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

**R E P O R T
for biennial period, 2020-21
PART I (2020) - Vol. 1
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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

CONTRACTING PARTIES

(at 31 December 2020)

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

SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COMMISSION

	Chair
STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION (STACFAD)	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 and Bycatch: 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

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* United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has substituted United Kingdom (Overseas Territories) since 21 October 2020.

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, 2020-2021, Part I (2020)**", 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 Discussions on Essential Commission Business in 2020 *in lieu* of the 22nd Special Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas 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). All Volumes 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

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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 2020 DISCUSSIONS ON ESSENTIAL COMMISSION BUSINESS *IN LIEU OF*
22ND SPECIAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF
ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT)**

Introduction

Due to the pandemic of COVID-19, it was not possible to hold the 22nd Special Meeting of the Commission as originally foreseen. Notwithstanding, aware of the need to ensure continued conservation and management of stocks managed by ICCAT, the CPCs agreed to carry out a decision-making process through correspondence. This report summarises the decisions taken through this process.

All CPCs were invited to participate in the online decision-making process. Observers participation was also confirmed by the following non-governmental organisations: Brazilian Association of Fish Industries (ABIPESCA), Asociación Nacional de Acuicultura de Atún Rojo (ANATUN), Defenders of Wildlife, Ecology Action Centre (EAC), Global Tuna Alliance (GTA), International Pole and Line Foundation (IPNLF), Européche, Fishery Improvement Plan (FIP), Humane Society International (HIS), International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), Monterey Bay Aquarium, Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), Oceana, Pew Charitable Trusts, Project Aware Foundation, Associação de Ciências Marinhas e Cooperação (SCIAENA), Shark Trust, Shark Project, Stockholm Resilience Centre (SRC), The Ocean Foundation and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

The international governmental organisations that were kept apprised of the process included: Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS), Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF), the Mediterranean Science Commission (CIESM), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Conférence Ministérielle sur la Coopération Halieutique entre les Etats Africains Riverains de l'Océan Atlantique/ Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation Among African States Bordering the Atlantic (COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO), South Pacific Permanent Commission (CPPS), Commission sous-régionale des pêche / Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (CSRFP), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC), Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), INFOPÊCHE, Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC), International Whaling Commission (IWC), Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO), North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO), North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), Nigeria-Sao Tomé Joint Development Authority (NSTPJDA), North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Organización Latinoamericana de Desarrollo Pesquero / Latin American Organization for Fisheries development (OLDEPESCA), Organización Mundial de Comercio (OMC) / World Trade Organization (WTO), South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO), United Nations (UN), United Nations Environment Programme / Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (UNEP/CMS), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), and Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC).

The List of participants is included in **ANNEX 2**.

The Commission welcomes the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as a Contracting Party to ICCAT, effective on 21 October 2020. As the United Kingdom will represent its Overseas Territories, and Vanuatu withdrew from the Commission, the total number of Contracting Parties is now 52. The opening statement of the UK is contained in **ANNEX 3.2**.

Statements sent to plenary during the three correspondence periods which closed the work of the subsidiary bodies, as well as consolidated final statements, were also received from El Salvador, the European Union, Guatemala, Japan, Nicaragua, Panama, Senegal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States, and Chinese Taipei (**ANNEX 3.2**), and from the following observers: Ecology Action Centre (EAC), Fishery Improvement Project (FIP), Global Tuna Alliance, International Pole

and Line Foundation (IPLF), International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), Monterey Bay Aquarium, Pew Charitable Trusts, Associação de Ciências Marinhas e Cooperação (Sciaena), Shark Project (on behalf of various NGOs) and Shark Trust (also on behalf of various NGOs) (**ANNEX 3.3**). Closing statements were provided by Pew Charitable Trusts, Shark Project (on behalf of several NGOs) and Shark Trust (on behalf of various NGOs) and are attached in **ANNEX 3.3**.

This standard for statement submission had been determined by the Chair, together with the procedure for decision making, following consultation with the other Commission officers and CPCs. It had been agreed that each proposal would be subject to up to three periods of correspondence, and if no agreement could be reached at the end of these three periods, the final decision would rest with Plenary if requested by the Chair of the subsidiary body. A slightly different calendar was agreed for the Compliance Committee given the different nature of the decisions to be taken by that body.

1. Review of the reports of the 2020 Intersessional Meetings, including Online meetings as appropriate and consideration of any necessary actions

No comments were made on any of the reports of the intersessional meetings, and the following are thus deemed to be adopted by the Commission.

- Report of the First Virtual Working Group on the Review of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission (VWG_RRP) (**ANNEX 6.1**).
- Report on Virtual Working Group for Sustainable Financing (VWG_SF) (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 7**)
- [Report of the 2020 Meeting of the Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity Building and Assistance](#)
- [Report of the Working Group on Control and Traceability Measures](#)
- [Report of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2](#)
- [2020 SCRS Advice to the Commission](#)

2. Cooperation with other organisations, including review of outstanding MoUs or determination of action plan as appropriate

The Secretariat signed the MoU with SEAFO as adopted at the 2019 Commission. As there has been some difficulty in agreeing on the wording of the MoUs with GFCM and WECAFC, the Commission has agreed that the letters of cooperation for specific areas, as currently foreseen by the Agreement between ICCAT and FAO, can be drafted during the intersessional period as needed. The possibility of making progress on MoUs with these bodies will be further explored at the 2021 ICCAT annual meeting, as needed and appropriate.

3. Review and endorsement, if appropriate, of the decisions taken by Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD)

The Chair of STACFAD reported that the Committee had endorsed the Administrative Report and Financial Report prepared by the Secretariat. In addition, the Committee put forward a revised Commission budget (**Tables 1-5 of ANNEX 7**) and a revised eBCD budget (**eBCD Tables 1-5 of ANNEX 7**).

In addition, the STACFAD Chair informed the Commission of the progress made on the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Financing (VWG-SF) and put forward for Commission adoption a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 14-14 on the establishment of a Meeting Participation fund for developing ICCAT Contracting Parties” and “Draft Rules of Procedure on the Meeting Participation Fund”.

On the understanding that future revision may be required in light of experience following implementation, these were adopted by the Commission. The *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 14-14 on the establishment of a Meeting Participation fund for developing ICCAT Contracting Parties* is contained in **ANNEX 4** (Rec. 20-09), and the *Rules of Procedure on the Meeting Participation Fund* are contained in **ANNEX 5** (Ref. 20-10). The Commission also took note that the VWG-SF will continue its work in 2021.

Statements to Plenary on STACFAD issues were presented by the European Union and Senegal and are contained in **ANNEX 3.2**.

The Report of STACFAD was adopted by the Commission and is contained in **ANNEX 7**.

4. Review and endorsement, if appropriate, of proposals put forward by the Panels 1 to 4

Panel 1

The Chair of Panel 1 indicated that the Panel had not reached full consensus on the “Draft Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Recommendation 19-02 by ICCAT to Replace Recommendation 16-01 by ICCAT on a Multi-Annual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tunas” but that there had been considerable support for this proposal. He therefore requested that this proposal be further considered by the Commission through Plenary.

The Chair further noted that the Proposed Table of 2020 Bigeye Catch Limits, indicating catch limits and reference limits for 2020 had not been agreed and was not being put forward by the Panel for adoption.

The Chair of Panel 1 also presented a roadmap for work to be carried out in 2021 which is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 8**. This did not reach full consensus during Panel 1 discussions, but the Chair of the Panel requested that it be presented to Plenary for final review and possible adoption as there had been some support for the plan, and it was hoped that agreement on the way forward could be reached.

The Commission Chair reminded the CPCs of the process agreed for taking decisions through correspondence. In light of that, the Commission reviewed the “Draft Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Recommendation 19-02 by ICCAT to Replace Recommendation 16-01 by ICCAT on a Multi-Annual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tunas” and agreed its adoption. The measure was adopted as Rec. 20-01 and is contained in **ANNEX 4**.

Statements to Plenary regarding Panel 1 were submitted by the European Union, Guatemala, Japan, Nicaragua, Senegal, the United States, Chinese Taipei (**ANNEX 3.2**) and Fishery Improvement Plan (FIP) (**ANNEX 3.3**).

The Report of Panel 1, following some amendment, was adopted by the Commission and is contained in **ANNEX 8**.

Panel 2

Five draft proposals had been tabled for discussion by Panel 2, four by the Chair of Panel 2 taking into account initial input of Panel 2 members and one by the United States on western bluefin tuna.

The “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 16-06 Establishing a Multi-Annual Conservation and Management Programme for North Atlantic Albacore”, submitted by the Chair of Panel 2 was adopted by the Panel following some amendments, as was the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 17-04 on a Harvest Control Rule for North Atlantic Albacore Supplementing the Multiannual Conservation and Management Programme in Rec. 16-06”.

The Chair of Panel 2 proposed a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 19-04 Establishing A Multi-Annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean” which, following the incorporation of some amendments, was adopted by the Panel.

The Chair proposed to merge the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 17-06 for an Interim Conservation and Management Plan for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna” which he had tabled with the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT extending and amending the interim conservation and management plan for western Atlantic bluefin tuna” tabled by the United States. This revised and merged proposal was adopted by the Panel as “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 17-06 for an Interim Conservation and Management Plan for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna”.

The Chair also put forward a workplan for preparation of the intersessional meeting of Panel 2 to be held virtually in March 2021.

The Commission adopted the following four Recommendations:

- *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 16-06 Establishing a Multi-Annual Conservation and Management Programme for North Atlantic Albacore* (Rec. 20-03);
- *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 17-04 on a Harvest Control Rule for North Atlantic Albacore Supplementing the Multiannual Conservation and Management Programme in Rec. 16-06* (Rec. 20-04);
- *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 17-06 for an Interim Conservation and Management Plan for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* (Rec. 20-06); and
- *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 19-04 Establishing A Multi-Annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean* (Rec. 20-07).

These adopted measures are contained in **ANNEX 4**.

Statements to Plenary regarding Panel 2 were submitted by the European Union (**ANNEX 3.2**) and the PEW Charitable Trusts.

The Report of Panel 2, following minor amendment, was adopted by the Commission and is contained in **ANNEX 8**.

Panel 3

The Chair of Panel 3 had put forward a “Draft Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Recommendation by ICCAT on South Atlantic Albacore Catch Limits for the Period 2017-2020”, in order to ensure continuity of management measures in 2021. No comments on the proposal were received other than explicit support from one CPC, and this measure was put forward to the Commission for approval. CPCs were also invited to inform the Commission of their intention to apply the carry-over provisions in 2021. The list of CPCs wishing to avail themselves of this is shown in the Report of Panel 3, which is contained in **ANNEX 8**.

The *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Recommendation by ICCAT on South Atlantic Albacore Catch Limits for the Period 2017-2020* was adopted as Rec. 20-05 by the Commission and is attached in **ANNEX 4**.

The Report of Panel 3, following minor amendment, was adopted by the Commission and is contained in **ANNEX 8**.

Panel 4

Four draft proposals were discussed by Panel 4.

The “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 19-03 by ICCAT for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish”, proposed by Morocco met with no objection and was agreed by Panel 4 and referred to the Commission for adoption.

Three draft proposals on shortfin mako were initially tabled in Panel 4: The “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of North Atlantic Stock of Shortfin Mako Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries”, submitted by the European Union; a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to establish a rebuilding program for North Atlantic shortfin mako sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries”, submitted by the United States and a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on conservation of Atlantic shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries” tabled by Canada and co-sponsored by Chinese Taipei, Gabon, Senegal and the United Kingdom. No consensus could be reached on the measures for shortfin mako by Panel 4, and it was agreed that further work be carried out in July 2021 during an intersessional meeting.

The United States submitted, for information, a document entitled Best Practices for Reducing Total Mortality of North Atlantic Shortfin Mako Sharks.

The Commission adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 19-03 by ICCAT for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish* (Rec. 20-02). It is contained in **ANNEX 4**.

Statements to Plenary on Panel 4 issues were presented by the United Kingdom (**ANNEX 3.2**), Shark Project (on behalf of several NGOs), International Pole and Line Foundation (IPNLF), Shark Trust (on behalf of various NGOs), PEW Charitable Trusts and Ecology Action Centre (**ANNEX 3.3**).

The Report of Panel 4 was adopted by the Commission and is contained in **ANNEX 8**.

5. Review and endorsement, if appropriate, of the decisions taken by the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC)

On the basis of the Compliance Summary Tables (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9**), the Committee endorsed the COC Chair's recommended actions contained therein, which were presented to the Commission for its approval. The Commission approved the recommended actions.

The Compliance Tables had been subject to several updates. As no further comments were received within the stipulated deadline on the final version circulated for comment, all tables with the exception of BET were deemed approved by the COC and presented to the Commission for its endorsement. In the case of the BET table, numbers that had been removed in error from a previous version were reinserted in the final published version, and the COC Chair presented this table to the Commission for endorsement. The Commission endorsed all the compliance tables reflected in **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9**.

The Committee took note that, by the end of the correspondence period, Task 1 data were still missing from four CPCs (Costa Rica, The Gambia, Grenada, Guinea Bissau) and that, as a result, reported to the Commission that these CPCs would be subject to prohibition of retention of ICCAT species for which there is a data deficiency from 1 January 2021 unless the missing data or confirmation of zero catch for 2019 and previous years, as applicable, were received. The Commission took due note of this matter.

There was no objection within the COC to renewal of cooperating status for Bolivia, Costa Rica, Chinese Taipei, Guyana, and Suriname, on the understanding that such status will be reviewed in light of performance during 2021. The Commission agreed with the COC recommendation to renew cooperating status for these five parties.

The Committee took note of the concerns raised regarding the possible renewal of cooperating status for Colombia and recommended to the Commission that cooperating status not be renewed. The COC indicated that Colombia's request should be considered further at the 2021 ICCAT annual meeting. During Plenary, two Parties indicated that they supported the request of Colombia and did not agree with the proposal to not renew cooperating status. The Statements by Guatemala, Honduras, and the European Union are contained in **ANNEX 3.2**.

It was also recommended by the COC that letters seeking improved cooperation with ICCAT be sent to the following non-CPCs: Dominica, Gibraltar, St. Kitts & Nevis, and Tanzania, and the Commission agreed.

Finally, the COC Chair recommended rescheduling in 2021 the cancelled two-day special COC session originally planned to take place just before the 2020 annual meeting and supported holding an intersessional meeting of the Online Reporting Technical Working Group in February 2021. The Commission agreed with these recommendations.

6. Review and endorsement, if appropriate, of the decisions taken by the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG)

The Secretariat had circulated a draft IUU vessel list on which several comments were received. These were taken into account in a revised version (**Appendix 19 to ANNEX 10**) which was adopted by the PWG and

put forward to the Commission for adoption. It was agreed that the mechanisms for incorporating changes intersessionally would be reviewed at the next meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM).

The Chair of the PWG had put forward a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 18-12 on the Application of the EBCD System”, as some of the provisions of Rec. 18-12 were set to expire on the 31 December 2020. Following some exchanges for clarification, this measure was agreed by the PWG and put forward to the Commission for approval.

The *Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend Rec. 18-12 on the Application of the EBCD System* (Rec. 20-08) was adopted by the Commission and is contained in **ANNEX 4**.

It was agreed that the other pending PWG issues would be deferred to an intersessional meeting of the IMM, the tentative agenda for which is attached to the PWG report (**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10**).

The 2020 ICCAT IUU Vessel List (**Appendix 19 to ANNEX 10**) was adopted by the Commission. It was noted that deletion certificates would be forthcoming from The Gambia and Senegal for two of the listed vessels and that the procedure for changing the flag State information on the IUU vessel list for these vessels could be considered in 2021 following receipt of these.

The Report of PWG, following minor amendment, was adopted by the Commission and is contained in **ANNEX 10**.

7. Intersessional meetings in 2021

Taking into account that a State of Alarm has been imposed by Spain until 9 May 2021, the scheduling of intersessional face-to-face meetings early in 2021 is not advisable, particularly as many of these meetings would normally be held at the Secretariat offices in Madrid. It was agreed that an online meeting of Panel 2 would be needed in March, *inter alia*, to adopt the fishing plans for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, and that face-to-face meetings should be held, if possible, for Panel 1, Panel 4, the IMM Working Group and the Compliance Committee (two-day session to take place in conjunction with the annual meeting in 2021), preceded by correspondence exchanges and online meetings as appropriate. If in-person meetings are not possible, these meetings should be converted to a virtual format. It was also agreed that the Online Reporting Technical Working Group should hold a virtual meeting in February. Following discussion among the officers and having sought the views of the CPCs, the tentative schedule of intersessional meetings, including virtual and scientific meetings, is attached in **Table 1**. The Commission noted that, while all the SCRS related meetings are reflected in the table as taking place online, they will be changed to in-person meetings if conditions allow.

8. Other matters

The Commission took note of the progress made by the Working Group on the Review of the Rules of Procedure; the work of this virtual group should be completed in 2021.

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

In the expectation that a face-to-face meeting can be held in 2021, the Commission agreed that the dates of the next annual meeting will be 15 to 22 November 2021. It was noted that no offer to host the meeting had yet been received, which could seriously limit the capacity of the meeting. Capacity could also be limited depending on the situation with the pandemic at that time. If no offer to host the meeting is received, the Secretariat will search for a possible venue for the meeting within the available financial resources.

10. Adoption of the report containing the decisions of the Commission

The report was adopted together with the documents mentioned therein.

Table 1. Tentative SCRS and Commission Calendar for 2021.

All meetings until October are being scheduled to be held online, with the exception of those highlighted in red which are tentatively scheduled to be in-person meetings.

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI		
January					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
															AOTTP symposium																				
February								1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26		
																											On-line report. WG								
March	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				
		Panel 2 intersessional						Billfishes Intersessional																			TT MSE								
April				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
								BFT Intersessional (incl. W-BFT Data Prep)													BET Data preparatory														
May						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28		
										WG Stock Asse.Meth. SC-Ecosystems																	SMT intersessional								
June		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				
		SWO inters.(inc. MSE)													IMM intersessional								ALB Intersessional (incl. Med assessment)												
July				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
				PA1 inters.				PA4 intersessional																				BET Stock assessment							
								BFT MSE Tech. Group																											
August							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		
September			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30			
			PA1 intersessional asse. BFT 2nd Inters.					BFT 2nd Inters.																			SCRS SG*			SCRS Plenary					
October					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
					SCRS Plenary																														
November	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30					
										BFT-MSE		COC								Commission meeting															
December			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		

COMMISSION AGENDA

1. Review of the reports of the 2020 Intersessional Meetings, including Online meetings as appropriate and consideration of any necessary actions
2. Cooperation with other organisations, including review of outstanding MoUs or determination of action plan as appropriate
3. Review and endorsement, if appropriate, of the decisions taken by Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD)
4. Review and endorsement, if appropriate, of proposals put forward by the Panels 1 to 4
5. Review and endorsement, if appropriate, of the decisions taken by the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC)
6. Review and endorsement, if appropriate, of the decisions taken by the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG)
7. Intersessional meetings in 2021
8. Other matters
9. Date and place of the next meeting of the Commission
10. Adoption of the report containing the decisions of the Commission

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PROCEDURES FOR COMMISSION DECISIONS IN 2020 & STATEMENTS TO THE PLENARY SESSIONS

3.1 PROCEDURES FOR COMMISSION DECISIONS IN 2020

Below is a summary of the procedures that were adopted for the Commission decision making process in 2020, which were contained in ICCAT circulars #5924/20 and #6716/20.

Given the inherent difficulties for such a large and diverse organization in making decisions solely by correspondence, I recommended, in consultation with ICCAT Officers, that our efforts be targeted towards those few key issues that cannot be delayed and that, as far as possible, expiring conservation and management measures be rolled over for one year unless new SCRS advice indicates urgent action is necessary. Therefore, in line with my previous correspondence, species-related proposals that can be tabled by CPCs in 2020 for consideration through correspondence will be limited to the following two categories:

1. Proposals to address matters that have been identified by CPCs in their responses to Circulars #4379 and #4686, to the extent that these CPCs maintain an interest in tabling such proposals this year; and
2. Proposals to address expiring measures in cases where the 2020 SCRS advice indicates an urgent situation and something other than a one-year rollover of the current Recommendation may need to be considered.

The following procedures will govern the correspondence process for all species related proposals:

Following the publication of the SCRS report, I will request the Chairs of Panels 1-4 to initiate the correspondence process for their issues by providing the Commission with their initial views of:

1. those stocks/species whose conservation and management may be sufficiently addressed by continuance of existing management measures (whether through a one-year rollover of a measure set to expire, or non-amendment of a measure not set to expire), and;
2. those stocks/species for which consideration of amendments to existing measures may be warranted given new SCRS advice indicating an urgent situation.

For those species determined by a Panel Chair to be appropriately addressed by a rollover, the Panel Chair will, at the same time, circulate a proposal for a one-year extension of the existing measure that is as short and simple as possible¹. CPCs will have two weeks (14 calendar days) from the time the initial proposal is circulated to review it and provide any feedback. Absent objection by the deadline, the proposed rollover will be considered adopted by the Commission. If an objection is raised before the deadline, the Panel Chair will work with concerned CPCs to address the concerns, and where appropriate circulate a proposal no later than 15 October 2020. After each subsequent circulation of a proposal, CPCs will have no more than 14 calendar days for review.

In the case of stocks/species determined by the Panel Chair as warranting consideration of amendments to existing measures in light of new SCRS advice, CPCs have an opportunity to provide input on possible amendments, including through submission of proposals no later than 15 October 2020. Alternatively, the Panel Chair can produce and circulate a draft recommendation. The review/comment timeframes for such proposals is the same as for proposals addressed in the preceding paragraph.

In the case of new proposals or significant revisions to existing measures, I urge CPCs to be aware that adoption through correspondence will be extremely challenging; hence, CPCs should avoid making proposals which are unlikely to be accepted relatively quickly, and preferably on no more than two rounds of review.

¹The simplest version is "All the measures contained in Rec. XX-YY that are in effect in 2020 shall be applied for 2021." If this is not suitable, another option could be to pick up only paragraphs subject to change rather than to produce an entire draft recommendation indicating which parts are subject to change.

If, after three iterations of this process, the relevant Chair determines that consensus will not be possible on a proposal, the Panel Chair will close debate on the specific proposal and, where the proposal relates to a management measure that is expiring, initiate a discussion on possible next steps. In the case of lack of consensus on proposals to amend measures that do not expire, the debate will simply be closed and the existing measures will continue to apply in 2021.

Note that, for those stocks with expiring measures, lack of agreement on at least a rollover proposal would mean important management controls would lapse in 2021. I would urge you all to reflect on the serious implications of this. While understanding the legitimate concerns of some CPCs on the current measures, I would ask all parties to recognise the exceptional and unforeseen circumstances in which we now find ourselves. Given that, I would ask for your patience and maximum flexibility as we undertake this unique process this year - a year in which it will simply not be possible to fully address every issue as originally hoped. Nevertheless, to ensure we can get through this extraordinary time and successfully meet at least a minimum of our responsibilities, we must work together through the correspondence process to find consensus on the urgent matters requiring our attention in 2020.

Bilateral/multilateral consultation as well as coordination with the Panel Chairs is encouraged, where appropriate, in order to increase the possibility of reaching consensus as quickly as possible during the correspondence period. In any event, all measures adopted in 2020 will be subject to review, as required, in 2021.

Before the start of the correspondence process, the Executive Secretary will ensure that the appropriate contact details for each CPC's official correspondents are available and up to date. If CPCs agree (depending on their confidentiality requirements), these contact details will be made available to all CPCs to facilitate bilateral/multilateral consultation. Additionally, the Executive Secretary will give CPCs an opportunity to provide specific points of contact for the various subsidiary bodies of ICCAT, for those CPCs that may wish to designate different focal points for different issues.

Any proposal made will be available in all three official ICCAT languages. Any proposed changes will also be translated before a proposal is recirculated.

In order to facilitate the 2020 Commission process, namely correspondence and bilateral contacts, CPCs are kindly requested to check the name and e-mail address of their Head Delegate, which is provided in the attachment. In addition, CPCs are requested to provide the Secretariat with a list of focal points for each subsidiary body, that will receive the correspondence in addition to the Head Delegate. For that purpose, please fill the attached EXCEL file and send it to the Secretariat no later than 9 October 2020. If more than one person is nominated, CPCs shall indicate one person that is allowed to provide comments and/or documents.

As mentioned, bilateral/multilateral consultation as well as coordination with the Panel Chairs is encouraged, where appropriate, in order to increase the possibility of reaching consensus as quickly as possible during the correspondence period. The period of correspondence will start on 19 October 2020, due to the need for time to proceed with translation and dissemination of all proposals received from ICCAT Contracting Parties. The deadline for the submission of all proposals is the 15 of October (6 p.m. Madrid time) at the latest.

For the sake of transparency ICCAT Observers will be copied in all correspondence the Secretariat circulates related to the essential Commission business to be discussed. For that purpose, the Secretariat will contact those Observers to which the status of observers has been granted by ICCAT, to inquire as to their willingness to follow the 2020 Commission process and to provide a focal contact point. Observers may express their views to each subsidiary body of the Commission through Statements. One statement shall be allowed per subsidiary body, however, as usual, the Secretariat will not provide translation of these. Therefore, statements will only be posted in the [2020 Commission documents website](#) in their original language, unless also provided in the other ICCAT official languages by the Observers. Any additional view provided by Observers will be managed by the Chair of the respective subsidiary body, as is the practice during Commission meetings.

CPCs are encouraged to visit and download the available documents. In order to facilitate the translation work and avoid possible errors, CPCs are asked to work on and include changes to the last available versions distributed; these will be available for download from a password protected folder. In addition, the most recent WORD versions of all draft Recommendations and Resolutions must be used for submission of further amendments. Please make sure to use the most recent Word version when submitting changes to previously circulated documents. Accordingly, the Secretariat will provide access to a specific folder to all the persons authorized (mentioned above) to submit documents (if other than Head Delegate).

In addition, the WORD files of Recommendations and Resolutions adopted between 2017 and 2019 are also available in the folder 2017-2019. Please use these files with the track-changes tool enabled for submission of any amendments to them. Other documents will also be made available upon request by e-mail.

3.2 STATEMENTS BY CONTRACTING PARTIES

Statement by El Salvador to the Plenary on Panel 1 – Round 3, Part II

My country regrets that Panel 1 was unable reach consensus on the adoption of an extension to 2021 of the measures contained in Recommendation 19-02. We are hopeful that within the Commission, proposals can be built in line with the commitment to the effective and efficient management of tropical tunas. To this end, it is essential to have a clear understanding of the principles which should guide the discussions:

- a) Build the best scientific evidence available from quality data, which is verifiable and satisfactory, from all fisheries and analyzes of all options;
- b) Ensure that, when the precautionary approach is implemented, excessive burdens are not imposed on fishermen;
- c) Develop exploitation and management mechanisms in accordance with the principles of international fisheries law, consistent with due process, non-discrimination and equal participation, taking into account the specific needs of developing CPCs.

