat to improve.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted.		No reply to COC letter was received.	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted; Rec. 17-08: no response to request for SMA catches. Rec. 12-07: No list of designated ports.		
	Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables submitted before the deadline.			Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables.		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

		2017		2018		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>
GUINEA EQUATORIAL	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report received late.		Letter on reporting issues, no shark check sheet, implementation of Rec. 12-07.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report received; no statistical data received.		Letter on reporting issues, no list of designated ports (Rec. 12-07).
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted. Rec. 12-07 List of authorised ports not submitted (included in Annual Report but not with all required details).		No reply to COC letter was received.	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted. Rec. 17-08: no response to request for SMA catches. Rec. 16-01 No quarterly reports of BET in 2017. Rec. 12-07: No list of designated ports.		
	Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables submitted.			Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables not submitted.		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

2017			2018			
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>
GUINEA Rep.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No annual report received; no statistical data received.	Between 2013 and 2016, the Republic of Guinea was included by the European Union in the list of non-cooperating third countries in the fight against IUU fishing. During this period, many measures were taken whose implementation has required reorganization of the structures involved in data provision and processing. In addition, there is currently no vessel flying the Guinean flag targeting tuna and tuna-like species monitored by ICCAT. However, some individuals are landed at the different artisanal fishing ports. Moreover, administrative staff mobility, limited human capacities and difficulties in monitoring artisanal fishing activities, have not favoured the collection, processing and submission of information and data. Guinea requests an extension of the deadline for submission of this information and data until the end of the 1st semester 2018 and in that time, Guinea would like technical assistance in this area.	Letter on reporting issues, while positively noting request for assistance.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report received. No task I data received - zero catches reported for commercial species through compliance tables.	Guinea has informed the Secretariat that it does not have any vessels targeting ICCAT species and only has statistics on by-catch from the artisanal and industrial fisheries.	Letter on reporting issues, no designation of ports (Rec. 12-07).
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted. Rec. 16-01. No tropical tuna management plan.		No reply to COC letter was received.	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted. Rec. 17-08: no response to request for SMA catches. Rec. 12-07: No list of designated ports.		
	Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables submitted before the deadline.			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

		2017		2018		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>
HONDURAS	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report and statistical data received late (during meeting).		Letter on reporting issues.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual report received late. Statistical data received late (after SCRS). All information received less than one month before Commission meeting.	We currently have no catches to report but in 90 days we will be sending recreational fishery data due to the new legislation which has just entered into force.	Letter on reporting issues, no list of designated ports (Rec. 12-07), while noting positive improvements and commitment to reporting on recreational catches in near future.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: Shark measures implementation check sheet submitted late (during meeting).		Replied after deadline to COC letter.	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 17-08: no response to request for SMA catches. Rec. 12-07: No list of designated ports.	We have no catches to report, as Honduras is a shark sanctuary and no shark retention is permitted.	
	Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables submitted before the deadline.			Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received after deadline.		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

<i>CPC</i>	2017			2018		
	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>
ICELAND	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 14-04 Implementation report received slightly late (but before previous deadline).			Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

		2017		2018		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>
JAPAN	Annual Reports/ Statistics:	Japan has ratified the FAO Port State Measures Agreement in 2017. Currently, the government is working on detailed internal regulations to implement the Agreement, which will contain designated port for foreign vessels. Japan will inform such information to the Secretariat as soon as finalizing internal arrangements.	No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:	Have ratified the PSM/FAO and could include designated ports, but do not yet have system to carry out port inspections on foreign fishing vessels. Regarding retroactive reporting, an administrative oversight in the communication to the Secretariat of the listing of a new vessel.	Letter on retroactive vessel submission, no submission of designated ports under Rec. 12-07, SALB overharvest.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 12-07. No list of authorised ports for foreign vessel entry but no specific prohibition of entry by foreign vessels stipulated.			Conservation and Management Measures: Vessels reported for authorisation updates on the ICCAT Record more than 45 days retroactively. Rec. 12-07: No list of authorised ports		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest of SALB.		
	Other issues: ROP-transshipment PNCs presented in COC-305/17.			Other issues: ROP-transshipment PNCs and responses presented in COC-305/18.		
					There was miscommunication between fishermen and observers.	

		2017		2018		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>
KOREA, Rep. of	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec.01-21 & Rec. 01-22, para 5; 7-day late "CP16-SDP_BiRp"-submissions.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 12-07: Designated ports for foreign vessel entry but no inspection reports received.	No record has been found of foreign vessels fishing in ICCAT waters entering Korean ports, so no information to report.	
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: ROP-transshipment PNCs presented in COC-305/17.			Other issues:		

		2017		2018			
CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2017	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2017	Potential issues of non-compliance-2018	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2018	
LIBERIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Not applicable not explained. Statistics not correctly reported. Task II catch & effort or size data could not be processed.	Liberia submitted Action Plan to Combat IUU Fishing (COC-312). Liberia commenced tuna licenses in 2016 and can only report on 3 of the 9 species designated for reporting, namely marlin, albacore and bigeye. The remaining 6 species cannot be reported on because they are not found in Liberia's Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) and other species like swordfish fishing are not been granted license. Under sheet 2 of CP-13 which require for size limits for swordfish and bluefin tuna, Liberia has not granted any fishing rights for vessels targeting said species. Sheet 3 of CP-13 which calls for data on over and under harvest, Liberia unfortunately cannot report on this because vessels licensed to fish tuna in Liberia's EEZ are all foreign flagged vessels. Liberia now has fully operative FMC and is monitoring the distant water fleet.	Letter on reporting issues, implementation of Rec. 12-07, catches of tropical tuna reported but no vessels on tropical list. Lift identification.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Statistical data submitted late; No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received.	Observer programme in process of implementation.	Letter on reporting issues, no list of designated ports (Rec. 12-07).	
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted. Rec. 12-06. Report on transshipment submitted one week late. Rec.12-07. No list of designated ports into which foreign vessels may enter reported. Rec. 15-01/16-01: Catches of tropical tuna reported but no vessels on tropical list.		Replied to COC letter.	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 17-08: no response to request for SMA catches. Rec. 15-05: Response may be insufficient. Rec. 16-13 Contradiction in response - no vessels targetting sharks but small scale fishers target sharks. No legally binding measures taken to implement species specific measures. Rec. 16-15 Transshipment report received late. Rec. 12-07: No list of designated ports.			Rec. 16-13: No legally binding measures as yet. There has been a change of government and a new fisheries bill has been passed. Tuna exploitation only started in 2016 and we are currently working to identify the issues which need to be addressed and rectified. Will work with the Commission to this end.
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest of BUM in Task I data but no compliance table submitted.			
	Other issues:			Other issues:			

2017				2018		
CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2017	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2017	Potential issues of non-compliance-2018	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2018
LIBYA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Not applicable not fully explained. Information reported on foreign ports does not match information submitted.	Although Libya tried to follow the Guidelines for reporting on occasions mistakes occurred. For issues where "not applicable" was mentioned short explanations were provided as far as possible; only BFT is targeted. Regarding foreign ports mentioned in the Annual Report these are located in neighbouring countries (Tunisia, Turkey).	Letter on reporting issues (including no information on implementation of shark and bycatch measures).	Annual Reports/ Statistics: National scientific observer programme data (ST09) received blank.	All shark fisheries and catches are prohibited in Libya. Are currently preparing legislation to comply with Rec. 16-12 and 17-08.	Letter on reporting issues, on implementation of ICCAT requirements on national scientific observers, sharks, and bycatch measures.
	Conservation and Management Measures: No information on implementation of shark, turtle, by-catch/discard measures.	Libya provided some information on implementation of measures on targeted BFT. Some information is missing on by-catch as it was not reported by ROP or any Other Observers. No by-catch were discarded, even small sizes bluefin tuna.	Replied to COC letter.	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 17-08: no response to request for SMA catches. Recs 10-09; 11-09; 11-10, 16-12: (bycatch requirements) Responses may be insufficient. Rec. 16-05-SWO MED management plan received late. Rec. 16-13. Not clear if legally binding measures have been taken to implement all shark requirements.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: ROP-BFT PNCs presented in Doc. COC-305/17.			Other issues: ROP-BFT PNCs presented in Doc. COC-305/18.		

CPC	2017			2018		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2017	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2017	Potential issues of non-compliance-2018	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2018
MAURITANIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No reporting summary for Part II. Part I summary may be incomplete. Statistical data in incorrect format which could not be processed. Report indicated fishing while under prohibition.	Two vessels had requested licence and undertaken one exploratory fishing trip, but in the end license was not granted. Very small amount of tuna caught, these were reported to ICCAT. No fishing plan has been submitted, as the vessels do not plan to carry out any further tuna fisheries. Any other tuna catch would be as by-catch in other fisheries. Does not have the capacity to meet all ICCAT requirements, and has requested assistance from Secretariat.	Letter on reporting issues, fishing in contravention of Rec. 11-15 prohibition on retention, fishing by vessels not included on ICCAT authorized vessel list under Rec. 13-13.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Task I data for 2017 received (data up to 2016 inclusive only), no scientific observer programme.	Mauritania will continue to work with the Secretariat to present data in correct format.	Letter on reporting issues, implementation of requirements on national observer programs, sharks, marlin, turtles, bycatch measures.
	Conservation and Management Measures:					
	Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables submitted before the deadline. Report indicates harvest of ICCAT species in 2016 while under prohibition.		No reply to COC letter was received.	Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

2017			2018			
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>
MEXICO	Annual Reports/ Statistics:	Revised report received with additional explanation.	Letter on Rec. 12-07 implementation, no information on implementation of Rec. 16-11 (sailfish), while noting controls in place for foreign vessels landing in Mexican ports and request for guidance on information required under Rec. 16-11.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: 'Not applicable' in Annual Report not explained in all cases.		Letter on reporting, no list of designated ports (Rec. 12-07), implementation of shark requirements.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Sailfish catches reported in Task I, but no report on 16-11 made in Annual Report (reported not applicable). Rec. 12-07: No list of authorised ports submitted and no specific prohibition of entry by foreign vessels stipulated.	Mexico continues maintaining a 100% onboard observer coverage in fishing trips. This information is reported to ICCAT and it includes dead and live discards as part of the presentation of Task I and Task II. In accordance with the General Law of Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture of Mexico, there is no list of specific ports for the entry of foreign vessels, however and in accordance with the abovementioned law: "All foreign vessels requiring entry into Mexican ports, should require a license to unload live, fresh, iced and frozen live fish products from commercial fishing. To do this, the interested parties should attach to their application the corresponding title covering the fishing activity that was carried out and was issued by the competent authority of the country of origin, and comply with the requirements established in the regulation of this Law. Requests clearer guidelines.	Replied to COC letter.	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 12-07: No list of designated ports and no explanation for not applicable. Rec. 16-13 Possibly no legally binding measures to implement some shark species specific requirements.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2017	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2017	Potential issues of non-compliance-2018	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2018
MOROCCO	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Reporting summary- Section 3 in Part II - incomplete (Blank in response to some requirements and 'not applicable' not explained in all cases) No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received.	The 1st Annual Report / Part II / Section 3 was not the correct version. This version did not contain all the required information and was submitted by mistake. Following your e-mail of reminder, we realised that a mistake had been made, and the correct Annual Report / Part II / Section 3 incorporating the clarifications / additional information that you had raised was submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat on 19/10/2018. Therefore, all the parts are complete, and all the references to not applicable have been explained. In relation to the request regarding the national scientific observers programme (ST09), our response/method for requirement S10 is described in requirement S11 and was submitted to you on 27/07/2018. It states that due to the artisanal nature of the tuna fisheries, it is difficult to implement a scientific observer programme. However, an alternative method is described in the response to requirement S11.	Letter on reporting, while noting updated report provided prior to meeting, implementation of requirements on national scientific observer program and certain shark measures, possible blue marlin overharvest.
	Conservation and Management:			Conservation and Management: Rec. 15-05; 16-13: no information presented. Rec. 10-09 and 11-10: no information presented. Rec. 16-13 Possibly no legally binding measures to implement porbeagle and silky shark species specific measures.	Rec. 15-05: Morocco does not have a fleet targeting marlins. Catches of this species are caught incidentally and reported to the ICCAT Secretariat in Tasks I and II. Consequently, there are currently no management measures for this species, but a measure will be taken. The monitoring and control measures cover all fishing activities, regardless of the species. These measures comprise in particular: • Controls at ports of landing, fishing sites and fish markets; • Control of vessels by satellite (positioning and location device "VMS"); • Controls of vessels at sea carried out by the control authorities; • A system of mandatory reporting of catches on landing and monitoring of trend in trade through the catch certification procedure. Computerisation of this process has led to the availability of information on catch trends and better exploitation for more effective and efficient control and verification, with the aim of overcoming illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Rec. 16-11: Sallfish has never been included in Morocco's statistics. Consequently, there are no management measures on this species; Rec. 10-09 and Rec. 11-10: The Annual Report signals that this information was reported in the National Report: Task II / Section 7, transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat on 27/07/2018. - By-catches of sea birds and by-catch rate of sea turtles. Field surveys of sea fishers of longliners targeting tuna and tuna-like species have indicated the following: the two main species of turtle taken as by-catch are the loggerhead sea turtle (<i>Caretta caretta</i>) and the leatherback sea turtle (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>). The leatherback sea turtle is clearly the most dominant. These species are rarely found in fishing operations. For reference only, these turtles can be caught on the longline once for every 10 trips carried out. When the turtle is caught alive in their longlines, the fishers unhook the animal before releasing it into the water. If the turtle is dead or has already swallowed the hook, the fishers cut the closest line to the hook then release the turtle into the sea. Regarding sea birds, no information is currently available on by-catches of these species, although the fishers have indicated that these sea birds are often observed in the sky, but they are never taken in their gears. In relation to the request regarding measures taken to mitigate by-catch and reduce discards and on any relevant research, our response to requirement S42 which was transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat on 27/07/2018 states that a reflection is underway within the framework of the research work to reduce shark by-catch in the longline fishery targeting swordfish. No discards of by-catch are currently recorded in this fishery. For the majority of shark species, legally binding measures exist except for porbeagle and silky sharks, as these species are not found or very rarely found in Moroccan fisheries, but measures will be taken.	
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits-Task I data indicates overharvest of blue marlin, but no compliance table for marlins submitted.	Will rectify tables as needed.	
	Other issues: ROP-BFT PNCs presented in Doc. COC-305/17.	Response in COC-305. Following a remark of the ICCAT observer mentioned in COC-305 Report, Annex 2 concerning Morocco: Bluefin tuna is caged without authorisation number/transfer operation 12 with the same AIT number as transfer number 13.1 would like to inform you that this does not refer to a missing caging authorisation number, as the caging authorisation exists and it is authentic and the number is correct. It is the transfer authorization of another catch that includes a numbering error. To this effect, it should be noted that two authorizations are authentic and include entirely different real data, which demonstrates that there is an involuntary error in the transfer authorization number.		Other issues: ROP-BFT PNCs and responses presented in Doc. COC-305/18.		

		2017		2018		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>
NAMIBIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics:	Tropical management plan: This was a failure from our side. We have already made an effort to consult our capital and will try our level best to submit the above mentioned management plan and all other incomplete data before the end of the Annual meeting. With regards to the retroactive of 1 Namibian flag ' P20m' vessel not in accordance with current regulation. Namibia acknowledged that she did not comply with the current regulation due to internal miss communication. Namibia has already strengthened its internal control measures to avoid repeating the same mistakes in the future and we commit to improve our compliance with all ICCAT conservation and management measures.	Letter on reporting issues (old Annual Report format used), no tropical tuna management plan; retroactive vessel submission (Rec. 13-13/14-10), no information on implementation of Rec. 16-11 (sailfish).	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Part 1 of Annual Report received late and Part II slightly late. No response to Chair letter received. No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received.	Apologise for late submission and non-response. Have now rectified format issue for Annual Report. Tropical tuna only taken as by-catch of albacore, very minimal amounts. Sailfish - not landed in Namibia so believe measure is not applicable. Limited capacity for scientific analysis, have requested assistance from ICCAT to help us with this. We have NPOA for seabirds which will be sent to Secretariat, but negatively affected by the limited capacity of our scientists. We are working to rectify the situation and will try to send all available data.	Letter on reporting issues; implementation of requirements on national scientific observer program, sharks, seabirds; no reply to COC Chair letter following 2017 meeting.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-01. No tropical tuna management plan. Rec. 13-13/14-10; Paras 2 and 3 / Paras 1 and 2; Retroactive registry 1 NAMIBIA-flagged "P20m"-vessel, not in accordance with current regulation. Rec. 16-14. Difficulties in implementing this recommendation have been reported. Rec. 16-11 Previous format of Annual Report used; no report on implementation of this Recommendation received. Implementation of Rec. 10-09 may be incomplete.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 11-09: No CP44 (seabird mitigation measures) form received. Rec. 10-09: Responses may be insufficient. Rec. 16-13: No information relating to species specific measures.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest of BUM.		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

2017				2018		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>
NICARAGUA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report received late (during meeting).	Does not have a tuna fleet or flag vessel operating in the ICCAT area. Nicaragua requires by-catch to be landed in port, they are working on the implementation of this and hope to have more details to report in 2018.	Letter on continued reporting issues, while positively noting request for assistance.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Part II of Annual Report received late.	Have had communication problems. No fleet and no vessels fishing which have any interactions with ICCAT species. Shark by-catches in the Caribbean shrimp and snail fishery which take place in shallow waters. SMA: No information on catches of this species, no catches of this, only of hammerhead. Working on improving communication.	Letter on reporting issues, no list of designated ports (Rec. 12-07).
	Conservation and Management Measures:		Replied to COC letter without explaining measures taken.			
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

		2017		2018		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>
NIGERIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Only reporting tables of Annual Report received. Summary received late.	Nigeria has no quota allocation and has no tuna fishing vessel. Therefore no data to report.	Letter on reporting issue (no shark check sheet submitted (Rec. 16-13)).	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No shark check sheet submitted (Rec. 16-13), no list of designated ports (Rec. 12-07).
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted.		No reply to COC letter was received.	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted; Rec. 17-08: No response to request for SMA catches. Rec. 12-07: No list of designated ports.		
	Quotas and catch limits: Have reported zero catch in the Compliance tables.	No fishing licences issues and no access agreements.		Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables not submitted.		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

CPC	2017			2018		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2017	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2017	Potential issues of non-compliance-2018	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2018
NORWAY	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received; programme in place but applicability no clear from annual report.	Norway did not have a specific National Scientific Observer Program for bluefin tuna in 2017. Only one purse seine vessel fished actively for bluefin tuna in 2017, and it is not clear from the ICCAT recommendations whether a national scientific observer programme is required for purse seine vessels. The vessel carried a regional observer 100% of the time, as required in Rec. 17-07, and a national scientific observer from the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research was on board the vessel 60% of the time the vessel was fishing actively for bluefin tuna. After noting that the COC views this as a potential issue of non-compliance, we have tried to utilize the information in the report from the regional observer and combine this with our own data to provide the required data in ST09. The data were forwarded to the ICCAT Secretariat 5 November 2018. We have also started the process of establishing a national scientific programme for 2019, which will also include purse seine vessels.	No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 10-09: Response may be insufficient. Rec. 16-13. Possibly no legally binding measures to implement shark species specific requirements.	There have never been any turtles encountered in Norwegian waters or fisheries. Norway applied for exemption but shark group unable to review. The specific shark species do not occur in Norwegian waters.	
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