In 2020, my country reduced its catches by approximately 40% compared with previous years and this reduction is unfair given the efforts of a lesser scale required from other participants in the fishery.

Recommendation 19-02, for 2021, establishes a long-term closure (3 months) and the limitation of FADs (paragraphs 28, 29 and 30) for FAD-associated fleets, excluding the catch limit. Without an analysis of the scientific impact, all sacrifices could be excessive and discriminatory.

In the search for consensus, my country has not objected to the coexistence of input and output measures in the context of a precautionary approach, provided that their impacts are properly analyzed by the SCRS and that the Commission receives quick guidance on their efficiency and productivity. However, it is true that in the absence of these studies, it does not seem fair or balanced that the same limit that was established for 2020 be extended to 2021 and, at the same time, extend FAD closure to 3 months or further reduce FADs per vessel.

Notwithstanding the above, Mr. Chair, and convinced that we must continue to work towards building consensus within a holistic and measured approach, El Salvador reiterates that it could accompany the initial proposal of the Chair of Panel 1, adjusting, as other CPCs have proposed, to 2021, all the measures that they implemented in 2020, all in conjunction with the adjustments of the workplan for 2021, allowing more quality time to this process, in particular to explore the alternatives stated in paragraph 66 of Rec. 19-02.

Statement by the European Union to the Plenary on Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) – Round 3, Part I

The European Union (EU) thanks the Chair and the Secretariat for the report presented for formal adoption by the Commission together with the documents cited in this report. This year decision-making process has been particularly challenging, and we welcome the good cooperation and the constructive attitude from CPCs with a view to advance the work of the STACFAD.

The EU finds that the report well reflects the positive comments as well as the concerns expressed during the correspondence process. We would like to reiterate our views that a more sustainable approach is required for funding the SCRS activities and that a reflexion should be carried out on how to better prioritize the SCRS work to be funded in the years to come.

Statement by the European Union to the Plenary in relation to Panels 1 and 2 – Round 3, Part II

Panel 1

The European Union (EU) would like to thank the Chair of Panel 1 for guiding the work of the Panel in these extraordinary circumstances.

In his report, the Chair referred to objections formulated regarding proposal PA1-503 and concluded that there is therefore no agreement on this proposal. The European Union disagrees with this conclusion and instead would like to highlight that there has been no objection to the initial proposal from the Chair for a rollover of the existing measures, including paragraph 4 of recommendation 19-02. There was only some comments of a purely editorial nature, which were accommodated under proposal PA1-503A. Since the additional comments referred to by the Chair were received only after acceptance by all the Parties of proposal PA1-503A, and after the two weeks deadline, they are not receivable and we therefore believe that the amended draft proposal PA1-503A reflects the agreed outcome of the correspondence period and must be considered adopted. It should also be noted that the Commission Chair, in Circular # 5924/2020, instructed that “In the case of lack of consensus on proposals to amend measures that do not expire, the debate will simply be closed and the existing measures will continue to apply in 2021”. This applies to the Recommendation 19-02, thus making PA1-503, which stipulates a roll-over of the existing measures, the legitimate outcome of the decision-making process.

The European Union would like to express its disappointment at the late submission of comments on this proposal and the possible attempt to prevent its adoption. We are particularly concerned by the possible ramifications in terms of the sustainable management of tropical tunas in ICCAT. These stocks represent by far the majority of the catches in ICCAT and their status is preoccupying. It should therefore be a priority for all CPCs to cooperate closely towards the adoption of management measures that will ensure the sustainability of these resources. In 2020, owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, ICCAT was in the extraordinary situation of not being able to conduct its annual meeting in normal conditions. What traditionally requires difficult discussions became almost an unsurmountable task and led the Commission Chair to propose the rollover of the measures expiring in 2020 as a pragmatic solution. This approach has been endorsed by all the ICCAT members and requires all members to demonstrate enough flexibility to facilitate this process. Failing to do so would jeopardize the management of tropical tunas, the sustainability of these fisheries, and the reputation of ICCAT.

In conclusion, we would like to respectfully request that PA1-503A, including the rollover of paragraph 8 of Recommendation 19-02 and its associated footnote, be confirmed as approved by the Commission.

Panel 2

The European Union (EU) would like to express its gratitude to the Chair of Panel 2 for his tireless efforts and efficient management of the correspondence process for Panel 2.

The EU is pleased to support the adoption of documents PA2-606B and PA2-607C for Northern Albacore but also PA2-609B for Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna. Regarding the intersessional meeting of Panel 2, the European Union agrees with the suggested schedule under documents PA2-618-APP-1A and PA2-618-APP-2A.

Concerning Western Bluefin tuna, the EU is relieved that in the end it was possible to find an agreement, which will ensure that management measures will be in place for this important stock in 2021; the EU will therefore not block a consensus outcome on PA2-608C. However, we recall that this stock has been subject to rebuilding programs for more than two decades and based on the current assessment of the stock status, a more precautionary and more ambitious approach will be required to ensure that such rebuilding can one day be achieved.

The EU, along with other CPCs, expressed concerns regarding the scheduling of a new assessment for WBFT in 2021. We believe that it sends the wrong message that, when faced with a difficult scientific advice, the Commission chooses to ask SCRS to revisit its work until the results are deemed acceptable. We also believe that this will impose an additional and unnecessary burden on an already overloaded SCRS. Finally, we had concerns about the impact that the scheduling of this new assessment could have for the timely completion of the MSE process for BFT. After having received the requested assurances that a new assessment for WBFT should not impede the MSE process for BFT and that the latter will remain the priority the EU agreed not to block consensus on this point. More worryingly, despite many CPCs supporting a reduction of the TAC in 2021 to a level consistent with FMSY, the TAC was maintained at the current level of 2350t, which according to SCRS will result in a 94% probability of overfishing. This follows three consecutive years of overfishing, on a stock which still needs to be rebuilt. The EU would like to express its deep concerns and disappointment with this decision and wishes to underline that this is not consistent with the Convention's objectives. In the end and despite its significant concerns the EU reluctantly agreed not to stand in the way of a consensus outcome on this stock.

Statement by the European Union to the Plenary – Round 3, Part IV

The European Union (EU) would like to refer to the recent letter from the Commission Chair (PLE_144).

The European Union is pleased to note that the only issues still open are of editorial nature and therefore welcomes the conclusion of the decision-making process in ICCAT. Despite obvious challenges, it is reassuring that the Commission was in the end able to ensure business continuity by meeting most of the priority objectives established in the run-up to this unique process in 2020. The majority of the 27 Member States of the European Union are also coastal States in ICCAT and the efficient functioning of the Commission is of the utmost importance for the EU fishing communities.

The EU would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chairs of the Commission and of the various Panels and Committees, as well as the Parties who contributed to this process. Special thanks are also due to the Executive Secretary and his team for their tireless work to facilitate this process.

Regarding Panel 1, the European Union is pleased to see that the management measures adopted in 2019 have been extended through the adoption of proposal PA1_503A. Substantial work is still required to consolidate these measures and ensure a sustainable exploitation of the tropical tuna resources in the future, and we are therefore looking forward to engage constructively with other CPCs in 2021.

The European Union also welcomes the adoption of the report of the Compliance Committee (COC_350A), subject to the confirmation of the proposed editorial comments. The EU agrees with the conclusions of the Chair regarding both the request from Colombia for the renewal of its status of Cooperating non-Contracting Party, as well as the two late interventions to challenge the recommendations of the Compliance Committee on this matter. The mandate of the Compliance Committee is clearly established under Recommendation 11-24 and includes the review of the requests for the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party. We regret these attempts to supplant the conclusions of the COC in the plenary in the absence of justification, and the fact that this undermines the crucial work of this Committee. The EU considers that it is essential for the credibility of the compliance process that the organisation strictly adheres to the established procedures, and does not question the findings of the Committee for reasons not invoked or discussed in the COC first.

We also regret the efforts to move the discussions away from considerations purely related to the compliance record of the applicant and the requirement to cooperate, to others related to the aspirations of Colombia to participate to ICCAT work; the latter were never taken into consideration nor were they questioned by the Committee when expressing its recommendation to not renew the status of Columbia. The EU remains a strong advocate of the crucial role of RFMOs, and as such continues to encourage maximum participation, in particular by developing countries. This is reflected by the unmatched level of financial support provided by the European Union to RFMOs, in particular to facilitate the participation of developing Countries to ICCAT meetings.

While participation should be encouraged, the EU nevertheless believes that it is also fundamental that the aspiring members demonstrate their commitments to fully cooperate towards achieving the Convention objectives, in a transparent and constructive way.

For these reasons, the EU supports the conclusions already expressed by the Compliance Committee and later confirmed in the summary report from the Commission Chair.

Statement by Guatemala to Plenary on Panel 1 – Round 3, Part II

The Republic of Guatemala wishes to extend its greetings to you, and also to refer to ICCAT Circular #8575/2020, as well as to Doc. No. PA1_525/2019 (sic), of 16 December 2020, in the context of the Panel 1 decision making process by correspondence, given the obvious and regrettable impossibility of adopting decisions by consensus within this important Panel.

My Delegation recognises that, as stated by the Chair of Panel 1 in Doc. No. PA1_525/2019 (sic), the adoption of substantive decisions is now the Commission's responsibility, under your honourable chairmanship, and for this reason I refer these observations to you, with the aim of expressing the interest and commitment in continuing to advance with the adoption of inclusive, transparent and non discriminatory decisions, inspired by the Convention and the Commission's effort.

In light of what has been expressed by the Chair of Panel 1, my country recognises that the document PA1_502B is not adopted, and therefore, the figures contained therein do not restrict the rights of CPCs. However, Guatemala would like to express that, following the entry into force of Rec. 19-02, it has complied with its obligation in 2020 not to exceed its bigeye tuna catch limit of 1.827 t. Recognising the exceptional circumstances that have prevented the building of a robust and non discriminatory system to allocate the relevant catch limits, and without renouncing its right to catch no less than 3,500 tons of bigeye tuna in the medium term, Guatemala also expresses that it could support the establishment of provisional catch limits for 2021, provided that they are accurate and clearly established, and in the case of my country, this limit must not be less than its current limit of 1.827 t. The obligations and commitments for 2020 are transferred to 2021, and these could be modified on the basis of a scientific recommendation resulting from scientific analyses of the impact of the 2 month closure implemented in 2020 and FAD limitation in the same year. These are to be viewed as sufficient precautionary measures which, except for analysis to the contrary, do not warrant amendment. This package of actions, consistent with the Commission objectives, could facilitate consensus and responsible building of the plurianual management programme that we have proposed.

Statement by Guatemala to Plenary – Round 3, Part III

1. Regarding the Panel 1 report

Noting that there was no consensus on document PA1_503A/20, in particular the extension of paragraph 4 of Recommendation 19-02, my country will not object to the consensus to support ICCAT's collaborative management, but it states for the record its firm position to avoid non-compliance with the procedural rules and regulations of the Convention on broad and non discriminatory participation of the Parties in future decision making processes, as occurred in 2020. This process cannot be considered therefore an authoritative precedent for the future.

2. Regarding the COC report (Doc. No. COC_350/2020)

My country does not share the recommendation not to renew cooperating status for Colombia, nor the objection to this country's request submitted by the European Union, based on bringing into question a vessel that is being investigated, or the expression of Colombia's aspirations. While Rec. 03-20 paragraph 5 establishes that the PWG and not the COC is responsible for review of cooperating status, my delegation wishes to stress the team work spirit inspired by ICCAT and therefore considers it not only contradictory, but that it also lacks any legal and logical basis not to renew the status of this coastal country on the Atlantic Ocean. Closing the doors to a cooperator for its aspirations and exercise of due process, when it has expressed its will to comply with the measures of the Commission, would constitute a dangerous precedent that is contrary to the Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries and the very extensive body of international fisheries regulations. Therefore, my country encourages the parties to renew Cooperating status for Colombia.

3. Regarding the PWG

In accordance with the provisions of Rec. 03-20, my country supports renewal of Cooperating status for Bolivia, Chinese Taipei, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guyana and Suriname, and it is requested that this be reflected in the relevant report.

4. Regarding the draft calendar of intersessional meetings

My country reiterates the need for sufficient Panel 1 meetings to be held, in terms of number, duration and quality, to address the complex and broad pending business. The Chair of Panel 1 should organise the necessary intersessional meetings to achieve the objectives and not limited due to time constraints.

Statement by Honduras to Plenary – Round 3, Part III

1. Regarding the Panel 1 report:

Given that that there was no consensus on document PA1_503A/20, in particular the extension of paragraph 4 of Recommendation 19-02, my country will not object to the consensus to support ICCAT's collaborative management, however it stresses the importance of abidance by the procedural rules and regulations of the Convention on broad and non discriminatory participation of the Parties in decision making.

2. Regarding the COC report:

We do not share the recommendation not to renew cooperating status for Colombia, nor the objection to this country's request submitted by the European Union, based on bringing into question a vessel that is being investigated, or the expression of Colombia's aspirations. We consider it contradictory not to renew the status of this coastal country on the Atlantic Ocean. Closing the doors to a cooperator for its aspirations and exercise of due process, when it has expressed its will to comply with the measures of the Commission, in compliance with the Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries and the international fisheries regulations. Therefore, my country urges the parties to renew Cooperating status for Colombia.

3. Regarding the PWG:

In accordance with the provisions of Rec. 03-20, my country supports renewal of Cooperating status for Bolivia, Chinese Taipei, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guyana and Suriname, and it is requested that this be reflected in the relevant report.

4. Regarding the draft calendar of intersessional meetings:

My country reiterates the need for sufficient Panel 1 meetings to be held, in terms of number, duration and quality, to address the complex and broad pending business.

Statement by Japan to Plenary on Panel 1 – Round 3, Part II

In his summary report of Panel 1 discussion, the Panel 1 Chair concluded that there was no consensus on his proposal concerning Rec. 19-02 (PA1-503A), thus the discussion is deferred to the Plenary to seek a consensus. Japan does not support this conclusion of Panel 1 discussion.

At the Panel 1 discussion, the Panel 1 Chair submitted his initial proposal (PA1-503) which basically extends paragraphs expiring at the end of 2020 to 2021. This proposal received only supportive comments during the two-week corresponding period but minor editorial suggestions from one CPC. No objection was submitted to PA1-503. Then, the second proposal (PA1-503A) reflecting such editorial suggestions was tabled just for endorsement from the Panel 1 members. Our understanding is that PA1-503A reflects the views of Panel 1 members which were duly submitted, thus is the legitimate outcome of the Panel 1 discussion.

However, at that stage, a few CPCs expressed their objections to PA1-503A. Since these objections had not been submitted against PA1-503 during the first round, Japan considers such objections against PA1-503A being too late and invalid, thus do not deserve any consideration.

Japan is therefore of the view that the only legitimate conclusion of Panel 1 discussion is PA1-503A and does not believe further discussion at the Plenary is required. Japan respectfully requests that the summary report by the Panel 1 Chair (PA1-550) be corrected so that PA1-503A is considered to be adopted by the Panel 1.

Statement by Nicaragua to Plenary on Panel 1 – Round 3, Part II

Our Delegation would like to refer to the Letter of the Chair of ICCAT Panel 1, of 16 December, which was published through ICCAT Circular # 8575/2020, and informed of the alleged results of the process of the work carried out by this Panel.

In this regard, we would like to express the following:

- The process developed was characterized by partiality, lack of transparency and discrimination as regards the statements of Central American countries.
- Our Delegation strongly opposes the attempt of the Chair of Panel 1 to curtail our right to commence development of our fishery.
- The suggestion by the Chair of Panel 1 that the amendment to the table proposed by Nicaragua not be discussed at the plenary stage, is discriminatory: we request that it be duly disseminated to the other CPCs.
- Our Delegation requests and requires that CPCs without historical catches be given the opportunity to develop their fisheries. We do not agree with the situation whereby a few are authorised to take large amounts of catches while those of us without historical catches are denied this right. Nicaragua submitted on 10 January of this year, a declaration of interest in commencing its fishery – a requirement that was established at the 26th Regular Meeting of ICCAT, held in Palma de Mallorca, Spain, in November last year – thus complying with the requirement established at that meeting so that countries without historical catches could start the development of their fishery. On this basis, *we reserve the right to operate our fishery as enshrined at the meeting in Palma de Mallorca in 2019.*

Statement by Panama to Plenary – Round 3, Part II

The Republic of Panama thanks the Secretariat and the Chair of Panel 1 for the efforts undertaken despite the situation we are experiencing due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As regards the document under review labelled PA1_503A/2020 which contemplates the possibility of adopting a recommendation that allows to extend to 2021 the provisions agreed in Recommendation 19-02, it is necessary to complete the adoption, with the undertaking to allow the parties some leeway to carry out the efforts required to establish a long-term recovery program.

Likewise, we maintain our disagreement regarding the distribution of the bigeye tuna catch limits allocated for 2020. We therefore express the need to revise the proposed bigeye catch limits table for 2020 (PA1_502B), reiterating that we did not agree nor do we agree with the closure of Panel 1 discussions. On the contrary, we consider that this RFMO must continue working to achieve a consensus on the conditions to be followed, which should be more favorable for all.

I would also like to take this occasion to express our concern regarding the limitations of translation of all the communications into the three ICCAT official languages during this special process, since this has hindered broader interaction between members.

Statement by Panama to Plenary – Round 3, Part IV

The Republic of Panama would like to make a statement regarding adoption of the report containing the Commission's decisions.

In accordance with the procedural rules, the ICCAT Convention and the provisions established in Recommendation 03-20 on the decision making process, we would like to express and reiterate our position of support for the Republic of Colombia regarding its request for renewal of its status of cooperator in the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. We request that the Commission reconsider the decision on this subject.

Statement by Senegal to Plenary on STACFAD – Round 3, Part I

Senegal takes due note of the Report of the STACFAD Chair and the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Finance (VWG-SF) [STF-205/20], approved by STACFAD and its two Appendices submitted to STACFAD for approval.

With regard to the review of progress under the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Finance (VWG-SF), Senegal would like to make the following comments on documents STF-205-APP2/20 and STF-205-APP3C/20.

The work of the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Finance (VWG-SF) concerning the Meeting Participation Fund (MPF) should guarantee that the Fund is managed in a way that allows greater participation of developing States, particularly those that most in need.

Senegal had included changes to both documents regarding the proposed threshold, based on the number of official delegates attending the meeting using other funds.

Senegal would like to thank the Chair and the CPCs for allowing the adoption of these new acceptable proposals.

However, Senegal recalls that the initial objective of the Fund is to promote the participation of CPCs from developing countries and would like this issue concerning the assistance to those States to continue being a standing agenda item of annual Commission meetings, as decided in 2005.

Senegal understands that “official delegation” refers to all persons participating in ICCAT meetings duly authorised by the competent authority of the CPC. These include shipowners, fishermen and fishing Masters.

Moreover, Senegal proposes that the concept of an “official delegate” needs further clarification and that the period that begins should be used a test to measure the effects of the new procedures and recommendations regarding the participation of developing CPCs.

For all these reasons, Senegal approves the two Appendices and supports their adoption by STACFAD and the Commission.

Statement by Senegal to Plenary on Panel 1– Round 3, Part II

Senegal thanks the Commission Chair for the efforts made to advance the decision-making process in 2020 and takes good note of the consistent advances achieved despite the relatively difficult conditions.

As to Panels 3, 4 and the PWG, Senegal takes good note of the conclusion of the correspondence period and approves the reports of the Chairs of these subsidiary bodies.

As regards the reports of Panels 1 and 2, Senegal supports the proposals of the Chairs of these two panels but wishes to provide the following comments in relation to Panel 1.

Senegal supports the document 503A proposed by the Chair of Panel 1 but, nevertheless, would like to remind that the bigeye tuna TAC must be fixed for 2021 at the level provided for in Rec. 19-02 (61,500 t).

Our country does not consider document PA1_502B to be the catch limits established for the CPCs for 2022 but views it rather as a working document.

The two panel meetings – virtual and in-person – scheduled in the 2021 SCRS and Commission meetings calendar will not be sufficient to address the important pending Panel 1 issues.

However, clear identification of the agenda and its prioritization will allow for greater efficiency. For this, the specific issue of allocation should not be discussed during the virtual meeting but must be addressed at the intersessional meeting of Panel 1 which is currently intended to be held in-person in September 2021, when the results of the bigeye tuna assessment will be available.

Senegal brings to the attention of the Commission that, through seeking compromise and by remaining heavily committed to sustainable management of tropical tunas, over these past years, it has agreed to significant sacrifices, accepting and complying with the reduction of the bigeye tuna limit that has been allocated to it (1,322 t). Our country's fleet (tuna purse seiners, baitboats and longliners) suffers the consequences of a situation that it has not created i.e. a reduced limit.

Our country reaffirms that a fair and equitable allocation of the bigeye tuna and the yellowfin tuna TACs in favour of developing coastal countries remains one of the priorities of Panel 1 and of the Commission which, unfortunately, struggles to achieve it.

The peoples and economy of our country like those of most ICCAT coastal members are highly dependent on fish and must capitalize fully on the resources found along their coastlines in accordance with international law.

Senegal accepts the limit established for it for 2021 but requests that bigeye tuna be reallocated in favour of developing coastal countries for 2022 for the sake of equity and compliance with international law.

Statement by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the ICCAT Plenary – Round 1

The UK is delighted to be taking part in ICCAT discussions this year as an independent Contracting Party representing the interests of both UK 'metropolitan' and UK Overseas Territories. We thank the ICCAT Chair and Secretariat for accommodating the UK's participation, as well as for the arrangements that have been made to enable ICCAT business to continue in these uncertain times.

It is our intention to contribute fully to ICCAT, and to build upon the progress ICCAT has made in the conservation of tunas and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and its adjacent seas.

The UK has long been committed to sustainable fisheries, protecting the ecosystems that support those fisheries, and making fisheries management decisions based on the best available science. We shall continue to work closely with our neighbours and international partners, including through ICCAT, to achieve this.

We look forward to a productive series of discussions and correspondence in the weeks ahead.

Statement by the United Kingdom to Plenary on Panel 4 – Round 3, Part I

The UK would like to thank the Panel 4 Chair and CPCs for their contributions to the discussions on the north Atlantic shortfin mako stock.

Whilst noting the challenging circumstances for conducting negotiations this year the UK considers it extremely regrettable that a consensus could not be reached in line with the clear scientific advice for this critical management measure for north Atlantic shortfin mako and that instead Rec. 19-06, which it is acknowledged will not allow the stock to recover until at least 2070, will remain in place for yet another year. It remains the UK's view that the most effective, simple and immediate measure to stop overfishing and achieve rebuilding (with over a 50% probability by 2040) is a complete prohibition of retention.

The UK welcomes the proposal for a Panel 4 intersessional meeting in July 2021. The UK is however of the view that discussions and decisions on this stock should not be delayed until then and considers it essential to establish a clear roadmap of discussions to take place in the lead up to a July meeting. The UK suggests that at least three meetings should take place before July, involving the proponents and co-sponsors of the three proposals and all other interested CPCs. Dates of these meetings should be determined once the ICCAT calendar for 2021 is finalised. The proposed meetings should focus on drafting a proposal that follows the scientific advice and allows the stock to rebuild with over a 50% probability by 2040. This proposal could then be discussed at the July intersessional meeting, with the aim of tabling it for adoption at the 2021 annual meeting. Action cannot be delayed beyond this.

The UK also notes the ongoing discussions surrounding gear types and the extent to which measures mandating use of certain gear types could, *in addition to a retention ban*, help to reduce shortfin mako mortality. To provide clarity on this issue, the UK wishes to formally submit a request to the SCRS to undertake an assessment based on available research of whether, and to what extent, the use of circle hooks would be beneficial in achieving what the UK understands are shared objectives on north Atlantic shortfin mako capture and mortality. Our request is submitted alongside this statement.

The UK looks forward to playing a constructive role in the crucial next discussions.

UK request to SCRS on the use of circle hooks in relation to shortfin mako

- 1) With the aim of advancing discussions on the northern Atlantic shortfin mako stock and acknowledging the different views among CPCs, the UK would like to request that the SCRS provides a clear assessment, based on available evidence, of:
 - a. the impact and scale of the effects of circle hooks on shortfin mako capture and mortality, and on the catch rates of target fish species, in comparison to other hook types; and
 - b. whether the use of circle hooks in all fisheries which interact with the shortfin mako stock would significantly alter the perception that a ban on retention is the only measure capable of recovering the stock.

The UK respectfully asks if it would be possible for a presentation of preliminary findings to be available ahead of the proposed Panel 4 intersessional meeting in July 2021, with formal reporting to follow for the 2021 annual meeting. Noting the likely dependence on the schedule of the SCRS Shark Species Group, the UK would be willing to provide scientific support as appropriate.

- 2) The UK would like to request that the SCRS provides a clear assessment, based on existing evidence, of the impact and scale of the effects of circle hooks, in comparison to other hook types, on the capture and mortality of other vulnerable bycatch species (e.g. other shark species, seabirds and sea turtles).

The UK recognises that this would be a longer-term piece of work and welcomes the SCRS' view on the appropriate timeline.

U.S. Statement to the Commission Plenary – Round 1

Regarding the matter of collaboration with other organizations (PLE-109/20), the United States appreciates the Chair's suggestion included in ICCAT Circular #7324/20 regarding possible next steps on a framework for cooperation between ICCAT and WECAFC and GFCM, respectively. We agree that simple letters of cooperation should be explored with these two organizations, given that they are established under Art. XIV of the FAO Constitution. ICCAT's longstanding agreement with FAO appears to serve as an appropriate legal umbrella for such cooperation, pursuant to Article 6, paragraph 1. As the Commission has clearly expressed its support in principle for strengthening cooperation with these organizations, and the Chair's suggested approach would not require the development of any legal text, we suggest that this matter should be handled after the official 2020 ICCAT correspondence period has closed to allow CPCs to focus on other, more urgent business.

Statement by the U.S. to Plenary on Panel 1 – Round 3, Part II

The United States would like to comment on the correspondence decision-making process undertaken by Panel 1 and issues now facing the Commission Plenary.