		2017		2018		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>
PANAMA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report received late (during meeting). No fleet characteristics (ST01) received. Not applicable not sufficiently explained in all cases.		Letter on continued reporting and VMS issues, no tropical tuna management plan (Rec. 16-01), no in port transshipment report received (Rec. 12-06/16-15).	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Statistical data received late (after preparation of data for SCRS). Annual Report received late (during meeting). Replied after deadline to COC letter.	Problems with electronic communication and delays due to receipt of information from control department. Panama is currently working to resolve this.	Letter on continued reporting and VMS issues, late chartering notification, implementation of shark measures.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Still problems with NAF format of VMS messages; Rec. 16-13: shark measures implementation check sheet submitted late, during meeting; Rec. 16-01. No tropical tuna management plan. Rec. 12-06/16-15. No in port transshipment report received.	FMC had a problem with the security certificate; this has now been resolved and all reporting should be in correct format before the end of the year.		Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 17-08: No response to request for SMA catches. Rec. 13-14. Information on chartering arrangements and termination submitted late (up to 10 months after the start of arrangement). Rec. 16-01: BET Quarterly reports received late. Rec. 17-07: Problems raised by the Secretariat concerning VMS transmission are rarely replied or followed-up by Panama. Rec. 16-13: Possibly no legally binding measures to implement shark requirements.	Communication regarding VMS issues has now been resolved.	
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables submitted late.			Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables submitted late. Task 1 indicates overharvest of BUM, but no compliance table for BUM submitted.	Use of corrected logbooks for Task 1 data, rather than logbook data only for compliance tables. Will ensure that sources are coherent for the future with only logbook data and sales slips used.	
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

CPC	2017			2018		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2017	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2017	Potential issues of non-compliance-2018	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2018
PHILIPPINES	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report received.	There are no provisions where the Philippines can indicate that there were no active nor listed fishing vessels in the Convention area. For reportorial requirements under Rec. 16-01, the Philippines cannot submit reports because there were no active nor listed fishing vessels in the Convention area for the year 2016.	Letter on continued reporting issues, no response to 2016 COC letter.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report received. No Statistical data received.	We have no active fleet in the Atlantic but will rectify deficiency in order to comply with requirements.	Letter on continued reporting issues, no list of designated ports (Rec. 12-07), no response to 2017 COC letter.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted.		No reply to COC letter was received.	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13 Shark measures implementation check sheet submitted late (during meeting), and responses may be insufficient in some cases. Rec. 17-08: Response to request for SMA catches sent late (during meeting). Rec. 16-01. BET quarterly reports submitted late (during meeting). Rec. 12-07: No list of designated ports.		
	Quotas and catch limits: Have reported zero catch.			Quotas and catch limits: Have reported zero catch in Compliance tables submitted in November 2018.		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

CPC	2017			2018		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2017	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2017	Potential issues of non-compliance-2018	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2018
RUSSIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Not applicable, not explained. No information regarding sea turtle interaction or mitigation of by-catch/discards.		Letter on reporting issues (N/As not explained), no information regarding sea turtle interaction or mitigation of by-catch/discards, no shark check sheet (16-13), implementation of Rec. 12-07.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received.	No specialised fishery since 2009; only a small amount of tuna by-catch taken in the trawl fishery which targets non-ICCAT species. Observers in these fisheries do collect information in order to submit Task I data to ICCAT. We hope to be able to submit ST09 next year.	Letter on reporting issues, while noting improvement from 2017.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted. Rec. 12-07. No list of ports into which foreign vessels may enter or contact points submitted.		Replied to COC letter.	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 11-10, 15-05 and 16-11: Responses may be insufficient. Rec. 16-13. Possibly no legally binding measures to implement shark requirements.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

2017				2018		
CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2017	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2017	Potential issues of non-compliance-2018	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2018
SAO TOME & PRINCIPE	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No reporting summary for Part II, and Part I submitted late (before Part II deadline). No observer data submitted due to infancy of programme. No shark data improvement plan reported, and no information on sea turtle interaction or by-catch/discard mitigation. No Task II catch and effort or size data received.		Letter due on reporting issues, no tropical tuna management plan, no shark data improvement plan, while noting improvement in reporting from last year, lift identification.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report incomplete, no reporting summary table received. No Task II data received; No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received or any alternative measures. No reply to individual COC letter was received.	We think that this information should be provided by the flag country of the vessels and we are not familiar with the form ST09. Nevertheless, we undertake to complete it in the future. We have some difficulty in establishing a management plan for ICCAT species. We are implementing a national strategy and action plan for the fisheries sector which will assist us in these areas. As you know, STP has improved its statistics and reporting to ICCAT, but there is still room for improvement. In relation to Task II data only in 2018 we have started to collect data on the size of all ICCAT species. Legislation in place to ban retaining shark species on board, as well as a turtle ban, No shark by-catches in the industrial fisheries.	Letter due on reporting issues, no list of designated ports (Rec. 12-07), notification of access agreements, implementation of requirements on national scientific observer programs, billfish, sharks, no reply to COC Chair letter after 2017 meeting.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 15-01/16-01: No quarterly BET catch reports.	Sao Tome & Principe have reported that all catches (421 t in 2016) are incidental taken by artisanal vessels between 5 and 8 m long and hence there is nothing to report.		Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 17-08: no response to request for SMA catches. Rec. 14-07: Updates to access agreements in 2018 not submitted. Rec. 15-05 and 16-11: no information relating to the implementation of billfish measures. Rec. 16-01: No quarterly reports for BET in 2017. Rec. 12-07: No list of designated ports. Rec. 16-13. No legally binding measures to implement shark requirements. Rec. 12-07: No list of designated ports.		
	Quotas and catch limits: Rec. 16-01. No tropical tuna management plan.			Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables submitted late.		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

CPC	2017			2018		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2017	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2017	Potential issues of non-compliance-2018	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2018
SENEGAL	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No scientific observer programme yet in place. Reporting summary tables incomplete, and some explanations for not applicable missing in Part I. Fleet characteristics (ST01) received late.		Letter noting no scientific observer programme yet in place (while noting the difficulties Senegal reported on implementing), no information on implementation of Rec. 16-11 (sailfish).	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received.	The observer programme was not yet in place so no data could be submitted; but we hope to be able to do this in the future. The Enhanced Research Program for Billfish has helped to improve data collection on billfish. ICCAT Recommendations on observer programmes are being introduced into national legislation.	Letter on implementation of requirements on national scientific observer program, sharks, while noting positively information provided at 2018 meeting on steps being taken to address these issues.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Sailfish catches reported in Task I, but no report on Rec. 16-11 made in Annual Report. Rec. 15-01/16-01: List of authorized vessels which fished BET/YFT/SKJ tuna in previous year (2016).		Replied to COC letter.	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 17-08: Response to request for SMA catches received late. Rec. 16-13. No legally binding measures to implement shark requirements.	Senegal is in the process of transposing ICCAT measures on sharks into national law.	
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues: ROP-transshipment PNCs and responses presented in COC-305/18.		

2017				2018		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>
SIERRA LEONE	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No annual report received; no statistical data received.		Maintain identification due to continued significant reporting issues (6th year in a row no Annual Report) and lack of response to 2016 COC Chair letter.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report received. Task I data for artisanal fisheries received in incorrect format. For coherence, prohibition lifted as no industrial fleet, minor artisanal catches which Sierra Leone requests assistance to collect. No Task II data received; No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received or alternative measures.		Lift identification in recognition of improvement of data submission. Send letter on reporting issues (7th year in a row no Annual Report).
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted.		Replied to identification letter.	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted. Rec. 17-08: no response to request for SMA catches.		
	Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables submitted before the deadline.			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

<i>CPC</i>	2017			2018		
	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>
SOUTH AFRICA	Annual Reports/Statistics:		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/Statistics: fleet characteristic data (ST01) received late.	An administrative oversight during data submission.	No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: Shark measures implementation check sheet submitted late (during meeting).			Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

		2017		2018		
CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2017	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2017	Potential issues of non-compliance-2018	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2018
ST.VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual report submitted late (but before previous deadline). No information from domestic observer programmes as still being established, hence scientific observer programme data (ST09) received. No plan for improving shark data collection/ interaction with turtles, mitigation of by-catch/discards. Annual Report indicates implementation of ICCAT requirements on high seas but is unclear on implementation in SVG waters.		Letter on continued reporting issues, no information on implementation of Rec. 16-11 (sailfish), no information from domestic observer programmes as still being established, no plan for improving shark data collection or information on implementation of bycatch mitigation requirements, lack of clarity as to implementation of ICCAT measures in SVG waters.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: A No information from domestic observer programmes as still being established, hence scientific observer programme data (ST09) received.	Observer programme has now been implemented and reporting deficiencies will be rectified in the future.	Letter on reporting issues, implementation of requirements on national scientific observer, billfish, sailfish, sharks, no list of designated ports (Rec. 12-07), lack of clarity in Annual Report response as to implementation of ICCAT measures in SVG waters (while noting its confirmation in meeting that ICCAT measures are implemented in national waters).
	Conservation and Management Measures: N.SWO Management plan submitted late. Rec. 16-13: Shark measures implementation check sheet submitted late. Sailfish catches reported in Task I, but no report on Rec. 16-11 made in Annual Report (reported not applicable). Rec. 16-01. Tropical tuna management plan and some quarterly BET catch reports submitted late. Responses to Recs. 15-05 and 16-11 may be insufficient to meet the requirements. Rec. 12-06: Transhipment report submitted late.		Replied to COC letter.	Conservation and Management Measures: N.SWO Management plan submitted late. Rec. 16-13: Shark measures implementation check sheet submitted late. Sailfish catches reported in Task I, but no report on Rec. 16-11 made in Annual Report (reported not applicable). Rec. 16-01. Tropical tuna management plan and some quarterly BET catch reports submitted late. Responses to Recs. 15-05 and 16-11 may be insufficient to meet the requirements. Rec. 12-06: Transhipment report submitted late. Rec. 16-13. No legally binding measures to implement shark requirements.	Steps are being taken to improve these issues with technical and legal assistance of the FAO. Consultation with stakeholders resulting in late submission of reports.	
	Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest of S. Alb			Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest of S. Alb.		
	Other issues: ROP-transhipment PNCs presented in COC-305/17.			Other issues: ROP-transhipment PNCs presented in COC-305/18.		

		2017		2018		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>
SYRIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual report submitted late (but before previous deadline). No fleet characteristics (ST01) received.		Letter on no shark measures implementation check sheet submitted, no monthly BFT catch reports.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received.		Letter on implementation of national scientific observer requirements, sharks, billfish, turtles, bycatch, no list of designated ports (Rec. 12-07).
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted. Rec. 14-04 Implementation report received slightly late (but before previous deadline). No monthly BFT catch report received.		Replied to COC letter.	Conservation and Management Measures: 17-07: Minor delay in submitting authorised BFT port list. Recs. 15-05, 10-09 and 11-10: Responses may be insufficient. Rec. 16-13. No legally binding measures to implement shark requirements. Rec. 12-07: No list of designated ports.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: ROP-BFT PNCs presented in Doc. COC-305/17.			Other issues:		

CPC	2017			2018			
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2017	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2017	Potential issues of non-compliance-2018	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2018	
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	Annual Reports/Statistics: not applicable not explained in reporting summary. No report on bycatch/discards or turtle mitigation.		Lift identification, letter on reporting issues, no report on bycatch/discards or turtle mitigation, implementation of Rec. 12-07, while noting improvement in managing marlin catches.	Annual Reports/Statistics: Part 1 of Annual Report received late. No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received - Domestic scientific observer program not yet implemented.	Recognise some deficiencies due to financial and human resource limitations. Are currently working with the relevant authorities to rectify these.	Letter on implementation of requirements on scientific observer program, billfish, turtles, sharks; designation of ports (Rec. 12-07); overharvest of blue and white marlin, while noting positively information provided on steps being taken.	
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 12-07. no designated list of authorised ports or contact points submitted. Have reported difficulties in implementing this Rec. Rec. 01-21 & Rec. 01-22: incomplete bi-annual reports (2nd Semester 2016) and late submission (1st Semester 2017).		Replied to COC letter.	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 12-07: No list of authorised ports or port inspection reports received. Recs. 10-09 and 15-05: Measures for turtles and marlins not yet implemented. Rec. 16-13. No legally binding measures to implement shark requirements.			See Section 5 of Annual Report. Assistance from FAO / NOAA currently being received to assist with the implementation of PSMA. Currently working with the relevant authorities and undertake to submit list of authorized ports. Recognise some deficiencies with respect to measures for turtles and marlins due to financial and human resource limitations. Legally binding measures have been taken to prohibit the marketing of sharks, and an NPOA on sharks has been drafted and is shortly to be forwarded for consideration by
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest of BUM and WHM.			Currently no landings prohibiton but have now agreed with LL fleet that no further landings will be made until payback is complete, and no exports will be exported.
	Other issues:			Other issues:			

		2017		2018			
CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2017	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2017	Potential issues of non-compliance-2018	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2018	
TUNISIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics:	Please see Addendum 1 to Annex 3 of COC-303 and Addendum 1 to Annex 1 of COC-307 for allegations and responses.	Letter on reporting and transshipment at sea issues in relation to bycatch of bluefin tuna in small tuna fishery, and fishing of bluefin tuna by purse seine tuna fishing vessel not included on the ICCAT Authorized list and during closed season, while noting positively Tunisia's collaboration with other CPCs on inspection at sea and its intention to improve monitoring and control and to take punitive actions.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received.	Resource difficulties in 2017, but a programme is now being set up and we hope to have data in the future. Up to now, local scientists have been collaborating with the ROP observers on this.	Letter on implementation of requirements on national scientific observers, marlin, sailfish, sharks.	
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 15-05 and 16-11: Response may be insufficient. Rec. 16-13. No legally binding measures to implement shark requirements.			Some shark species are not found, and others are taken as by-catch; no measures are currently in place because of no target fisheries.
	Quotas and catch limits:		Replied to COC letter.	Quotas and catch limits:			
	Other issues: Received, in application of Rec. 08-09, a report from the European Union (EU) on potential non compliance by several Tunisian purse seine vessels in June 2017 and replied to the initial information submitted by the EU (refer to Doc. COC-307/17); ROP-BFT PNCs presented in Doc. COC-305/17.		Other issues: ROP-BFT PNCs and responses presented in Doc. COC-305/18.				

CPC	2017			2018		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2017	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2017	Potential issues of non-compliance-2018	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2018
TURKEY	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Task II catch and effort data could not be processed.		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		Letter requesting additional information on implementation of shark requirements.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13. Possibly no legally binding measures to implement some shark species specific requirements.	The taking of most sharks is prohibited in Turkey, and some additional species have recently been added to the list of prohibited species. The Ministry carries out at-sea inspections, as well as in port and market. The submission of data by the fishers is obligatory as they must declare all by-catch species.	
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: ROP-BFT PNCs presented in Doc. COC-305/17. Has presented possible IUU activities by two EU-Greece vessels, as reported in the draft IUU list.			Other issues: ROP-BFT PNCs and responses presented in Doc. COC-305/18.		

		2017		2018		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>
UNITED KINGDOM (OTs)	Annual Reports/Statistics: Part II Annual Report and BCD annual report submitted late (but within previous deadline). Difficulties in implementing domestic observer programmes reported. No Plan for improving data collection for sharks on a species specific level yet.	UKOT have indicated that some of their territories could not report in a timely manner due to the extensive hurricane damage. Some data from UKOT (Bermuda) received late due to communication problems. Original mail sent July but not received at Secretariat. Annual Reports/Statistics: Part II Annual Report and BCD annual report submitted within the given deadline. Unfortunately errors were identified and so the reports were resubmitted with amendments on 12 October, which was within the deadline for submission of documents for consideration at the Annual Meeting;- Difficulties in implementing domestic observer programmes reported: The majority of tuna catch in the UKOTs is taken in the St Helena fishery. A domestic observer programme has now been implemented in St Helena, with 7% observer coverage achieved in 2016. The programme has continued in 2017 and will be maintained for 2018. The small catches on Bermuda are taken by small inshore vessels scattered around the island, making both observer coverage and data collection very difficult but we will seek to make improvements on our reporting. - No Plan for improving data collection for sharks on a species specific level submitted: The catch of sharks in the UKOTs is very small. In St Helena, a single shark was caught in 2016, and in Bermuda, the majority of captured sharks were released alive. St Helena started a conventional tagging programme in late 2015, and during 2016 a total of 537 yellowfin and 65 skipjack were double tagged, in accordance with ICCAT protocols. Data from the tagging programme is submitted to ICCAT on a regular basis. No list of designated ports or contact points submitted: The UKOTs have limited port facilities and are rarely visited by foreign fishing vessels, hence no ports have been designated under Recommendation 12-07. The UKOTs will review this obligation and if necessary submit the relevant information by the end of the year.	Letter on implementation of Rec. 12-07 and late reporting.	Annual Reports/Statistics: Some data may be missing for BVI due to hurricane damage. No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received.	See explanation in Annual Report on lack of observer programme (vessels too small; all catches landed at single location for St Helena).	Letter on implementation of requirements on national scientific observers, no list of designated ports (Rec. 12-07).
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 12-07. No list of designated ports or contact points submitted.		Replied to COC letter.	Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

<i>CPC</i>	2017			2018		
	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>
UNITED STATES	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:			Other issues:		

		2017		2018		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>
URUGUAY	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Sections 4 and 5 in Part II of Annual Report submitted late. Not applicable not explained in summary table.	Uruguay did not participate in any fisheries within the framework of ICCAT. There was no fishing effort and therefore there were zero catches. Thus, the implementation sheet was not sent. This also explains why N/A appears in some parts of the Annual Report.	No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		Letter regarding submission of port inspection reports and requesting that SCRS confirmation is sought regarding exemption to submission of shark check sheet.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted. Rec. 12-07: No port inspection reports submitted although Ports on ICCAT Record.	No ICCAT fisheries in Uruguay, but confirmation from SCRS should be sought. No port inspection reports submitted because of confidentiality requirements which Uruguay hopes to resolve in the future. For current reports, some information could be made available but not full copies of reports.	
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: Have reported zero catch.			Other issues:		

		2017		2018			
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>	
VANUATU	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report submitted not complete (received summary and reporting summary Table 2).	There were no fishing activity in the ICCAT area in 2016.	Letter on implementation of 12-07, while noting improvement on reporting from past years.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report received late. Task 1 (zero catch) received.		Letter on reporting issues, implementation of 12-07.	
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 12-07 No list of designated ports or contact points submitted.		No reply to COC letter was received.				Conservation and Management Measures:
	Quotas and catch limits:						Quotas and catch limits:
	Other issues:						Other issues:

		2017		2018		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>
VENEZUELA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report submitted late (but before previous deadline) and incomplete - many entries reference 2016 report or shown not applicable without explanation.		Letter on reporting issues, no information on Rec. 16-11 (sailfish), continued N. ALB and WHM overharvest, request specific information actions planned or taken to address continued overharvest.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report received late. 'Not applicable' not explained in all cases, and no response provided for all elements in Section 3. Statistical data received late and maybe incomplete. No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received. No reply to COC letter was received.	Internal administrative difficulties.	Letter on continued reporting issues, retroactive authorized vessel submission, implementation of requirements on national scientific observers, sharks, turtles, bycatch, continued significant N.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: Shark measures implementation check sheet submitted late. Sailfish catches reported in Task I, but no report on 16-11 made in annual report (reference made to 2016 report, but requirement is new in 2017).		No reply to COC letter was received.	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 13-13 / 14-10: Vessels reported for inclusion on the ICCAT Record more than 45 days retroactively. Rec. 16-01: BET catch reports for last two quarters of 2017 not submitted. Recs. 10-09/11-10: No response provided. Rec. 16-13. No legally binding measures to implement shark requirements.	Plan for albacore has now been developed to avoid future overharvest. Plan for billfish currently awaiting adoption.	ALB and WHM overharvest, request for written information on actions planned or taken to address continued overharvest of these species, while noting positively information on this matter provided at annual meeting, no reply to COC Chair letter following 2017 meeting.
	Quotas and catch limits: continued overharvest of north albacore and white marlin.			Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late. Continued overharvest of N. ALB and BUM.		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

BOLIVIA	2017			2018		
	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>
	Annual Reports/ Statistics:	The Plurinational State of Bolivia does not have fishing vessels that operate in the ICCAT Convention area.	Cooperating status renewed. No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Part II of Annual Report received slightly late.		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted.		Sent a request to have its status renewed.	Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:	Has sent a request to ICCAT to de-list several vessels from the IUU ICCAT list - originally put on the IUU list by IOTC.	