The United States is in agreement with Japan's view expressed in PLE_135. The Commission agreed that the default management approach for expiring measures is a rollover unless there is new scientific information indicating an urgent situation. As there was no new assessment of bigeye tuna in 2020, document PA1_503A appropriately reflects a rollover of the expiring provisions of Rec. 19-02. The alternative text in PA1_525 Annex 3 is a brand-new approach to management that was presented after several rounds of correspondence. In line with our agreed procedures, any such new proposal was to have been submitted to ICCAT at the latest by October 15. Furthermore, no substantive concern and certainly no objection was raised by any CPC to the Chair's proposal during Panel 1's first correspondence round. Thus, per the rules set out in Circular 5924-20, the rollover proposal was adopted. The few non-substantive comments that had been provided during the

first round to clean up the text were subsequently incorporated and, for transparency, the Chair recirculated the proposal as PA1-503A. By the Commission's own decisions in setting up the correspondence process, substantive objections and alternative management proposals that came after the established deadlines cannot be considered.

For the above reasons, the Commission has no choice but to follow its agreed process and procedures and consider the Panel 1 Chair's rollover proposal, as reflected in PA1_503A, adopted. We recognize that this is not a satisfactory result for most CPCs, including the United States, but it is a practical approach while Panel 1 works intersessionally in 2021 to find a more acceptable way forward.

Finally, we appreciate the effort to reschedule the Panel 1 intersessional meeting after the bigeye tuna stock assessment meeting, as requested by the United States and several other CPCs. Unfortunately, in PLE_106B the new proposed dates (September 1-3) now conflict with the SCRS second bluefin intersessional meeting. The original rescheduling request was intended to ensure Panel 1 could take advantage of the most up-to-date scientific information from the SCRS. Toward that end, participation by the SCRS Chair and other scientists is essential. We are concerned that the conflict with the SCRS bluefin tuna meeting will prevent the level of scientific participation needed to adequately support the Panel 1 meeting. We suggest that the Panel 1 intersessional meeting be postponed until the week of September 13 to address this situation, although we are open to other solutions as well.

Statement by Chinese Taipei to Plenary on Panel 1 – Round 3, Part II

Considering the exceptional circumstances faced at present, Chinese Taipei would like to firstly thank the PA1 Chair and relevant CPCs for the efforts and contributions made during the course of correspondence process.

Chinese Taipei shares with the Commission Chair that those provisions of Rec. 19-02 which are not limited in time will remain in force in 2021. Nonetheless, after further reviewing the two draft proposals (PA1-503 and PA1-503A), CPCs' comments, and Rec. 19-02, Chinese Taipei would like to seek the clarification whether the extension will also apply to paragraph 12 of Rec. 19-02, as it seems that paragraph 1 of PA1-503A is slightly ambiguous in this regard.

If not, or for the purpose of clarity, a new paragraph 2 to the draft proposal is then suggested as follows, the text of which is the same as paragraph 12 of Rec. 19-02 except for the year mentioned therein.

2. For CPCs listed in Paragraph 3 of Rec. 16-01, underage or overage of an annual catch limit in 2020 shall be added to/or deducted from their 2022 annual catch limit, subject to 10% of initial quota restrictions noted in paragraphs 9a and 10 and Rec. 16-01.

With respect to the original paragraph 2 of PA1-503A, Chinese Taipei supports the PA1 Chair's draft text, for it is simply a copy from the wordings of paragraph 67 of Rec. 19-02, a most pragmatic way forward given the complexity of discussion through correspondence.

As the pandemic is still ongoing, it is believed that CPCs all agree that rolling-over of Rec. 19-02 is needed to avoid the risk of no measures at all. Drawing lessons from the IATTC, Chinese Taipei hopes that consensus could be reached in time.

Consolidated Statement by the United States

The United States thanks the Secretariat and the Chairs of the Commission and subsidiary bodies for their efforts during the 2020 ICCAT decision-making process. The outcomes, while not always ideal, were perhaps the best that could be expected in this extraordinary year. Importantly, by working together, we have ensured that no ICCAT fishery will go unregulated in 2021.

That said, we continue to have deep concern about the poor status of North Atlantic shortfin mako. We are extremely disappointed that the measures we have advocated since 2019 – measures that acknowledge the realities of the international fisheries that interact with this stock – have not achieved consensus. We know that broad implementation of these measures would stop overfishing and begin to rebuild shortfin mako: we have done it ourselves. Our fishermen took on board the requirements of Recommendation 17-08 (now 19-

06) three years ago. Coupled with the other actions we detailed in PA4-807, U.S. fisheries successfully achieved the necessary science-based mortality reductions. We have been playing our part in addressing our relative share of the conservation needs of this stock; the U.S. commitment to the full recovery of shortfin mako is unassailable. The unwillingness of many CPCs, particularly top harvesters, to take these difficult but proven steps is quite troubling. We must all redouble our commitment, and we look forward to working with other CPCs to establish an effective, multilateral rebuilding plan. Until then, we call on CPCs to follow our example and immediately take action to reduce mortality in their fisheries in line with the science – and to report those actions to ICCAT, as required.

The United States emphasizes the need to adopt effective management measures for tropical tunas. We also reiterate our 2019 statement concerning the future sharing of bigeye tuna. Specifically, we consider 1,575 t to remain the applicable catch limit for the United States and others in the small harvester category established by Rec. 16-01. We stand by our track record of taking effective management actions – some more stringent than ICCAT’s – for bigeye and other tuna species. These actions should be recognized when Panel 1 resumes the urgent task of developing a bigeye tuna rebuilding program intersessionally.

Finally, we hope a return to in-person meetings will be possible sometime in 2021. Despite our achievements through correspondence, we have only been able to maintain the steady state rather than advance important issues. We need to maximize progress intersessionally to make sure the many unresolved issues from this year and our new business can be successfully addressed in November. In addition to the issues above, we must ensure overfishing of western bluefin tuna is fully addressed taking into account new science, continue to advance MSE, and more. The United States is committed to working with all CPCs to tackle successfully the issues facing ICCAT in 2021.

3.3 STATEMENTS BY OBSERVERS FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Statement by Associação de Ciências Marinhas e Cooperação (SCIAENA) – Round 1

The Covid-19 health crisis has now transformed into a wider economic crisis, to which the fisheries sector worldwide has not been immune to. Some parts of the sector, particularly fresh seafood sales, have proven especially vulnerable.

While this must be acknowledged, it is also important to recognize that the climate and biodiversity crises have not been put on hold because of the pandemic and continue to need urgent attention and action. Thus, committed leadership to ensure resilient marine ecosystems is now more urgent than ever, because only then will the Ocean be able to perform its crucial role in sustaining life on Earth, but also allow sustainable economies and coastal communities to thrive.

As Sciaena believes that one of the best, most direct tools to ensure resilient marine ecosystems is sustainable, science-based management of fisheries, it is clear to us that RFMOs in general and ICCAT in particular have never been more important.

Therefore, although we understand the decision of cancelling this year’s ICCAT annual meeting, we urge the Commission and the CPCs to discuss and adopt measures on stocks for which it is imperative to act with no further delay. As stated in our statement to Panel 4, the desperate situation that Shortfin makos are facing in the Atlantic calls for decisive and urgent action. ICCAT and its CPCs have the responsibility to adopt a new recommendation, which must have the full ban of retention at its heart, accompanied by other management measures.

We also encourage the Commission to take the necessary steps to prepare for 2021, including the scheduling of intersessional meetings, so that essential discussions take place and important decisions aren’t delayed, but also that work that takes place on a longer time-frame is continued, such as the development and adoption of Harvest Strategies.

Finally, we would like to mention two specific issues that the Covid-19 crisis has reemphasised. The first one is the need to increase the coverage of remote electronic monitoring in the vessels registered in ICCAT. The second one is the need to make ICCAT all the more transparent and inclusive, namely for the Observer organisations but to society in general.

The Ocean and the fish that inhabit it are under the stewardship of humankind, and it is therefore essential that they are protected and managed to the benefit of all humankind. We urge ICCAT to fully embrace this vision, and full transparency is a key step that must be taken in order to materialize that vision.

Statement by Fishery Improvement Plan (FIP) – Round 3, Part II

This document is an executive summary of the position of the participants in the East Atlantic Tuna P&L FIP, in relation to ICCAT's management of Atlantic tropical tuna stocks over the next few years:

- It is essential that management does not take a step backwards because of covid; the interim measures in Rec. 19-02 must not be allowed to lapse without being replaced with something as strong or stronger.
- The FIP participants strongly support the objectives of Rec. 15-07 and ask ICCAT to continue to prioritise this work.
- The FIP participants support the timetable which put forward by ICCAT for developing and implementing a formal management procedure for the tropical tuna stocks. We ask ICCAT to ensure that there is no further slippage of this timetable.
- The FIP participants stress the vital role of capacity-building in this process, such that the CPCs and Commission can take informed decisions about MSE inputs. In this context, the FIP asks ICCAT to ensure that the work of SWGSM continues.
- The FIP participants propose that the MSC standard could be used to inform decisions about MSE inputs. On this basis, the FIP would like to put forward the following as a contribution to the debate on the design of the MSE:
 - Stock management targets should be defined as Bmsy or Fmsy; or proxies if evaluated to be consistent with the MSY level.
 - A limit reference point should be agreed not lower than 50% of the MSY level, or 20% of the unfished level. The maximum level of risk associated with the stock falling below the limit reference point should not be greater than 20%.
 - Performance metrics for candidate management procedures should prioritise maintaining stock status at target levels and reducing risk of stock collapse.
 - The timeframe to achieve rebuilding of the bigeye stock under the management procedure should be no longer than two generation times; i.e. 10 years; rather than the 15 years (to 2034) proposed in Rec. 19-02.
- Once a management procedure is established, it is vital that there are measures in place which will be able to implement this procedure. Currently the TACs for bigeye and yellowfin are not being implemented in full, and alternative management options should perhaps be considered. As a minimum, there needs to be a robust debate on options for management measures in relation to implementation, as a priority.
- The FIP participants call for a serious effort to rebuild the Atlantic bigeye stock within a maximum of 10 years, and for this to be a key performance metric of the management procedure under the MSE.
- It is essential for the protection of non-target species that ICCAT require all FADs to be non-entangling, as well as asking vessels to remove any entangling FADs they find. The regulations on providing FAD data need to be fully implemented across all relevant gear types.

Statement by Global Tuna Alliance (GTA) – Round 1

I am writing on behalf of the partners of the Global Tuna Alliance and Tuna Protection Alliance, two precompetitive collaborations of companies with a major interest in improving the sustainability of the tuna sector. Together, these two groups represent a significant proportion of the north west European market.

I would be extremely grateful if you are able to circulate to all ICCAT Contracting Parties.

It is clear that the impacts of COVID-19 have presented challenges to regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) in conducting meetings and addressing important conservation and management issues in 2020. In the case of ICCAT, it has led to the cancellation of the its annual commission and science (SCRS) meetings.

We do not believe current circumstances should prevent ICCAT from taking action to ensure the uninterrupted, sustainable management of the tuna stocks and marine ecosystems under its purview. In particular, there are several critical measures and issues that require immediate attention by ICCAT in 2020 this year.

Consequently, the GTA and TUPA is calling on ICCAT Contracting Parties to focus their energies on addressing the following priorities:

Harvest Strategies

ICCAT needs to accelerate action on comprehensive, precautionary harvest strategies to be implemented simultaneously with the development of precautionary reference points and harvest control rules.

Adhering to best practices of modern fisheries management, consistent with the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement and the Food and Agricultural Organization Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, harvest strategies are an essential component of the Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative's (GSSI) benchmarking tool. Responsible members of the supply chain, including GTA and TUPA Partners, are continually increasing their sourcing from tuna fisheries certified by schemes that are internationally recognized by the GSSI. Accordingly, sourcing may be impacted should harvest strategies not be implemented. PLE PLE-110/2020 +44(0)7739 430 030 | www.globaltunaalliance.com | tom@globaltunaalliance.com

100% Observer Coverage

ICCAT is to be applauded for decisions made on observer coverage at the 2019 meeting:

- Requiring 100 percent observer coverage, year-round, on purse seine vessels targeting tropical tunas
- Increasing observer coverage on longline vessels over 20 meters to 10 percent in 2022
- Requiring the development of minimum standards for electronic monitoring by 2021

However, without 100% observer coverage on industrial tuna fishing vessels, there are too many unknown risks lurking across tuna supply chains.

We are urging ICCAT to implement an 100% observer coverage requirement (human and/or electronic) in all industrial tuna fisheries, including all those engaged in at sea transshipment, by 2024.

Reforming the Regulations of at-sea Transshipment

At-sea transshipment of catch between vessels plays a large and important role in the global commercial fishing industry.

There is not enough independent data, appropriately and timely shared, nor are other regulations up to date, to allow for effective monitoring and compliance. These gaps create risks for labour and human rights abuses, can reduce observer safety, and create opportunities for IUU fishing activities, fraud, and catch laundering. Insufficient monitoring can also undermine traceability, the provision of required data collection, and effective implementation of bycatch mitigation measures.

As well as adopting 100% observer coverage requirement (human and/or electronic) on all vessels engaged in at sea transshipment, by 2024, ICCAT should adopt amendments to existing transshipment regulations to bring in line with best practices.

Develop a Comprehensive FAD Management Program

FADs use has increased significantly in recent decades, boosted by technologies that also have made FADs more effective. A 2015 Pew study estimated that as many as 121,000 FADs may be deployed annually. Currently over 40% of the global tuna catch is caught using floating objects, including FADs.

While ICCAT has begun to grapple with how best to manage FAD use (a two-month FAD closure in 2020 and a three-month FAD closure in 2021 throughout the Convention Area and a reduction of operational FAD buoys from 500 down to 300 by 2021) current measures remain inadequate.

We call upon ICCAT to adopt the measures identified in the Global NGO Tuna Forum's position on better FAD Management. While not comprehensive, these measures are critical to ensuring that atsea FAD fishing is better-managed and more transparent.

Mako Shark Conservation

Shortfin mako is classified by IUCN as Endangered and listed under CITES. Recovery will likely take ~25 years even if fishing mortality could be cut to zero (53% chance of rebuilding by 2045).

The ICCAT Science Committee recommended a ban on retention of North Atlantic shortfin makos and 2001t shortfin mako catch limit for the South Atlantic, but in 2019 the EU, US, and Curaçao offered PLE-110/2020 complex counter proposals that fell far short of scientific advice and would allow hundreds of tons of North Atlantic makos to continue to be landed.

ICCAT should agree to protect shortfin mako sharks by heeding scientists' warnings about North Atlantic depletion and South Atlantic imminent risk. Specifically:

- Immediately prohibit all shortfin mako retentions.
- Ensure specific scientific advice for minimizing incidental mortality is developed and implemented as a matter of urgency.

Commission Meeting

While the impacts of Covid-19 have stopped the 22nd session of ICCAT from taking place, fishing for tuna continues in the convention area. There remains an urgent need for delegations to meet together and carry out the objectives of the Convention. We are calling for a rescheduled Commission meeting to take place in the new year.

As organizations engaged in the sourcing of tunas globally, we urge you to fully support addressing these issues in 2020 and that your positions will testify to your support.

Statement by the International Pole & Line Foundation (IPNLF) – Round 3, Part I

Our organization supports selective coastal tuna fisheries that cause limited impacts upon marine ecosystems while supporting coastal communities. One of the many reasons we support one-by-one tuna fisheries is because they are characterized by virtually zero bycatch. Our mission is to empower responsible fisheries, which give back to the seas and the people that depend on them. As such, we cannot remain silent on the failed shortfin mako negotiation, which will allow overfishing to continue in 2021. This will further decrease the probability of successfully rebuilding this stock in the next 50 years, which was already a dreadful perspective.

Despite a bold – and needed – proposal tabled by Canada in line with scientific advice, also honourably supported by Senegal, the United Kingdom, Chinese Taipei, Gabon and Norway, we regret that the European Union and United States prevented an agreement from being reached. While protecting their individual commercial interests, scientific advice was distorted and ICCAT has not been able to live up to its own objectives.

Appreciating that a date for an additional meeting to continue discussions has been scheduled for July 2021, we would like to note that:

This meeting will not address ongoing overfishing in 2021.

A virtual meeting should be planned in case in-person meetings remain unfeasible.

We request that all CPCs, especially the European Union and United States, pro-actively engage each other and observers between now and the next meeting to find common ground aligned with the best available science, also taking into account additional impacts from allowing yet another year of overfishing.

The 2021 meeting objectives should be agreed by all parties beforehand, e.g. immediately end shortfin mako overfishing in the North Atlantic.

Remove all economic incentives that may lead to increased mortality of these sharks.

Agree on additional measures and incentives to further reduce mortality through avoidance strategies, temporal closures, gear modifications and/or other measures recommended by scientists, who should be effectively consulted and included in discussions prior to the meeting. Agree on continued support to further scientific research for mortality reduction programmes. Adopt a TAC for the South Atlantic that will immediately stop overfishing, to prevent a similar situation as in the North Atlantic.

We respectfully urge all CPCs and interested parties to collaborate more effectively to ensure sustainable use of our common resources for current and future generations. It would not be acceptable to let short-term commercial interests of some fleets jeopardize the future of this endangered species – the fastest shark in the ocean and a top predator of importance to maintaining healthy marine ecosystems.

Statement by the International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF) – Round 1

The impacts of COVID-19 have presented challenges to regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) in conducting meetings in 2020. The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) cancelled its in-person Commission and science (SCRS) meetings and will be taking decisions by correspondence.

Even under these challenging circumstances, ICCAT must ensure the uninterrupted, sustainable management of the tuna stocks and marine ecosystems under its purview. In particular, there are several critical measures and issues that require immediate attention by ICCAT this year.

This Statement focuses on those critical measures and issues on which ICCAT must take action in 2020 or advance work in 2021, which align with the ISSF global priorities for tuna RFMOs.

Our top asks for ICCAT in 2020/2021:

- 1 Ensure that Recommendations that are about to partially or fully expire, continue to be effective in 2021.
- 2 Adopt a work plan for FADs with a timeframe to transition to FADs without nets and made primarily with biodegradable materials, develop recovery policies and a marking scheme, and require FAD position data and acoustic records.
- 3 Accelerate the adoption of harvest strategies for tropical tunas.
- 4 Adopt minimum standards for electronic monitoring so to be able to require 100% observer coverage (human and/or electronic) for all major ICCAT fisheries, and all vessels engaged in at-sea transshipment, within five years.
- 5 Request the Compliance Committee to address non-compliance with FAD data reporting requirements.

Tuna conservation

What are the issues?

Effective management measures are needed to ensure bigeye and yellowfin tuna catches are maintained at sustainable levels.

Why are we concerned?

This was the case again in 2019 when the TACs were exceeded by 14% and 20% respectively. This systematic lack of compliance is troubling and needs to be addressed, for example, by completely allocating the TACs so that CPC-specific non-compliances can be identified.

What is ISSF asking ICCAT to do?

- (1) At a minimum, ensure that ICCAT recommendations set to expire this year do not lapse, including the interim catch limits measures for bigeye in Rec. 19-02 and the Total Allowable Catch (TACs) and other catch limit measures on Northern Albacore and Southern Albacore tunas in Rec. 16-06 and Rec. 16-07.
- (2) In 2020 or 2021, fully allocate the TACs by CPC.

Fish Aggregation Devices (FADs)

What are the issues?

In the Atlantic, FAD sets account for nearly 53% of tropical tuna catches, including 78% of skipjack catches. Comprehensive data on FAD deployments and usage are required to effectively manage the tropical tuna purse seine fishery. Currently deployed FADs should be lower-entangling and fleets should be moving towards fully non-entangling using primarily biodegradable materials to mitigate ecosystem impacts and reducing marine debris.

Why are we concerned?

Only a few CPCs submit the required FAD data, usually incompletely, thus hindering regional analyses by SCRS. This problem has been ongoing since 2014 and needs the attention of the Compliance Committee. ICCAT requires non-entangling FADs, but this measure and its compliance also needs to be reinforced.

What is ISSF asking ICCAT to do?

- (1) In 2021, amend Rec 19-02 (or its successor measure) to:
 - i. Specify in Annex 5 that non-entangling FADs should not use any netting.
 - ii. Require fleets to remove entangling FADs found in the water.
 - iii. Design and adopt FAD-recovery mechanisms and incentives by 2022.
 - iv. Require vessels to provide complete FAD position data and acoustic records from echosounder buoys.
 - v. Develop and adopt a FAD marking scheme by 2022 for all new FAD deployments, regardless of vessel type, that requires that FADs be marked on both the buoy and the FAD structure.
- (2) In 2021, request the Compliance Committee to address non-compliance with FAD data reporting requirements, and recommend corrective measures, including those in paragraph 31 of Rec. 19-02;
- (3) Request the SCRS to provide science-based limits on FAD deployments and/or FAD sets by 2022.

Harvest Strategies

What are the issues?

Harvest Strategies - which include target and limit reference points together with harvest control rules - provide pre-agreed rules for managing fisheries resources and acting on stock status changes.

Why are we concerned?

ICCAT has been developing harvest strategies and testing them through MSE and seeking to adopt them for priority stocks within a planned timeframe. However, accelerated action is needed for tropical tunas. The MSC has established deadlines for harvest strategy and harvest control rules (HCRs) Principle 1 conditions for certified tuna fisheries. For tuna stocks in the ICCAT Convention Area, if HCRs are not adopted by 2022 for yellowfin and skipjack tuna (western), current MSC certifications for these stocks will be suspended.

What is ISSF asking ICCAT to do?

In 2021, include an item on MSE in the meeting of Panel 1 in order to continue to advance the work for tropical tunas.

Bycatch and sharks

What are the issues?

Mako sharks are fished for food, their fins and sport, with no international catch limitations in place. Science-based conservation and management measures to limit fishing mortality on sharks must be adopted and implemented.

Why are we concerned?

In the North Atlantic, the SCRS notes it could take ~25 years to rebuild mako shark stocks even if fishing mortality rates were cut to zero. Action is long overdue, as scientists first issued advice to address this problem in 2017 and ICCAT has still not acted.

What is ISSF asking ICCAT to do?

In 2021, adopt a new Recommendation for shortfin mako sharks that: (i) Immediately prohibits all shortfin mako retentions; and (ii) Ensures specific scientific advice for minimizing incidental mortality is developed and implemented.

Monitoring, Control and Surveillance*What are the issues?*

Comprehensive observer coverage on vessels is critical to sustainable fisheries management for tropical tunas.

Why are we concerned?

ICCAT currently requires 5% for longline fisheries, which is not being fully complied with. This coverage rate will increase to 10% by 2022 for fisheries targeting tropical tunas. The SCRS has highlighted that 5% observer coverage is inadequate to provide reasonable estimates of total bycatch and recommended to increase coverage to 20%. The paucity of data from longline fisheries hinders the development of effective conservation measures.

What is ISSF asking ICCAT to do?

In 2021, direct the SCRS and IMM Working Group to: (i) develop standards for electronic monitoring (EM) and a workplan and timeline for implementation of a comprehensive EM and electronic reporting program, including for logbooks, with emphasis on longline vessels; and (ii) develop an ICCAT regional Observer Program (per Rec. 19-02) so to be able to require 100% observer coverage (human and/or electronic) for all major ICCAT fisheries, and all vessels engaged in at-sea transshipment, within five years.

Compliance*What are the issues?*

ICCAT has one of the best designed and most transparent compliance assessment processes of the five tuna RFMOs, but it can be strengthened. A strong compliance process improves fisheries management.

Why are we concerned?

ICCAT has enhanced its compliance assessment process, but procedural and policy improvements are still needed.

What is ISSF asking ICCAT to do?

In 2021, the Compliance Committee adopts a workplan to develop audit points for ICCAT measures, such as those developed for sharks in Rec. 18-06.

ISSF Global Priorities for Tuna RFMOs

Implementation of rigorous harvest strategies, including harvest control rules and reference points.

Effective management of fleet capacity, including developing mechanisms that support developing coastal state engagement in the fishery.

Science-based FAD management & non-entangling and biodegradable FAD designs.

Increased member compliance with all adopted measures, and greater transparency of processes reviewing member compliance with measures.

Strengthened Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) measures and increased observer coverage, including through modern technologies such as electronic monitoring and e-reporting.

Adoption of best-practice bycatch mitigation and shark conservation and management measures.

Did You Know?

ISSF is collaborating on biodegradable FAD research with fleets, coastal nations, and other stakeholders.

ISSF resources for vessels include skippers guidebooks on bycatch mitigation techniques as well as reports on electronic monitoring and vessel monitoring systems.

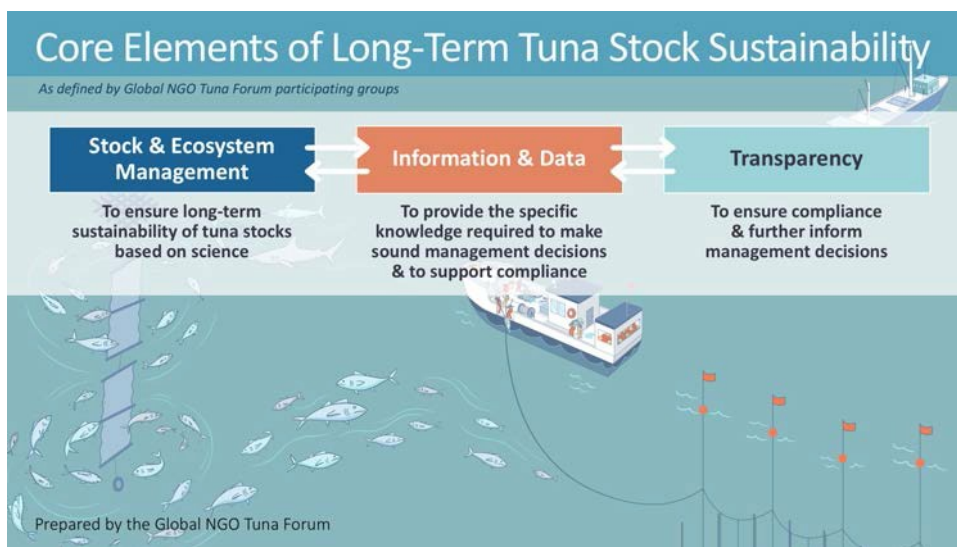
ISSF offers guidelines for implementing non-entangling FADs.

Three ISSF conservation measures focus on shark bycatch.