CHINESE TAIPEI	2017			2018		
	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>
	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		Cooperating status renewed. 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-transshipment PNCs presented in COC-305/17.			Other issues: ROP-transshipment PNCs presented in COC-305/18.		

COSTA RICA	2017			2018		
	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>
	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		Cooperating status renewed. Letter on no shark check sheet (Rec. 16-13).	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Zero catch confirmation received late.		Letter on reporting, no submission of designated ports (Rec. 12-07), implementation of shark and marlin requirements, white marlin and swordfish overharvest, noting
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted.		Replied late to COC letter.	Conservation and management measures. Rec. 16-13. No legally binding measures to implement shark requirements. Rec. 12-07: No list of designated ports.		that noting continuing non-compliance will have bearing on ICCAT decision in 2019 whether to renew Costa Rica's Cooperating Non-Party status.
	Quotas and catch limits: Zero catch reported.		Sent a request to have its status renewed.	Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest of white marlin and swordfish.		
	Other issues:	Has requested renewal of cooperating status.		Other issues:		

GUYANA	2017			2018		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2017	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2017	Potential issues of non-compliance-2018	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2018
	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No statistical data received. No Part I and no Part II reporting summary received. No fleet characteristics (ST01) received.		Cooperating status renewed but on provision that data reporting improves. If Guyana continues to fail to comply with ICCAT Reporting Requirements, then cooperating status will not be renewed at the 2018 meeting. Letter on reporting issues, noting continuing non-compliance will have bearing on ICCAT decision in 2018 whether to renew Cooperating Non-Party status.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No reporting summary (Section 3) received with Part II of Annual Report. Statistical data sent late. No national scientific observer programme data (ST09) received.		Letter on reporting issues; no designation of ports (Rec. 12-07); implementation of requirements on national scientific observers, sharks, and bigeye tuna; overharvest of north Atlantic swordfish (no ICCAT quota for that species); noting continuing non-compliance will have bearing on ICCAT decision in 2019 whether to renew Guyana's Cooperating Non-Party status.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-13: No shark measures implementation check sheet submitted.		Replied to COC letter.	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 17-08: no response to request for SMA catches. Rec. 16-01 No quarterly reports of BET tuna catches. Rec. 12-07: No list of designated ports. Rec. 16-13. No legally binding measures to implement shark requirements. Rec. 12-07: No list of designated ports.		
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables submitted more than 2 months after deadline.			Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables submitted late. Overharvest of SWO.		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

	2017			2018		
	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2017</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2017</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2018</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2018</i>
SURINAME	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		Cooperating status renewed. No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 12-07: No inspection reports received	With a view to monitor compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures and the Recommendation by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port (12-07), Suriname, as port CPC, is still waiting for assistance to train our inspectors.	
	Quotas and catch limits: No Compliance tables submitted before the deadline.	Suriname has no vessels fishing for ICCAT species in the Atlantic and no catches to report.		Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 10

Japan's revised letter to Compliance Committee Chair

[ICCAT Salida #8049, dated 5 November 2018]

**FISHERIES AGENCY**

ICCAT

2 November 2018

ENTRADA # 10978

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES,
GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN**

1-2-1, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8907, Japan

TEL: *81-3-3502-8460 FAX: *81-3-3504-2649

October 12, 2018

Mr. Derek Campbell
Chairman
Compliance Committee of the ICCAT

Dear Mr. Campbell,

Thank you for your letter circulated on 11 October 2018, which provides helpful guidance for the coming COC sessions.

In response to your invitation for CPCs to register areas of COC's priority, Japan would like to suggest that COC review and renew the compliance status of CPCs with Rec. 13-13 on ICCAT record of vessels, in relation to IMO number.

IMO numbers have been used as a unique vessel identifier of fishing vessels under vessel registration of RFMOs including ICCAT, to track fishing vessels moving between different owners and/or flag states and ultimately prevent IUU fisheries.

Last December, the IMO adopted Resolution A.1117 (30), which amends the IMO number scheme to expand fishing vessels' eligibility for IMO numbers from vessels 100 GT and above to motorized inboard fishing vessels below 100 GT down to 12 meters in length overall authorized to operate outside waters under national jurisdiction of the flag State.

Turning to ICCAT's requirement on IMO number, paragraph 2 of Rec. 13-13 requires CPCs to register fishing vessels 20 meters in length overall or greater ("LSFVs" hereinafter) authorized to operate in the convention area with detailed information of the vessels including IMO or LR number (if assigned). In addition, 5 bis requires as follows:

Effective January 1, 2016, flag CPCs shall authorize their commercial LSFVs to operate in the Convention area only if the vessel has an IMO number or a number in the seven-digit numbering sequence allocated by IHS-Fairplay (LR number), as applicable. Vessels without such a number shall not be included in the ICCAT record. [emphasis added]

With these taken into account, Japan is of the view that the applicability of paragraph 5bis of Rec. 13-13 has been already expanded to include motorized inboard LSFVs below 100 GT (down to 20 meters in length overall, of course) authorized to operate in the Convention area and outside waters under national jurisdiction of the flag State.

Paragraph 5 tris of the Rec. 13-13 exempts following vessels from this requirement:

"a) LSFVs unable to obtain an IMO/LR number, provided that the flag CPC provides an explanation of its inability to obtain an IMO/LR number in its submission of information pursuant to paragraph 2.

b) Wooden LSFVs that are not authorized to fish on the high seas, provided that the flag CPC notifies the Secretariat of the LSFVs for which it is exercising this exemption in its submission of information pursuant to paragraph 2."

I would like to clarify that this exemption is still valid; however, if the inability explained in a) above is no longer applicable as a result of the expanded eligibility of IMO numbers, I believe that the compliance status of the vessel should be updated.

I would appreciate it if you could make it possible for COC to review and discuss whether CPCs are complying with this requirement.

Sincerely,

[signed]

Shingo Ota
Japan's Commissioner to the ICCAT

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 10

2018 Compliance Tables
(Compliance in 2017, reported in 2018)

NORTH ALBACORE (All quantities are in metric tons)

YEAR	Initial catch limits					Current catches				Balance				Adjusted quota/catch limit					
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
TAC	28000.00	28000.00	28000.00	28000.00	28000.00														
BARBADOS	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	12.80	15.90	38.10	15.90	227.20	224.10	201.90	224.10	240.00	240.00	240.00	240.00	240.00	
BELIZE	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	79.20	0.74	398.50	448.44	120.80	449.26	51.50	1.56	418.00	450.00	450.00	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	47.10	32.20	19.92	16.99	202.90	217.80	230.07	233.01	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
CHINA	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	34.87	20.96	103.20	123.65	165.13	229.04	146.80	126.35	200.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	150.56		250.00	250.00	99.38		250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00		
EU	21551.30	21551.30	21551.30	21551.30	21551.30	23544.56	20891.80	24308.65	20699.71	2990.40	6047.33	233.05	6239.41	26534.96	26939.13	24541.70	26939.12	26939.10	31249.43
FRANCE (St. P&M)	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	249.92	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
JAPAN	503.81	407.19	449.52	394.89		305.20	329.80	254.90	335.00	198.61	77.39	194.62	59.89	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	
KOREA	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	63.87	4.54	13.18	7.90	186.13	211.06	236.82	242.10	250.00	215.60	250.00	250.00	250.00	
MAROC	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	20.00	250.00	250.00	230.00	230.00	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	326.91	305.00	291.60	296.20	3.49	-1.51	6.89	2.29	330.40	303.49	298.50	298.49		
TR. & TOBAGO	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	71.10	94.80	70.70	48.20	178.90	155.20	179.30	201.80	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
UK-OT	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	0.63	5.38	0.60	0.36	249.37	244.62	249.40	249.64	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
USA	527.00	527.00	527.00	527.00	527.00	572.60	246.80	252.00	236.79	14.31	294.51	406.75	421.96	586.91	541.31	658.75	658.75	764.15	
VANUATU	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	195.32	64.55	0.00	0.00	54.68	185.45	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
VENEZUELA	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	284.71	350.90	286.98	301.35	-584.31	-665.21	-702.19	-429.54	-299.60	-314.31	-415.21	-128.19		
CHINESE TAIPEI	3271.70	3271.70	3271.70	3271.70	3271.70	947.00	2857.00	3134.00	2385.00	2842.62	932.62	655.62	1404.62	3789.62	3789.62	3789.62	3789.62	4281.62	
TOTAL CATCH						26485.95	25220.37	29342.89	24935.49										
Recommendation n°	13-05	13-05	13-05	16-06	16-06									13-05	13-05	13-05	16-06	16-06	16-06

For all the species, note of August 2018 from Japan: "Since Japan's fishing season ends in July, the "current catch" for 2017 is preliminary. The figures will be updated before the annual meeting."

BELIZE: intends to use 50 t of its underage from 2016 in 2018 (Rec. 16-05, para 5); receiving a transfer of N-ALB from Chinese Taipei: 200 t in 2017 and 2018 (Rec. 16-06).

EU: is authorized to transfer in 2017 to Venezuela 60 t of the unused portion of its 2015 quota (Rec. 16-06).

JAPAN: is to endeavour to limit North albacore catches to no more than 4% of its total bigeye tuna catch.

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.

USA: is authorized to transfer in 2017 to Venezuela 150 t of the unused portion of its 2015 quota (Rec. 16-06). No transfers were authorised for 2018.

VENEZUELA: For 2017 would have 60, 150 and 114 t transferred by the European Union, the United States and Chinese Taipei, according to Rec. 16-06.

CHINESE TAIPEI: is authorized to transfer in 2017 to Venezuela 114 t of the unused portion of its 2015 quota (Rec. 16-06).

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2018 adjusted quota is 4281.62 t (=3926+655.62-100-200) due to the inclusion of 2016 underage and 2018 initial catch quota and the respective transfers of 100 t to SVG and 200 t to Belize.

SOUTH ALBACORE

YEAR	Initial catch limits					Current catches				Balance				Adjusted quota/catch limit				
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
TAC	24000	24000	24000	24000	24000													
ANGOLA	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00									
BRAZIL	2160.00	2160.00	2160.00	2160.00	2160.00	462.36	490.22	657.59	496.85	2237.64	2209.78	2042.41	2103.15	2700.00	2700.00	2600.00	2600.00	2600.00
NAMIBIA	3600.00	3600.00	3600.00	3600.00	3600.00	1044.00	1070.00	994.00	365.62	3195.00	3162.00	3506.00	4111.38	4232.00	4500.00	4477.00	4500.00	
S. AFRICA	4400.00	4400.00	4400.00	4400.00	4400.00	3719.00	4030.00	2065.00	1762.00			2335.00	3738.00	5650.00	4400.00	5500.00	5500.00	5500.00
URUGUAY	440.00	440.00	440.00	440.00	440.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		440.00	440.00	440.00	660.00	550.00	440.00	450.00	550.00
CH. TAIPEI	9400.00	9400.00	9400.00	9400.00	9400.00	6675.00	7157.00	8907.00	9090.00	2725.00	4349.75	2843.00	2660.00	11506.75	11750.00	11750.00	11750.00	11750.00
BELIZE	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	98.36	0.00	122.86	219.03	226.64	325.00	189.64	93.47	325.00	312.50	312.50	312.50	312.50
CHINA	100.00	100.00	100.00	200.00	200.00	33.82	124.41	94.37	184.55	66.18	4.60	30.63	20.05	125.00	125.00	204.60	250.00	
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00							125.00	125.00	100.00	100.00
CURAÇAO	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	12.00	13.30				36.70		50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
EU	1470.00	1470.00	1470.00	1470.00	1470.00	335.36	472.71	54.77	178.20	1502.14	1246.29	1782.73	1659.30	1719	1837.50	1837.50	1837.50	1837.50
JAPAN	1355.00	1355.00	1355.00	1355.00	1355.00	1198.90	1392.90	1212.80	2135.80	526.10	162.10	480.95	-418.70	1555.00	1693.75	1717.10	1893.75	
KOREA	140.00	140.00	140.00	140.00	140.00	3.42	3.47	48.27	85.96	146.58	174.03	126.73	89.04	177.50	175.00	175.00	175.00	175.00
PANAMA	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.30	23.73	3.20	23.50	24.70	1.27	21.80	1.50	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00
PHILIPPINES	140.00	140.00	140.00	25.00	25.00	18.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	40.00	140.00	25.00	40.00	140.00	25.00	25.00	25.00
ST V & G	100.00	100.00	100.00	140.00	140.00	109.83	100.00	107.40	101.00	6.67	6.67	-0.73	-1.73	106.67	106.67	99.27	138.27	
T&TO			25.00					0.40	0.00									
UK-OT	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	116.00	125.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
USA	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	n.a	n.a	n.a	25.00	25.00
VANUATU	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	91.00	5.01	0.40	0.00	9.00	94.99	99.60	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
GUYANA						n.a	0.00	0.04	0.00									
TOTAL CATCH						13789.35	14869.45	14280.10	14655.81									29832.02
Rec. number	13-06	13-06	13-06	16-07	16-07									13-06	13-06	13-06	16-07	

BELIZE: intends to use 62.5 t of its underages from 2016 in 2018 (Rec. 16-07, para 4.b).

CHINA: informs the Commission in 2017 of an adjusted quota of 25% in 2018.

CHINA: In accordance with paragraph 4b of Rec. 16-07, the 25 percent carryover request made by China at the 2017 Regular Meeting of the Commission has been completed using their underage from 2016 of 30.63 t and 19.37 t. of the total underage of the TAC from 2016.

JAPAN: 2017 adjusted limit included 100 t transferred from Brazil and 100 t transferred from Uruguay (Rec. 16-07).

JAPAN: informed the Commission in 2017 that its underage in 2016 will be carried over to the 2018 initial limit (Rec. 16-07).

JAPAN: 2018 adjusted limit included 100 t transferred from Brazil and 100 t transferred from Uruguay (Rec. 16-07).

PHILIPPINES: the multi-year payback plan presented at the 2014 Commission meeting was pending adoption of the Panel 3 and the Commission reports by correspondence.

SOUTH AFRICA: notified in 2016 the Commission of its request to transfer the 2015 underage of 1,110 t to be caught and landed in 2017, Rec. 13-06.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2018 adjusted quota is 11750.00 t (=9400+2350), which was approved by the Commission at the 25th Regular Meeting.

NORTH SWORDFISH																			
	Initial quota				Current catches				Balance				Adjusted quota						
YEAR	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
TAC	13700	13700	13700	13700	13200														
BARBADOS	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	21.10	29.00	20.50	20.70	46.40	38.50	47.00	46.80	64.40	67.50	67.50	67.50	63.00	63.00
BELIZE	130.00	130.00	130.00	130.00	130.00	75.61	8.40	29.50	59.08	54.39	259.60	224.89	210.92	270.00	268.00	254.39	270.00	257.00	
BRAZIL	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	75.00	75.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	
CANADA	1348.00	1348.00	1348.00	1348.00	1348.00	1604.20	1587.3	1558.88	1209.21	278.30	570.4	481.32	860.99	1882.50	2157.70	2040.20	2070.20	2070.20	
CHINA	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	100.00	60.29	140.78	135.06	81.31	39.71	-36.73	2.44	6.69	100.00	104.05	137.50	88.00	90.44	
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	27.45	21.13	75.00	75.00	47.55	53.87	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	70.00	
EU	6718.00	6718.00	6718.00	6718.00	6718.00	5020.43	5449.08	5765.63	5573.66	2867.07	2448.42	1625.07	1812.04	7927.50	7897.50	7390.70	7425.70	7385.70	7385.70
FRANCE (St. P&M)	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	3.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	96.98	100.00	100.00	112.75	100.00	100.00	100.00	112.75	108.75	
JAPAN	842.00	842.00	842.00	842.00	842.00	392.90	452.10	397.70	406.00	3015.13	2895.03	3229.33	3505.33	3408.03	3747.13	3627.03	3911.33	4187.33	
KOREA	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	34.66	0.00	9.14	18.56	15.34	45.60	56.20	56.44	50.00	45.60	65.34	75.00	70.00	
LIBERIA					0.00			18.00	95.00				-95.00						
MAROC	850.00	850.00	850.00	850.00	850.00	1062.50	850.00	850.00	900.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	1062.50	850.00	850.00	950.00	950.00	950.00
MAURITANIA						0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00								
MEXICO	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	32.00	31.00	36.00	64.00	268.00	269.00	264.00	236.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	280.00	
PHILIPPINES	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	25.00	n.a	n.a	25.00	25.00	n.a	n.a		
SENEGAL	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	48.79	45.86	52.33	50.51	436.21	542.94	680.74	324.49	485.00	588.80	733.07	375.00		
ST V & G.	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	39.80	102.00	33.40	51.80	72.70	10.50	52.10	33.70	112.50	85.50	85.50	85.50		
TR. & TOBAGO	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	26.40	16.80	13.30	35.00	86.10	95.70	99.20	76.90	112.50	112.50	112.50	112.50	112.50	
UK-OT	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	0.98	1.40	2.18	0.00	51.52	51.10	50.32	40.25	52.50	52.50	52.50	52.50	49.00	49.00
USA	3907.00	3907.00	3907.00	3907.00	3907.00	1945.20	1718.40	1497.50	1377.58	2913.55	2749.65	2970.55	3090.47	4858.75	4468.05	4468.05	4468.05	4493.05	
VANUATU	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	43.67	0.61	0.00	0.00	-12.67	24.39	31.00	25.00	31.00	25.00	31.00	25.00	25.00	
VENEZUELA	85.00	85.00	85.00	85.00	85.00	23.85	28.52	52.75	52.26	103.65	98.98	74.75	62.49	127.50	127.50	127.50	114.75	114.75	
CHINESE TAIPEI	270.00	270.00	270.00	270.00	270.00	85.07	133.41	151.72	95.51	284.93	236.59	218.28	274.49	370.00	370.00	370.00	370.00	343.00	
COSTA RICA						25.00	27.00	21.30	32.00										
Recommendation n°	13-02	13-02	13-02	16-03	17-02									11-02	13-02	13-02	16-03	17-02	17-02
DISCARDS																			
CANADA																			
USA																			
TOTAL DISCARDS																			
TOTAL CATCH						10545.47	10621.66	10672.34	10143.31										

BELIZE: intends to use 65 t of its underages from 2016 to 2018 (Rec. 16-032, para 6); receiving a transfer of N-SWO from Trinidad & Tobago: 75 t (Rec. 16-03).