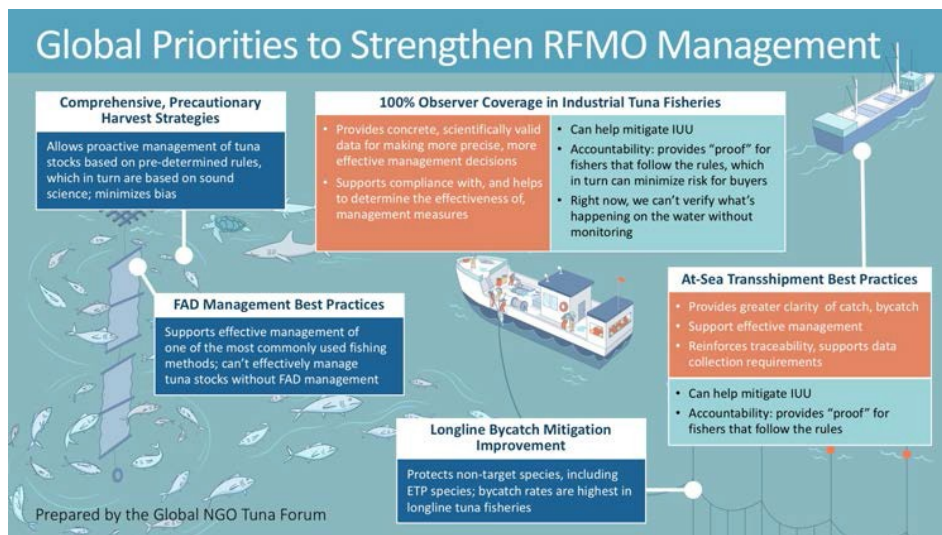
Monterey Bay Aquarium – Round 1

This letter is submitted on behalf of the undersigned companies, non-governmental organizations and fishing industry associations, all of whom recognize that the sustainability of tuna stocks is integral to businesses and livelihoods, as well as to the health of the marine environment.

The undersigned agree that to ensure the long-term sustainability of tuna stocks, governments and regulatory bodies must effectively address three core elements: Stock and Ecosystem Management, Information and Data, and Transparency.



Your government serves as an important leader in tuna stock sustainability as a member of one or more of the four regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) charged with managing the world’s tropical tuna fisheries. We are writing to bring to your attention our collective views on the issues that require prioritized action in all RFMOs in the near term:



We recognize that the impacts of COVID-19 have made some meetings and discussions challenging. However, these challenges cannot be allowed to block progress on critical issues in tuna fisheries.

Specifically, we believe accelerated actions can and must be achieved on the following priorities in 2020:

Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC):

Adoption of a robust conservation management measure that is precautionary and based on scientific advice to limit fishing pressure on yellowfin & bigeye tunas.

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC):

Adopt an effective rebuilding plan for yellowfin tuna that fully implements the 2015 Science Committee advice, takes all gears/fleets harvesting yellowfin into account, and addresses overfishing by 2027.

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT):

Protect shortfin mako sharks by heeding scientists' warnings about North Atlantic depletion and South Atlantic imminent risk.

Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC):

Accelerate action on comprehensive, precautionary strategies across all tuna stocks by 2021 that minimize the risk of stock declining to undesirable levels.

We believe these measures will positively impact the long-term sustainability of tuna stocks and the overall health of the marine ecosystem.

The companies that have signed this letter represent major seafood buyers that source seafood products from a diverse, international supply network. The non-governmental organizations work in more than 100 countries and engage suppliers and provide advice to retailers, buyers and food service companies regarding improvements in tuna sustainability. The fishing industry associations represent a variety of gear types, including purse seine, longline, troll, pole and line, and handline vessels active in tuna fisheries worldwide.

Collectively, we request that your government, as a member of one or more of the tuna RFMOs, take active steps to ensure significant progress on these issues at each of the relevant RFMO meetings in 2020, as a matter of priority.

Statement by Shark Project on behalf of Defenders of Wildlife, Humane Society International (HIS), International Pole and Line Foundation (IPNLF), Shark Project – Round 1

CONSCIOUS that Biodiversity and the future of our oceans are topics that affect humankind as a whole and the future of our planet.

AWARE that the challenging impacts of COVID-19 have led to the cancellation of ICCAT’s annual commission and science (SCRS) meetings. However, we do not believe current circumstances should prevent ICCAT from taking action to ensure the uninterrupted, sustainable management of tuna stocks and marine ecosystems under its purview.

EMPHASIZING that Endangered, CITES App. II listed shortfin mako sharks require immediate attention by the Commission in 2020.

RECALLING that in 2019, the unanimous consensus from ICCAT’s scientific committee was that fishing mortality was overwhelmingly above F_{MSY} (Maximum Sustainable Yield), with a combined 90% probability from all models showing shortfin mako as overfished, and experiencing overfishing in the North Atlantic.

MINDFUL of the Committee’s recommendation to the Commission to adopt a non-retention policy without exceptions for the North Atlantic and at a minimum limit catches in the South Atlantic to 2,001 tonnes.

NOTING the potentially high effectiveness of a retention ban as post release survival rates can reach 77%.

AWARE that efforts for improved release handling and catch avoidance lack incentives as long as shortfin mako can still be landed and sold.

WELCOMING the proposal from Canada for a retention ban of shortfin mako sharks in the North Atlantic.

DEEPLY TROUBLED to see that the proposals made by the EU and USA are in contradiction to the scientific advice.

DEEPLY CONCERNED that those proposals from EU and USA will fail to protect shortfin mako stocks from a complete collapse in the North Atlantic and following a similar trajectory in the South Atlantic.

RECALLING that scientists, NGOs, retailers, wholesalers, suppliers and processors have urged the Commission to heed scientists’ warnings about the depletion of the North Atlantic mako shark population and the imminent risk to the South Atlantic mako shark population.

Therefore, we specifically request the adoption of a new recommendation for shortfin mako sharks, that

- immediately (in 2020) prohibits all shortfin mako retentions
- and ensures that specific scientific advice for minimizing incidental mortality is developed and implemented in 2021

To safeguard this vulnerable shark species in the Atlantic, we have to take immediate and bold actions now, following scientific advice and acknowledging that there is no alternative to an immediate retention ban.

Statement by Shark Trust with support from Ecology Action Centre (EAC), Project AWARE Foundation, The Ocean Foundation, Pew Charitable Trusts, the Humane Society International and Defenders of Wildlife – Round 1

On behalf of Shark Trust, with support from Ecology Action Centre, Project AWARE, Shark League for the Atlantic and Mediterranean, The Ocean Foundation, The Pew Charitable Trusts, the Humane Society International, Wildlife Conservation Society and Defenders of Wildlife, we appreciate the opportunity to highlight our top priority for action by Panel 4 of ICCAT: immediate protection for North Atlantic shortfin mako sharks.

This particularly vulnerable and valuable shark is a species of global conservation concern. Last year, makos were classified by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature as Endangered and listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

ICCAT scientists have demonstrated that the North Atlantic shortfin mako population is exceptionally depleted and headed for collapse. The SCRS recently underscored its 2017 advice to completely ban retention from this population. ICCAT's failure to take this action is delaying the start of a recovery period that already likely spans five decades.

We were deeply troubled when a few Parties stood in the way of consensus on the science-based 2019 ICCAT proposal for makos from 10 Parties, leaving the species woefully under-protected. COVID-19 has further delayed mako management but has not stopped mako overfishing.

We stress that removing all incentive to catch makos is essential for minimizing mortality. Allowances to land dead makos create incentives for irresponsible fishing practices. Retention bans, on the other hand, shift the incentive to avoidance.

Prohibition is by far the most common measure that ICCAT has taken for sharks. The SCRS highlighted the 77% survival statistic to demonstrate that a retention ban can be effective for this species. Makos will unfortunately be discarded dead under any scenario. Concern over this fact is insufficient justification for rejecting the core advice.

ICCAT scientists have warned fishery managers about the inherent vulnerability of mako sharks for more than a decade and have delivered the same advice for North Atlantic shortfin makos for four years straight. The state of this population is poor and continues to deteriorate. Decisive ICCAT action in the coming weeks can finally start to reverse the decline, but half measures will not be enough. To prevent irreparable collapse and minimize long-term negative impacts for all stakeholders, we need immediate, concerted, effective action across the North Atlantic in the form of the recommended retention ban.

Closing Statement by Pew Charitable Trusts to Plenary

ICCAT was the only RFMO to rely on negotiation by correspondence in lieu of a virtual meeting in 2020. Pew Charitable Trusts acknowledges the commitment by ICCAT officers, Panel chairs, and CPCs to maintain an admirable level of transparency within that format. That said, there were many lessons learned from the first year of virtual meetings by other RFMOs, and we encourage the Commission to implement new procedures to ensure ICCAT's meetings are sufficiently productive this year, particularly given the number of pressing agenda items.

In terms of substantive wins, it is notable that management of the only stock with a harvest control rule in place – north Atlantic albacore – was one of the simplest negotiations of 2020. Setting the TAC for 2021-2023 was as easy as executing the HCR and allocating the results. This is a clear example of why ICCAT should continue to develop management procedures for the remaining priority stocks. CPCs also agreed to follow the advice of SCRS scientists regarding east Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, in line with their commitment to science-based management. Unfortunately, these successes were overshadowed by decisions to take forward measures for shortfin mako, tropical tunas, and western bluefin that allow catch well above scientifically-advised levels.

Mismanagement of shortfin mako must be addressed in 2021 if ICCAT is to prevent the north Atlantic stock from becoming a choke species for all longline operations targeting swordfish. Scientists have consistently advised that “no retention, no exceptions” is the best way forward for this stock, but ICCAT has just as consistently failed to take that advice. That must change in 2021.

Allocation of the tropical tuna fishing opportunities continues to be one of the most significant challenges facing ICCAT. With the concerning status of bigeye and the lack of enforcement of the yellowfin TAC, allocation must be a top priority for 2021. By finally addressing this issue, the Commission can also create room to develop much-needed management procedures for the tropical fisheries.

ICCAT's decision to roll over the 2020 TAC for western bluefin, while scheduling a new assessment for 2021, is one of its most egregious in recent years. Not only does this allow for certain overfishing in 2021, it sets a dangerous precedent that assessments can be ignored when results are unfavorable. In 2021, ICCAT managers must take action to adopt a new TAC that has at least a 60% probability of ending overfishing and a management procedure that will prevent politics from overriding science-based decisions moving forward. 2021 offers an opportunity to adopt a more sustainable path for the future, but it requires the Commission to act swiftly and effectively on the key issues addressed above.

Closing Statement by Pew Charitable Trusts to Panel 1

The Pew Charitable Trusts appreciates the Commission’s ultimate decision to maintain the 2021 bigeye TAC established via Rec. 19-02. The pandemic should not be used as a rationale for delaying or avoiding pre-agreed actions, particularly those which scientists indicate are important for stock recovery. We commend those CPCs that opposed moves to prevent the quota reduction from being implemented in 2021, as already agreed, and believe this is an important precedent to uphold moving forward.

Turning to 2021, there are several major issues for Panel 1 to address. It must continue to refine the bigeye tuna allocation system and – very importantly – adopt an allocation key for yellowfin. Catch of these two highly valuable tunas continues to be substantially above the adopted TACs and well beyond scientifically-advised levels. The status of the Atlantic bigeye stock is extremely concerning, and SCRS scientists have reported that the Atlantic yellowfin stock is smaller than it has ever been. These concerning statuses are the result of a lack of proper allocation and an absence of sufficient measures to control effort and catch. Furthermore, the high catch of juveniles continues to change the stock productivity, requiring even more adult fish to be left in the water to support the catch of immature fish, compounding the allocation issues.

In addition to addressing allocation for these stocks, PA1 should move with purpose to begin work to adopt management procedures for the tropical tuna stocks. In 2021, there will be several opportunities to advance this process, including three intersessional meetings of the SCRS tropical tuna working group and two intersessional meetings of PA1. At minimum, PA1 should aim to adopt interim management objectives for the tropical tunas; the scientists can then apply these objectives to their work in developing management strategy evaluation (MSE). Furthermore, western skipjack fisheries should be considered separately in this process from the multi-species complex of eastern skipjack, bigeye, and yellowfin, assuming western fisheries continue to be restricted to gear types and fishing strategies that catch almost exclusively skipjack. It is conceivable that work on a western skipjack management procedure could progress all the way to adoption in 2021, given the MSE progress to date, limited number of CPCs who fish this stock, and the limited interactions these fisheries have with other ICCAT species.

The Pew Charitable Trusts appreciates the preliminary discussions on tropical tuna conservation and management that occurred during this unusual time, and we look forward to real progress on the outstanding issues in 2021 and encourage the Commission to take steps to ensure that PA1 meetings are productive, no matter whether they take place in person or virtually.

Closing Statement by Pew Charitable Trusts to Panel 2

The Pew Charitable Trusts commends Panel 2 for having previously adopted a harvest control rule (HCR) for albacore and successfully utilizing it this year. That Recommendation made for an easy execution of the HCR and an increase in the albacore TAC for each fishing nation, and it should be seen as a clear example of one of the many benefits of harvest strategies over the existing management approach. We also recognize that the Panel successfully extended management for the eastern bluefin stock, following the advice of the scientists and addressing some of the issues that required action in 2020.

Unfortunately, PA2’s decision to roll over the west Atlantic bluefin TAC, with the understanding that it would lead to a 96% chance of overfishing in 2021, highlights the consequence of letting politics, rather than science, dictate decisions about the future of shared fish resources. This decision, along with the scheduling of a new stock assessment for 2021, despite having clear advice from the SCRS in both 2017 and 2020 that a TAC reduction would be necessary at this time, will be highlighted as not only a failure for ICCAT but as a failure of those CPC(s) that advocated for this result. These actions are counter to ICCAT’s commitment to use best available science and set a dangerous precedent.

Beyond the decision itself, the way that this decision was secured is alarming. A government threatening to allow negotiations to end with no management in place for 2021, just weeks after the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission made the monumental mistake of ending its regular commission meeting without management for the tropical tunas, demonstrates a particular lack of commitment to even the most basic of ICCAT’s responsibilities. Strong and immediate action must be taken after the 2021 stock assessment to immediately adjust the TAC to a level that ends overfishing with at least 60% probability. Furthermore, ICCAT must not allow other panels or working groups to follow the precedent set by PA2 when stock assessment results are unfavorable.

To avoid these sorts of political ploys that threaten the viability of ICCAT stocks and the spirit of shared management moving forward, management procedures should be adopted for both bluefin stocks no later than 2022. To this end, managers and scientists should take full advantage of the 2021 calendar, which includes a 1-day bluefin management strategy evaluation (MSE) meeting immediately prior to the 2021 annual meeting. This meeting will afford the Commission the opportunity to provide feedback on the preliminary results of the ongoing MSE, as well as to operationalize the management objectives agreed to in ICCAT Res. 18-03, by adding probabilities and timelines.

Closing Statement by Pew Charitable Trusts to Panel 4– Round 3, Part I

The Pew Charitable Trusts thanks the Chair of Panel 4 for his continued efforts in trying to reach consensus on a measure to manage and conserve the shortfin mako shark and to the various CPCs and NGOs for engaging in the discussion, despite the unique format. Pew commends the United Kingdom, Chinese Taipei, and Gabon in joining Canada and Senegal as co-sponsors to PA4_806 in support of no retention of shortfin makos in the north Atlantic and management in the south, in line with the scientific advice. However, Pew is highly concerned that this urgent issue didn't result in the adoption of a science-based plan, instead allowing the population to continue to decline by rolling over an already inadequate measure.

Since 2017, the SCRS has been recommending that ICCAT adopt a no-retention policy for the north Atlantic stock. Over the last four years, the advice has only become clearer, with the updated stock assessment concluding that no retention with no exceptions is the first step to recover the north Atlantic population. As other NGOs and CPCs have noted, additional mitigation measures, such as time and area closures and gear modifications, as well as safe handling measures, will also be needed to reduce bycatch and improve post release survival.

Between now and the proposed intersessional meeting in July 2021, CPCs have a window of opportunity to work together to adopt a plan that would provide the north Atlantic shortfin mako population a real chance of recovery. However, all Parties should be clear that if they choose to continue to delay action in 2021, they will be setting the longline industry up for much more disruptive and costly actions in the future in order to curb further decline of makos in line with the ICCAT mandate and Commission obligation. Those actions could potentially include the need for an Atlantic-wide closure of longline fishing. With seafood buyers and retailers increasingly demonstrating interest in management decisions at other RFMOs and having already highlighted Atlantic mako recovery as a top priority, there is the potential threat of market action as well.

Pew urges governments to urgently prevent mako from being a “choke species” for management of Atlantic longline fisheries and to assure buyers that they are committed to sustainably manage longline gear in a way that allows mako sharks to rebuild and to thrive.

Closing Statement by Pew Charitable Trusts to PWG

The formal cancellation of the 2020 ICCAT meeting limited the opportunities for PWG to advance its important work, with CPCs focused on the immediate management requirements of stocks that required action before the 2021 fishing seasons. That said, the items on PWG's agenda are those which would enable ICCAT to better automate its monitoring, both improving its efficiency and helping it to avoid any disruptions in control and surveillance, like those experienced this year as a result of the pandemic. And, perhaps more than any other intersessional ICCAT meeting, IMM sets the stage for success at the Commission meeting in the fall.

The Pew Charitable Trusts shares the Chair's opinion that there is much work to do in 2021 and agrees that CPCs will need to collaborate, bilaterally and multilaterally, ahead of the intersessional meeting in June. Even if that meeting is unable to happen in person, it should be held in a virtual format and should take advantage of the many lessons learned in running efficient and productive meetings in this new setting.

The priorities for PWG in 2021 – including at the intersessional meeting of IMM – must include:

- Developing an electronic monitoring (EM) program to complement human observer coverage.
- Improving reporting and monitoring of transshipment activity to minimize opportunities to facilitate the laundering of illegally caught fish through the supply chain.
- Increasing the use of IMO numbers to uniquely identify ICCAT fishing vessels and reduce the ability for illegal operators to fish in the ICCAT Convention Area.

- Ensuring CPCs comply with ICCAT’s port State measures and related information exchange requirements.
- Effectively deterring nationals (both physical and legal persons) from any activities related to illegal, unreported, or unregulated (IUU) fishing.

Pew looks forward to engaging with PWG members and leadership by correspondence, at the IMM meeting, and during the regular sessions of PWG in the fall. We recognize that ICCAT’s work is likely to continue to be virtual in nature until at least summer 2021, but we should not allow PWG’s agenda to be delayed to 2022. Pew encourages members to find ways to work together to urgently address the above concerns.

Consolidated Statement by the Ecology Action Centre (EAC) – Round 3, Part I

The Ecology Action Centre, with support from its Shark League partners, appreciates the opportunity to offer a consolidated statement regarding our priority for ICCAT Panel 4 attention: shortfin mako sharks.

ICCAT’s lack of consensus on urgently needed mako protections is deeply disappointing. ICCAT scientists have warned about makos’ inherent vulnerability for more than a decade. For years they have recommended, inter alia, a South Atlantic 2001t TAC and a North Atlantic retention ban. Repeated failure to heed this advice jeopardizes an exceptionally valuable and vulnerable shark species, exacerbating risk for population collapses that are irreparable in our lifetimes.

We oppose landing allowances for the depleted North Atlantic population because they:

- Run counter to SCRS advice for a non-retention policy “without exception”
- Create incentive for irresponsible fishing practices that cause stress and ensure mortality
- Delay a recovery period that already spans decades.

The SCRS has been clear and comprehensive in advising a North Atlantic ban. This measure:

- Is based on TAC scenarios that incorporate all sources of mortality, including dead discards
- Is deemed the most effective way to achieve the substantial reductions necessary
- Takes into account the species’ relatively high potential to survive capture
- Reflects the benefits of encouraging fleet movement away from hotspots.

Retention bans are not strange, novel or overly burdensome. Such measures:

- Are vital to remove incentives to encounter and kill valuable, threatened species
- Were recommended by the SCRS for shark species of concern more than a decade ago
- Have been recommended by SCRS for North Atlantic shortfin makos since 2017
- Are the most common RFMO measure for sharks
- Have been mandated by ICCAT for many other shark species
- Have been implemented by several ICCAT Parties for many shark species
- Are less restrictive than closing fisheries.

More must be done. We support additional measures and research to minimize incidental mako mortality. Such actions are recommended to boost recovery but cannot replace the core elements of the SCRS advice.

We are grateful for the leadership of Canada, Senegal, the UK, Gabon, and Chinese Taipei, and encouraged by the diverse and expanding array of organizations united in support of science-based measures. We are hopeful that CITES implementation will produce stricter national mako measures in the near future.

Over the coming months, unilateral actions and collective prioritization are needed to minimize further damage and enable an effective intersessional agreement. We urge Parties to:

- Immediately implement domestic science-based mako measures
- Encourage other Parties to engage in mako protection, and
- Prepare to propose, promote, and agree in July 2021 the mako measures advised by the SCRS.

Consolidated Statement by Global Tuna Alliance (GTA)

The Global Tuna Alliance (GTA) is disappointed and perplexed by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and their decision to continue overfishing the endangered Shortfin mako in 2021.

Shortfin mako is classified by IUCN as globally [Endangered](#) and was listed under [CITES Appendix II](#) in 2019. However, in the Atlantic the situation is even more dire: ICCAT's own Scientific Committee have warned since 2017 that shortfin mako has been overfished and overfishing continues, while recovery of the North Atlantic stock will likely take ~25 years even if fishing could be cut to zero. But even then, there is only a 53% chance of rebuilding by 2045, while even a modest catch limit of 500 tonnes a year (including dead discards) has only a 52% probability of rebuilding by 2070.

The GTA [position](#) was clear - ICCAT should agree to protect shortfin mako sharks by heeding scientists' warnings about North Atlantic depletion and South Atlantic imminent risk. Specifically:

- Immediately prohibit all shortfin mako retentions
- Ensure specific scientific advice for minimizing incidental mortality is developed and implemented as a matter of urgency.

Three proposals were submitted for discussion: the EU ([PA4-804](#)), the USA ([PA4-805](#)) and Canada ([PA4-806](#)). The Canadian proposal was co-sponsored by Senegal, the UK, Chinese Taipei and Gabon, and supported by Norway, and was the only proposal which followed ICCAT's own scientific advice.

In contrast, The EU proposal included a TAC of north Atlantic shortfin mako of 500 tonnes, excluding dead discards and discards of live but potentially damaged fish. This means the total fishing mortality will be higher than 500 tonnes and the probability of rebuilding by 2070 will be less than 52%. The US proposed a TAC of 700 tonnes in 2021 and 500 tonnes in 2022. In addition, this would continue to allow retaining alive animals above a certain size as caught as game by sport fishing. Again, this level of fishing mortality will provide a low probability ($\leq 52\%$) of rebuilding by 2070. Surprisingly, neither the EU nor the US proposal included any catch limit for the South Atlantic.

Despite 17 statements in support of a retention ban and the Canadian proposal, no agreement could be reached and the existing regulation will be rolled over to 2021 allowing overfishing without limits to continue throughout 2021.

The GTA applauds the leadership demonstrated by Canada and the co-proposers and challenges the EU and the US to follow the science in 2021 if it's not too late. There are no excuses; the North Atlantic stock is at the verge of collapsing and the South Atlantic stock is on a similar trajectory. ICCAT must take responsibility for the active conservation of this species.

Consolidated Statement by Shark Project

Shark Project is extremely disappointed about the failure of ICCAT 2020 to agree on effective conservation measures for endangered short fin mako sharks in the Atlantic.

The roll over of Rec 19-06, will allow overfishing to continue in 2021 and further decreases the probability for stock rebuilding within the next 50 years.

Canada, Senegal, the UK, Chinese Taipei, and Gabon, proposed to follow the advice from SCRS for an immediate retention ban in the North and a TAC of 2001t (max) in the South ([PA4-806](#)).

Norway and 17 statements (including the joint statements from > 40 NGOs and retail organisations [PLE-113](#), [PA4-813](#), [PA4-828](#)) demonstrated broad support.

However, the EU and the USA very disappointingly continued to deny the need for a retention ban and instead proposed TACs ([PA4-804](#) and [PA4-805](#)), which will neither end overfishing nor allow stock rebuilding by 2070.

The planned roll over will prevent ICCAT from fulfilling its obligation for the sustainable management of sharks in the Atlantic, to which it has committed itself in 2019.

For the meeting scheduled for July 2021 we note, that it:

- will not prevent overfishing to continue through 2021.
- should be planned as a virtual meeting in case f2f meetings are still not possible and provide options for bilateral live interactions between all participants.
- will only achieve the desired outcome if all delegations, including EU and USA, constructively engage with each other and observers between now and July.

Therefore, the objectives should be agreed ahead of the meeting to:

- Immediately end overfishing in the North Atlantic
- Remove all incentives for vessels to potentially benefit from an increased bycatch of dead sharks or increased mortality
- Agree on additional measures and incentives to reduce mortality by avoidance strategies, temporal closures, potential gear modifications and other suitable measures as supported by scientific expertise ahead of the meeting
- Agree to continue scientific research and programmes to further reduce mortality
- Implement a science based, precautionary TAC for the South Atlantic, to immediately stop overfishing of shortfin mako sharks and prevent a similar situation as in the North

We highly welcome Canada's commitment for a retention ban for mako sharks in its own fleet and we hope that other CPCs will follow this example. While this alone will not sufficiently reduce mortality when the EU alone takes 60% of all mako shark catch, such national retention bans will set a clear signal and hopefully motivate more nations to follow.

Only a retention ban without exemptions will provide the required reduction in mortality and the basis for additional measures.

Please, let us all work together and don't let short term commercial interests jeopardize the future of short fin mako sharks in the Atlantic.

Consolidated Statement by Shark Trust, Ecology Action Centre (EAC), Project AWARE Foundation

The Shark Trust, in concert with its Shark League partners - Ecology Action Centre and Project AWARE - appreciates the opportunity to offer a final consolidated statement regarding our top ICCAT priority: science-based limits for shortfin mako sharks.

We reiterate our deep disappointment over the lack of consensus on urgently needed mako protections. ICCAT scientists have warned about makos' inherent vulnerability for more than a decade. This year marks four years since they first recommended, inter alia, a South Atlantic 2001t TAC and a North Atlantic retention ban. Repeated failure to heed this advice jeopardizes an exceptionally valuable and vulnerable shark species, exacerbating risk for population collapses that are irreparable in our lifetimes. To recap:

We oppose landing allowances for the depleted North Atlantic population because they:

- Run counter to SCRS advice for a non-retention policy "without exception"
- Create incentive for irresponsible fishing practices that cause stress and ensure mortality
- Further delay a multidecadal recovery.

The SCRS has been clear and comprehensive in advising a North Atlantic ban. This measure:

- Is based on TAC scenarios that incorporate all sources of mortality, including dead discards
- Is deemed the most effective way to achieve the substantial reductions necessary
- Takes into account the species' relatively high post-release survival

Retention bans are not novel or overly burdensome. Such measures:

- Are vital to remove incentives to encounter and kill valuable, threatened species
- Were recommended for shark species of concern more than a decade ago

- Are the most common RFMO shark measure, mandated by ICCAT for many other species
- Have been implemented by several ICCAT Parties for many shark species
- Are less restrictive than closing fisheries.

More must be done. We support additional measures to minimize incidental mako mortality. Such actions are recommended to boost recovery but cannot replace the core elements of the SCRS advice.

Harmonization is increasingly warranted as Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) obligations are implemented. We welcome North Atlantic mako bans by Canada, Portugal, and Spain, as well as opinions by EU and UK CITES expert panels that find against continued North Atlantic mako trade, including high seas landings. Ensuring complementary, science-based mako safeguards across fisheries and environment authorities at domestic and international levels is not only the best path for saving makos but can also set an overdue example for conservation of many other shark and ray species.

Between now and July, unilateral actions and collective prioritization are needed to minimize further damage and enable an effective intersessional agreement. We urge Parties to:

- Implement domestic science-based mako measures
- Encourage other Parties to follow suit, and
- Prepare to propose, promote, and agree the mako measures advised by the SCRS.

RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY ICCAT IN 2020

20-01 **TRO**
**SUPPLEMENTAL RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO AMEND THE RECOMMENDATION 19-02 BY
 ICCAT TO REPLACE RECOMMENDATION 16-01 BY ICCAT ON A MULTI-ANNUAL CONSERVATION
 AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME FOR TROPICAL TUNAS**

NOTING that the extraordinary circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic has led to the cancellation of the 22nd Special Meeting of the Commission;

RECOGNISING that some decisions by the Commission are required because certain conservation and management measures in Recommendation 19-02 were due to expire in 2020;

CONSIDERING the technical difficulties in adopting new measures through correspondence or online meetings in a manner which would be fully transparent and inclusive;

CONFIRMING that the extension of current measures in no way prejudices any future measures or discussions;

ACKNOWLEDGING that some of the provisions contained in Recommendation 19-02 are of limited duration;

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

1. Paragraphs 4, 8, 18, and 60 of the 2019 *Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 16-01 by ICCAT on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tunas* (Rec. 19-02) which were due to expire or call for action by the end of 2020 are extended to 2021.
2. Paragraph 67 of Rec. 19-02 shall be amended to read as follows: “An intersessional meeting of Panel 1 will be held in 2021 to review existing measures and, *inter alia*, develop catch limits and associated catch verification mechanisms for 2022.”

20-02

SWO

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING THE RECOMMENDATION 19-03 BY ICCAT FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NORTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH

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

1. The footnote ** relating to paragraph 2 (b) of *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation for the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish, Rec. 16-03* (Rec. 19-03) is amended as follows:
 - a) The first line of the footnote is replaced by the following text:

"From Japan to Morocco: 100 t for each of 2018 and 2019; and 150 t for 2020 and 2021."
 - b) The following text is added at the end of the footnote:

"From Chinese Taipei to Morocco: 20 t for 2020 and 2021".

"From Trinidad and Tobago to Morocco: 25 t for 2020 and 2021".

20-03

ALB

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING THE RECOMMENDATION 16-06 ESTABLISHING A MULTI-ANNUAL CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME FOR NORTH ATLANTIC ALBACORE

RECOGNIZING that Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme for North Atlantic Albacore (Rec. 16-06) and Recommendation by ICCAT on a Harvest Control Rule for North Atlantic Albacore Supplementing the Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme (Rec. 17-04) apply in 2020 and subsequent years, but that certain provisions will expire at the end of 2020;

UNDERSTANDING that, due to the pandemic caused by COVID-19, it is difficult to have substantive discussion on conservation and management measures;

MINDFUL that, under such circumstances, a one-year roll-over of the current measures with minimum amendments, including a pro-rata increase of catch and other limits, while not establishing a precedent, would provide a straightforward and science-based approach to management in this extraordinary year;

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

1. Paragraph 5 of Rec. 16-06 shall be replaced with:

“5. CPCs other than those mentioned in paragraph 4 shall limit their annual catches to 242 t in 2021.”

2. Paragraph 6 of Rec. 16-06 shall be replaced with:

“6. By derogation to paragraphs 4 and 5, Japan shall endeavor to limit its total North Atlantic albacore annual catches to a maximum of 4.5% in weight of its total bigeye tuna longline catch in the Atlantic Ocean in 2021.”

3. Paragraph 7 of Rec. 16-06 shall be replaced with:

“7. Any unused portion or excess of a CPC’s annual quota/catch limit may be added to/shall be deducted from, according to the case, the respective quota/catch limit during or before the adjustment year, in the following way:

<i>Year of Catch</i>	<i>Adjustment Year</i>
2019	2021
2020	2022
2021	2023

However, the maximum underage that a Party may carry-over in any given year shall not exceed 25% of its initial catch quota.

If, in any year, the combined landings of CPCs exceed the TAC, the Commission will re-evaluate this Recommendation at its next Commission meeting and recommend further conservation measures, as appropriate.”

4. Paragraph 17 shall be replaced with:

“Taking into account relevant scientific advice, the Commission shall review and revise Rec. 16-06 as amended by this recommendation and Rec. 17-04 as amended by Rec. 20-04, including consolidation of relevant provisions into a single recommendation at its 2021 Commission meeting.”

20-04

ALB

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING THE RECOMMENDATION 17-04 ON A HARVEST CONTROL RULE FOR NORTH ATLANTIC ALBACORE SUPPLEMENTING THE MULTI-ANNUAL CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME IN REC. 16-06

RECOGNIZING that Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme for North Atlantic Albacore (Rec. 16-06) and Recommendation by ICCAT on a Harvest Control Rule for North Atlantic Albacore Supplementing the Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme (Rec. 17-04) apply in 2020 and subsequent years, but that certain provisions will expire at the end of 2020,

UNDERSTANDING that due to the pandemic caused by COVID-19 it is difficult to have substantive discussion on conservation and management measures,

NOTING, however, that the SCRS recommends a new TAC based on the current interim harvest control rule (HCR),

MINDFUL that under such circumstances, extension of the application of the interim HCR to establish the new TAC together with implementation of a pro-rata increase of the catch and other limits for one year only, while not establishing a precedent, would provide a straightforward and science-based approach to management in this extraordinary year;

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

1. Paragraph 3 of Rec. 17-04 shall be replaced with:

“3. The North Atlantic albacore stock assessment shall be conducted every three (3) years, with the next stock assessment to occur in 2023.”

2. Paragraph 8 of Rec. 17-04 shall be replaced with:

“8. Taking into account paragraphs 4, 5 and 7, a TAC of 37,801 t is established for 2021. This TAC is allocated among the CPCs as follows:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Quota (t) for 2021</i>
European Union	29,095.1
Chinese Taipei	4,416.9
United States	711.5
Venezuela	337.5

The allocation scheme above shall be reviewed and amended, as appropriate, at the 2021 Commission meeting.

Chinese Taipei is authorized to transfer 200 t of North Atlantic albacore to Belize for 2021.”

3. Paragraph 17 of Rec. 17-04 shall be replaced with:

“17. The Commission shall review the interim HCR in 2021 with a view to adopting a long-term management procedure.”

4. Paragraph 18 of Rec. 17-04 shall be replaced with the following:

“18. This Recommendation amends paragraphs 3 and 4 of Rec. 16-06¹ and does not set a precedent for future implementation of HCRs. Taking into account relevant scientific advice, the Commission shall review and revise Rec. 17-04 as amended by this Recommendation and Rec. 16-06 as amended by Rec. 20-03, including consolidation of relevant provisions into a single recommendation at its 2021 Commission meeting.”

¹ Rec. 16-06 has been separately amended by Rec. 20-03. All instances of “Rec. 16-06” found in Rec. 17-04 (as amended by this Recommendation (Rec. 20-04)) shall be considered as Rec. 16-06 amended by Rec. 20-03.

20-05

ALB

**SUPPLEMENTAL RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT
TO AMEND THE RECOMMENDATION 16-07 BY ICCAT ON SOUTH ATLANTIC
ALBACORE CATCH LIMITS FOR THE PERIOD 2017-2020**

NOTING that the extraordinary circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic has led to the cancellation of the 22nd Special Meeting of the Commission;

RECOGNISING that some decisions by the Commission are required in order to ensure the continued conservation and management of stocks for which measures were due to expire in 2020;

CONSIDERING the technical difficulties in adopting new measures through correspondence or online meetings in a manner which would be fully transparent and inclusive;

CONFIRMING that the extension of current measures in no way prejudices any future measures or discussions;

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

1. The terms of the 2016 *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Southern Albacore Catch Limits for the Period 2017-2020* (Rec. 16-07) are extended to 2021.

20-06

BFT

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING REC. 17-06 FOR AN INTERIM CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR WESTERN ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA

RECALLING the Recommendation by ICCAT for an Interim Conservation and Management Plan for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna (Rec. 17-06), which will expire at the end of 2020;

NOTING the unprecedented situation in 2020 that has resulted in the cancellation of the ICCAT annual meeting and the need to make decisions by correspondence through which it is difficult to have substantive discussion to establish total allowable catch levels and other conservation and management measures;

UNDERSCORING the need to ensure there is no lapse in conservation and management measures for western Atlantic bluefin tuna in 2021 while acknowledging the significant challenges associated with complex decision making by correspondence;

NOTING that the Commission will be able to more fully consider the management of western Atlantic bluefin tuna when it meets in person at its 2021 annual meeting;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the results of the 2020 western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock assessment update, which indicates a concern for maintaining the current TAC level for the next three years and includes, particularly, the management scenarios that the SCRS provided for the three-year projection period that address overfishing with varying probabilities by 2023 at the latest;

WELCOMING the 2021 SCRS Bluefin Tuna Workplan and the establishment of a subgroup to conduct a thorough evaluation of indices of abundance and their use in the stock assessment models, which is essential both to advance Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) and for stock assessment purposes;

CONCERNED that the strict update format of the 2020 assessment did not provide the SCRS with enough flexibility to address potential issues with the data and their treatment;

SEEKING, therefore, to ensure that the more robust scientific information on the status of the stock becomes available to the Commission for consideration at its Annual Meeting in 2021;

RECOGNIZING the importance of continuing to advance the bluefin tuna MSE as a matter of priority and stressing that an assessment for the western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock in 2021 must be conducted in a manner that will not negatively affect the current bluefin tuna MSE workplan;

STRESSING also that the Commission shall follow the SCRS advice while, to the extent practicable, giving due consideration to minimizing economic difficulties of the fishermen and other factors;

ACKNOWLEDGING a new assessment will be conducted in 2021 for western Atlantic bluefin tuna and committed to continuing to ensure that overfishing is addressed in the future with at least a 50% probability;

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

1. The provisions in the Recommendation by ICCAT for an Interim Conservation and Management Plan for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna (Rec. 17-06) shall be extended through 2021 with the following amendments:

(1) Paragraph 1 shall be replaced with:

“1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities (CPCs) whose vessels have been actively fishing for bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic shall implement the following interim conservation and management plan for the 2021 period.”

(2) Paragraph 3 shall be replaced with:

“3. The annual total allowable catch (TAC), inclusive of dead discards, of 2,350 t is established for 2021.”

(3) Paragraph 4 shall be replaced with:

“4. The annual TAC in Paragraph 3 shall be reviewed and amended, as appropriate, in 2021 by the Commission on the advice of the SCRS with a view to addressing overfishing in 2023 at the latest with at least a 50% probability. In this regard, the Commission at its 2021 meeting shall endorse the TACs for 2022 and 2023 at 1,685 t and 1,632 t, respectively unless the Commission decides otherwise based on new SCRS advice. In support of this work, CPCs shall make special efforts, *inter alia*, to update abundance indices and all catch and size composition data up to and including 2020 and provide them to the SCRS.”

(4) Paragraph 6 shall be replaced with:

“6. The allocation of the annual TAC, inclusive of dead discards, will be indicated as follows:

(a) The annual TAC shall include the following allocations:

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

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

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

- (c) Consistent with paragraphs 1, 3, and 6(b), the TAC for 2021 results in the following CPC-specific quota allocations (not including by-catch allowances listed in 6(a)):

<i>TAC for 2021: 2,350 t</i>	
United States	1,247.86 t
Canada	515.59 t
Japan	407.48 t
United Kingdom (in respect of Bermuda)	5.31 t
France (in respect of St. Pierre & Miquelon)	5.31 t
Mexico	128.44 t

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

- (d) Depending on availability, Mexico can transfer up to 128.44 t of its adjusted quota in 2021 to Canada to support cooperative research as specified in paragraph 20.
- (e) Depending on availability, the United Kingdom (in respect of Bermuda) can transfer up to the amount of its adjusted quota in 2021 to the United States to support cooperative research as specified in paragraph 20.
- (f) Depending on availability, France (in respect of St. Pierre & Miquelon) can transfer up to the amount of its adjusted quota in 2021 to Canada to support cooperative research as specified in paragraph 20.
- (g) CPCs planning to engage in the cooperative research activities specified in paragraphs 6(d), 6(e), and 6(f) above shall: notify the Commission and the SCRS of the details of their research programs to be undertaken before they commence, and present the results of the research to the SCRS.”

(5) Paragraph 16 shall be replaced with:

“16. The SCRS shall refine the MSE and continue testing the initial candidate management procedures. On this basis, in 2021, the Commission shall review these candidate management procedures and, if possible in 2021 and at the latest in 2022, select a management procedure for adoption and implementation, including pre-agreed management actions to be taken under various stock conditions.”

(6) Paragraph 17 shall be replaced with:

“17. In 2021, the SCRS will conduct a stock assessment for the western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock to incorporate the most recent available data, including any new abundance indices adopted by the Bluefin Tuna Species Group and provide advice to the Commission on the appropriate management measures, approaches, and strategies, including, *inter alia*, regarding TAC levels for that stock for future years. Such assessment shall be conducted in a way that does not negatively affect the other work of the SCRS, particularly the ongoing MSE process for bluefin tuna. In addition, an external expert will be contracted in accordance with the standard procedures of ICCAT. The expert will review the assessment in a manner consistent with established SCRS practices, prepare a report on his or her findings and present their findings/results to the Bluefin Tuna Species Group. No stock assessment will be required for the western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock in 2022 unless the SCRS is unable to perform an assessment in 2021.”

(7) Paragraph 18 shall be replaced with:

“18. By 2022, the SCRS shall provide the Commission with advice on any potential impacts due to uncertainties (including regarding the spawner-recruit relationship) of implementing an $F_{0.1}$ strategy, and, for any identified risks, advise how they could be addressed in future management decisions.”

(8) Paragraph 20 shall be replaced with:

“20. CPCs that harvest Atlantic bluefin tuna should contribute to the research, including that being undertaken through ICCAT’s GBYP. CPCs should make or continue special efforts to enhance the collection and analysis of biological samples from Atlantic bluefin tuna fisheries, such as through sample contributions to the coordinated sampling plan recommended by the SCRS. The SCRS will report to the Commission in 2021 on these efforts. In addition, it is important to continue to explore sampling and/or other approaches for enhancing, and where needed developing, accurate abundance indices for juvenile bluefin tuna. CPCs should also make special efforts to ensure complete and timely submission of any collected data to the SCRS.”

2. In 2021 the Commission shall review and amend, as appropriate, the Recommendation 17-06 as amended by this recommendation.

20-07

BFT

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING RECOMMENDATION 19-04 ESTABLISHING A MULTI-ANNUAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR BLUEFIN TUNA IN THE EASTERN ATLANTIC AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

RECOGNIZING that Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 18-02 establishing a multi-Annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean (Rec. 19-04) applies in 2020 and subsequent years, but that certain provisions will expire at the end of 2020;

UNDERSTANDING that, due to the pandemic caused by COVID-19, it is difficult to have substantive discussion on conservation and management measures;

NOTING SCRS advice that biomass indicators did not provide any evidence to alter the current management advice originally provided in 2017;

MINDFUL that under such circumstances one-year roll-over of the current measures with minimum amendments is the best option for the Commission;

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

The following amendments shall be made to Rec. 19-04:

1. Paragraph 5 shall be replaced with:

“5. The total allowable catches (TACs), inclusive of dead discards, for the years 2021 and 2022 shall be set at 36,000 t, respectively, in accordance with the SCRS advice. However, the 2022 TAC shall be reviewed and amended, as appropriate, at the 2021 Commission annual meeting based on new SCRS advice in 2021.

36,000 t shall be allocated in 2021 in accordance with the following scheme:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Quota 2021 (t)</i>
Albania	170
Algeria	1,655
China	102
Egypt	330
European Union	19,460
Iceland*	180
Japan	2,819
Korea	200
Libya	2,255
Morocco	3,284
Norway	300
Syria	80
Tunisia	2,655
Turkey	2,305
Chinese Taipei	90
Subtotal	35,885
Unallocated Reserves	115
Total	36,000

* Notwithstanding the provision of this Part, Iceland may catch beyond 180 t in 2021 by 25% while its total catch for 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 combined shall not exceed 591 t (84 t + 147 t + 180 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.

Senegal 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.

Depending on availability, Chinese Taipei may transfer up to 50 t of its quota to Korea in 2021.”

2. Paragraph 7 shall be replaced with:

“7. Carry-over of any unused quota is not authorized. A CPC may request to transfer a maximum of 5% of its 2020 quota to 2021. The CPC shall include this request in its fishing/capacity plan for endorsement by the Commission.”

3. Paragraph 15 shall be replaced with:

“15. For 2021, prior to 31 March of each year and in line with paragraph 116 of this Recommendation, the Commission shall convene an intersessional meeting of Panel 2 to analyse and, as appropriate, endorse the plans referred to under paragraph 14. This obligation may be revised after 2021 to allow endorsement of the plans to be done by electronic means. 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.”

4. Paragraph 18 shall be replaced with:

“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 the SCRS no later than 2021 and each time that a stock assessment for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna is performed, including specific rates for gear type and fishing area.”

5. Paragraph 21 shall be replaced with:

“21. For 2021 CPCs may authorize a number of their traps engaged in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery which allows the full exploitation of their fishing opportunities.”

6. Paragraph 23 shall be replaced with:

“23. By derogation to the provisions of paragraphs 18, 19 and 21, for 2021, 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).”

7. Paragraph 26 shall be replaced with:

“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 2021.”

8. Paragraph 28 shall be replaced with:

“28. The 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, the 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 2022 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 areas (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 the SCRS for analysis.”

9. Paragraph 33 shall be replaced with:

“33. Not later than 2022, the Commission shall decide to 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.”

10. Paragraph 115 shall be replaced with:

“115. For the first time in 2021 and, in any case, after the stock assessment for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna 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 on its possible revision.”

20-08

SDP

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO AMEND REC. 18-12
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;

ACKNOWLEDGING that due to the pandemic caused by COVID-19 it is difficult to have substantive discussions on conservation and management measures in particular a meaningful review of the provisions laid down in paragraphs 5b and 5d of this Recommendation which both expire on 31 December 2020;

MINDFUL that under such circumstances a rollover of these measures for one year would offer an opportunity to revisit them in 2021;

**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 2021. 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 2021 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 18-02¹ 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;

¹ Replaced by Rec. 19-04.

- 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)¹, 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 2021 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 18-02¹ 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. 18-02¹ 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.

¹ Replaced by Rec. 19-04.

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 18-02¹ and clarifies and amends Recommendation 18-13.
9. This Recommendation repeals and replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT Replacing Recommendation 17-09 on the Application of the EBCD System* (Rec. 18-12).

¹ Replaced by Rec. 19-04.

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)

20-09

MISC

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING
RECOMMENDATION 14-14 ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MEETING
PARTICIPATION FUND FOR DEVELOPING ICCAT CONTRACTING PARTIES**

RECOGNISING that the ICCAT Meeting Participation Fund established by Recommendation 11-26 has contributed to improving the participation of representatives from developing States at meetings of the Commission and of its subsidiary bodies;

RECALLING that concerns on the lack of participation from developing States had been echoed by the ICCAT Performance Review Panel in 2008;

NOTING that Article 25 paragraph 3 of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea of December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA) identifies, *inter alia*, forms of cooperation with developing States and the need for assistance relating to collection, reporting, verification, exchange and analysis of fisheries data and related information; and stock assessment and scientific research;

FURTHER NOTING that the first meeting of the Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) recommended that in future meetings of the SWGSM the Commission consider providing funds for two members per delegation (one manager and one scientist) for those CPCs needing assistance;

RECOGNISING that implementing the recommendation of the SWGSM to allow for a sufficient and balanced participation of representatives from developing States at its meetings requires amending Recommendation 11-26;

ACKNOWLEDGING the need to take immediate action to optimize the use of the MPF in favour of a broader participation of representatives from developing States with a particular focus on those most in need and to avoid any future precarious situations that may restrict and prevent a wider participation by the developing States due to limited resources;

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

1. A special Meeting Participation Fund (MPF) be established for the purposes of supporting representatives from those ICCAT Contracting Parties which are developing States to attend and/or contribute to the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, including the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS).
2. The MPF shall be financed from an initial allocation of €60,000 from ICCAT's accumulated Working Capital Fund, and subsequently by voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties and such other sources as the Commission may identify. Contracting Parties, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) are urged to make voluntary contributions to the MPF so that developing countries are well represented during the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.
3. The MPF shall be administered by the ICCAT Secretariat, in accordance with the same financial controls as regular budget appropriations. Voluntary contributions to the MPF may include specific directions on their use.
4. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall establish a process for notifying Contracting Parties annually of the level of available funds in the MPF, and provide a timeline and describe the format for the submission of applications for assistance, as well as the details of the assistance to be made available. To qualify to receive assistance through the MPF, the following minimum criteria shall be met to control costs and minimize administrative burdens, while taking into account Commission needs and interests with respect to the participation of the applicant:

- a. A developing Contracting Party that sends more than six official delegates to a meeting of the Commission or more than four to one of its subsidiary bodies through utilization of its own means or financial sources (not including the MPF) is not eligible to receive travel funding support from the MPF for that meeting.
- b. Applicants shall:
 - i) travel using only the most cost-effective economy class fare unless another fare class is available at a lower cost; and
 - ii) make their flight itinerary definite no less than 30 days prior to commencement of the meeting.
5. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall submit an annual report to the Commission on the status of the Fund, including a financial statement of contributions to and disbursements from the Fund;
6. For participation in ICCAT scientific meetings, including SCRS Species Group and other inter-sessional meetings, those eligible scientists may submit an application for assistance from the MPF or, if appropriate, other existing funds supported by CPC voluntary contributions. Applicants will be selected in accordance with the protocol established by the SCRS (Addendum 2 to Appendix 7 to the 2011 SCRS Report).
7. For participation in non-scientific meetings, funds will be allocated in order of application. Only one participant per Contracting Party will be funded for any one meeting, with the exception of the SWGSM, for which two members per delegation (one manager and one scientist) are eligible to receive assistance. All applications shall be subject to the approval of the Chair of the Commission, the Chair of STACFAD, and the Executive Secretary and, in the case of subsidiary bodies, the Chair of the meeting for which funding is being sought.
8. The funds in the MPF shall be disbursed in a manner that ensures a balanced distribution between non-scientific and scientific meetings.
9. All potential eligible applicants are encouraged to explore the alternative avenues of funding available to developing State Contracting Parties prior to applying for support under the MPF or other relevant ICCAT voluntary funds.
10. This recommendation replaces and repeals Recommendation 14-14 in its entirety.

REFERENCE DOCUMENT ADOPTED BY ICCAT IN 2020

20-10

MISC

**RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SPECIAL
MEETING PARTICIPATION FUND**

1. Definitions

Developing ICCAT Contracting Parties are considered to be those Contracting Parties 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***Applicant criteria***

To qualify to receive assistance through the special Meeting Participation Fund (MPF), the following minimum criteria shall be met to control costs and minimize administrative burdens, while taking into account Commission needs and interests with respect to the participation of the applicant:

- a. A developing Contracting Party that sends more than six official delegates to a meeting of the Commission or more than four to one of its subsidiary bodies through utilization of its own means or financial sources (not including the MPF) is not eligible to receive travel funding support from the MPF for that meeting.
- b. Applicants shall:
 - i travel using only the most cost-effective economy class fare unless another fare class is available at a lower cost; and
 - ii make their flight itinerary definite no less than 30 days prior to commencement of the meeting.

Participation in ICCAT scientific meetings

Applicants will be selected in accordance with the protocol established by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) (Addendum 2 to Appendix 7 to the 2011 SCRS Report).

Any eligible scientist from a developing Contracting Party seeking travel funding assistance should submit a completed application by the established deadline, including a detailed description of the applicant's contribution 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 to fund the trip.

Participation in ICCAT non-scientific meetings

All applications shall be made for attendance to a single meeting by one participant per Contracting Party, and shall be subject to the approval of the Commission Chairman, the STACFAD Chair and the Executive Secretary, in addition to the Chair of the meeting for which funding is being sought in the case of subsidiary bodies. Notwithstanding, two official delegation members (one manager and one scientist) are eligible to receive travel funding assistance to attend meetings of the Standing Working Group on Dialogue Between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM), subject to the same approval process.

Any official delegate of a developing Contracting Party seeking travel funding assistance shall submit a completed application by the established deadline.

3. Application procedures

1. The Secretariat will publish the travel form by invitation 90 days in advance of commencement of the meeting.
2. MPF applicants shall send the duly completed form 75 days in advance, including:
 - a. An official letter of nomination for the request for assistance signed by the Head of Delegation, together with a list of the official delegates that will attend the meeting. If this list includes more than four delegates in the case of subsidiary body meetings, or more than six delegates in the case of Commission meetings, funding will not be provided for the applicant.
 - b. All the candidate's contact details, including personal mobile telephone number.
 - c. A copy of the photo/data page 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. A request for a *note verbale*, if needed, to apply for a visa and the place where it will be processed.
3. The Secretariat shall review the applications to determine those which meet the eligibility criteria and shall offer a period of 5 additional days to those applicants who have not sent all the information required.
4. The Secretariat will send an invitation to the selected candidates with travel itinerary based on the dates indicated in the form (no less than 60 days prior to the commencement of the meeting).
5. Applicants must apply for and send a copy of the visa together with the verification and acceptance of the itinerary no less than 30 days prior to the commencement of the meeting.
6. If a reply is not received with all the requirements set out above, the Secretariat will send an application rejection notification.

4. Approval of funding

Applications will be approved on a first come first served basis, as received by the Secretariat. Only complete applications that duly meet all the requirements will be considered.

Funding for travel can only be guaranteed if funds are available, irrespective of whether a complete request has been submitted by the established deadline or preapproved.

Once a request that meets all the eligibility criteria stipulated in Section 2 of these rules of procedure has been approved by the Secretariat, no subsequent modification in the lists of participants shall be made by the Contracting Party that would result in its delegation exceeding the threshold limit on the number of official delegates as established under paragraph (a) of the Applicant criteria.