CANADA: new balances and adjusted quotas for 2011-2013 presented in November 2015 due to recalculation of historic dead discards as submitted to the SCRS.

EU: allowed to count up to 200 t against its uncaught southern SWO.

EU: quota transfer in 2018 from EU-Spain to Canada of 300 t.

EU: informed the Secretariat that "it seems that the transfer between France and St Pierre et Miquelon did not take place in 2017. For this reason, the 40 t supposed to be transferred have not been deducted from the 2017 quota."

JAPAN: adjusted limit in 2017 excluded 100 t transferred to Morocco, and 35 t transferred to Canada, and 25 t transferred to Mauritania (Rec. 16-03).

JAPAN: adjusted limit in 2018 excluded 100 t transferred to Morocco, and 35 t transferred to Canada, and 25 t transferred to Mauritania (Rec. 17-02).

JAPAN: The adjusted quota/catch limit of N-SWO for 2014, 2015 and 2016 are corrected this time. Correct figures have been used in the "form for the application of over/underharvest".

MAURITANIA: Brazil, Japan, Senegal and United States transfer 25 t each for a total of 100 t per year.

MAURITANIA: is acquiring a coastal fleet to target swordfish. The intention is for this fleet to commence its activity in 2016.

SENEGAL: informed the Commission in June 2018 of its decision to transfer 25 t to Canada (Rec. 17-02).

USA: 2016 adjusted limit includes 25 t transfer from U.S. to Mauritania. No transfers were authorised for 2018.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2018 adjusted quota is 343 t (=270+270*40%-35) due to the underage of 2016 exceeding 40% of 2018 initial catch quota and a transfer of 35 t to Canada.

CANADA: 2015 figure also includes 2014 dead discards.

SOUTH SWORDFISH

YEAR	Initial quota					Current catches				Balance				Adjusted quota					
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
TAC	15000	15000	15000	15000	14000														
ANGOLA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00		0.00	0.00	13.50										
BELIZE	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	45.29	103.56	149.60	166.01	79.71	135.44	137.90	105.43	205.00	239.00	287.50	271.44	287.50	
BRAZIL	3940.00	3940.00	3940.00	3940.00	3940.00	2892.02	2599.07	2934.78	2406.03	2229.98	2522.93	2187.22	2715.97	5122.00	5122.00	5122.00	5122.00	5122.00	5122.00
CHINA	313.00	313.00	313.00	313.00	313.00	205.89	327.70	222.22	301.58	119.10	2.34	119.68	13.76	324.99	330.04	341.90	315.34	391.90	
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	53.42	41.90	25.21	16.80	134.08	145.60	137.29	145.70	187.50	187.50	162.50	162.50	162.50	162.50
EU	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	4364.64	5295.02	5461.54	5120.23	777.06	400.38	139.52	104.15	5141.70	5695.40	5601.06	5224.38	4963.52	4928.15
GHANA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	26.00	56.06	36.00	55.10	23.30	43.94	64.00	44.90	49.30					
JAPAN	901.00	901.00	901.00	901.00	901.00	790.10	569.80	870.90	659.50	508.46	148.70	488.56	340.20	1298.56	318.50	1359.46	999.70	1339.56	
KOREA	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	52.63	5.45	19.25	10.92	-2.63	55.25	28.12	54.08	50.00	60.70	47.37	65.00	65.00	
NAMIBIA	1168.00	1168.00	1168.00	1168.00	1168.00	392.80	516.97	466.00	717.00	1359.20	1235.03	1286.00	987.00	1752.00	1752.00	1752.00	1704.00		
PHILIPPINES	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00		71.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.20	50.00	na	na	74.00	50.00	na	na		
S.T. & PRINCIPE	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	94.30	145.00	77.40	64.50	29.58	-5.20	22.60	42.70	115.90	139.80	100.00	112.10		
SENEGAL	417.00	417.00	417.00	417.00	417.00	143.33	97.43	173.30	159.96	357.42	385.09	346.57	340.44	500.75	482.52	519.87	500.40		
SOUTH AFRICA	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	152.39	218.00	124.40	159.00	848.61	733.00	926.60	842.00	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	
UK-OT	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	6.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	31.09	37.50	37.50	30.00	37.50	37.50	37.50	32.50	32.50	30.00
URUGUAY	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1202.00	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	1202.00	1596.00	1627.60	1627.60	1627.60	
USA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	99.94	99.94	99.94	99.94	99.94	99.94	99.94	99.94	99.94	
VANUATU	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00		8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17.00	29.00	29.00	29.00	29.00	29.00	29.00	29.00		
CHINESE TAIPEI	459.00	459.00	459.00	459.00	459.00	406.00	511.00	478.00	416.00	128.90	76.90	57.90	100.90	534.90	587.90	535.90	516.90	559.90	
GUYANA						na	0.66	5.63	8.70										
TOTAL						9705.02	10487.62	11044.23	10274.83										
Rec. n°	16-04	16-04	16-04	16-04	17-03									12-01	12-01	16-04	16-04	16-04	17-03

BELIZE: intends to use 37.5 t of its underages from 2016 in 2018 (Rec. 16-04, para 2); receiving a transfer of S-SWO from the United States: 25t, Brazil: 50 t and Uruguay: 50 t (Rec. 16-04).

EU: allowed to count up to 200 t against its uncaught northern SWO.

JAPAN: adjusted limit from 2011 to 2018 excluded 50 t transferred to Namibia (Rec.09-03 to Rec.16-04).

JAPAN: Japan's underage in 2014 was carried over to the 2016 initial limit (Rec. 13-03, Rec. 15-03, Rec. 16-04).

U.S.: adjusted quota for 2016 reflects transfers to Namibia (50 t), Belize (25 t) and Côte d'Ivoire (25 t) under Rec. 16-04.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2018 adjusted quota is 559.90 t (=459+100.9) due to the inclusion of 2017 underage.

MEDITERRANEAN SWORDFISH

YEAR	<i>Initial quota</i>					<i>Current catches</i>				<i>Balance</i>				<i>Adjusted quota</i>						
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2017	2018	2019	2020	2017	2018	2019	2020	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
TAC	10500	10203*																		
ALBANIA																				
ALGERIE	550.00	533.49				550.00														
EGYPT																				
EU	7410.48	7206.50				5006.04				2404.44				7410.48						
LIBYA																				
MAROC	1045.00	1013.61				1000.00				45.00				1045.00	1013.61	982.26	952.79	924.20	896.47	
SYRIA																				
TUNISIE	1007.69	977.45				1002.90				4.79				1007.69	977.45					
TURKEY	441.00	427.77				441.00				0.00				441.00	427.77					
TOTAL CATCH						7999.94														
Rec. numbe	16-05	16-05												00-14	00-14					

*NOTE: 3% reduction from 10,500 t, as required by para 4 of Rec. 16-05. Over the period 2018-2022, the TAC should be gradually reduced by 3% each year. The percentage shares allocated by Panel 4 in 2017, however, total 100,179 t, for which reason the total allocated for 2018 reaches 10,203 t and not 10,185.

EAST BLUEFIN

YEAR	Initial quota					Current catch				Balance				Adjusted quota				
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
TAC	13400	16142	19296	22705	28200													
ALBANIA	33.58	39.65	47.40	56.91	100.00	33.55	40.75	45.79	56.00	0.03	-1.10	0.51	0.91	33.58	39.65	46.30	56.91	
ALGERIE	143.83	169.81	202.98	243.7	1260.00	243.80	370.20	448.39	1037.67	0.00	-0.39	4.59	6.03	243.83	369.81	452.98	1043.70	1306.00
CHINA	38.19	45.09	53.90	64.71	79.00	37.62	45.08	53.89	64.38	0.58	0.01	0.01	0.33	38.19	45.09	53.90	64.71	79.00
EGYPT	67.08	79.20	94.67	113.67	181.00	77.08	155.19	99.33	123.67	0.00	0.01	0.34	0.00	77.08	155.20	99.67	123.67	181.00
EU	7938.65	9372.92	11203.54	13451.36	15850.00	7795.98	9120.82	10974.35	13084.30	142.67	252.10	229.19	367.06	7938.65	9372.92	11203.54	13451.36	15850.00
ICELAND	30.97	36.57	43.71	52.48	84.00	30.24	37.43	5.76	0.42	0.73	-0.86	37.09	52.06	30.97	36.57	42.85	52.48	84.00
JAPAN	1139.55	1345.44	1608.21	1930.88	2279.00	1134.47	1385.92	1578.37	1910.65	5.08	4.52	4.84	0.23	1139.55	1390.44	1583.21	1910.88	2279.00
KOREA	80.53	95.08	113.66	136.46	160.00	80.52	0.00	161.08	181.19	0.01	95.08	2.58	0.27	80.53	0.08	163.66	181.46	210.00
LIBYA	937.65	1107.06	1323.28	1588.77	1846.00	932.64	1153.45	1367.80	1630.75	5.01	3.61	5.48	8.02	937.65	1157.06	1373.28	1638.77	1800.00
MAROC	1270.47	1500.01	1792.98	2152.71	2578.00	1270.46	1498.10	1783.30	2141.20	0.01	1.91	9.68	11.51	1270.47	1500.01	1792.98	2152.71	2578.00
MAURITANIA		5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00		0.00	0.00	0.00		5.00	5.00	5.00		5.00	5.00	5.00	
NORWAY	30.97	36.57	43.71	52.48	104.00	0.12	8.29	43.80	50.86	30.85	28.28	-0.09	1.53	30.97	36.57	43.71	52.39	104.00
SYRIA	33.58	39.65	47.40	56.91	66.00	0.00	39.65	47.39	56.91	33.58	0.00	0.01	0.00	33.58	39.65	47.40	56.91	66.00
TUNISIE	1057.00	1247.97	1491.71	1791.00	2115.00	1056.60	1247.83	1490.60	1790.95	0.40	0.14	1.11	0.05	1057.00	1247.97	1491.71	1791.00	
TURKEY	556.66	657.23	785.59	943.21	1414.00	555.08	1091.10	1324.30	1514.70	1.58	131.86	137.52	260.30	556.66	1222.96	1461.82	1775.00	1414.00
CH. TAIPEI	41.29	48.76	58.28	69.97	79.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	31.29	38.76	48.28	59.97	31.29	38.76	48.28	59.97	29.00
TOTAL CATCH						13248.16	16193.81	19424.15	23643.64									
Rec. number	13-07	14-04	14-04	14-04	17-07									13-07	14-04	14-04	14-04	17-07

JAPAN-E-BFT: adjusted quota in 2017 excluded 20 t transferred to Korea.

JAPAN: current catch for 2017 includes 5.3 t of dead discards as reported in Task I data.

LIBYA: transfers 46 t of its quota to Algeria in 2018.

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 2016 indicating 1461.82 metric tons is the independent catch limit announced for 2016 by Turkey in its objection to Rec. 14-04.

TURKEY: the adjusted quota for 2017 indicating 1775.00 metric tons is the independent catch limit announced for 2017 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: 2018 adjusted quota is 29 (=79-50) due to the transfer of 50 t to Korea.

WEST BLUEFIN

YEAR	Initial quota					Current catches				Balance				Adjusted quota/limit					
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
TAC	1750	2000	2000	2000	2350														
CANADA	396.66	437.47	437.47	437.47	515.59	462.90	530.59	466.11	471.65	24.40	-1.71	36.14	16.96	487.30	528.88	506.74	488.61	621.53	
FRANCE (St. P & M)	4.00	4.51	4.51	4.51	5.31	0.17	9.34	0.00	0.00	7.83	-0.83	3.68	9.02	8.00	8.51	3.68	9.02	9.82	
JAPAN	301.64	345.74	345.74	345.74	407.48	302.63	345.52	345.49	345.83	0.87	1.09	1.34	1.25	303.50	346.61	346.83	347.08	408.73	
MEXICO	95.00	108.98	108.98	108.98	128.44	51.00	53.00	55.00	34.00	24.90	28.90	26.90	27.90	75.90	81.90	81.90	61.90		
UK-OT	4.00	4.51	4.51	4.51	5.31	0.01	0.21	0.00	0.46	7.99	8.30	8.00	8.56	8.00	8.51	8.00	9.02	10.62	
USA	948.70	1058.79	1058.79	1058.79	1247.86	810.29	898.80	1026.70	997.86	233.28	279.86	165.47	194.31	1043.57	1178.66	1192.17	1192.17	1381.24	
TOTAL LANDING						1627.00	1837.46	1893.30	1849.80										
Discards																			
CANADA																			
JAPAN																			
USA																			
TOTAL DISCARDS																			
TOTAL REMOVAL																			
Rec. number	13-09	14-05	14-05	16-08	17-06									12-02	14-05	14-05	14-05	16-08	17-06

CANADA: Mexico's transfer to Canada for 2016 is 55.98 t.

JAPAN: The underharvest may be added to next year to 10% of the initial quota allocation (Recs. 14-05, 16-08, 17-06).

MEXICO: Transfer of its adjusted quota to Canada for 2017 is 73.98 t, Rec. 16-08, par. 6 d).

ICCAT REPORT 2018-2019 (I)

BIGEYE

YEAR	Initial catch limit					1999 (SCRS 2000)	Current catches				Balance				Adjusted catch limits					
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018		2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
TAC	85000	85000	65000	65000	65000															
ANGOLA						0.00		0.00	0.00	2.80										
BARBADOS						0.00	25.70	30.40	18.60	31.70										
BELIZE						0.00	1501.60	1877.30	1764.10	1960.70										
BRAZIL						2024.00	6456.36	7750.00	7660.18	7.258.20										
CANADA						263.00	185.90	257.32	171.12	214.25										
CABO VERDE						1.00	2271.00	2913.92	1679.00	1054.00										
CHINA	5572	5572	5376	5376	5376.00	7347.00	2231.75	4941.85	5852.39	5514.36	7941.85	5232.12	1330.01	1449.93	10173.60	10173.60	7182.40	7182.40	6008.37	
CÔTE D'IVOIRE						0.00	440.90	12.14	544.39	1238.90										
CURACAO						0.00	2315.00	2573.00	3436.00	2597.44										
EL SALVADOR		3500.00	1575.00	1575.00	1575.00			992.00	1450.00	959.00										
EU	22667.00	22667.00	16989.00	16989.00	16989.00	21970.00	18152.90	15741.23	18059.42	20220.53	11314.20	13725.87	5729.68	-520.75	29467.10	29467.10	23789.10	19699.78	15989.65	thc
FRANCE (SP&M)						0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00										
GABON						184.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00										
GHANA	4722.00	4722.00	4250.00	4250.00	4250.00	11460.00	4369.00	5749.68	4812.60	4085.70	583.00	864.92	-121.30	-396.43	4952.00	6614.60	4691.30	3689.27	2494.14	
GUATEMALA						0.00	651.80	340.50	640.27	2102.40										
JAPAN	23611.00	23611.00	17696.00	17696.00	17696.00	23690.00	12595.20	10179.80	11238.00	9872.20	15029.10	17444.50	8929.65	9408.20	27624.30	27624.30	20167.65	19280.40	15415.88	
KOREA	1983.00	1983.00	1486.00	1486.00	1486.00	124.00	1038.83	670.70	561.97	432.09	1319.07	1887.20	1518.93	1216.52	2357.90	2557.90	2080.90	1648.61	1101.09	
LIBERIA									538.00											
MAROC						700.00	300.00	308.50	350.00	410.00					2100.00	2100.00	3500.00	3500.00	3500.00	
MAURITANIE							1.00	10.00	20.40											
MEXICO						6.00	1.00	2.00	2.00	3.00	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	
NAMIBIA						423.00	224.09	434.90	359.00	122.30										
PANAMA	3306.00	3306.00		26.00		2315.00	1285.00	1617.11	1413.00		991.00	2021.00	1688.89	2087.00	3306.00	3306.00	3306.00	3500.00	3500.00	
PHILIPPIN	1983.00	1983.00	286.00	286.00	286.00	943.00	1963.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	615.00	1983.00	n.a.	0.00	2578.00	1983.00	n.a.	n.a.	223.5	
RUSSIA						8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00									
S. TOME & PRIN						0.00	110.05	633.10	421.10	388.00										
SENEGAL						0.00	361.00	1031.00	1500.30	3120.00										
SOUTH AFRICA						41.00	331.50	200.00	107.30	249.60	n.a.				n.a.	n.a.				
St. V. & GR.							29.70	496.00	622.20	888.98										
TRIN & TOBAGO						19.00	58.90	76.50	37.10	25.30										
UK-OT						8.00	17.70	44.10	77.10	70.40										
URUGUAY						59.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00										
USA						1261.00	859.40	831.40	524.50	788.16										
VANUATU						0.00	4.00	0.70	0.00	0.00										
VENEZUELA						128.00	169.10	132.00	156.00	317.80										
CH. TAIPEI	15583.00	15583.00	11679.00	11679.00	11679.00	16837.00	13272.00	16453.00	13115.00	11845.00	6915.90	3734.90	3238.90	1697.61	20187.90	20187.90	16353.90	13542.61	11215.10	
COSTA RICA							5.58	8.69	112.10	391.50										
GUYANA								2.52	52.73	37.00										
TOTAL CATCH							72259.06	78246.11	77499.98											
Rec. number	11-01	14-01	16-01	16-01	16-01										11-01	14-01	16-01	16-01	16-01	16-01

Note from the Secretariat: the 2017 adjusted quota for China, EU, Ghana, Japan, Korea, the Philippines and Chinese Taipei was calculated at the 2017 Commission meeting due to the excess of BET catches in 2016. This entailed a proportionate reduction of the overharvest of the total TAC in the 2017 catches of these CPCs.

GHANA: committed to payback the overharvest of 2006 to 2010 from 2012 until 2021 with 337 t by year.

GHANA: a total of 15% of the initial quota of 2015 was used in addition to the quota transferred from other countries (70 t) less the payback of overharvest with 337 t.

JAPAN: the 2017 adjusted limit included 15% of the initial limit as carry-over from 2016 underage and excluded 1000 t transferred to China and 70 t transferred to Ghana (Rec. 16-01).

JAPAN: the 2018 adjusted limit included 15% of the initial limit as carry-over from 2017 underage and excluded 1000 t transferred to China and 70 t transferred to Ghana (Rec. 16-01).