5. Management of the fund

The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall establish a process for notifying Contracting Parties annually of the level of available funds in the MPF, and provide a timeline and describe the format for the submission of applications for assistance, as well as the details of the assistance to be made available.

In accordance with point 8 of Recommendation 20-09, funds shall be distributed in a manner that ensures balanced distribution between scientific and non-scientific meetings.

The funds will be separated into two six-month periods in order to provide for the participation of scientists and delegates in meetings held later on in the year.

OTHER DECISIONS ADOPTED BY ICCAT IN 2020

6.1 REPORT OF THE VIRTUAL WORKING GROUP ON REVIEW OF RULES OF PROCEDURE (Online meeting 8 July 2020)

1. Opening of the meeting

The Commission Chair, Raul Delgado, opened the meeting and welcomed all the participants. He recalled that during the 26th Regular Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) held in Palma de Mallorca, Spain, from 18 to 25 November 2019, the Commission approved the establishment of a Virtual Working Group on the review of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission (VWG-RRP). It was agreed at that time that the working group would be chaired by the Commission Chair.

2. Introduction of participants

The Chair listed those who had joined the meeting. The list of participants is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 6.1**. The Secretariat served as rapporteur.

3. Brief introduction by the Secretariat on Teams meeting procedures

The Assistant Executive Secretary gave a brief introduction on the Teams meeting procedures to be used and instructions for requesting the floor and intervening.

It was noted that no interpretation was available, which put non-English speaking delegates at a serious disadvantage. It was agreed that the Secretariat should explore possibilities for on-line interpretation for any future meetings of the VWG-RRP, noting that some interpretation platforms, like Zoom, have some restrictions in some CPCs.

4. Review of mandate /TORs/ expected life-span of the WG

It was noted that various documents were on the meeting cloud site, including input from some CPCs concerning the mandate of the Working Group.

Many delegations were of the view that the VWG-RRP should focus its efforts first on the two major topics which had been raised at the 2019 Commission meeting, but this would not preclude discussion on other issues once work on these was concluded, such as those developed in the proposals made by El Salvador, Senegal and Chinese Taipei available on this Working Group's website. With respect to issues other than the two priority matters, one CPC recalled its earlier written comments that the working group's first step should be scoping and framing any other issues of procedure that may be in need of clarification, which would then be shared with Commission for input before delegations begin the substantive work of developing proposals. This will allow the VWG-RRP to focus its efforts more effectively in order to provide clear advice to the Commission on which issues need to be addressed and how.

There was general agreement that the work of the VWG-RRP should be completed before the end of 2021; the need for its continued life beyond that time should be considered at the 2021 annual meeting.

There was some discussion on whether or not it was appropriate to continue the virtual meeting given the lack of interpretation. It was agreed that some issues, primarily the election of officers, should be resolved before the next annual meeting if at all possible given that 2021 was an election year. It was further agreed that the VWG-RRP should have a first exchange of views via correspondence. Once more concrete proposals were available in writing, the VWG-RRP could meet again virtually to discuss them and determine next steps.

5. Identification of key issues and priorities

The working group agreed that the two key issues for considerations would be: 1) the process for the election of Commission officers, and 2) the process for submitting proposals and the progress of these following submission. One CPC noted that the first matter is extremely important and needs to be resolved before the Commission meeting next year, otherwise the Commission may face difficulties to proceed with the election process of Commission officers with the current rules, which, in the view of some, caused serious confusion at the annual meeting last year. With regard to the second item, the Working Group noted that the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Financing (VWG-SF) was also considering ways to improve proposal submissions and care should be taken to avoid overlap on this and potentially other issues.

6. Identification of issues which may need consideration; bearing in mind work ongoing in other virtual WGs.

The need to consider the process of decision making through correspondence and virtual means was proposed for possible future consideration. A submission by a CPC on this point was available on the meeting cloud site.

Regarding possible areas of overlap between the VWG-RRP and VWG-SF, the STACFAD Chair proposed that the two WGs coordinate to avoid duplication of effort and determine the topics to be discussed within each.

7. Plan for first phase of intersessional work and assignment of tasks

It was agreed that the Chair would work with the Secretariat to request inputs from working group members on the two priority issues and determine the procedure for advancing these. Once work on these was concluded, discussion could continue on other matters, as appropriate.

8. Other matters

The issue of acquiring the services of a legal advisor for Commission matters was raised by Gabon The Executive Secretary clarified that what the Secretariat had requested from the Commission, and obtained its agreement last year, was the need to have external legal support for internal issues only at the Secretariat level such as contracts and other issues. He stressed that this aspect of legal support should not be confused with the idea of hiring a legal advisor within the Secretariat to interpret the Convention or Commission decisions, such as Recommendations and Resolutions.

9. Date of next meeting of the WG

The Chair indicated that the timing of the next meeting would be determined, and members duly informed, following progress on the initial work done by correspondence on the topics noted in Item 5 above. Meeting logistics would also be affected by the ability to identify an appropriate platform accessible to all and that would support simultaneous interpretation. The working group members supported the Chair's proposal.

10. Conclusions and closure

The participants thanked the Chair and Secretariat for their efforts in facilitating the work of the Working Group. The meeting was adjourned, on the understanding that information on next steps would be sent to all participants as soon as possible.

The report of the meeting was agreed by correspondence.

List of participants

Contracting Party	Member's name
Algeria	Omar Kaddour
	Sarah Cheniti
	Nadia Aklil Guerni
Brazil	Fabio Hazin
Canada	Justin Turple
	Dale Marsden
	Robynn-Bella Smith-Laplante
El Salvador	Ana Marlene Galdámez de Arévalo
	Doris Beatriz Coto Herrera
	Bernal Alberto Chavarría Valverde
European Union	Arnaud Peyronnet
	Fiona Harford
Gabon	Georges Henri Mba Asseko
	Davy Angueko
Ghana	Michael Arthur-Dadzie
Iceland	Stefan Asmundsson
Japan	Takeshi Miwa
Morocco	Bouchta Aichane
	Fatima Zohra Hassouni
	Yassine El Aroussi
	Hicham Grichat
Nicaragua	Roberto Chacon Rivas
	Julio Guevara
	Julio Cesar Saborío
Norway	Sigrun M. Holst
	Maja K. Rodriguez Brix
	Elisabeth Sjørdahl
Panama	Flor Torrijos
Senegal	Marième Diagne Talla
	Mamadou Seye
Tunisia	Hamadi Mejri
Turkey	Burcu Bilgin Topçu
United States	Deirdre Warner-Kramer
	Kimberly Blankenbeker
	Derek Campbell
Collaborators	Member's name
Chinese-Taipei	Yen-Ching CHAO
	Yen-Kai CHEN
	Shih-Ming KAO
Colombia	Nicolás del Castillo
	Carlos Augusto Borda Rodriguez
	Sara Liliana Zafra

In addition, the Chair of the Commission, Mr. Raúl Delgado (rdelgado@arap.gob.pa), the Chair of STACFAD, Mr. Hasan Alper Elekon (hasanalper.elekon@tarimorman.gov.tr) and the following Secretariat staff will also be engaged in the work of the VWG-RRP:

Position	Member's name
Executive Secretary	Camille Jean Pierre Manel
Assist. Exec. Secretary	Miguel Neves dos Santos
Head Adm. Finan. Dpt.	Juan Antonio Moreno
Head Compliance Dpt.	Jenny Cheatle
Head Research and Statistics	Mauricio Ortiz

**REPORT BY THE CHAIR OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
(STACFAD)**

1. Reports from the Secretariat

1.1 2020 Administrative Report

No comments were received on the 2020 Administrative Report, which has been endorsed by STACFAD.

1.2 2020 Financial Report

No comments were received on the 2020 Financial Report, which has been endorsed by STACFAD.

1.3 Review of progress of the payment of arrears and voting rights

No comments were received on the Detailed Information on the Accumulated Debt of the ICCAT Contracting Parties & Review of the Payment Plans of Past-Due Contributions, which has been endorsed by STACFAD.

All these reports are being put forward for endorsement by the Commission.

2. Assistance to developing CPCs and identification of mechanism to finance the Meeting Participation Fund and other capacity building activities

This issue was discussed under Item 6 below.

3. Consideration of financial implications of ICCAT conservation and management measures proposed

Given that the measures currently under discussion are mainly a continuation of those previously adopted, it is not foreseen that there will be any additional resource implications, other than those contained in the previous measures. This issue remains to be reviewed in 2021.

4. Consideration of financial implications of SCRS requests

The European Union welcomed the prioritisation of the SCRS work undertaken for 2021 and the resulting amendments proposed to the SCRS budget. The EU reiterated their views that a more sustainable approach was required for funding the SCRS activities so as not to over-rely on voluntary contributions from the CPCs in the future.

Following on from discussions at last year's STACFAD meeting, Canada echoed the EU's request that the SCRS Chair ensure the SCRS's work items be prioritized before requests for funding are submitted in 2021. With respect to specific SCRS activities, Canada reiterated their concerns about dedicating funds to a tropical tunas MSE. While developing such an MSE is an important long-term goal, Canada suggested that the focus of the SCRS's tropical tunas time, effort, and monies should be on conducting a stock assessment for skipjack, while the Commission should focus on the implementation of science advice for bigeye and yellowfin. Thus, Canada noted its view that this MSE does not seem to be the best possible place to allocate these resources at this time. If, despite the above concerns, the TRO MSE is to be provided funding in 2021, then Canada recommended that the Commission should provide guidance on how Panel 1 would like to manage the three species to avoid a funding process with no agreed terms of reference which could lead to a disconnect between what the Commission wants and what the SCRS produces. The relevant statements by Canada and the EU are attached as **Appendices 5 and 9 to ANNEX 7**.

Taking into account the concerns expressed, as well as the requests by some delegations to classify the tropical tunas MSE process as priority, since the Commission agreed to fund up to €50,000 for the tropical tunas MSE in 2019, the Chair suggested keeping the funding for tropical tunas MSE by reducing the proposed budget accordingly (i.e. €50,000). This would allow the SCRS to proceed with the work as per the ICCAT MSE roadmap adopted in 2019.

It was agreed that the Commission should review the progress of works and the feedback from the SCRS on the tropical tunas MSE roadmap at the 2021 Commission meeting and take any further decisions to avoid a disconnect between what the Commission wants and what the SCRS produces.

A new version of SCRS Research Activities Requiring Funding for 2021 (**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 7**) was agreed and is being forwarded to the Commission for adoption.

5. Consideration of other programs/activities which may require additional or extra-budgetary funding

No specific discussions took place to identify any resource needs, other than those previously agreed. This issue remains to be reviewed in 2021.

6. Review of progress of the VWG-SF

The Report on Virtual Working Group For Sustainable Financing (VWG-SF) (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 7**) and was approved by STACFAD. This document contained two appendices for approval by STACFAD.

The template provided in Appendix 1 (Letter on arrears) has not required a decision to be discussed via correspondence by STACFAD since it was developed by the VWG-SF in line with the decision taken by the Commission in 2019 and already started to be used as the second reminder letters to the CPCs that had two years or more of arrears in the payment of contributions.

As to Appendix 2 (Draft Recommendation on the MPF) and Appendix 3 (Draft Rules of Procedure on the MPF), the work of the ICCAT Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Finances (VWG-SF) regarding the Meeting Participation Fund (MPF) were broadly supported by CPCs to ensure that the fund be managed in a way to allow a wider participation by the developing States, in particular those that are most in need. In this context, the proposed threshold for a CPC to utilize funds in the MPF is linked to the number of that CPC's official delegates attending the meeting through utilization of other funds/resources, as well as the deadline for applications to take into account long processes to arrange travel visas, were discussed further. Parties welcomed the new proposals by the Chair to set a longer deadline for applications and a higher threshold limit for official delegations in cases of special and regular Commission meetings.

Following some edits based on comments from Algeria, Canada, European Union, Morocco and Senegal, Appendix 2 of this document was endorsed and submitted to the Plenary for approval. Algeria reiterated its concerns with respect to the proposed application procedure stipulated under paragraph 3 of point 5 of Appendix 3 of this document. It was recalled that the deadline for applications was changed to 75 days under point 2 and 60 days under point 4 to further extend the period for visa procedures. The final editorial proposals made by Canada were incorporated and a new version was posted.

Both these appendices are being put forward to the Commission for adoption.

It was also agreed that the work of this virtual working group should continue in 2021.

The Statements from Canada, European Union and Senegal are attached as **Appendices 4 to 10 of ANNEX 7**.

7. Review of Budget and Contracting Party contributions for the period 2021

A revised budget for 2021 was circulated by the Secretariat on 26 August 2020, and a modified version taking into account the comments received was provided on 1 October 2020. Following some adjustments based on comments from Canada on the Explanatory Note on the ICCAT Budget for Financial Year 2021 (Revised), there have been no objections to this budget (**Tables 1 to 5**) which is now adopted by the STACFAD and being put forward to the Plenary.

The eBCD budget was also approved as contained in the corresponding **eBCD Tables 1 to 5**.

Both these documents are being put forward to the Commission for adoption

8. Recommendations to the Commission based on findings of above

It is recommended to the Commission that documents adopted by STACFAD, be endorsed and adopted by the Commission.

Table 1. 2021 ICCAT Budget (Euros)

Chapters	2020	2021	2021 Revised	Increase
1. Salaries	1,735,160.67	1,787,215.49	1,849,836.61	3.50%
2. Travel	30,000.00	30,900.00	15,450.00	-50.00%
3. Commission meetings (annual) ☐	200,000.00	206,000.00	274,495.00	33.25%
4. Publications	28,050.00	28,891.50	28,891.50	0.00%
5. Office Equipment	15,300.00	15,759.00	15,759.00	0.00%
6. Operating Expenses	142,800.00	147,084.00	147,084.00	0.00%
7. Miscellaneous	7,752.00	7,984.56	7,984.56	0.00%
8. Coordination of Research				
a) Salaries	1,094,165.50	1,126,990.47	1,092,680.81	-3.04%
b) Travel to improve statistics	23,000.00	23,690.00	11,845.00	-50.00%
c) Statistics-Biology	17,850.00	19,000.00	19,000.00	0.00%
d) Computer-related items	39,780.00	41,000.00	41,000.00	0.00%
e) Database maintenance	26,010.00	27,000.00	27,000.00	0.00%
f) Phone line-Internet domain	33,000.00	33,500.00	33,500.00	0.00%
g) Scientific meetings (including SCRS)	78,030.00	80,370.90	80,370.90	0.00%
h) Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
<i>Sub-total Chapter 8</i>	<i>1,311,835.50</i>	<i>1,351,551.37</i>	<i>1,305,396.71</i>	<i>-0.53</i>
9. Services requiring specialized external consultancy (i.e. legal advice, total quality management project, etc.)	25,000.00	25,750.00	52,975.00	105.73%
10. Separation from Service Fund	61,710.00	63,561.30	63,561.30	0.00%
11. Strategic Research Programme				
a) Strategic Research Programme	150,000.00	154,500.00	404,500.00	161.81%
<i>Sub-total Chapter 11</i>	<i>150,000.00</i>	<i>154,500.00</i>	<i>404,500.00</i>	<i>1.62</i>
12. Compliance				
a) Compliance database maintenance	30,000.00	30,900.00	30,900.00	0.00%
<i>Sub-total Chapter 12</i>	<i>30,000.00</i>	<i>30,900.00</i>	<i>30,900.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>
13. Travel				
a) Travel by ICCAT/SCRS Chairs	50,000.00	51,500.00	25,750.00	-50.00%
b) Special Meeting Participation Fund	200,000.00	290,000.00	40,000.00	-86.21%
c) Travel by ICCAT Officers (Developing ICCAT Contracting Parties)	30,000.00	30,900.00	15,450.00	-50.00%
<i>Sub-total Chapter 13</i>	<i>280,000.00</i>	<i>372,400.00</i>	<i>81,200.00</i>	<i>-1.86</i>
14. Integrated Online Management System				
a) Online Management System	200,000.00	206,000.00	206,000.00	0.00%
<i>Sub-total Chapter 12</i>	<i>200,000.00</i>	<i>206,000.00</i>	<i>206,000.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>
15. Contingencies	5,100.00	5,253.00	5,253.00	0.00%
TOTAL BUDGET	4,222,708.17	4,433,750.22	4,489,286.68	1.25%

Table 2. Basic information to calculate the Contracting Party contributions in 2021.

Contracting Parties Parties contractantes Partes Contratantes	Groups ^a Groupes ^a Grupos ^a	GNP ^b 2017 PNB ^b 2017 PNB ^b 2017	GNP ^b 1991 PNB ^b 1991 PNB ^b 1991	Catch ^c Capture ^c Captura ^c	Canning ^d Mise conserve ^d Enlatado ^d	Catch + Canning Capture + Mise conserve Captura + Enlatado	Panels ^e Sous-commissions ^e Subcomisiones ^e				Total Panels Total Sous-commissionior Total Subcomisiones	Contracting Parties Parties contractantes Partes contratantes
							1	2	3	4		
Albania	D	4,483	2,504	48	0	48	-	X	-	-	1	Albania
Algérie	C	4,299	2,402	3,382	2,428	5,810	-	X	-	X	2	Algérie
Angola	D	4,527	2,529	47	0	47	X	-	-	X	2	Angola
Barbados	C	16,804	9,388	539	0	539	-	-	-	-	0	Barbados
Belize	C	4,773	2,666	19,748	0	19,748	X	X	X	X	4	Belize
Brazil	B	9,840	5,497	51,112	13,141	64,253	X	X	X	X	4	Brazil
Canada	A	44,941	25,107	2,407	0	2,407	X	X	-	X	3	Canada
Cabo Verde	C	3,180	1,777	24,901	1,892	26,793	X	X	-	X	3	Cabo Verde
China, People's Rep. of	B	8,525	4,763	6,693	0	6,693	X	X	X	X	4	China, People's Rep. of
Côte d'Ivoire	C	1,674	935	5,479	0	5,479	X	-	-	X	2	Côte d'Ivoire
Curaçao	A	48,417	27,049	31,356	0	31,356	X	-	-	-	1	Curaçao
Egypt	D	2,021	1,129	126	0	126	-	X	-	X	2	Egypt
El Salvador	C	4,389	2,452	20,991	5,287	26,278	X	-	-	-	1	El Salvador
France (St. P. & M.)	A	38,565	21,545	9	0	9	X	X	-	X	3	France (St. P. & M.)
Gabon	C	7,417	4,144	41	0	41	X	-	-	X	2	Gabon
Gambia, The	D	492	275	0	0	0	-	-	-	X	1	Gambia, The
Ghana	C	1,609	899	86,058	21,500	107,558	X	-	-	-	1	Ghana
Grenada	C	9,878	5,518	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	0	Grenada
Guatemala, Rep. de	C	4,536	2,534	13,124	0	13,124	X	-	-	X	2	Guatemala, Rep. de
Guinea Ecuatorial	C	8,651	4,833	96	0	96	X	-	-	X	2	Guinea Ecuatorial
Guinea, Rep. of	D	763	426	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Guinea, Rep. of
Guinée-Bissau	D	701	392	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Guinée-Bissau
Honduras	D	2,466	1,378	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Honduras
Iceland	A	71,246	39,802	14	0	14	-	X	-	-	1	Iceland
Japan	A	38,112	21,292	26,560	0	26,560	X	X	X	X	4	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	C	30,165	16,852	2,065	0	2,065	X	X	X	X	4	Korea, Rep. of
Liberia	D	584	326	467	0	467	X	-	-	X	2	Liberia
Libya	C	9,698	5,418	1,383	1,167	2,550	X	X	-	X	3	Libya
Maroc	C	3,066	1,713	8,964	957	9,921	X	X	-	X	3	Maroc
Mauritania	C	1,141	637	14,861	5,330	20,191	X	X	-	X	3	Mauritania
Mexico	C	8,921	4,984	1,466	0	1,466	X	X	-	X	3	Mexico
Namibia	D	5,026	2,808	4,737	0	4,737	X	X	X	X	4	Namibia
Nicaragua, Rep. de	D	2,208	1,234	0	0	0	X	-	-	-	1	Nicaragua, Rep. de
Nigeria	D	1,968	1,099	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Nigeria
Norway	A	74,716	41,741	34	0	34	-	X	-	X	2	Norway
Panama	B	14,407	8,049	17,763	0	17,763	X	X	X	X	4	Panama
Philippines, Rep. of	D	2,988	1,669	0	0	0	X	-	X	-	2	Philippines, Rep. of
Russia	C	10,654	5,952	1,659	0	1,659	X	X	-	-	2	Russia
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	C	7,236	4,042	1,997	0	1,997	X	X	-	X	3	St Vincent & Grenadines
São Tomé e Príncipe	D	1,832	1,023	2,738	0	2,738	X	-	-	X	2	São Tomé e Príncipe
Senegal	C	1,025	573	31,234	199	31,433	X	X	-	X	3	Senegal
Sierra Leone	D	463	259	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Sierra Leone
South Africa	D	6,137	3,428	4,562	0	4,562	X	-	X	X	3	South Africa
Syrian Arab Republic	D	1,414	790	34	0	34	-	X	-	-	1	Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad & Tobago	C	17,028	9,513	2,838	0	2,838	X	-	-	X	2	Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisie	C	3,461	1,934	12,560	2,190	14,750	-	X	-	X	2	Tunisie
Turkey	B	10,558	5,898	19,520	0	19,520	-	X	-	X	2	Turkey
Union Européenne	A	35,010	19,559	240,586	306,775	547,361	X	X	X	X	4	Union Européenne
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	A	39,437	22,032	517	232	749	X	X	X	X	4	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States	A	59,421	33,196	10,263	9,527	19,790	X	X	X	X	4	United States
Uruguay	C	17,189	9,603	0	0	0	X	-	X	X	3	Uruguay
Venezuela	B	18,194	10,164	6,414	1,071	7,485	X	X	-	X	3	Venezuela

a), b), c), d), e): See the legends in the Annex.

Table 3. Contracting Party Contributions 2021 (Euros).

		Exchange rate: 1 €= 1.174 US\$ (10/2020)									
Contracting Party	Group ^a	Catch +		% Catch +	% Member +	Membership	Panel	Variable fees	Variables fees	Total	Contracting Party
		Canning ^a	Panels ^a	Canning ^b	Panels ^c	fee ^d	Membership ^e	for Member ^f	Catch-Canning	fees ^h	
Albania	D	48	1	0.38%	4.26%	852.00	852.00	1,979.11	349.94	4,033.05	Albania
Algérie	C	5,810	2	1.97%	4.17%	852.00	1,704.00	12,865.26	12,189.69	27,610.96	Algérie
Angola	D	47	2	0.37%	6.38%	852.00	1,704.00	2,968.67	342.65	5,867.32	Angola
Barbados	C	539	0	0.18%	1.39%	852.00	0.00	4,288.42	1,130.85	6,271.27	Barbados
Belize	C	19,748	4	6.71%	6.94%	852.00	3,408.00	21,442.11	41,432.36	67,134.47	Belize
Brazil	B	64,253	4	55.53%	22.73%	852.00	3,408.00	49,594.62	242,339.81	296,194.43	Brazil
Canada	A	2,407	3	0.38%	11.43%	852.00	2,556.00	99,766.06	6,688.73	109,862.79	Canada
Cabo Verde	C	26,793	3	9.10%	5.56%	852.00	2,556.00	17,153.69	56,213.15	76,774.84	Cabo Verde
China, People's Rep. of	B	6,693	4	5.78%	22.73%	852.00	3,408.00	49,594.62	25,243.65	79,098.27	China, People's Rep. of
Côte d'Ivoire	C	5,479	2	1.86%	4.17%	852.00	1,704.00	12,865.26	11,495.24	26,916.50	Côte d'Ivoire
Curaçao	A	31,356	1	4.99%	5.71%	852.00	852.00	49,883.03	87,134.13	138,721.16	Curaçao
Egypt	D	126	2	0.99%	6.38%	852.00	1,704.00	2,968.67	918.59	6,443.26	Egypt
El Salvador	C	26,278	1	8.93%	2.78%	852.00	852.00	8,576.84	55,132.65	65,413.50	El Salvador
France (St. P. & M.)	A	9	3	0.00%	11.43%	852.00	2,556.00	99,766.06	25.01	103,199.07	France (St. P. & M.)
Gabon	C	41	2	0.01%	4.17%	852.00	1,704.00	12,865.26	86.02	15,507.29	Gabon
Gambia, The	D	0	1	0.00%	4.26%	852.00	852.00	1,979.11	0.00	3,683.11	Gambia, The
Ghana	C	107,558	1	36.54%	2.78%	852.00	852.00	8,576.84	225,662.45	235,943.30	Ghana
Grenada	C	0	0	0.00%	1.39%	852.00	0.00	4,288.42	0.00	5,140.42	Grenada
Guatemala, Rep. de	C	13,124	2	4.46%	4.17%	852.00	1,704.00	12,865.26	27,534.86	42,956.12	Guatemala, Rep. de
Guinea Ecuatorial	C	96	2	0.03%	4.17%	852.00	1,704.00	12,865.26	201.41	15,622.68	Guinea Ecuatorial
Guinea, Rep. of	D	0	2	0.00%	6.38%	852.00	1,704.00	2,968.67	0.00	5,524.67	Guinea, Rep. of
Guinée-Bissau	D	0	2	0.00%	6.38%	852.00	1,704.00	2,968.67	0.00	5,524.67	Guinée-Bissau
Honduras	D	0	2	0.00%	6.38%	852.00	1,704.00	2,968.67	0.00	5,524.67	Honduras
Iceland	A	14	1	0.00%	5.71%	852.00	852.00	49,883.03	38.90	51,625.94	Iceland
Japan	A	26,560	4	4.23%	14.29%	852.00	3,408.00	124,707.58	73,806.69	202,774.27	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	C	2,065	4	0.70%	6.94%	852.00	3,408.00	21,442.11	4,332.48	30,034.59	Korea, Rep. of
Liberia	D	467	2	3.66%	6.38%	852.00	1,704.00	2,968.67	3,404.62	8,929.29	Liberia
Libya	C	2,550	3	0.87%	5.56%	852.00	2,556.00	17,153.69	5,350.04	25,911.72	Libya
Maroc	C	9,921	3	3.37%	5.56%	852.00	2,556.00	17,153.69	20,814.79	41,376.48	Maroc
Mauritania	C	20,191	3	6.86%	5.56%	852.00	2,556.00	17,153.69	42,361.80	62,923.49	Mauritania
Mexico	C	1,466	3	0.50%	5.56%	852.00	2,556.00	17,153.69	3,075.75	23,637.43	Mexico
Namibia	D	4,737	4	37.13%	10.64%	852.00	3,408.00	4,947.78	34,534.66	43,742.44	Namibia
Nicaragua, Rep. de	D	0	1	0.00%	4.26%	852.00	852.00	1,979.11	0.00	3,683.11	Nicaragua, Rep. de
Nigeria	D	0	2	0.00%	6.38%	852.00	1,704.00	2,968.67	0.00	5,524.67	Nigeria
Norway	A	34	2	0.01%	8.57%	852.00	1,704.00	74,824.55	94.48	77,475.03	Norway
Panama	B	17,763	4	15.35%	22.73%	852.00	3,408.00	49,594.62	66,995.81	120,850.43	Panama
Philippines, Rep. of	D	0	2	0.00%	6.38%	852.00	1,704.00	2,968.67	0.00	5,524.67	Philippines, Rep. of
Russia	C	1,659	2	0.56%	4.17%	852.00	1,704.00	12,865.26	3,480.67	18,901.94	Russia
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	C	1,997	3	0.68%	5.56%	852.00	2,556.00	17,153.69	4,189.81	24,751.50	Saint Vincent and Grenadines
São Tomé e Príncipe	D	2,738	2	21.46%	6.38%	852.00	1,704.00	2,968.67	19,961.14	25,485.81	São Tomé e Príncipe
Senegal	C	31,433	3	10.68%	5.56%	852.00	2,556.00	17,153.69	65,948.12	86,509.81	Senegal
Sierra Leone	D	0	2	0.00%	6.38%	852.00	1,704.00	2,968.67	0.00	5,524.67	Sierra Leone
South Africa	D	4,562	3	35.76%	8.51%	852.00	2,556.00	3,958.23	33,258.84	40,625.07	South Africa
Syrian Arab Republic	D	34	1	0.27%	4.26%	852.00	852.00	1,979.11	247.87	3,930.99	Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad & Tobago	C	2,838	2	0.96%	4.17%	852.00	1,704.00	12,865.26	5,954.28	21,375.54	Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisie	C	14,750	2	5.01%	4.17%	852.00	1,704.00	12,865.26	30,946.29	46,367.56	Tunisie
Turkey	B	19,520	2	16.87%	13.64%	852.00	1,704.00	29,756.77	73,622.60	105,935.37	Turkey
Union Européenne	A	547,361	4	87.12%	14.29%	852.00	3,408.00	124,707.58	1,521,043.02	1,650,010.59	Union Européenne
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	A	749	4	0.12%	14.29%	852.00	3,408.00	124,707.58	2,081.37	131,048.95	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States	A	19,790	4	3.15%	14.29%	852.00	3,408.00	124,707.58	54,993.76	183,961.34	United States
Uruguay	C	0	3	0.00%	5.56%	852.00	2,556.00	17,153.69	0.00	20,561.69	Uruguay
Venezuela	B	7,485	3	6.47%	18.18%	852.00	2,556.00	39,675.70	28,230.80	71,314.49	Venezuela

a), b), c), d), e), f), g), h): See the legends in the Annex.

Table 4. Contributions by group 2021. 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	26	628,280	---	59.00%	7,668.00	22,152.00	2,618,859.14	2,648,679.14
B	5	17	115,714	3.00%	15.00%	4,260.00	14,484.00	654,649.00	673,393.00
C	22	50	294,336	1.00%	22.00%	18,744.00	42,600.00	926,299.07	987,643.07
D	16	31	12,759	0.25%	4.00%	13,632.00	26,412.00	139,527.47	179,571.47
TOTAL	52	124	1,051,089		100.00%	44,304.00	105,648.00	4,339,334.68	4,489,286.68

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.

	2015	2015	Total	2016	2016	Total	2017	2017	Total	
Parties Parties Partes	Catch Prise Captura	Canning Conserve Enlatado		Catch Prise Captura	Canning Conserve Enlatado		Catch Prise Captura	Canning Conserve Enlatado		Parties Parties Partes
Albania	40 t		40	47 t		47	56 t		56	Albania
Algérie	3,844	1,758	5,602	3,439	2,306	5,745	2,864	3,220	6,084	Algérie
Angola	15 t		15	8 t		8	119 t		119	Angola
Barbados	469 t		469	511 t		511	637 t		637	Barbados
Belize	22,117 t		22,117	17,073 t		17,073	20,054 t		20,054	Belize
Brazil	47,795 t	13,141 coo	60,936	51,028 t	13,141 coo	64,169	54,513 t	13,141 coo	67,654	Brazil
Canada	2,585		2,585	2,356		2,356	2,281		2,281	Canada
Cabo Verde	38,337 co	1,892 co	40,229	22,463 t	1,892 coo	24,355	13,902 t	1,892 coo	15,794	Cabo Verde
China, People's Rep. of	5,842		5,842	7,049		7,049	7,189		7,189	China, People's Rep. of
Côte d'Ivoire	1,259 t		1,259	2,692 t		2,692	12,487 t		12,487	Côte d'Ivoire
Curaçao	29,305	0	29,305	34,827	0	34,827	29,937	0	29,937	Curaçao
Egypt	155 t		155	99 t		99	124 t		124	Egypt
El Salvador	11,263 co	5,287 co	16,550	27,861 t	5,287 coo	33,148	23,848 t	5,287 coo	29,135	El Salvador
France (St. P. & M.)	9 t		9	0		0	0		0	France (St. P. & M.)
Gabon	37 t		37	22 t		22	64 t		64	Gabon
Gambia, The			0			0			0	Gambia, The
Ghana	90,596	20,000	110,596	81,536	20,000	101,536	86,043	24,500	110,543	Ghana
Grenada			0			0			0	Grenada
Guatemala, Rep. de	12,619 co		12,619	11,414 t		11,414	15,340 t		15,340	Guatemala, Rep. de
Guinea Ecuatorial	132 co	0 co	132	60 t		60			0	Guinea Ecuatorial
Guinea, Rep. of			0			0			0	Guinea, Rep. of
Guinée-Bissau			0			0			0	Guinée-Bissau
Honduras			0			0			0	Honduras
Iceland	37	0	37	6	0	6	0		0	Iceland
Japan	27,225		27,225	24,929		24,929	27,525		27,525	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	851 t		851	2,804 t		2,804	2,540 t		2,540	Korea, Rep. of
Liberia	299 t		299	432 t		432	671 t		671	Liberia
Libya	1,150	950	2,100	1,400	1,200	2,600	1,600	1,350	2,950	Libya
Maroc	9,285 t	957 coo	10,242	8,044 t	957 coo	9,001	9,563 t	957 coo	10,520	Maroc
Mauritania	5,330	5,330	10,660	23,119	5,330	28,449	16,134	5,330	21,464	Mauritania
Mexico	1,262	0	1,262	1,598	0	1,598	1,537	0	1,537	Mexico
Namibia	5,152	0	5,152	5,963		5,963	3,097		3,097	Namibia
Nicaragua, Rep. de			0			0			0	Nicaragua, Rep. de
Nigeria			0			0			0	Nigeria
Norway	8		8	44		44	51		51	Norway
Panama	13,634 t		13,634	22,547 t		22,547	17,109 t		17,109	Panama
Philippines, Rep. of			0			0			0	Philippines, Rep. of
Russia	1,039	0	1,039	2,279	0	2,279	1,660	0	1,660	Russia
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	1,498		1,498	1,941		1,941	2,552	0	2,552	St Vincent & Grenadines
São Tomé e Príncipe	3,183 t		3,183	2,546 t		2,546	2,485 t		2,485	São Tomé e Príncipe
Senegal	18,532 t	199 coo	18,731	35,635 t	199 coo	35,834	39,534 t	199 coo	39,733	Senegal
Sierra Leone			0			0			0	Sierra Leone
South Africa	6,423 t		6,423	3,785 t		3,785	3,479 t		3,479	South Africa
Syrian Arab Republic	22 t		22	40 coo		40	40 t		40	Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad & Tobago	3,065	0	3,065	2,836	0	2,836	2,613	0	2,613	Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisie	9,395 t	2,190 coo	11,585	10,557 t	2,190 coo	12,747	17,727 t	2,190 coo	19,917	Tunisie
Turkey	6,554		6,554	41,476		41,476	10,531		10,531	Turkey
Union Européenne	233,611	329,746	563,357	240,069	291,696	531,765	248,078	298,883	546,961	Union Européenne
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	455	234	689	626	237	863	471	224	695	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States	10,243	9,415	19,658	10,142	10,485	20,627	10,403	8,682	19,085	United States
Uruguay			0			0			0	Uruguay
Venezuela	5,222	1,367	6,589	6,712	1,363	8,075	7,309	483	7,792	Venezuela
TOTAL	629,894	392,467	1,022,361	712,015	356,283	1,068,298	696,167	366,338	1,062,505	TOTAL

co = Transfer of the data received (S17-01757)

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 2 July 2019)

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

Table 1. 2021 eBCD system budget (Euros).

eBCD system fund	2020	2021	%	2021 revised
support, maintenance, and functionality development of the electronic Bireme-I tuna catch documentation (eBCD)	275,000.00	275,000.00	0.00%	275,000.00
Developments in the web application ("Flexible" allotment): Development activities requested by the Working Group (W/G)				
a) Adapt the system to allow access to NCP	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
b) Web services	50,000.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
c) Other developments as required	100,000.00	150,000.00	0.00%	150,000.00
Salaries	80,000.00	80,000.00	0.00%	80,000.00
TOTAL BUDGET	505,000.00	505,000.00	0.00%	505,000.00
BALANCE OF 2019 ICCAT BUDGET DESTINED FOR EBCD	200,000.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
TOTAL REVENUE BUDGET	305,000.00	505,000.00	0.00%	505,000.00

Table 2. Basic information to calculate the 2021 contributions to the eBCD system for members of the Commission that catch and/or trade Atlantic bluefin tuna.

Contracting Parties	Groups ^a	Average Catch ^b (2016-2017)	% Average Catch ^b	No. of Trade ^c	% No. of Trade ^c	Import weight ^d	% Import weight ^d	Contracting Parties
Albania	D	50.90	23.72%	3	37.50%	0.00	0.00%	Albania
Algérie	C	743.03	12.26%	17	0.49%	0.00	0.00%	Algérie
Canada	A	468.88	3.00%	2,611	5.10%	15.63	0.04%	Canada
China, People's Rep. of	B	59.13	4.00%	28	2.15%	2.95	100.00%	China, People's Rep. of
Egypt	D	111.50	51.97%	3	37.50%	0.00	0.00%	Egypt
France (St. P. & M.)	A	0.00	0.00%	1	0.00%	0.03	0.00%	France (St. P. & M.)
Iceland	A	3.09	0.02%	3	0.01%	0.00	0.00%	Iceland
Japan	A	2,090.17	13.35%	8,456	16.52%	32,154.79	88.28%	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	C	171.14	2.82%	647	18.70%	3,622.08	100.00%	Korea, Rep. of
Libya	C	1,499.28	24.74%	40	1.16%	0.00	0.00%	Libya
Maroc	C	1,962.25	32.38%	2,598	75.11%	0.00	0.00%	Maroc
Mexico	C	44.50	0.73%	109	3.15%	0.00	0.00%	Mexico
Norway	A	47.33	0.30%	106	0.21%	11.92	0.03%	Norway
Syrian Arab Republic	D	52.15	24.31%	2	25.00%	0.00	0.00%	Syrian Arab Republic
Tunisie	C	1,640.78	27.07%	48	1.39%	0.00	0.00%	Tunisie
Turkey	B	1,419.50	96.00%	1,272	97.85%	0.00	0.00%	Turkey
Union Européenne	A	12,029.33	76.86%	32,671	63.84%	2,991.54	8.21%	Union Européenne
United Kingdom (O.T.)	A	0.23	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	United Kingdom (O.T.)
United States	A	1,012.28	6.47%	7,329	14.32%	1,249.34	3.43%	United States

a), b), c), d): See the legends in the Annex.

Table 3. 2021 contributions to the eBCD system for members of the Commission that catch and/or trade Atlantic bluefin tuna (Euros).

		Exchange rate: 1 €= 1.120 US\$ (07/2020)									
Contracting Party	Group ^a	% Average Catch ^b	% No. of Trade ^c	% Import weight ^d	Basic fee ^e	Average Catch ^f	No. of Trade ^g	Import weight ^h	Total fees ⁱ	Contracting Party	
	Albania	D	23.72%	37.50%	0.00%	625.10	195.06	408.73	0.00	1,228.89	Albania
	Algérie	C	12.26%	0.49%	0.00%	625.10	976.43	52.19	0.00	1,653.72	Algérie
	Canada	A	3.00%	5.10%	0.04%	625.10	3,915.00	8,889.79	56.09	13,485.99	Canada
	China, People's Rep. of	B	4.00%	2.15%	100.00%	625.10	348.52	250.28	8,714.94	9,938.84	China, People's Rep. of
	Egypt	D	51.97%	37.50%	0.00%	625.10	427.32	408.73	0.00	1,461.16	Egypt
	France (St. P. & M.)	A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	625.10	0.00	3.40	0.10	628.61	France (St. P. & M.)
	Iceland	A	0.02%	0.01%	0.00%	625.10	25.80	10.21	0.00	661.11	Iceland
	Japan	A	13.35%	16.52%	88.28%	625.10	17,452.27	28,790.53	115,368.62	162,236.52	Japan
	Korea, Rep. of	C	2.82%	18.70%	100.00%	625.10	224.89	1,986.41	7,964.82	10,801.22	Korea, Rep. of
	Libya	C	24.74%	1.16%	0.00%	625.10	1,970.22	122.81	0.00	2,718.13	Libya
	Maroc	C	32.38%	75.11%	0.00%	625.10	2,578.63	7,976.33	0.00	11,180.06	Maroc
	Mexico	C	0.73%	3.15%	0.00%	625.10	58.48	334.65	0.00	1,018.23	Mexico
	Norway	A	0.30%	0.21%	0.03%	625.10	395.19	360.90	42.78	1,423.97	Norway
	Syrian Arab Republic	D	24.31%	25.00%	0.00%	625.10	199.87	272.49	0.00	1,097.45	Syrian Arab Republic
	Tunisie	C	27.07%	1.39%	0.00%	625.10	2,156.17	147.37	0.00	2,928.64	Tunisie
	Turkey	B	96.00%	97.85%	0.00%	625.10	8,366.42	11,369.64	0.00	20,361.16	Turkey
	Union Européenne	A	76.86%	63.84%	8.21%	625.10	100,441.11	111,236.45	10,733.39	223,036.05	Union Européenne
	United Kingdom (O.T.)	A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	625.10	1.92	0.00	0.00	627.02	United Kingdom (O.T.)
	United States	A	6.47%	14.32%	3.43%	625.10	8,452.22	24,953.38	4,482.53	38,513.23	United States

a), b), c), d), e), f), g), h), i): See the legends in the Annex.

Table 4. 2021 contributions to the eBCD system by Group for members of the Commission that catch and/or trade Atlantic bluefin tuna. Fees expressed in Euros.

Groups	Parties^a	Average Catch^b	No. of Trade^c	Import weight^d	% of each Party^e	% of the Budget^f	Basic Fees^g (Euros)	Average Catch^h (Euros)	No. of Tradeⁱ (Euros)	Import weightⁱ (Euros)	Total fees^k (Euros)
A	8	15,651.31	51,177.00	36,423.25	---	87.25%	5,000.80	130,683.51	174,244.68	130,683.51	440,612.50
B	2	1,478.63	1,300.00	2.95	3.00%	6.00%	1,250.20	8,714.94	11,619.92	8,714.94	30,300.00
C	6	6,060.97	3,459.00	3,622.08	1.00%	6.00%	3,750.60	7,964.82	10,619.76	7,964.82	30,300.00
D	3	214.54	8.00	0.00	0.25%	0.75%	1,875.30	822.25	1,089.95	0.00	3,787.50
TOTAL	19	23,405.45	55,944.00	40,048.29		100.00%	11,876.90	148,185.52	197,574.31	147,363.27	505,000.00

a), b), c), d), e), f), g), h), i), j), k): See the legends in the Annex.

Table 5. Eastern and western bluefin tuna catch figures (in t) for 2016 and 2017 of the members of the Commission that catch and/or trade Atlantic bluefin tuna.

<i>Parties</i>	<i>2015</i>			<i>2016</i>			<i>2017</i>			<i>Parties</i>
	<i>East</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>Total</i>	
Albania	40.75		40.75	45.79		45.79	56.00		56.00	Albania
Algérie	370.20		370.20	448.39		448.39	1,037.67		1,037.67	Algérie
Canada		530.59	530.59		466.11	466.11		471.65	471.65	Canada
China, People's Rep. of	45.08		45.08	53.89		53.89	64.38		64.38	China, People's Rep. of
Egypt	155.19		155.19	99.33		99.33	123.67		123.67	Egypt
France (St. P. & M.)		9.34	9.34		0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	France (St. P. & M.)
Iceland	37.43		37.43	5.76		5.76	0.42		0.42	Iceland
Japan	1,385.92	345.52	1,731.44	1,578.37	345.49	1,923.86	1,910.65	345.83	2,256.48	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	0.00		0.00	161.08		161.08	181.19		181.19	Korea, Rep. of
Libya	1,153.45		1,153.45	1,367.80		1,367.80	1,630.75		1,630.75	Libya
Maroc	1,498.10		1,498.10	1,783.30		1,783.30	2,141.20		2,141.20	Maroc
Mexico		53.00	53.00		55.00	55.00		34.00	34.00	Mexico
Norway	8.29		8.29	43.80		43.80	50.86		50.86	Norway
Syrian Arab Republic	39.65		39.65	47.39		47.39	56.91		56.91	Syrian Arab Republic
Tunisie	1,247.83		1,247.83	1,490.60		1,490.60	1,790.95		1,790.95	Tunisie
Turkey	1,091.10		1,091.10	1,324.30		1,324.30	1,514.70		1,514.70	Turkey
Union Européenne	9,120.82		9,120.82	10,974.35		10,974.35	13,084.30		13,084.30	Union Européenne
United Kingdom (O.T.)		0.21	0.21		0.00	0.00		0.46	0.46	United Kingdom (O.T.)
United States		898.80	898.80		1,026.70	1,026.70		997.86	997.86	United States
TOTAL	16,193.81	1,837.46	18,031.27	19,424.15	1,893.30	21,317.45	23,643.64	1,849.80	25,493.44	TOTAL

Catch figures (in t) based on Compliance Tables tabled at 2018 annual meeting (Appendix 5 to ANNEX 10 of Report for Biennial Period 2018-2019, Part I (2018), Vol. 1.)

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	Average catches (t) for 2016-2017
c	Total number of trades in the eBCD system 2016-2017
d	CPC's overall volume of imported Atlantic bluefin tuna, as recorded in the eBCD system (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).)

Table 3

a	Table 2
b	Percentage of the CPC's Atlantic bluefin tuna catch within its Group
c	Percentage of number of CPC's trades in the eBCD system within its group
d	Percentage of CPC total volume of imported Atlantic bluefin tuna, as recorded in the eBCD system within its group
e	Basic fee (US\$700)
f	Fee in proportion to live weight of bluefin tuna for the Contracting Party
g	Fee in proportion to the number of CPC trades in the eBCD system
h	Fee in proportion to the CPC volume of imported Atlantic bluefin tuna, as recorded in the eBCD system
i	Total contribution

Table 4

a	Number of Contracting Parties per Group (Table 2)
b	Total volume of bluefin tuna catch by Group
c	Total number of trades by Group in the eBCD system
d	Total volume of imported Atlantic bluefin tuna by Group, as recorded in the eBCD system
e	Percentage of the budget financed by each member of each Group as per the Madrid Protocol
f	Percentage of the budget financed by each Group
g	Basic fees within each Group
h	Fees: 30% based on total live weight of bluefin tuna catch (43% if there are no trade and import data)
i	Fees: 40% based on the total number of trades (57% if there are no trade and import data)
j	Fees: 30% based on the volume of imported bluefin tuna (0% if there are no trade and import data)
k	Total contribution

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 7**Agenda**

1. Reports from the Secretariat
 - 1.1 2020 Administrative Report
 - 1.2 2020 Financial Report
 - 1.3 Review of progress of the payment of arrears and voting rights
2. Assistance to developing CPCs and identification of mechanism to finance the Meeting Participation Fund and other capacity building activities
3. Consideration of financial implications of ICCAT conservation and management measures proposed
4. Consideration of financial implications of SCRS requests
5. Consideration of other programs/activities which may require additional or extra-budgetary funding
6. Review of progress of the VWG-SF
7. Review of Budget and Contracting Party contributions for the period 2021
8. Recommendations to the Commission based on findings of above

SCRS research activities requiring funding for 2021

2021 science budget approved by the Commission

This revised 2021 science budget proposal, contained in the table below, was developed by the SCRS Chair and Vice Chair together with the Secretariat, based on SCRS priorities, the assumption that the Commission will contribute the total amount assigned for this purpose under chapter 11 of the Commission regular budget and the approval of an extension request to the current grant agreement with the EU (SI2.819116) due the impact of the pandemic on the 2020 field and laboratory activities that is pending on approval. The latter implies that some of the 2021 SCRS activities could be funded through the budget originally adopted by the Commission for 2020. The remaining amount requires voluntary contributions from ICCAT CPCs. For that purpose, the Secretariat has been working closely with some CPCs which regularly provide voluntary contributions, to secure additional funds for the 2021 science budget. The EU has confirmed its willingness to provide a voluntary contribution similar in terms of importance to those made in the previous year, which is pending the signature of a new contract. The United States has confirmed a voluntary contribution of \$US 90,000 to support the ICCAT MSE process and confirmed its support to cover the costs of the billfishes activities. Finally, Canada will cover the costs of an independent external review in case a western bluefin tuna stock assessment be conducted in 2021 (€10,000).

Activity:	<i>Biolog (inc. tagging and rewarding)</i>								<i>Other fisheries related studies</i>	<i>Assessment</i>	<i>MSE</i>	<i>Workshops</i>	Total
	Tagging	Reproduction	Age and growth	Genetics	Sample collection and shipping	Other	Consumables	Total	(inc. data recovery collection of fisheries statistics; update ICCAT manual)	Expert to be hired	MSE	Workshops	
Albacore	50,000	25,000			5,000			80,000			20,000		100,000
Billfish		5,000	15,000	5,000	10,000		5,000	40,000	10,000			25,000	75,000
Sharks	5,000		10,000	25,000				40,000					40,000
Small tunas		12,500	12,500	15,000	5,000			45,000	5,000				50,000
Swordfish	8,000	15,000	50,000	68,880	15,000		5,000	161,880	10,000		90,000	15,000	276,880
Tropicals tunas	50,000							50,000		10,000	50,000		110,000
SC Ecosystems												25,000	25,000
Stock Assessment Methods									35,000				35,000
Bluefin tuna*										10,000			10,000
Sub-total	113,000	57,500	87,500	113,880	35,000	0	10,000	416,880	60,000	20,000	160,000	65,000	721,880
GBYP	188,000			782,000		357,000	3,000	1,330,000	25,000	15,000	150,000	80,000	1,600,000
												Total	2,321,880

* Subject to confirmation that a western bluefin tuna full stock assessment will be conducted in 2021.

Appendix 3 to ANNEX 7

Report of Virtual Working Group for Sustainable Financing (VWG-SF)

Pursuant to the decision adopted by the Commission in 2019, the VWG-SF has continued its virtual deliberations through e-meetings and internal correspondence during the intersessional period of 2020. Experts from eight CPCs (Algeria, Canada, European Union, Ghana, Japan, Turkey, Uruguay and the USA), as well as the Chair of STACFAD, the Executive Secretary and Secretariat staff were involved in deliberations of the VWG-SF through electronic correspondence.

An e-meeting of the VWG-SF was held on 11 June 2020 with participation by 5 CPCs (Canada, European Union, Japan, Turkey and the USA) and the following issues were discussed:

- Review of potential solutions to achieve further progress in payment of arrears;
- Possible actions to improve the situation of the Meeting Participation Fund;
- Issues related to observer fees and contributions from cooperating non-Members;
- Other matters:
 - Potential ways to deal with the issue regarding the workload of the Secretariat;
 - Follow-up of the second performance review of ICCAT and consideration of necessary actions.

1. Issues related to payment of arrears

The Secretariat shared a draft proposal for the letter of the Commission Chair for the payment plan to be sent to a CPC where arrears of contributions equal or exceed the amount due from it to the regular ICCAT budget for the two preceding years. The meeting has noted that some members offered to provide inputs for the letter template prepared by the Secretariat. Following the meeting, the VWG-SF has continued to work through electronic correspondence and it has been agreed to use the letter format given in **Attachment 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 7**.

In this respect, the VWG-SF concluded that that the second reminder letters could be sent in line with the new format that would include a request for submission of a payback plan and to be signed by the President of ICCAT, in accordance with the decision taken by the Commission last year (i.e. “... *Expressing concern about the significant level of outstanding contributions, the Committee recommended sending special letters, to be signed by the President of ICCAT, requesting a payback plan to be submitted by the Contracting Parties that are in arrears for more than two years.*”).

2. Improving the situation of the special Meeting Participation Fund (MPF)

The Secretariat shared with the meeting the new criteria notified by one CPC to be taken into account in the Grant Agreement for the MPF. In order to have one reference for the use of the MPF, the Secretariat and some other members of the VWG-SF raised the necessity to circulate to the CPCs a draft amendment of the Rec.14-14 with the new requirements from the CPC for the Grant Agreement.

During discussions held on this topic, the CPC suggesting the criteria indicated that there could be some degree of flexibility offered in the “new requirements” envisaged. Notwithstanding, the same CPC has also expressed that it was definitely needed to see improvements of the criteria to achieve a desired optimization of the Fund.

The members of the Working Group, however, recognized the absence in these discussions of representatives from the developing CPCs, the main beneficiaries of the MPF. It has been underscored that it would be required to receive reactions from the developing CPC members of the WG (who were not present at the meeting) in this process, as this could help advance more in the discussion as regards the MPF.

The VWG-SF has also reiterated the importance of the need to take action to optimize the use of the MPF in favour of a broader participation of representatives from developing States to avoid any future precarious situations that may restrict a wider participation by the developing States due to limited resources. With that approach, following the meeting, the VWG-SF has continued to work through internal correspondence and it has been agreed that the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 14-14 on the Establishment of a Meeting Participation Fund for Developing ICCAT Contracting Parties” (**Attachment 2 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 7**) and Draft Rules of Procedure for the Administration of the Special Meeting Participation Fund (**Attachment 3 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 7**) would be submitted to the Commission to be considered by correspondence.

3. Issues related to observer fees and contributions from Cooperating non-Members

As a follow-up of the discussions launched last year, the VWG-SF has continued to discuss the possibility, modality and potential implications of extending the observer fees to cover participants from the industry who are not part of the official delegation of a given CPC.