JAPAN: adjusted catch limit for 2017 and 2018 does not take into account the "pay back" stipulated in para 2(a) of Rec. 16-01.

KOREA: informs the Commission that it will transfer 223 t to Chinese Taipei in 2018.

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE: catches are artisanal.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2018 adjusted quota is 13653.85 t (=11679+11679*15%+223) due to the underage of 2016 exceeding 15% of 2018 initial catch limit and a transfer of 223 t from Korea.

BLUE MARLIN

	Landings limit					Reference years		Current landings				Balance				Adjusted landings limit		
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	1996	1999	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
						(PS+LL)	(PS+LL)											
TAC	2000	2000	1985	1985	1985													
BARBADOS					10.00						24.00				-14.00	-4.00		
BELIZE			10.00	10.00	10.00			8.47	4.70	13.10				-3.10				
BRAZIL	190.00	190.00	190.00	190.00	190.00	308.00	509.00	104.96	89.18	79.19	63.30	104.04	119.82	129.81	207.18			
CHINA	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	62	201	39.66	44.41	49.71	40.31	5.34	0.58	0.63	5.27	45.63		
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00			43.84	29.90	50.61	43.61	106.16	120.10	114.39	121.39	165.00	165.00	165.00
CURACAO			10.00	10.00	10.00						48.00				-38.00	-28.00		
EU	480.00	480.00	480.00	480.00	480.00	206.00	200.00	552.37	658.51	335.07	337.84	-72.37	-130.51	72.56	76.91	462.75	tbc	
GHANA	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00			235.57	87.92	43.66	162.02	14.43	162.00	206.34	87.98			
GUATEMALA					10.00						26.00				-16.00	-6.00		
JAPAN	390.00	390.00	390.00	390.00	390.00	1679.00	790.00	288.80	261.50	412.40	308.10	101.20	167.50	16.60	120.90	406.60	429.00	429.00
KOREA	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	144.00	0.00	9.78	3.07	26.19	25.13	25.22	31.93	8.81	9.87	42.00		
MEXICO	70.00	70.00	70.00	70.00	70.00	13.00	35.00	67.00	72.00	65.00	60.00	-12.00	-14.00	-9.00	1.00	61.00		
MOROCCO				10.00	10.00					7.00	82.00			3.00	-69.00	-59.00		
NAMIBIA				10.00	10.00					32.00	57.00			-22.00	-47.00	-37.00		
S. TOME & PRINCIPE	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00			80.60	10.80	9.08	12.60	-63.61	-28.61	7.32				
SÉNÉGAL	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00			11.65	9.87	12.52	25.88	48.35	50.13	47.48	34.12			
SOUTH AFRICA	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00			0.05	0.87	0.26	0.00							
T & TOBAGO	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	13.90	19.70	48.10	34.90	18.70	0.00	-48.10	-84.90	-116.80	-64.90	-26.80		
VENEZUELA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	60.74	29.99	40.77	60.46	82.51	97.41	59.23	39.54	27.49	-17.41	82.49		
CHINESE TAIPEI	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	660.00	486.00	62.00	61.00	75.00	73.00	88.00	104.00	90.00	92.00	165.00		
COSTA RICA								0.00	0.00	0.00	0.08							
TOTAL								1593.62	1429.09	1312.00								
USA(# of bum+whm)	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00			98.00	139.00	169.00	129.00	152.00	111.00	81.00	121.00			
<i>Rec. number</i>	12-04	12-04	15-05	15-05	15-05											15-05	15-05	15-05

NOTE: The figures in this table were not agreed in all cases, and may be subject to change in 2019.

GHANA: catch is from artisanal fisheries-gillnet

JAPAN: the 2017 adjusted limit included 10% of the initial limit as carry-over from 2015 underage [Rec.15-05].

JAPAN: the 2018 adjusted limit included 10% of the initial limit as carry-over from 2016 underage [Rec.15-05].

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2018 adjusted quota is 165t (=150+150*10%) due to the underage of 2016 exceeding 15% of 2018 initial catch limit.

USA: total marlin landings for 2017 include 62 BUM, 61 WHM, and 6 RSP.

VENEZUELA: is authorised to transfer 30 t to the European Union for 2017, Rec. 16-10.

VENEZUELA: transfer of 10% of the underage of its 2015 catch to its 2017 adjusted quota.

WHITE MARLIN

	<i>Landings limit</i>					<i>Reference years</i>		<i>Current landings</i>				<i>Balance</i>				<i>Adjusted landings limit</i>		
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	1996	1999	2014	2015	2016	2017	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	400	400	355	355	355													
						<i>PS+LL</i>	<i>PS+LL</i>											
BARBADOS	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00			5.30	9.50	11.50	14.10	4.70	0.50	0.50	-3.00	8.50		
BRAZIL	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	70.00	158.00	102.32	121.21	66.93	46.58	-47.32	-66.21	-11.93	8.42			
CANADA	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	8.00	5.00	4.60	3.10	1.03	2.30	5.40	6.90	8.97	7.70	12.00	12.00	12.00
CHINA	10	10	10.00	10.00	10.00	9	30	0	0.34	0.26	2.53	10.00	11.65	11.74	9.48	12.00		
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	1.00	7.00	0.91	1.19	0.97	1.12	9.09	8.81	9.03	8.88	12.00	12.00	
EU	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	148.00	127.00	102.21	119.69	101.54	14.63	-52.21	-67.19	-77.64	9.27	27.60	27.60	<i>tbc</i>
JAPAN	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	112.00	40.00	5.70	9.90	12.60	9.20	29.30	32.10	29.40	32.80	42.00	42.00	42.00
KOREA	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	59.00	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.14	19.85	20.00	20.00	19.86	24.00		
LIBERIA				2.00	2.00					98.00	45.00		-98.00	-143.00				
MEXICO	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	11.00	20.00	26.00	20.00	12.00	5.00	-1.00	9.00	13.00	25.00		
S. TOME & PRINCIPE	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00			42.00	17.00	15.00	13.00							
SOUTH AFRICA	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00							
ST.VINCENT & GRENADINES					2.00						8.00				-6.00	-4.00		
TRIN & TOBAGO	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	8.20	13.00	38.30	31.90	19.90	0.00	-38.30	-74.30	-100.60	-59.30	-28.20		
VENEZUELA	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	152.00	43.00	73.74	104.33	157.98	150.09	-23.74	-54.33	-107.98	-181.35	-131.15		
CHINESE TAIPEI	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	586.00	465.00	10.00	12.00	11.00	7.00	40.00	43.00	44.00	48.00	55.00		
COSTA RICA								377.39	552.38	450.03	692.60							
GUYANA								n.a	2.64	48.42	57.20							
TOTAL								782.62	1011.18	1015.16								
USA (# of bum+whm)	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00			98.00	139.00	169.00	129.00	152.00	111.00	81.00	121.00			
<i>Recommendation number</i>	<i>12-04</i>	<i>12-04</i>	<i>15-05</i>	<i>15-05</i>	<i>15-05</i>											<i>15-05</i>	<i>15-05</i>	<i>15-05</i>

NOTE: The figures in this table were not agreed in all cases, and may be subject to change in 2019

EU will undertake to compensate the overharvest for 2016 by reducing WHM catch to zero for the years 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 (no consumption of the adjusted landings).

JAPAN-WHM · SPF: the 2017 adjusted limit included 20% of the initial limit as carry-over from 2015 underage [Rec.15-05]

JAPAN-WHM SPF: the 2018 adjusted limit included 20% of the initial limit as carry-over from 2016 underage [Rec.15-05].

USA: total marlin landings for 2017 include 62 BUM, 61 WHM, and 6 RSP.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2018 adjusted quota is 55t (=50+50*10%) due to the underage of 2016 exceeding 10% of 2018 initial catch limit.

Compliance with size limits in 2017

Species	SWO			BFT						
	AT.N	AT.S	Medi	AT.E	AT.E	Adriatic	Medi	AT.E	Medi	AT.W
Recommendation Number	16-03 § 9-10	16-04 § 6-7	16-05 § 15-17	14-04 § 27	14-04 Annex L, §2	14-04 § 27	14-04 § 27	14-04 § 28	14-04 § 28	16-08 §9
Gear/fishery	all	all	all	BB, TROL: >17 m*	BB <17 m**	Adriatic catches taken	coastal artisanal	14-04 all other gears	all other gears	all gears
Min. weight (kg)	A=25 kg LW or B= 15 kg/	A=25 kg LW or B= 15 kg/	10kg RW or 9 kg GG or 7.5	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
At-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 cm;		5%	0%	100 (**)	0%	0%	5% between 8-30 kg; 75-115	5% between 8-30 kg; 75-115	10%
Tolerance calculated as	number of fish per total		weight or number of fish	weight or number of fish	weight per allocation of	weight or number of fish	weight or number of fish	number of fish per total	number of fish per total	weight of the total quota of
PERCENTAGE (%) OF TOTAL										
Albania									<5%	
Algérie			1%					0%	0%	
Angola										
Barbados	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Belize	4%	18%								
Brazil										
Cabo verde										
Canada	2.7									0
China	0	0	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	0	Not applicable	Not applicable
Côte d'Ivoire										
Curaçao										
Egypt										
El Salvador										
EU*	15%	22%	0%	2%	0%			1%	7%	1%
France (SPM)	0									0
Gabon	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Ghana										
Grenada										
Guatemala										
Guinea Ecuatorial										
Guinée Bissau										
Guinée République										
Honduras	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Iceland				0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Japan	0.03	0.111	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	0	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	0
Korea										
Liberia										
Libya										
Maroc	0%	NA	0%	NA	NA	NA	0%	0%	NA	NA
Mauritania										
México	14							0		
Namibia		0%								
Nicaragua										
Nigeria										
Norway								0%		
Panama										
Philippines	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Russia										
Sao Tome										
Sénégal	1.73%	6.21%								
Sierra Leone										
South Africa										
St. Vincent & G										
Syria								0	0	
Trinidad & Tobago	0	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Tunisie			0%						0%	
Turkey	n.a.	n.a.	0.1%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0.0%	n.a.
UK-OT										
USA	0%									4.34%
Uruguay										
Vanuatu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Venezuela										
Bolivia										
Chinese Taipei	0.19% (≤125cm) 0% (≤119c)	0.35% (≤125cm) 0% (≤119c)	na							
Costa Rica										
Guyana										
Suriname										

*EU has added the following information:

Raw data under minimum size	751f	670	1892.27kg	182.21kg	0.01kg		73.34kg	4f	138f	
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**ICCAT Integrated Online Management System (IOMS):
Phase 1 (IOMS Main Module plus Module 1 – Annual Report Part II, Section 3)**

1. Introduction

During the Online Reporting Technology Working Group (WG) intersessional meeting held in Madrid on 26-27 March 2018 (see [report](#)) the WG requested that the Secretariat develop a completed model (specifications of the main web-app platform, the core database and its content) of the Integrated Online Management System (IOMS¹) and design the specifications of the Annual Report part II, section III as a module within the IOMS. The WG also tasked the Secretariat with developing a budget associated with the IOMS and first module. This document outlines a model for the ICCAT IOMS with a phased approach for implementation as well as a corresponding budget.

During the intersessional meeting, the WG discussed the two main ICCAT projects related to “online reporting”. The FORS (Fisheries Online Reporting System) financed by ABNJ, and, the project “ICCAT forms” (SCRS statistical online reporting system) which is being developed by the Secretariat (For more details see COC-306). The WG agreed that the Secretariat should merge both projects, and that this be the foundation (architecture and design approach) for the construction of the IOMS, one overarching online system that would house all reporting requirements over time.

2. ICCAT IOMS Specifications

The WG agreed that, the IOMS be developed as a modular architecture and have a main web application manager (the IOMS web application platform). Different dependent web application modules (each one made of several specialised components) will fall within and be managed by the IOMS application platform, which will centralise the administration of core services such as security settings, management of data reporting requirements, message-based communication, and system auditing. One of these modules will incorporate all reporting currently required under the Annual Report part II, section 3. A dashboard will allow for all the information to be managed, such as providing status updates on reporting requirements, compliance of these requirements, automated reminders, activity statistics, pending actions, and other pertinent queries. The technical specifications that will be included in developing the IOMS are described under Item 6 of the intersessional meeting [report](#).

The IOMS will be a multi-lingual (the three ICCAT official languages) system that will allow registered CPC users to check and fulfil their data reporting requirements in an efficient, streamlined, and interactive way. Each module developed will manage one or more reporting requirements. For example, the six web application modules currently under development by the ICCAT Secretariat to report Task I and Task II requirements (forms ST01 to ST06) let the user validate, store, analyse, and edit if required, the information previously uploaded in the respective form.

2.1 ICCAT IOMS Modules and Specifications for “Phase 1”

A multi-phase approach is proposed for developing ICCAT’s IOMS: the first phase in development will include the following components and specifications described below. **Figure 1** provides a schematic of the relationships developed within phase 1 and **Attachment 1 to Appendix 6 to ANNEX 10** technical specifications.

1) *ICCAT IOMS main web application platform. This is composed of:*

a) Security Manager

This component is responsible for managing the IOMS security. It will verify the user permissions under each web application and define what actions the user can perform. Initially there will be two main user types: administrators and non-administrators. The administrator will be able to register and give permissions to users, granting them specific privileges within the IOMS system.

¹ Acronym adopted by the Online Reporting and Technology WG, at March 2018 intersessional meeting.

b) Reporting Requirements Manager.

The reporting requirements manager component will be responsible for managing and updating ICCAT reporting requirements within the system linked to the recommendations and or resolutions and their different reporting requirements. These Reporting Requirements will be added or deactivated on a recurring basis. Communications sent to CPCs to accomplish each reporting requirement, will be explicit (one at a time) or generic (through circulars). The information handled by this component will be managed by the ICCAT Secretariat. CPC users will have a dashboard to view reporting requirement status summaries, activity usage, pending actions, submission status, and notes.

c) Message Manager.

This component is responsible for registering and managing messages between CPCs and the Secretariat. This will allow for direct communication and questions via email protocols. A dashboard will allow users to submit and review messages.

d) Notifications Manager.

This component will manage the notifications of the IOMS system. Notifications will be created by the system or by ICCAT administrators. This component will provide users with notifications such as deadline reminders, pending issues, and other generic information associated with the web-application operation status.

e) Auditing Manager.

Every event within IOMS related to core features will be recorded in a specific structure that ICCAT administrators can review. This component stores information, such as user login events (sign in/out), dataset submissions, and any event that requires auditing following current rules and specifications of ICCAT communications.

f) ICCAT IOMS database.

A database will be created (core IOMS database) to manage all the information required and produced by the IOMS main application platform.

2) *Module - Annual Report Part II Section III*

This module will manage Annual Report requirements in Part II Section III. The template that will be used to develop this module is described in the “Revised Guidelines for the preparation of Annual Reports” ([Ref. 12-13](#)). This module will allow non-administrators to incorporate annual updates to ICCAT reporting requirements. Registered users with the appropriate permissions will complete an online version of the Table in Part II Section III or download a template to fill-out “offline” that can be later uploaded into the system. A version control manager will be developed as part of this module. This module will show all requirements under the annual report, initially created from the Reporting Requirements Manager component (section 2.1, item 1b) of the IOMS main module.

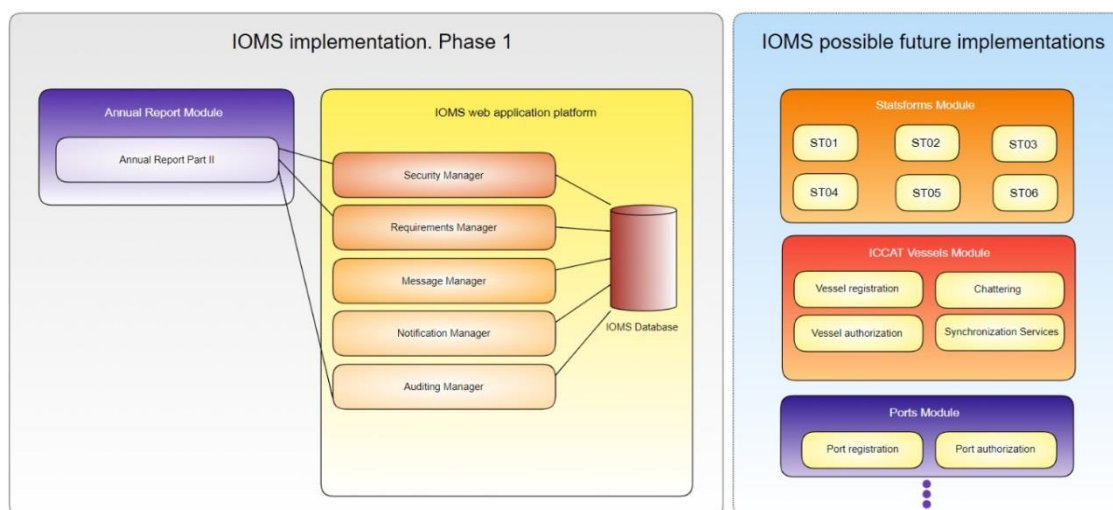


Figure 1. Diagram showing the relationships among the IOMS modules implemented in Phase 1. The box on the right (light blue) shows some examples of web application modules that could be implemented during the IOMS development process (Phase 2, 3, etc.).

2.2 Proposed Budget – ONLY FOR Phase 1

The WG requested the Secretariat to develop a thorough budget for the IOMS and Module - *Annual Report Part II Section III*. The WG agreed that the IOMS development will be supervised by the ICCAT Secretariat. This proposal presents the budget estimated for Phase 1 only that will be implemented by a technical group, which will include the following personnel and resources:

- 1 Senior Web Developer. This requires a fixed term contract based at the Secretariat.
- 1 Senior “back-end” developer. This requires a fixed term contract based at the Secretariat.
- Hardware and software for Web applications development and cloud hosting services and applications.

The estimated overall budget for Phase 1 of the IOMS implementation is presented in the **Table 1**.

Table 1. Overall costs and timeline for implementing IOMS Phase 1 (EUR).

<i>Item</i>	<i>Module</i>	<i>Components</i>	<i>Development time (weeks)</i>	<i>Estimated cost (€)</i>
1	IOMS web-app platform	IOMS database	4	8,280
2	IOMS web-app platform	Security manager	5	20,700
3	IOMS web-app platform	Requirements manager	5	20,700
4	IOMS web-app platform	Message manager	4	16,560
5	IOMS web-app platform	Notification manager	4	16,560
6	IOMS web-app platform	Auditing manager	4	16,560
7	GEN_001 Part II web-app	Annual Report Part II Section III module	8	33,120
8		Testing and Integration	4	16,560
9		Infrastructure		13,000
10		Training and support		35,000
		TOTAL	38	197,040

3. Proposed Long Term Implementation - Phase 2

Based on the proposed multi-phase approach for developing the ICCAT IOMS, the following outlines Phase 2, with a two year implementation goal for 2020-2021. The Secretariat has identified a number of reporting requirements as the next possible *modules* for development within the IOMS, pending WG deliberations in 2019. These include, but are not limited to:

- ICCAT Vessel Manager: To manage all current and adopted ICCAT vessel registry and authorisations. It will include registering chartering arrangements, transshipment authorizations, and the synchronization services to provide vessel related information to external consumers such the e-BCD system and the CLAV vessel list.
- Port Manager: For registering and authorising CPC ports for various fishing activities such landings, transfers and transshipments.
- Bluefin tuna (BFT) weekly and monthly reports Manager: To handle BFT weekly and monthly reports requirements.
- SDP programs (SWO, BET): to manage the bi-annual statistical document program submissions.

Phase 2 will include a yearly work plan and the corresponding budget.

ICCAT IOMS technical specifications

Forward: This document should be regarded as the preliminary version of the future “*IOMS detailed technical specifications*” document, which will describe in detail aspects such as architecture, development aspects, component interaction, functionality etc. Right now, it has a preliminary structure, a basic description of the architecture, guidelines on development aspects, and the required basic description on functionality. It is intended to be a dynamic document subject to changes as the IOMS project evolves.

Architecture

The ICCAT IOMS will be based on open source technologies. Its architecture will have the following features/characteristics:

- Database server: MariaDB 10.3+
- Backend development (server side): Spring Boot, Spring Data Rest, Spring Security, Java 11+
- Frontend development (web clients): Angular 7+, Typescript 3.1+, Nodejs 11+
- Supported web-browsers: Firefox 63+, Chrome 70+, Edge 44+ (Safari 12+)
- Web security: HTTPS (encrypted communication over TLS) with JWT
- Certification: Let’s encrypt
- Authentication services: Auth0.com / Okta
- Deployment: Cloud infrastructure (Linux servers)

These features (all together called “the IOMS solution”) will be based on micro-services. Through this architecture, each module developed in the application will be a micro-service that can be added, replaced or removed from the solution. This architecture allows a greater decoupling between components which gives a better resistance to errors, faster and easier maintenance, or an increase in scalability. This solution also facilitates (extra benefit) the development of a machine-to-machine communication through the development of a suitable client.

The backend services will be developed using Java technologies including the Spring Framework for database communication over RESTful web services. Specifically, the Spring Boot, Spring Data Rest and Spring Security framework components will be used. This technology was chosen because it is the most mature (testing, stability, fidelity) and the most widely adopted in the Java ecosystem.

Regarding the user interface, a web application developed in Angular 7+ will be used. This technology has been chosen because it is the most widely used (the largest developer community), it is a tested web user interface technology, and its support (documentation, help forums, etc.) is excellent. This technology allows a greater decoupling between the web components and allows for easier maintenance.

The security of the application will use an external authentication provider that will validate the user's authentication. The application will be served over HTTPS (TCL/SSL encrypted communications) using a certificate from Lets Encrypt (<https://letsencrypt.org/>) authority. The security mechanism will be based on JSON Web Token (JWT). The authentication platform (options in study: Okta or Auth0) is still being studied and decided.

The IOMS database is a relational database which will be developed using MariaDB (<https://mariadb.org/>) database server engine. This database server (a branch of MySQL) has been selected because of its wide use, its growing yearly trends in adoption and the fact that it is fully open source, thus low cost. The Secretariat has also experience with the use of MariaDB in the development of the SCRS statistical online validation tools (ICCAT forms).

It is necessary to have enough disk space to store the original files correctly sent to/by the IOMS web application. The current IOMS development work, does not yet contemplate the use of a document management software solution. The adoption of an efficient solution (several open-source options are available) to store the IOMS file content needs to be further studied.

Hosting

The ICCAT IOMS will be deployed to cloud servers, characterised to have high availability (+99.99%), scalability (on demand power increase/decrease), and security (intranet and extranet high standards), and optionally 24x7x365 technical support. For this, the cloud services of an external provider will be contracted. Although there are many options in the market, ICCAT has already in place a cloud infrastructure (4 Ubuntu Linux cloud servers) deployed in Rackspace. These cloud servers are virtual machines working together within “openstack” (“a cloud operating system that controls large pools of compute, storage, and networking resources throughout a data centre”). This choice facilitates on one hand the growth of the IOMS in times of peak workload and on another hand it simplifies the process of exporting the system to another cloud provider that uses a similar technology.

Repository

The code generated in the development of the IOMS will be stored and managed by version-control software. GitLab (<https://gitlab.com>) will be the track changes software of this project because it is free, open source, reliable and is widely used by developers. One of the biggest advantages of Git is its branching capabilities. Unlike centralized version control systems, Git branches are cheap and easy to merge. This facilitates the feature branch workflow popular with many Git users.

Testing

For the development of the IOMS application, three different environments will be created: development, test and production. The test and production environments will be as similar as possible at the database level, directory routes, permissions and versions of the software that runs on it.

The software will be periodically subjected to unit tests in an automatic way that can be programmed with continuous integration systems such as Jenkins.

IOMS database

The IOMS database is responsible for storing all the information related to the IOMS system. It is a relational database design model managed by a MariaDB database server engine. A complete backup of the database will be performed once a day, performing several incremental backups throughout the day.

The database structures (tables, relationships, views, etc.) that make up the data model will be continuously modified in the development of the IOMS web platform, so this document must be updated periodically.

The IOMS core database (initial model) consists of the following main tables:

MessageThread

This table stores the information of communications between a CPC and the ICCAT Secretariat. It must be related to, at least, one message. The table stores the date on which the communication thread was created, the author of that communication thread, the subject and, in the case where it refers to it, the affected requirement.

Message

This table stores information about the messages exchanged between two users of the system. For the moment it is only thought to be bidirectional between the users of the CPCs and the ICCAT Secretariat. The date and time of the sending is stored, who wrote it and who is the recipient, the thread to which it refers and the address to the folder of attachments in the case in which they have been attached.

User

This table stores the information of registered users in the system. It will be mandatory to store the contact email information, name, organization to which it belongs and the role assigned in the application.

Organization

In this table the information of the organizations that will work with the system is stored: CPCs and the ICCAT Secretariat.

Role

This table stores the information of the roles with which a user can interact with the application. Depending on the role granted, by the administrator users, the user can access one or other views and may execute certain actions.

Notification

The notification table stores information on all the notifications generated by the system, as well as the notifications generated by the ICCAT secretariat to the CPCs to request information.

Notification Receiver

In this table, a specific notification is stored, as well as the request to which it refers and the date and time it was sent.

Requirement

The requirement table stores information on the requirements that are requested from each of the contracting parties in ICCAT. For each of the requirements, the code is stored to identify it, the type of requirement that is involved, a description and a range of dates in which this requirement is valid.

Recommendation

In this table, all the information of ICCAT resolutions, recommendations and articles is stored. They are identified with a code, their range of dates in which they are active are indicated, a brief summary is described and the URL is stored to refer to the text published on the ICCAT website.

RequirementRecommendation

This table links the recommendations with their respective requirements.

DataSubmission

This table stores the data submissions that users have made to satisfy the requirements requested by the ICCAT secretariat. Only correct (after passing through a predefined set of validation rules) data provisions are stored. The date and time of the submission is stored, which user did it, what organization did it, what requirement the sending refers to and the sending information, either in plain text mode, attached files or the electronic form that the user has filled out.

Eform

This table stores information on the electronic forms published by the ICCAT secretariat to comply with the requested requirements. The code of the electronic form is stored, the form type, the form description and the url of the validator.

EformRequirement

This table links the electronic forms with the requirements.

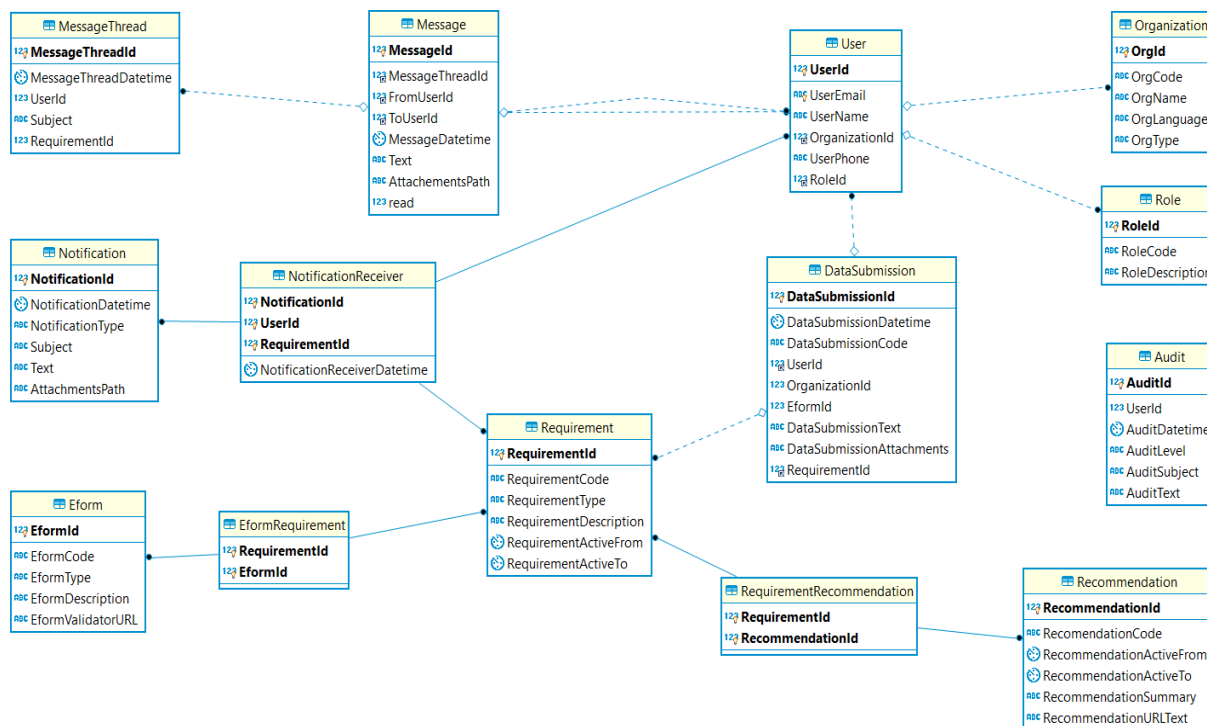


Figure 1 ER (Entity-Relationship) diagram of the IOMS database

Modules

ICCAT web-app platform

Security Manager

The module of the security manager will be in charge of controlling whether the user can access the application or not, which views of the application can be seen or add users and roles, for those users who have that permission.

This module consists of several visual components: authentication, login/logout, user registration, cpc-user-list, user-list, user details (profile), roles, and others.

Reporting requirements manager

This module is in charge of managing the ICCAT requirements as well as the association with ICCAT regulations (Convention articles, Recommendations, Resolutions, etc.) adopted by the Commission, and, the versioning of the official templates (data in electronic forms, text and other information in explicit templates, others) associated with each one of the requirements on data provision by the CPCs.

This module consists of the following components: requirement-list component, requirement-detail component, recommendation-list component, recommendation-detail component, eform-list component, eform-detail component, cpc-data-list submission component, data-list submission component and data submission details component.

Message Manager

This module manages the messages sent between the users of the CPCs and the ICCAT Secretariat. Communications are managed by threads or conversation topics. There may be many messages within each conversation topic and there must be at least one. Currently it is not foreseen to allow communication between users of the application in which one of them is not the ICCAT Secretariat. The application will allow the sending of attachments with a size limitation. These attached files will not be stored directly in the database but will be stored in a directory structure dedicated to the messages.

This module consists of the following components: cpc-message list component, message-list component, message details component.

Notification Manager

The notifications management module of the system will be responsible for managing the notifications. In this module you can create a new notification that can be an information request, a system (automatically generated) notification or a warning. Recipients can be selected from this module.

This module consists of the following components: cpc-notification-list component, notification-list component, notification-detail component.

Auditing Manager

The audit module is responsible for registering and storing in the database the events generated by the users when interacting with the application. Of special relevance are those events related to the sending of information, the attempts of login in the system or events of special relevance. Only ICCAT administrator users will be able to consult data in this module.

This module consists of the following components: cpc-auditing-list component, auditing detail component.

Annual Report Module

a) Annual Report Part II Section III

This module will manage Annual Report requirement in Part II Section III information. The template that will be used to develop this module is described in the "Revised Guidelines for the preparation of Annual Reports" (Ref.12-13). This module will allow the incorporation of annual changes made by the Commission to the ICCAT reporting requirements. Registered users with the appropriate permissions will complete an online version of the Table in Part II Section III or download a template to fill-out "offline" that can be later uploaded into the system.

A version control manager will be developed as part of this module. This module will show all requirements under the annual report, initially created from the Reporting Requirements Manager component (section 2.1, item 1b) of the IOMS main module.

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE PERMANENT WORKING GROUP FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF ICCAT STATISTICS AND CONSERVATION MEASURES (PWG)

1. Opening of the meeting

The Chair of the Permanent Working Group (PWG) Mr. Neil Ansell (European Union) opened the meeting and welcomed the delegates. The ICCAT Executive Secretary also welcomed participants.

The Chair reminded the participants of the need for close coordination with the Panels and the Compliance Committee on some of the agenda items.

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Mr. Jerry Walsh (Canada) was appointed Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair indicated that PWG had an ambitious agenda and hence his desire to move through the agenda as expeditiously as possible to create sufficient time for the substantive agenda items and draft recommendations.

The agenda was adopted without change and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 11**.

4. Review of the report of the Twelfth Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) and consideration of any necessary actions

The Chair informed the Group that the Report of the 12th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) (Madrid, Spain, 9-12 April 2018) was had been distributed (**ANNEX 4.3**). The Chair provided a brief overview of the main discussions that took place in the meeting adding that it was very productive with valuable and detailed discussions often on very technical issues.

The Group recommended it be forwarded to Plenary for adoption.

5. Consideration of the outcome of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review

The Chair indicated that the Group had received its fair share of recommendations many of which were addressed at the 12th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) and appended in Appendix 10 to the meeting report and were also updated in a separate document.

In the interests of time, the Chair suggested that delegations raised comments should they have any when the relevant point was addressed in the agenda. The objective would be to endorse the actions included in the table and then re-visit them at the next intersessional meeting of PWG/IMM or annual meeting in order that the Group be able to follow-up appropriately on the all items and ensure that the Commission is satisfied with the actions being taken.

Progress to date made by PWG on the follow-up of the second performance review is included in **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 11**.

Consideration of the effectiveness and practical aspects of implementation of:

5.1 Catch Documentation and Statistical Document Programs

The Chair drew the attention of the delegations to the Secretariat Report to the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) which contains many elements that may be relevant and could assist discussions under the various agenda items.

eBCD programme

As Chair of the eBCD Technical Working Group (TWG), the Chair provided an update on the eBCD system development and operation (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 11**), referencing the report by the developing consortium TRAGSA. The Chair informed that the TWG had met once in January 2018 although some issues continued to be discussed by correspondence. The objective of the last meeting was outstanding technical developments or “secondary issues” and the development of a programme future system funding scheme. In this regard, the Chair reminded the Group of the financial strain the system had had on the Working Capital Fund and the need for it to be self-sufficient and hence the Commission’s request for a funding scheme. On behalf of the Group he noted that a proposed amendment to the ICCAT financial rules had been submitted to STACFAD for their approval.

The Group noted the importance and role of the eBCD TWG and supported their ongoing work in 2019 to ensure that the system continues to be implemented effectively and that any changes in the relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures are correctly reflected and developed in the system.

The European Union (EU) presented their Report on the Implementation of the derogation to validate eBCD for trades of BFT between member states of the EU (Paragraph 5b of ICCAT Recommendation 17-09) (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 11**).

The United States (US) thanked the EU and enquired about the difficulties faced, in particular whether they had identified any weakness in the eBCD programme that may have contributed to the ongoing large-scale investigation in the EU as discussed in the COC, and potentially what changes could be foreseen to address them. The EU stated that the investigation is at a very preliminary stage and as such no concrete conclusions could yet be drawn, in particular on where any potential weakness in the programme may lie. Nonetheless, the EU confirmed that all eBCD requirements had been fully complied with and that the issues may well be structural and with ICCAT conservation and management measures themselves. The EU will nonetheless work closely with CPCs and keep ICCAT well informed on the status of the investigation and on the results when concluded to ensure an effective eBCD programme and prevent IUU activities. Japan voiced their concern on the case and stated they will remain in close cooperation with the EU and other parties to ensure any loopholes in the programme are quickly addressed.

Given the link between them, the Chair asked Norway to present their two draft recommendations: the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 15-10 on the Application of the eBCD System” and the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 11-20 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program”. The Chair reminded the Group that both were presented by Norway in the 2018 annual meeting and referred to the IMM although were not addressed due to the absence of Norway from the meeting. Norway indicated that the proposed revisions were necessary to fully accommodate their landing obligation and permit the issuance of eBCDs and trading of bluefin tuna caught in excess of their allocation on the condition that such financial returns were directed to the authorities and not to the fisherman. Japan stated that they had no objection provided that wording was introduced to prevent bluefin tuna caught in excess of catch limits being traded internationally including to Japan and also that such catches will be fully counted against their allocation.

The EU stated that they had sympathy, however underlined that ICCAT conservation and management measures clearly provided that products caught above allocations are illegal and cannot be traded and ICCAT must avoid any incentive either domestically or internationally to promote this practice. Nonetheless, they fully understood the provisions of Norway’s landing obligation having one also fully applicable in the EU.

Following the discussions and concerns raised, Norway introduced further changes to both documents, however since consensus could not be reached it was agreed that further discussions could take place in plenary.

Catch and statistical document programmes

The Chair reminded delegations of the need expressed by the Group in 2018 to revisit ICCAT's existing Statistical Document Programs given the concern that the measures may no longer be meeting the objectives they were originally designed to address. The Chair summarized the discussions by the IMM Working Group and their request for information from the Secretariat which could assist in future deliberations and further action by ICCAT in this regard. This information and data was prepared, circulated and introduced by the Secretariat.

Delegations thanked the Secretariat for consolidating this information and agreed that the issue was important but time constraints prevented sufficient discussions. Consequently, it was agreed to refer the discussion to an IMM meeting or intersessional PWG as appropriate, upon agreement of the Commission.

Japan informed the Group that its Ministry of Trade requires original certificates on importation of bluefin tuna, however when the fish is imported fresh it accepts copies of certificates upon the condition that the importer submits a declaration stating that the original documentation will be submitted within a specific time period. Japan sought the views on this approach and there was no objection from the Group.

5.2 Observer programmes

The Chair asked the United States to present the "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Protecting the Health and Safety of Observers in ICCAT'S Regional Observer Programs" and accompanying explanatory note. The US noted the recent tragic accidents where observers were lost at sea and underlined the urgent need for the measures to be taken by ICCAT. They underlined the main elements of the draft recommendation which had been extensively discussed by the IMM Working Group including an Emergency Action Plan and procedures to be followed by CPCs when observers are reported missing or lost at sea.

A number of Contracting Parties expressed their support for the proposal, underlining the importance of observer safety and how ICCAT could assist in this regard.

Morocco noted some difficulty applying such measures to small-scale vessels, especially those associated with the traps in the eastern bluefin tuna fishery, nonetheless they thanked the United States for addressing them in an amended version.

Norway indicated that the issue of health and safety for observers is fundamental, nonetheless it is important that ICCAT does not overlap or encroach on the mandate of other organizations such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO). In this regard, creating responsibilities that fall outside of the mandate of ICCAT could create confusion and issues with the aforementioned organizations. They went on to state that perhaps ICCAT would be better positioned to deal with general safety measures and cooperate more closely with the relevant organizations and their members and also reinforce the dialogue between the industry and fishing authorities on observer issues.

There was no consensus on the proposal and the United States informed that they intend to continue discussing with delegations intersessionally in the hope that ICCAT could follow-up on these issues in the future.

The EU noted that the Regional Observer Programme for Eastern Bluefin tuna had not been discussed by Panel 2 or the Compliance Committee. In this regard, they had noted problems including how the observers are interpreting some ICCAT measures when sending potential non compliance alerts and also how their tasks under the programme are being implemented. The Secretariat stated that a common interpretation of the measures amongst observers would be very useful and requested CPCs to send the Secretariat a list of such issues which could be addressed with the observer consortium. The Chair suggested that perhaps a good way forward would be for interested CPCs to meet and discuss such issues directly with the observer consortium at the Secretariat in advance of observer deployments in 2019.

5.3 At-sea and in-port transshipment requirements

The Chair noted that the ICCAT transshipment programme was updated in 2016 to include carrier vessels transshipping in port on the ICCAT Record of Carrier Vessels and drew delegations attention to the information contained in the Secretariat Report to the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) and in the document listing the potential non-compliance issues reported by regional observers.

5.4 Rules for chartering and other fishing arrangements

The Chair noted that a summary of Chartering arrangements and associated reports from CPCs and information on Access Agreements have been compiled in the Secretariat Report to the Compliance Committee.

5.5 At-sea vessel sighting and inspection programs

On behalf of the IMM Working Group, the Chair presented the “Draft Resolution by ICCAT establishing a pilot program for the voluntary exchange of inspection personnel in fisheries managed by ICCAT” and the main discussions that took place in the meeting in April 2018. He underlined that it was a voluntary scheme that lays down the procedures concerning the exchange of inspectors between parties as well the role of the ICCAT Executive Secretary and Secretariat. Furthermore, that it reflected a non-binding framework to facilitate cooperation, capacity building and exchange of best practice and lessons learned which may all positively inform ICCAT on future deliberations in this domain.

A number of CPCs noted their regrettable absence from the IMM Working Group meeting and hence could not contribute to the discussions. Some noted the need to provide detail on some aspects, in particular that the scheme was voluntary and that the scope for such exchanges would only be international waters. With some small amendments and precisions in this regard, the Group recommended referring the proposal to plenary for adoption.

5.6 Port inspection schemes and other port State measures

The Chair asked the United States to present the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on port State measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing” and the accompanying explanatory note.

The United States provided an overview and noted that there had been numerous developments concerning the implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) by the 56 parties who had ratified the agreement including the 23 which are ICCAT CPCs. The overarching intention of the proposal was to revise Recommendation 12-07 in order to align it more closely with the PSMA, in particular, including criteria for undertaking inspections and measures for port States to restrict access to vessels should they have sufficient reason to believe that a fishing vessel has engaged in IUU activities.

Further discussions and amendments were reflected in the draft recommendation, including the timeframes to submit the reports and on translation corrections. With this in mind, the Group agreed for it to be forwarded to plenary for adoption.

On behalf of its Chair, the PWG Chair introduced the Report of the Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity Building and Assistance (18-19 September 2018) (**ANNEX 4.7**) and the Call for Tenders for the development of an ICCAT specific port inspection training module. He summarized that the Group established pursuant to Recommendation 16-18, reviewed requests for capacity building assistance received in response to its pre-assessment solicitation circulated to CPCs in early 2018.

The Group determined that on-site assessments for all seven parties requesting assistance should be conducted as soon as possible through a phased approach. The terms of reference for the Group also tasked the Group with developing training materials on the specific requirements of the ICCAT port inspection scheme. Given the number of broad port inspector training programs and port inspection capacity building projects already in existence, the Group supported the development of an ICCAT inspector training module as a specialized curriculum that could then be built into existing training

programs. Given the time and resources required to develop a port inspection training curriculum, the Group agreed that the curriculum should be developed by a third party with relevant expertise through a call for tenders. The draft tender prepared by the Secretariat in conjunction with the Chair of the Expert Group was approved by the PWG.

The Expert Group had also suggested that a database of all ICCAT port inspection reports be developed and maintained by the Secretariat accessible to all CPCs. Such a database would make the necessary data available to the Group for evaluating capacity building requests, nonetheless there were financial implications. Funding may be possible from the current balance in the special Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Fund, however if not sufficient, other resources may be needed.

5.7 Vessel listing requirements

The Chair introduced the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT establishing a list of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities”.

Given the extensive discussions that took place in the IMM meeting the Chair summarized the main elements and objectives of the draft recommendation reminding that it was based on a desire to clarify the existing procedures and address the several requests for clarification that had been received in recent years, including on vessel listing, cross-listing and de-listing procedures, definitions of IUU and the procedures and obligations for CPCs and the Secretariat.

CPCs voiced their support and underlined the importance of this instrument to ICCAT in fighting IUU fishing. Some CPCs noted the need to be clear on the scope and the cross-listing with non-tuna RFMOs. In this regard and given the global nature of IUU where some CPCs stated that they had been directly involved with hot pursuits across several oceans, it was considered more appropriate to be more specific and list the relevant non-tuna RFMOs in paragraph 11 of the main body of the draft recommendation.

In light of these changes and new version of the draft recommendation it was agreed that it be sent to plenary for adoption.

5.8 Vessel Monitoring Satellite System requirements

The Chair asked the United States to present the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT concerning minimum standards for vessel monitoring systems in the ICCAT Convention area” and its explanatory note. The Chair recalled that this subject had been extensively discussed at IMM Working Group meeting earlier in the year.

The United States outlined the main elements from the proposal including increased polling rates, anti-tampering measures, power down procedures and scope of the measures including vessel length and recalled the extensive discussions that took place on this subject in the IMM Working Group meeting.

While they fully appreciated it for purse seiners, Japan noted that an increase to one hour polling frequency for longliners was not justified.

Japan also raised a technical issue concerning the Argos transponders installed on their vessels which were not able to physically transmit every hour, especially when operating in some areas where satellite coverage was not continual such as around the equator and hence new language was needed to reflect this.

A number of CPCs expressed their support for the draft recommendation in which many of the measures were already fully reflected their domestic requirements.

The United Kingdom Overseas Territories thanked the United States for their work on this during the IMM Working Group meeting and in the run up to the annual meeting. They underlined their support for the draft recommendation and suggested that ICCAT should revisit these measures in 2020. In the meantime it is important for ICCAT to work towards a fully centralized VMS as reflected in the Report of the Second Independent Review of ICCAT.

Despite the importance and contribution of VMS to enhanced monitoring, control and surveillance and the work of the SRCS, some developing CPCs noted the impact of increased polling rates on operating costs. There was also a request to allow a phasing in of one year for small scale vessels.

On the basis of the discussions and additional changes to the draft recommendation text it was agreed to send it to planetary for adoption.

5.9 Flag State responsibilities

The Chair asked Norway to present their “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on reporting requirements relating to lost, abandoned or otherwise discarded fishing gear”.

A number of CPCs noted that elements of the draft recommendation are currently handled by other organizations such as IMO and MARPOL and that the same approach as taken for the draft recommendation on observer health and safety under point 6.2 should be followed.

Norway noted their agreement and in order to ensure consistency in the deliberations of the Group, withdrew the draft recommendation. Some CPCs did however express their regret hoping that some elements could be addressed again the future given the importance of this issue.

5.10 Other issues

No other issues were raised under this agenda item.

6. Consideration of additional technical measures needed to ensure effective implementation of ICCAT’s conservation and management measures

No other issues were raised under this agenda item.

7. Review and establishment of the IUU vessel list

The Chair drew delegates’ attention to the provisional IUU list (list of vessels presumed to have carried out IUU fishing activities) and asked the Secretariat to introduce the document. The Secretariat briefly explained the document, outlining a number of small changes from Bolivia and Chinese Taipei who had both requested for one vessel to be removed.

The EU repeated their concerns on the utility of the list and the mistakes they had detected in 2018. They thanked the work of the Secretariat but encouraged further cleaning of the information in the list to ensure it is effective and continues to fight IUU activities. Given the discussions and draft recommendation to amend Recommendation 11-18 they underlined they are optimistic on the effectiveness of the new criteria and procedures and improvement of the quality of the information in the IUU list.

Other CPCs thanked the Secretariat for their work to improve the quality of the information and that information on individual vessels can be followed up and on a case by case basis when needed. With this it was agreed that the provisional list be forwarded to Plenary for adoption.

Honduras informed that the vessel Wisdom Sea Reeferbe included and that the information be distributed to all CPCs. Honduras confirmed that the vessel is indeed reported to be flying their flag although does not have authorisation to do so. They wish to be notified if this vessel enters another CPC port and on any information concerning its activities.

The adopted 2018 IUU list is included in **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 11**.

8. Recommendations to the Commission based on findings of above

No other issues were raised under this agenda item.

9. Other matters

The Chair introduced the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending four Recommendations and one Resolution” related to the streamlining of ICCAT conservation and management measures and reminded that the Group that this had been extensively discussed in the IMM Working Group meeting with this course of action being considered the simplest.

The Secretariat explained that the procedures were agreed by STACFAD and the current draft recommendation sought to correct many of the references contained in currently active Recommendations, particularly references to those repealed or related to obsolete deadlines.

10. Adoption of the report and adjournment

It was agreed to adopt the report by correspondence and the meeting was adjourned.

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Review of the report of the Twelfth Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) and consideration of any necessary actions
5. Consideration of the outcome of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review
6. Consideration of the effectiveness and practical aspects of implementation of:
 - 6.1 Catch Documentation and Statistical Document Programs
 - 6.2 Observer Programmes
 - 6.3 At-sea and in-port transshipment requirements
 - 6.4 Rules for chartering and other fishing arrangements
 - 6.5 At-sea vessel sighting and inspection programs
 - 6.6 Port inspection schemes and other port State measures
 - 6.7 Vessel listing requirements
 - 6.8 Vessel Monitoring Satellite System requirements
 - 6.9 Flag State responsibilities
 - 6.10 Other issues
7. Consideration of additional technical measures needed to ensure effective implementation of ICCAT's conservation and management measures
8. Review and establishment of the IUU vessel list
9. Recommendations to the Commission based on findings of above
10. Other matters
11. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 11

Follow up of the ICCAT Performance Review – PWG

Chapter	Recommendations	LEAD	Timeframe	Proposed Next Steps	Observations/ Comments	Action to be taken, or already taken	Completion status following annual meeting	Comments
Data Collection and Sharing	6. The Panel recommends that a mechanism be found to allow minor occasional harvesters without allocations to report their catches without being subject to sanctions.	COC						
	6bis. The Panel concludes that ICCAT scores well in terms of agreed forms and protocols for data collection but, while progress has been made, more needs to be done particularly for bycatch species and discards.	SCRS						See comments SCRS_BIL WG.

	<p>67. Amends Rec 12-07 to ensure more consistency with the PSM Agreement, in particular by including definitions and requiring CPCs to impose key port State measures such as denial or use of port in certain scenarios.</p>	<p>PWG</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to PWG for consideration and appropriate action.</p>		<p>IMM discussed at the April 2018 meeting; Agenda Item 5.d.; G9</p>	<p>Done.</p>	
<p>Port State Measures</p>	<p>68. Closely follows IOTC's efforts to enhance effective implementation of its port State measures through, inter alia, its e-PSM system, and, where appropriate, adopt similar efforts within ICCAT.</p>	<p>PWG</p>	<p>S/M</p>	<p>Refer to Online Reporting Working Group for analysis.</p>	<p>South Africa is already sending Port Inspection Reports to ICCAT through ePSM. IOTC have updated the referential tables to include the necessary ICCAT codes/references etc.</p>	<p>The Working Group on Online Reporting agreed that exploration of developments in other fora would be appropriate before any decisions were taken, such as the forthcoming FAO workshop which would also give consideration to Port State Measure implementation or the next Kobe meeting. The WG on Online Reporting agreed to await the outcomes of this workshop and to revert to this issue intersessionally</p>		

					<p>during the coming year.</p>		
<p>69. Make more efforts to assess substantive compliance with its port State measures and to specify consequences for non-compliance.</p>	<p>COC</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to PWG to review implementation and determine any technical improvements that might be needed. Refer to COC to consider any issues non-compliance and recommend appropriate actions.</p>		<p>IMM considered amendments to Rec. 12-07 that are intended to improve the Commission's review of compliance with the measure. PWG will be able to use any recommendations coming from the COC in order to make technical improvements in that area. Revised proposal on Port Inspection was adopted as Rec. 18-10.</p>	<p>Actions ongoing by COC. New measures taken, but compliance assessment will be ongoing.</p>	

Integrated MCS Measures	70. Gives priority to adopting a modern HSBI scheme - through a Recommendation and not a Resolution - that extends to all key ICCAT fisheries as such, but can be applied in practice to selected fisheries according to the COC's compliance priorities.	PWG	M	Refer to the PWG as work on this matter is ongoing.		Adopting a modern high seas boarding inspection scheme remains open, and text remains on the table to facilitate those discussions. Discussed at the April 2018 IMM; Agenda Item 5c; A proposal was accepted for a voluntary measure that promotes the concept of at-sea inspector exchanges, adopted at the annual meeting.	Done.	
	71. Evaluates the need and appropriateness of further expanding coverage by national and non-national on-board observers for fishing and fishing activities.	PWG	M	Refer to PWG for consideration and also the Panels as observer program requirements can be and some have been agreed as part of management measures for specific fisheries.	SCRS evaluation of current observer program requirements is pending due to lack of reporting.	Expansion of observer coverage by ICCAT remains under consideration. CPC's concerned are also requested to report on their observer coverage by way of their annual report. Request the Compliance		

					<p>Committee to confirm whether CPCs are complying with the requirements contained in Rec. 16-14.</p>		
<p>72. Considers expanding VMS coverage, adopting uniform standards, specifications and procedures, and gradually transforming its VMS system into a fully centralized VMS.</p>	<p>PWG</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to PWG for consideration as Rec. 14-07 must be reviewed per para 6 in 2017. Also refer to the Panels as VMS requirements can be and some have been agreed as part of management measures for specific fisheries.</p>		<p>Discussed at the April 2018 IMM Meeting; Agenda item 5a; A proposal was introduced and discussions are ongoing. Frequency of reporting increased, but no further centralization yet considered. In 2018, frequency of reporting further increased through Rec. 18-10</p>		

<p>73. Works towards replacing all SDPs with electronic CDPs that are harmonized among tuna RFMOs where appropriate - in particular for bigeye tuna - while taking account of the envisaged FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Catch Documentation Schemes.</p>	<p>PWG</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Refer to PWG for further analysis.</p>		<p>Discussed at the April 2018 IMM Meeting; Agenda item 4b; IMM requested that the Secretariat in time for the 2018 Commission annual meeting compile information to inform Commission consideration of the risks posed to ICCAT stocks by IUU activities and/or other potential threats and possible ways to address any such threats, such as the use of Catch Documentation Schemes. Not completed, to be further considered by IMM in 2019.</p>	
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	<p>74. Considers, in the interest of transparency, incorporating all measures relating to distinct MCS measures - in particular transshipment and on-board observers - in one single ICCAT Recommendation, so that CPCs have only one reference document to consult.</p>	PWG	M	<p>Refer to PWG for assessment of the pros and cons of this approach.</p>		<p>Because of the significant administrative burden of this exercise, it is suggested to maintain separate recommendations, to systematically delete obsolete measures to refresh references in the remaining ones.</p>	<p>Separate measures to be maintained, procedure for removal agreed.</p>
<p>Cooperative Mechanisms to Detect and Deter Non-Compliance</p>	<p>79. The Panel recommends that independent information from the fisheries, through inspections at sea and in port, and through effective observer programmes, are made available to the COC, in order for the COC to conduct an effective compliance assessment.</p>	PWG	M	<p>Refer to PWG to consider if there are technical reasons for implementation failures and how to address them if so; Refer to COC to consider extent of any non-compliance and recommend appropriate action.</p>	<p>Some independent information is available to COC due to ICCAT requirements but implementation and reporting problems exist in some cases that can limit evaluation of compliance by CPCs.</p>	<p>Observer and inspection reports are made available to the Commission and subsidiary bodies. Discussed at the April 2018 IMM Meeting; Agenda item 5d; A proposal was introduced and discussions are ongoing.</p>	

<p>Market-Related Measures</p>	<p>84. The Panel, noting Rec. 12-09, commends ICCAT for its initiatives in this area and recommends that catch documents, preferably electronic, be introduced for bigeye and swordfish species.</p>	<p>PWG</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>See Recommendation 73 above for proposed action.</p>		<p>Discussed at the April 2018 IMM Meeting; Agenda item 4b; IMM requested that the Secretariat in time for the 2018 Commission annual meeting compile information to inform Commission consideration of the risks posed to ICCAT stocks by IUU activities and/or other potential threats and possible ways to address any such threats, such as the use of Catch Documentation Schemes.</p>		
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<p>Reporting Requirements</p>	<p>85. The Panel recommends that ICCAT, though its Panels 1 to 4, should undertake an overall review of the current reporting requirements, on a stock by stock basis, both in relation to Task I and Task II data contained in the myriad of recommendations, in order to establish whether the reporting obligations in question could be reduced or simplified.</p>	<p>PWG</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Refer to PWG to undertake this review and present its findings and suggestions to the Panels for their approval.</p>	<p>Such a review will involve many recommendations including proposals developed by virtually all the Panels. PWG is well placed to take a comprehensive look at all these measures. SCRS and the Secretariat could also provide support for this work where appropriate. The online reporting group has also requested that requirements be streamlined and simplified.</p>	<p>Request that, after receiving input from the Online Reporting Working Group by 30 June, the Secretariat circulate to Subsidiary Bodies a list of reporting requirements and how they are used. The Panel can consider which of these reporting requirements is redundant or unnecessary. Work on this is still ongoing, but progress is expected in 2019.</p>		
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<p>87. The Panel recommends that ICCAT consider introducing a provision in new recommendations, whereby the introduction of new reporting requirements would only become effective after a 9 to 12 month period has elapsed. This would assist Developing States to adapt to new requirements. This is particularly relevant where the volume and/or nature of the reporting have changed significantly. The difficulties Developing States encounter in introducing new administrative/reporting requirements at short notice, is well documented in the compliance context. The option for Developed CPCs to apply immediately the new reporting requirements may of course be maintained, if those CPCs consider it opportune.</p>	<p>COM - to be considered by all bodies</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to all ICCAT bodies that can recommend binding reporting requirements for consideration when developing such recommendations. Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.</p>		<p>A global standard may not be appropriate. Application should be handled on a case-by-case basis rather than a blanket coverage for all recommendations.</p>	<p>This may be taken into consideration in specific measures, but no further action currently required by PWG.</p>	
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Confidentiality	97. Considers further improvements, for instance by making more of its data and documents publicly available and - as regards documents - explaining the reasons for classifying certain documents as confidential.	COM - referred to PWG	M	Refer the issue to the Commission / PWG and SCRS to begin a review of ICCAT's rules on confidentiality and their application and needed adjustments can be identified, if any.		There is merit in the SCRS reviewing data confidentiality rules and consider processes within other RFMOs. The PWG should consider this recommendation at the 2018 annual meeting.		
	98. Conducts a review of its Rules and Procedures on Data Confidentiality as envisaged in its paragraph 33, taking into account the need for harmonization among tuna RFMOs consistent with Rec KIII-1. As part of this review, it should adopt an ICCAT's Information Security Policy (ISP), where appropriate.	PWG	M	Refer the issue to the PWG and SCRS to begin a review of ICCAT's rules on confidentiality and their application and needed adjustments can be identified, if any.		There is merit in an external review of the Secretariat's current security policies. The PWG should consider this recommendation at the 2018 annual meeting.		

<p>Capacity building - port State measures</p>	<p>110 a) Urges developing CPCs to make the necessary efforts to assist the ICCAT Secretariat in identifying their capacity building needs;</p>	<p>PWG</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to the PWG where work is already underway through the Port Inspection Experts Group (established per Rec. 16-18).</p>		<p>The Port Inspection Expert Group had developed a two tier questionnaire which has been circulated to all CPCs and responses have been requested by 30 April. The report of the Port Inspection Expert Group was adopted and Commission agreed to Call for Tender for ICCCAT training module and to start with the needs assessments of the two CPs nominated by the Expert Group</p>		
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<p>110 b) Closely coordinates the operation of Rec 14-08 with existing and future capacity building initiatives undertaken by other intergovernmental bodies.</p>	<p>PWG</p>	<p>S/M</p>	<p>Refer to the PWG where work is already underway through the Port Inspection Experts Group (established per Rec. 16-18).</p>		<p>The Port Inspection Expert Group invited an expert (funded by ABNJ) to its meeting last October, in order to better learn of initiatives and developments in that RFMO. Discussed at the April 2018 IMM Meeting;-Port Inspection Expert Group taking current initiatives into account.</p>		
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Summary Report of eBCD system

General:

One meeting of the eBCD TWG was organised in 2018 which took place from the 30-31 January 2018 in the ICCAT Secretariat offices in Madrid.

The objective of the meeting was primarily to deal with the outstanding technical developments ('secondary issues') and following the mandate given by the Commission, to move forward with future system funding schemes.

General state of play of implementation and development:

The successful implementation of the system continues with no significant issues raised by CPCs.

Eleven 'secondary' development issues were identified by the TWG for cost/time analysis. As in previous years such estimates were useful for the TWG when deciding and prioritising implementation of the various development items.

Cost/times requests were received from TRAGSA for eight issues in February 2018 to which the TWG gave their go ahead. The items were then prioritised by way of a ranking system.

Three outstanding cost/time requests were received from October 2018 but have not been yet given the go ahead by the TWG.

Although initiated, there are additionally a small number of technical issues which have not yet been concluded either in the last TWG meeting or intersessionally but which hope to be concluded in a further TWG meeting to be held in the margins of the annual meeting in Croatia. These include in particular data extraction and reporting.

The TRAGSA report contains details on all 'secondary' and 'open' development items.

Financial and contractual issues:

In accordance with the decision taken by the Commission at the 2017 Annual Session, the contract with TRAGSA was extended until March 2019. Up to now the programme has been wholly reliant on the Working Capital Fund.

In light of the Commission's request to the eBCD TWG last year regarding future system funding schemes and the Group's subsequent intersessional discussions, a draft has been proposed to STACFAD for an addition to ICCATs Financial Regulation for an eBCD Funding Scheme* (in accordance with the 60-day delay applicable for changes to the financial rules).

* Adopted by the Commission (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 8**).

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 11**Report on the implementation of the derogation
to validate BCDs for trades of BFT between Member States of the EU****(Paragraph 5b of ICCAT Recommendation 17-09)**

ICCAT CPCs have implemented the eBCD since 26 May 2016 for the bluefin tuna (BFT) caught by the purse seine vessels and traps, and since 1 July 2016 for the fish caught by other gears. All operators fully implement the system as from January 2017.

Recommendation 17-09 provides a derogation to validate BCDs for trades of BFT between Member States of the EU. This derogation is however restricted to specific cases. The EU considers this derogation important because it removes a significant administrative burden related to the validation of trades for small quantities of BFT. It also contributes towards achieving a more level playing field between the EU and the other ICCAT CPCs.

This derogation is up for review in 2020 and in the meantime, under paragraph 5b of Recommendation 17-09 the EU is required to provide the Commission with a report on its implementation.

For the year 2017, the data presented hereunder corresponds to the period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017 and has been provided by EU-Member States by extracting relevant data through the functionality in the eBCD system.

The scope of this report has been restricted to Member States of the EU actively engaged in the fishery, since the trade originating from other Member States and documented in eBCD is for the time being negligible. In addition, we also concentrate on the trade events for BFT sold from a Member States to another, in order to avoid duplication and also because the selling Member States is responsible for the possible validation of the trade in eBCD.

1. From 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017, the EU Member States recorded 17,549 trade events, of which 11,915 took place between Member States for a quantity of 1,580 t.
2. Amongst these 11,915 trade events between EU Member States, 19% (2,294) were validated and 81% (9,621) were exempted from validation. It is important to note that 80% of the cases (7,682) were exempted for validation due to the fish having been tagged, and 20% (1,939) to the use of the derogation under paragraph 5b of Recommendation 17-09.
3. In terms of verifications of the information in the eBCD, generally, 100% of the landings are being inspected, and all catches are officially weighed.

In addition, before validation, all relevant documents are crosschecked including logbook data, landing declarations, sales notes, ICCAT authorizations, etc. At the point of exit and entry from and into Member States, verifications include crosschecks with airbills and sales notes, as well as physical verifications. Even when validation is not required, many Member States verify the validation of catch or tags details, and analyze the coherence of the timing of the validation messages as well as the possible alert messages in eBCD.

To date, there has been no detection of irregular activities resulting from the verification process undertaken by Member States.

Data extraction functionalities, crosschecks and verifications through the eBCD system itself enable MS to establish improved risk assessment procedures to specifically target trades events for verification.

Recommendation 11-18: IUU list 2018
List of vessels presumed to have carried out IUU fishing activities

<i>Serial No.</i>	<i>Lloyds/IMO Number</i>	<i>Reporting CPC/RFMO</i>	<i>Date Informed</i>	<i>Reference #</i>	<i>Current Flag</i>	<i>Previous Flag</i>	<i>Name of Vessel (Latin)</i>	<i>Name (Previous)</i>	<i>Call Sign</i>	<i>Owner/Operator Name</i>	<i>Owner/Operator Address</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>
20040005	Not available	JAPAN - Sighting of tuna longliner in the Convention area, not on ICCAT Record of Vessels	24/08/2004	1788	Unknown	Unknown	BRAVO	NO INFO	T8AN3	NO INFO	NO INFO	AT	
20040006	Not available	JAPAN - Reefer company provided documents showing frozen tuna had been transhipped.	16/11/2004	PWG-122	Unknown	Unknown	OCEAN DIAMOND	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	AT	
20040007	Not available	JAPAN - Communication between fishing vessel and reefer company indicated tuna species had been taken in the Atlantic	16/11/2004	PWG-122	Unknown	Unknown	MADURA 2	NO INFO	NO INFO	(P.T. PROVISIT)	(Indonesia)	AT	
20040008	Not available	JAPAN - Communication between fishing vessel and reefer company indicated tuna species had been taken in the Atlantic	16/11/2004	PWG-122	Unknown	Unknown	MADURA 3	NO INFO	NO INFO	(P.T. PROVISIT)	(Indonesia)		

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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	

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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	

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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 record as AT000GUI00002)	Japan- Bluefin tuna caught and exported without quota	14/11/2008	COC-311/08 and Circular 767/10	Unknown	Rep. of Guinea	DANIAA	CARLOS	3X07QMC	ALPHA CAMARA (Guinean company)	NO INFO	E-ATL or MEDI	Longliner

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20080004	Not available (former ICCAT Register number AT000LIB00 039)	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 AT000LIB00 041)	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	
20090002	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.			

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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	Belize	Camelot					Pacific Ocean	LL
20110014		IATTC	30/08/2011	E11-5762	Unknown	Belize	Chia Hao No. 66	Chi Fuw No. 6	V3IN2	Song Maw Fishery S.A.	Calle 78E Casa No. 30 Loma Alegre, San Francisco, Panama	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	Unknown	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			

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20130004		IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 07/02	04/06/2013	E13-4010	Unknown		Full Rich		HMEK3	Noel Internatio nal LTD			
20130005		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown	Cambodia	Dragon III			Reino De Mar S.A	125 metros al Oeste de Sardimar cocal de Puntarenas Puntarenas Costa Rica	Pacific Ocean	Longli ne
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	Longli ne
20130007		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown		Jyi Lih 88					Pacific Ocean	Longli ne
20130008		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown	Belize	Orca	Orca				Pacific Ocean	Longli ne
20130009		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown	Belize	Reymar 6	Reymar 6				Pacific Ocean	Longli ne

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20130010		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown	Belize	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	Bluefin S.A.	Costado Este de UCR Barrio 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 Commission 2013	Indonesia	Unknown	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	Hsinlong No. 5	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		

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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		

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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		

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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		

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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	Unknown	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	India	Unknown	Balaji No.8 KUANG HSING 196		8VBA	M/s Balaji Sea Foods Ltd	15-1-3712 Nowroji Road, Maharanipecta, Visakhapatnam-530 002/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		

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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		

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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		

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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	Unknown		Abundant 12 (YI HONG 106)		CPA 202	Huang Jia Yi/Mendez Francisco Delos Reyes	C/O Room 18-E Road Lin Ya District Kaohsiung		
20150043	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown		Abundant 9 (YI HONG 116)		CPA222	Huang Jia Yi /Pan Chao Maon	C/O Room 18-E Road Lin Ya District Kaohsiung		

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20150044	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	Abundant 3 (YI HONG 16)		CPA 201	Huang Jia Yi Huang Wen Hsin	C/O Room 18-E Road Lin Ya District Kaohsiung		
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	Unknown		Abundant 1 (YI HONG 6)		CPA 226	Huang Jia Yi /Hatto Daroi	C/O Room 18-E Road Lin Ya District Kaohsiung		
20150047	9042001	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Equatorial Guinea		YONGDING (JIANFENG)		3CAE	Stanley Manageme nt 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		
20160001	n.a.	Senegal/ICCAT	25/02/2016	E16-01726	Unknown	Liberia; Indonesia	New Bai I No. 168	Samudera	YGMY	Shin Pao K ONG Winnie Tsengi	Unknown	AT	

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20170003	n.a.	IOTC Report 2015-CoC12-07	15/07/2017	E17-09210	India		BENAI AH		Not available	Mr. Raju S/O John Rose/Mr. Chris Lukaj	11-4-137 Kalingarajapuram		
20170004	n.a.	IOTC Report 2016-CoC13-07Rev1	15/07/2017	E17-09210	India		BEO HINGIS		Not available	Nasians. P S/O Peter/Hibu Stephen			
20170005	n.a.	IOTC Report 2015-CoC12-07	15/07/2017	E17-09210	India		CARMAL MATHA		Not available	Antony J S/O Joseph	111-7-28 St. Thomas Nagar, Talminadu		
20170006	n.a.	IOTC Report 2015-CoC12-07	15/07/2017	E17-09210	India		DIGNAMOL 1		Not available	Jelvis S/O Dicostan/James Robert	7/103 K R Puram. Mamilnadu		
20170007	n.a.	IOTC Report 2017-CoC14-07	15/07/2017	E17-09210	India		EPHRAEEM		Not available	Not available			
20170008	n.a.	IOTC Report 2015-CoC12-07	15/07/2017	E17-09210	India		KING JESUS		Not available	Bibi S. R. Paul Miranda-S			

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
20170009	n.a.	IOTC Report 2016- CoC13-07 Rev.1	15/07/2017	E17-09210	India		SACRED HEART		Not available	Metlan S/O Paniyadim /P. Newton			
20170010	n.a.	IOTC Report 2017- CoC14-07	15/07/2017	E17-09210	India		SHALOM		Not available	Not available			
20170011	n.a.	IOTC Report 2016- CoC13-07 Rev.1	15/07/2017	E17-09210	India		VACHANAM		Not available	Satril T/ J. Robinson			
20170012	n.a.	IOTC Report 2016- CoC13-07 Rev.1	15/07/2017	E17-09210	India		WISDOM		Not available	Lowerence			
20170013	n.a.	IOTC	15/07/2017	E17-09210	Unknown		ABUNDANT 6	YI HONG 86	CPA 221	Huang Jia Yi/Huang Wen Hsin	C/O Room 18-E, Tze Wei No. 8 6 Th Road Lin Ya District Kaoshiung		
20170014	n.a.	IOTC	15/07/2017	E17-09210	Unknown		SHENG JI QUN 3		CPA 311	Chang Lin	Pao-Chun No. 161, Kaohsiung		

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<i>Serial No.</i>	<i>Lloyds/IMO Number</i>	<i>Reporting CPC/RFMO</i>	<i>Date Informed</i>	<i>Reference #</i>	<i>Current Flag</i>	<i>Previous Flag</i>	<i>Name of Vessel (Latin)</i>	<i>Name (Previous)</i>	<i>Call Sign</i>	<i>Owner/Operator Name</i>	<i>Owner/Operator Address</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>
20170015	n.a.	IOTC Report 2017-CoC14-07	15/07/2017	E17-09210	Unknown	Unknown	SHUN LAI	HSIN JYI WANG NO.6	CPA 514	Lee Cheng Chung	5 Tze Wei Road, Kaohsiung		
20170016	n.a.	IOTC	15/07/2017	E17-09210	Unknown		YUTUNA 3	HUNG SHENG NO. 166	CPA 212	Yen Shih Hsiung/ Lee, Shih-Yuan	No. 3 Tze Wei Forth Road, Kaohsiung		
20170017	n.a.	IOTC	15/07/2017	E17-09210	Unknown		YUTUNA NO. 1		CPA 302	Tseng Min Tsai/ Yen Shih-Shiung	No. 3 Tze Wei Forth Road, Kaohsiung		
20180001	7637527	IOTC Circular 2018-015	06/06/2018	E18-05503	Honduras		WISDOM SEA REEFER		HQXQ4	Wisdom Sea Refer Line S.A.	Claudia E. Ramos Cerrato/ Myo Thant		
20180002		IOTC Circular 2018-015	06/06/2018	E18-05503	Unknown	Djibouti/ Thailand	CHAICHANACH OKE 8		Unknown/ (HSN5721)	Unknown/ (Marine Renown SARL)	Unknown		
20180003		IOTC Circular 2018-015	06/06/2018	E18-05503	Unknown	Djibouti/ Thailand	CHAINAVEE 54		Unknown/ (HSN5447)	Unknown/ (Marine Renown SARL)	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
2018004		IOTC Circular 2018-015	06/06/2018	E18-05503	Unknown	Djibouti/Thailand	CHAINAVEE 55		Unknown/ (HSB3852)	Unknown/ (Marine Renown SARL)	Unknown		
2018005		IOTC Circular 2018-015	06/06/2018	E18-05503	Unknown	Djibouti/Thailand	SUPPHERMNA VEE 21		Unknown/ (HSN5282)	Unknown/ (Marine Renown SARL)	Unknown		

(*) 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 [here](#)



Background notes for the IUU list in 2018

WCPFC IUU Vessel List for 2018

(Effective from 7 February 2018: WCPFC14 agreed to maintain the WCPFC IUU list for 2017 as the WCPFC IUU list for 2018)

Note: Information provided in this list is in accordance with CMM 2010-06 para 19 and WCPFC13 decisions.

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)	Vessel Master (nationality)	Owner/beneficial owners (previous owners)	Notifying CCM	IUU activities
Neptune	<i>unknown</i> (Georgia)	10 Dec. 2010	M-00545	<i>unknown</i> (4LOG)		Space Energy Enterprises Co. Ltd.	France	Fishing on the high seas of the WCPFC Convention Area without being on the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels (CMM 2007-03-para 3a)
Fu Lien No 1	<i>unknown</i> (Georgia)	10 Dec. 2010	M-01432 IMO No 7355662	<i>unknown</i> (4LIN2)		Fu Lien Fishery Co., Georgia	United States	Without nationality and harvested species covered by the WCPFC Convention in the Convention Area (CMM 2007-03, para 3h)
Yu Fong 168	<i>unknown</i> (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 at 7 Dec 2017:** 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. On 17 November 2017, WCPFC received a communication from Chinese Taipei informing WCPFC that Yu Fong 168 has been deregistered by Chinese Taipei.

IATTC IUU List for 2018

The new data concerning the vessel *Xin Shi Ji 16* (Serial n°. 20140001) and the vessel *Chia Hao No. 66* (20110014) have been provided by the IATTC Secretariat to ICCAT Secretariat on 9 April 2018. On the IATTC webpage, the following list is available since 16 April 2018 ([see link](#)).

New data for vessel *Dragon III* (20130005) and vessel *Ta Fu 1* (20130010) concerning previous flag was uploaded from the IATTC webpage on 18 May 2018 ([see link](#)).

IOTC IUU Vessels List 2018

New data concerning the vessel *Kuang Hsing 196* (Serial n°. 20150023) have been added to the list according to the information on the [IOTC webpage \(here\)](#).

The IOTC Secretariat has informed the ICCAT Secretariat on 30 May 2018 and on 6 June 2018 (corrigendum) of its IUU list containing five new vessels compared to its 2017 list. In June 2018, the IOTC list has been circulated to ICCAT CPCs in order to obtain their agreement to include the vessels in the ICCAT IUU list. The supporting documentation for vessels added to the IUU list in 2018 can be downloaded from the [IOTC website \(here\)](#).

In July 2018, Bolivia notified the Secretariat that the vessel *KIM SENG DENG 3* was not registered under Bolivian flag.

Information for the ICCAT IUU Vessels List in 2018

At its 12th meeting in April 2018, the IMM requested the ICCAT Secretariat to update as much as possible the information of the ICCAT IUU list. The Secretariat received input from Chinese Taipei who informed that the vessel *YU FONG 168* was not flagged to Chinese Taipei. This change was presented in the Draft ICCAT IUU list (Circular n° 568/18 of 14 August 2018).

In July 2018, Bolivia has informed the ICCAT Secretariat that the vessel *KIM SENG DENG 3* is not registered under the Bolivian flag. This change was presented in the Draft ICCAT IUU list (Circular n° 568/18 of 14 August 2018).

In September 2018, Bolivia has informed the Secretariat that the vessels *ABUNDANT 1*, *ABUNDANT 12*, *ABUNDANT 3*, *ABUNDANT 6*, *ABUNDANT 9*, *SHENG JI QUN 3*, *SHUN LAI*, *YUTUNA 3* and *YUTUNA NO.1* that are listed under “unknown flag” have call sign numbers starting by *CPA-XXX* which correspond, erroneously, to the Bolivian flag. In addition, in October 2018, Bolivia reiterated its request to delist those vessels. Since the vessels were listed by IOTC, in October 2018 Bolivia has also sent a request to IOTC to have the vessels quoted above delisted.

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