The main intention of this proposal has been to increase the budget revenues by requiring a participation fee from non-official participants from the industry, alongside with observers from NGOs and intergovernmental organizations who are principally not part of the official delegation of the CPCs.

Although there was no concrete outcomes obtained at this stage of the discussion, the idea of starting a drafting exercise on the relevant framework documents on observer fees, soon after the VWG-SF manages to reach a consensus on the concept, has come to the fore.

Regarding this issue, the following opinions were suggested by the members of the WG:

- The industry and the NGOs can be seen equally, as they can be considered as not part of the “official delegation”.
- It is difficult to consider who should be an official delegate and suggested that maybe a new category could be defined.
- One CPC noted that they were not in favour of having the ‘observers’ from the industry or other sectors in the delegations paying, as they are already doing this through their contribution to the budget.
- As another issue that came up in the Commission meeting held last year, the VWG-SF has discussed the proposal to amend “Criteria for attaining the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity in ICCAT (Rec. 03-20).”

The proposed change requires a certain payment also from cooperating non-Members of the Commission (that is equal to 50% of the total contribution considered if it was a full member). Following initial discussions, it was decided to continue working on a consolidated proposal. It has also been noted that the obligation of payment of contributions by cooperating members could become an obstacle that would not encourage some countries to join ICCAT.

Consequently, the VWG-SF has decided to continue intersessional discussions on these matters since further work would be required to agree on a mechanisms which could be acceptable to the Commission.

4. Other matters

With respect to the matters on the meeting agenda related to the operational effectiveness of the Secretariat and follow-up of the recommendations from the second Performance Review of ICCAT; No specific proposals had been put forward since there was insufficient time to discuss these matters in depth. Discussion may take place during the next meeting if required.

5. Conclusions

Pursuant to the mechanism stipulated in Doc. No.GEN_002A/2020, as agreed by the Commission to make decisions peculiar to the year 2020; Report on virtual Working Group for Sustainable Financing (VWG-SF) [STF-205] contains the following recommendations that are required to be discussed via correspondence during the 22nd Special Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT):

- Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 14-14 on the Establishment of a Meeting Participation Fund for Developing ICCAT Contracting Parties (**Attachment 2 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 7**).
- Draft Rules of Procedure for the Administration of the Special Meeting Participation Fund (**Attachment 3 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 7**).

Payment of arrears letter template

Madrid – XX September 2020

The Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs
XXX

Hon. Minister,

I have the honour to inform you that during the 26th Regular Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) held in Palma de Mallorca, Spain, from 18 to 25 November 2019, the Commission reviewed its financial situation. It noted that the total debt of the Contracting Parties amounted to €2,189,185.06. This is a significant amount, roughly equivalent to 50% of the 2019 ICCAT budget.

The Commission expressed concern about the high level of outstanding contributions, which hamper its work and the effective functioning of its Secretariat. Indeed, the Commission relies heavily on voluntary contributions to cover the budgetary shortfall created by Contracting Parties' arrears. Without voluntary contributions, it would not be possible to support crucial ICCAT activities, such as the organisation of meetings and the work of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics. This is not a sustainable situation. Further, consistent lack of payment of contributions by some Contracting Parties is unfair to those who do meet their responsibilities in a timely way.

In view of the importance of ensuring that ICCAT has the financial means necessary to carry out its work and achieve its objectives, Article X.8 of the ICCAT Convention provides 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. In order to avoid having to resort to this possibility, the Commission decided to give those Contracting Parties that have incurred such arrears a final opportunity to regularize their situation.

I would like to remind you that XXX's total arrears amount to €XXX, corresponding to the contributions of the following fiscal years:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Pending amount (€)</i>
XX	XXX
XX	XXX
XX	XXX
Total pending amount	XXX

I would kindly invite you to undertake the necessary action to pay these outstanding contributions as soon as possible

However, if it is not possible for your government to pay your accumulated debt in one lump sum, a payment plan must be presented to the Commission for its consideration. In that event, I would kindly ask you to submit such a plan to the ICCAT Secretariat as soon as possible and no later than 31 December 2020. The payment plan will be reviewed and, as appropriate, approved by the Commission at that meeting. Please note that failure to submit or adhere to your payment plan would be considered a very serious matter by the Commission and could result in additional actions, possibly including a suspension of voting rights as mentioned above, the loss of fishing opportunities, or other actions, until the situation is rectified.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Commission Chair
Raul Delgado

cc: The Ambassador of XX
XX - Head Delegate of XX to ICCAT
Mr. Hasan Alper Elekon – Chair of ICCAT Standing Committee on Finance & Administration (STACFAD)

Attachment 2 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 7

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING
RECOMMENDATION 14-14 ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MEETING
PARTICIPATION FUND FOR DEVELOPING ICCAT CONTRACTING PARTIES**
(new proposal)

RECOGNISING that the ICCAT Meeting Participation Fund established by Recommendation 11-26 has contributed to improving the participation of representatives from developing States at meetings of the Commission and of its subsidiary bodies;

RECALLING that concerns on the lack of participation from developing States had been echoed by the ICCAT Performance Review Panel in 2008;

NOTING that Article 25 paragraph 3 of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea of December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA) identifies, *inter alia*, forms of cooperation with developing States and the need for assistance relating to collection, reporting, verification, exchange and analysis of fisheries data and related information; and stock assessment and scientific research;

FURTHER NOTING that the first meeting of the Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) recommended that in future meetings of the SWGSM the Commission consider providing funds for two members per delegation (one manager and one scientist) for those CPCs needing assistance;

RECOGNISING that implementing the recommendation of the SWGSM to allow for a sufficient and balanced participation of representatives from developing States at its meetings requires amending Recommendation 11-26;

ACKNOWLEDGING the need to take immediate action to optimize the use of the MPF in favour of a broader participation of representatives from developing States with a particular focus on those most in need and to avoid any future precarious situations that may restrict and prevent a wider participation by the developing States due to limited resources;

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

1. A special Meeting Participation Fund (MPF) be established for the purposes of supporting representatives from those ICCAT Contracting Parties which are developing States to attend and/or contribute to the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, including the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS).
2. The MPF shall be financed from an initial allocation of €60,000 from ICCAT's accumulated Working Capital Fund, and subsequently by voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties and such other sources as the Commission may identify. Contracting Parties, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) are urged to make voluntary contributions to the MPF so that developing countries are well represented during the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.
3. The MPF shall be administered by the ICCAT Secretariat, in accordance with the same financial controls as regular budget appropriations. Voluntary contributions to the MPF may include specific directions on their use.

4. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall establish a process for notifying Contracting Parties annually of the level of available funds in the MPF, and provide a timeline and describe the format for the submission of applications for assistance, as well as the details of the assistance to be made available. To qualify to receive assistance through the MPF, the following minimum criteria should be met to the greatest extent possible to control costs and minimize administrative burdens, while taking into account Commission needs and interests with respect to the participation of the applicant;
 - a. A CPC that sends more than four official delegates to a meeting of the Commission or one of its subsidiary bodies through utilization of its own means or financial sources (not including the MPF) is not eligible to receive travel funding support from the MPF for that meeting.
 - b. Applicants should:
 - i) travel using only the most cost-effective economy class fare unless another fare class is available at a lower cost; and
 - ii) make their flight itinerary definite no less than 30 days prior to commencement of the meeting.
5. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall submit an annual report to the Commission on the status of the Fund, including a financial statement of contributions to and disbursements from the Fund;
6. For participation in ICCAT scientific meetings, including SCRS Species Group and other inter-sessional meetings, those eligible scientists may submit an application for assistance from the MPF or, if appropriate, other existing funds supported by CPC voluntary contributions. Applicants will be selected in accordance with the protocol established by the SCRS (Addendum 2 to Appendix 7 to the 2011 SCRS Report).
7. For participation in non-scientific meetings, funds will be allocated in order of application. Only one participant per Contracting Party will be funded for any one meeting, with the exception of the SWGSM, for which two members per delegation (one manager and one scientist) are eligible to receive assistance. All applications shall be subject to the approval of the Chair of the Commission, the Chair of STACFAD, and the Executive Secretary and, in the case of subsidiary bodies, the Chair of the meeting for which funding is being sought.
8. The funds in the MPF shall be disbursed in a manner that ensures a balanced distribution between non-scientific and scientific meetings.
9. All potential eligible applicants are encouraged to explore the alternative avenues of funding available to developing State Contracting Parties prior to applying for support under the MPF or other relevant ICCAT voluntary funds.
10. This recommendation replaces and repeals Recommendation 14-14 in its entirety.

Attachment 3 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 7**DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SPECIAL MEETING PARTICIPATION FUND****1. Definitions**

Developing ICCAT Contracting Parties are considered to be those Contracting Parties 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***Applicant criteria***

To qualify to receive assistance through the MPF, the following minimum criteria should be met to the greatest extent possible to control costs and minimize administrative burdens, while taking into account Commission needs and interests with respect to the participation of the applicant:

- a A Contracting Party that sends more than four official delegates to a meeting of the Commission or one of its subsidiary bodies through utilization of its own means or financial sources (not including the Special Meeting Participation Fund - MPF) is not eligible to receive travel funding support from the MPF for that meeting.
- b Applicants should:
 - i) travel using only the most cost-effective economy class fare unless another fare class is available at a lower cost; and
 - ii) make their flight itinerary definite no less than 30 days prior to commencement of the meeting.

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 eligible scientist from a developing Contracting Party seeking travel funding assistance should submit a completed application by the established deadline, including a detailed description of the applicant's contribution 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 to fund the trip.

Participation in ICCAT non-scientific meetings

All applications shall be made for attendance to a single meeting by one participant per Contracting Party, and shall be subject to the approval of the Commission Chairman, the STACFAD Chair and the Executive Secretary, in addition to the Chair of the meeting for which funding is being sought in the case of subsidiary bodies. Notwithstanding, two official delegation members (one manager and one scientist) are eligible to receive travel funding assistance to attend meetings of the Standing Working Group on Dialogue Between Fisheries Scientists and Managers, subject to the same approval process.

Any official delegate of a developing Contracting Party seeking travel funding assistance shall submit a completed application by the established deadline.

3. Application procedures

1. The Secretariat will publish the travel form by invitation 90 days in advance of 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, together with a list of the official delegates that will attend the meeting. In the event that this list includes more than four delegates, funding will not be provided for the applicant.
 - b. All the candidate's contact details, including personal mobile telephone number.
 - c. A copy of the photo/data page 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. A request for a *note verbale*, if needed, to apply for a visa and the place where it will be processed.
3. The Secretariat shall review the applications to determine those which meet the eligibility criteria and shall offer a period of 5 additional days to those applicants who have not sent all the information required.
4. The Secretariat will send an invitation to the selected candidates with travel itinerary based on the dates indicated in the form (no less than 45 days prior to the commencement of the meeting).
5. Applicants must apply for and send a copy of the visa together with the verification and acceptance of the itinerary no less than 30 days prior to the commencement of the meeting.
6. If a reply is not received with all the requirements set out above, the Secretariat will send an application rejection notification.

4. Approval of funding

Applications will be approved on a first come first served basis, as received by the Secretariat. Only complete applications that duly meet all the requirements will be considered.

Funding for travel can only be guaranteed if funds are available, irrespective of whether a complete request has been submitted by the established deadline or preapproved.

Once a request that meets all the eligibility criteria stipulated in Section 2 of these rules of procedure has been approved by the Secretariat, no subsequent modification in the lists of participants shall be made by the Contracting Party in a way to exceed the threshold limit of four official delegates as established under paragraph (a) of the Applicant criteria.

5. Management of the fund

The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall establish a process for notifying Contracting Parties annually of the level of available funds in the MPF, and provide a timeline and describe the format for the submission of applications for assistance, as well as the details of the assistance to be made available.

In accordance with point 8 of Recommendation [XX-XX], funds shall be distributed in a manner that ensures balanced distribution between scientific and non-scientific meetings.

The funds will be separated into two six-month periods in order to provide for the participation of scientists and delegates in meetings held later on in the year.

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 7**Statement by Canada on STACFAD essential business – Round 1**

Canada appreciates the documentation provided, especially under the difficult circumstances this year.

As an overarching comment on the financial report (STF-202) and revised budget for 2021 (STF-203), we note that, while many implications of the COVID-19 pandemic are implicitly reflected in ICCAT's finances for 2020, these implications are not then reflected in the proposed 2021 budget. Even if the current proposed budget is largely based on a budget approved at last year's meeting, as we plan in our budget the Commission's finances for the coming years it is important to consider the most up-to-date information possible, and then incorporate this into our budgeting.

There are a number of items in the financial report from 2020 where expenditures have been much less than the amount budgeted and where the bulk of underspending is presumably due to the pandemic's effects, especially on travel. These items include travel by the Secretariat, meeting hosting, publications, science meetings, and travel by ICCAT and SCRS chairs and officers, to name only a few. Additionally, the Meeting Participation Fund spent only a small fraction of its allotment this year, but is projected to draw an even larger amount from the ICCAT budget next year, despite the likelihood of continued travel disruptions well into 2021, as well as a large balance held over from 2020. Other funds and programs have varying degrees of underspending in 2020, leading to a substantial overall surplus in the Commission's finances for 2020, and yet an even larger budget than that agreed last year has been requested for 2021.

In our view the significant underspending in 2020 and likelihood of further underspending in 2021 requires discussion by STACFAD, ideally supported by some analysis, options and recommendations from the Secretariat. This would allow the Committee to recommend to the Commission a way forward based on the latest information, as well as reasonable expectations about how we will undertake our business in the face of an ongoing pandemic.

As an additional comment, we recall that, as per discussion at the 2019 Commission meeting, it was agreed that the SCRS would not provide additional funds to support tropical tuna MSE work in 2020. Canada continues to caution against undertaking too many MSEs concurrently and believes the current MSEs for BFT, nSWO, and ALB should have management procedures in place before another MSE is undertaken. It is also of note that the Strategic Research Fund has a balance of 744,000 euros due to under-expenditures in 2020. Canada requests that this amount be considered when distributing funds to the list of SCRS research proposed for 2021 and the associated call for voluntary contributions.

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 7**Statement by Canada to STACFAD – Round 2**

Canada thanks the Chair of STACFAD and the Secretariat for the new and updated documents provided in response to input from Canada and other CPCs in the first round of correspondence.

With respect to the ICCAT budget for 2021 and adjustments that may be warranted given the disruption of some ICCAT work in 2020 and into 2021, we appreciate and support the revisions made to the budget, to reallocate funds from chapters that are likely to require less funding than initially foreseen to those that normally rely heavily on voluntary contributions.

Following on discussions at last year's STACFAD meeting, Canada echoes the EU's request that the SCRS Chair ensure the SCRS's work items be prioritized before requests for funding are submitted in 2021.

With respect to specific SCRS activities outlined in STF-209A, we would again note that we are concerned about dedicating funds to a tropical tuna MSE. While developing such an MSE is an important long-term goal, we believe that the focus of the SCRS's TRO time, effort, and monies should be on conducting a stock assessment for skipjack, while the Commission should focus on the implementation of science advice for bigeye and yellowfin. Thus, this MSE does not seem to be the best possible place to allocate these resources at this time.

If, despite the above concerns, the TRO MSE is to be provided funding in 2021, then the Commission should provide guidance on how Panel 1 would like to manage the three species, e.g., should the management procedure aim to include all three species or is the MSE only focused on one stock? Providing so much funding to a process with no agreed terms of reference may lead to a disconnect between what the Commission wants and what the SCRS produces.

Regarding the MPF, we agree with the comments of others who have proposed having the MPF focus on providing funds to delegations smaller than some threshold. We see this as a balanced way of pursuing the objective of the MPF to facilitate participation by developing country CPCs that would otherwise have difficulty attending, while at the same time managing the Fund's expenditures in order to ensure its long-term sustainability. We also agree, as noted by the STACFAD Chair, that larger delegations may be required for special and regular Commission meetings, and thus a higher threshold would be warranted for those meetings. We are, however, open to further discussion of what specific thresholds should be used in each case. We found the current draft of paragraph 4a difficult to follow, and so have suggested edits in the Word version of the file. In that version we have placed the thresholds for support in square brackets pending further discussion.

Appendix 6 to ANNEX 7

Statement by Canada to STACFAD – Round 3

Canada again thanks the Chair and the Secretariat for further refinements of the documents still under consideration by STACFAD, as outlined in STF-216.

Regarding the proposed changes to the MPF recommendation (STF-205 Appendix 2B) and rules of procedure (STF-205 Appendix 3B), Canada supports the way forward identified in the latest versions of the documents, which as previously indicated balances the objectives of the Fund with the need to ensure its sustainable and equitable management. We appreciate the flexibility of CPCs in agreeing to this approach. On this item, however, we suggest a few further edits to the rules of procedure (STF-205 Appendix 3B), for the sake of consistency with the rest of the text as well as for clarity. In the last paragraph of section 4 on approval of funding we would suggest the following changes:

“...no subsequent modification in the lists of participants shall be made by the Contracting Party that would result in its delegation in a way to exceeding the threshold limit on the number of ~~four~~ official delegates as established under paragraph (a) of the Applicant criteria.

With respect to the tropical tuna MSE, while understanding the importance placed on this MSE by some delegations, we nevertheless appreciate the adjustments to the budget proposed by the Chair and can agree to this as a way forward for the coming year. We appreciate the progress made to date and look forward to more discussion in 2021, on the MSE itself as well as on the resources to be dedicated to it.

Appendix 7 to ANNEX 7**Statement by the European Union in relation to STACFAD – Round 1****SCRS research activities requiring funding for 2021**

(Document STF-209/20)

The European Union continues to be concerned about the gap between the financial resources available for SCRS activities under the Commission budget, and the annual requests from SCRS. These concerns were already highlighted in previous years.

The over-reliance on voluntary contributions from the CPCs is not sustainable in the long term. This requires an increase of the allocation made under the Commission budget, as well as a concomitant prioritisation by SCRS of its requests, in line with the Commission demands. In 2019, the EU requested SCRS to conduct this prioritisation work in 2020 in order to avoid a similar mismatch between the resources requested and those available. Despite these concerns, this year the SCRS is requesting similar levels of funding, sometimes for activities which do not necessarily appear as priorities for the Commission.

The European Union would like to urge the Chair of SCRS to ensure that this prioritisation work is conducted prior to formulating requests for financial support in 2021.

Meeting Participation Fund

(Document STF-206/20)

As a result of the Covid pandemic, and following the cancelation of most the meetings initially scheduled for 2020, the Meeting Participation Fund (MPF) is now in a healthy state. The measures proposed in the context of the revision of the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 11-26 on the Establishment of a Meeting Participation Fund for Developing ICCAT Contracting Parties* (Rec. 14-14) and of the Rules of Procedure for the Administration of the MPF should help managing the fund in a more sustainable way. However, the European Union is of the opinion that the fund should not be totally used in 2021 and that only half or part of the surplus from 2020 should be used in 2021. This view is supported by the likelihood that no physical meetings will take place in the first half of 2021, potentially creating a backlog of meetings up to 2022.

Report on Virtual Working Group For Sustainable Financing (VWG-SF)

(Document STF-205/20)

The European union strongly supports the proposal from the ICCAT Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Financial Position for ICCAT regarding the eligibility criteria to receive financial assistance through the MPF. Although the carryover of funds unused in 2020 should ensure that there is no shortage in 2021, this is an exceptional situation, and the rational management of the funds remains an important objective to ensure the maximum participation by developing countries.

Regarding the draft rules of procedure for the administration of the MPF, the European Union would like to underline that the minimum criteria established in the Rec. 14-14 will need to be adhered to for the EU's voluntary contributions to be made available. For this purpose, all the applicants will need to provide the necessary level of information to facilitate the transfer of the funds from the EU to ICCAT to cover the expenses associated with their participation.

**Detailed information on the accumulated debt of the
ICCAT Contracting Parties & review of the payment plans of past-due contributions**

(Document STF-204/20)

The European Union is concerned about the continued rise in arrears and its impact on the budget and the good functioning of the Commission. While welcoming the work of the VWG-SF on that issue, the EU takes the view that failure to regularise the situation must be considered a serious matter, and that further reflection is needed on possible further action that could be taken.

Appendix 8 to ANNEX 7

Statement by the European Union to STACFAD – Round 2

SCRS research activities requiring funding for 2021

(Document STF-209A/20)

The European Union welcomes the prioritisation of the SCRS work undertaken for 2021 and the resulting amendments proposed to the SCRS budget. We would like to reiterate our views that a more sustainable approach is required for funding the SCRS activities so as not to over-rely on voluntary contributions from the CPCs in the future.

Report on Virtual Working Group for Sustainable Financing (VWG-SF)

(Document STF-205A/20)

The European Union reiterates its supports for the work of the ICCAT Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Finances regarding the Meeting Participation Fund (MPF) and shares the view that the fund should be managed in such a way to ensure a wider participation by the developing States, in particular those that are most in need.

Regarding the draft rules of procedure for the administration of the Meeting Participation Fund, and their inclusion in the draft recommendation on the establishment of a MPF, the European Union would have the following comments on the criteria applicable for the use of the MPF:

- The European Union understands the necessity, in the case of the annual meetings of the Commission, to facilitate the participation of a delegation larger than four delegates but this has to be considered in the context of the limited resources available under the fund and the objective of maximising participation by CPCs. We therefore welcome the proposal from the Chair to have a maximum of six delegates per CPCs whose participation would be eligible under the MPF;
- The European Union recalls, as it has done on numerous occasions, that the minimum criteria established in the draft proposal for a recommendation [Appendix 2(A) to STF -205] and the draft rules of procedure for the administration of the MPF [Appendix 3 to STF-205] will need to be adhered to for the EU's voluntary contributions to be made available. For this purpose, all the applicants will need to provide the necessary level of information to facilitate the transfer of the funds from the EU to ICCAT to cover the expenses associated with their participation. As it stands in the current draft, those criteria should be met to the greatest extent possible but are not mandatory to benefit from the MPF under ICCAT rules, but these criteria will be binding in order to benefit from the EU voluntary contribution to the MPF. Therefore, the MPF will have to be managed under two different sets of rules;
- The European Union can agree with the proposal to change the deadline for application to 75 days to take into account long process to arrange travel visas.

Appendix 9 to ANNEX 7**Statement by the European Union to STACFAD – Round 3**

The European Union thanks the Chair and the Secretariat for the revised documents relating to the Meeting Participation Fund (draft recommendation and draft rules of procedure for the administration of the Meeting Participation Fund). These changes will facilitate the financial management of the MPF, as well as allow the MPF to benefit to the CPCs most in need.

Regarding the budget allowed for the tropical tuna MSE, the European Union notes the proposal from the Chair to fund it in a way that will balance the request from some CPCs to consider it as a priority with the concerns from other CPCs. The European Union supports the views of the Chair that the Commission should review the progress of the work and the feedback from the SCRS on the tropical tunas MSE roadmap at the 2021 Commission meeting and take any further decisions to avoid a disconnect between what the Commission wants and what the SCRS produces.

Appendix 10 to ANNEX 7**Statement by Senegal regarding the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Financial Position for ICCAT (VWG-SF) and the Meeting Participation Fund (MPF) – Round 1**

(STACFAD DOC No. STF_205/2020, DOC No. STF_205_APP2/2020, DOC No. STF_205_APP3/2020)

Senegal takes careful note the report of the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Financial Position for ICCAT, of the proposal to amend Rec. 14-14 (Doc No. STF-205-APP2/2020) and of the proposal to amend the rules on procedures of the Meeting Participation Fund (MPF) for the developing countries (Doc No. STF-205-APP3/2020).

In relation to the report of the VWG-SF, the item on potential solutions for further progress in the payment of arrears seems sufficiently advanced for adoption by STACFAD and the Commission. On the other hand, the items related to the Meeting Participation Fund (MPF) and observer fees must be further discussed prior to adoption by STACFAD and the Commission.

The Meeting Participation Fund (MPF) is an important instrument that enables improved participation by developing countries in ICCAT processes (see Doc No. STF-206/2020). While optimal use of the fund is Commission objective, it should not be to the detriment of participation by developing CPCs. The Evaluation Panel of the ICCAT performance review expressed its concern in this regard in 2008.

For this reason, the additional criterion to those contained in Rec. 14-14 (para 4-a) which provides that financing must not be allocated to delegates of a CPC if there are four (4) delegates of that CPC at the same meeting that have been financed by other sources. That would affect participation by developing CPCs and the balance among delegations in particular at the Commission meeting.

Moreover, given that the issues to be addressed by the Commission pertain to several disciplines and specialties, the official delegates at these meetings are generally managers, scientists, those responsible for fisheries surveillance, legal experts etc. The capacity of developing CPCs to participate in the process and to implement the measures adopted by ICCAT depends to some extent on the diversity in their delegations.

Consequently, Senegal is of the view that the criterion established in paragraph 4-a of document STF-205-APP2/2020 and in the proposal on rules of procedure (document No. STF-205-APP3/2020) is not suitable and does not prove its adoption.

As to the obligation to pay contributions by cooperating members, Senegal thinks that this obligation could become an obstacle to adherence by some countries to ICCAT and does not support it. This matter can be further discussed by the working group (VWG-SF) in 2021.

REPORTS BY THE CHAIRS OF PANELS 1 TO 4

REPORT BY THE CHAIR OF PANEL 1

1. Review of Panel membership

In accordance with ICCAT Circular #7729/20, Panel 1 welcomes the United Kingdom as a member of Panel 1.

Panel 1 comprises the following 41 members: Angola, Belize, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canada, China (P.R.), Côte d'Ivoire, Curaçao, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea (Rep.), Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Philippines, Russian Federation, Sao Tomé & Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

2. Review of Compliance Tables

The main issue of relevance for the drafting of the Compliance Tables is the determination of the initial quotas/catch limits for bigeye tuna for 2020. The tables indicate quotas, catch limits and catches up to 2019. Some questions were raised regarding the calculation of underages, namely whether this should be based on the initial quota or the adjusted quota. One CPC requested that the Secretariat seek legal advice on this issue, but it was noted that it is not within the Secretariat's mandate, and that the interpretation of the Recommendations is the Commission's responsibility.

On this issue, one CPC disagreed that "some CPCs exploit the lack of clarity of the measure." For this CPC, the mandate of the measure is absolutely clear in terms of its subject matter, timeframe and form.

The Chair of the Compliance Committee was requested to contribute to the discussion, and he noted that the calculation of available underages has included using adjusted quotas in the past and that Rec. 16-01 (as amended by Rec. 18-01) limits the percentage carry over of underharvest to 15 percent of the annual initial catch limits specified for relevant CPCs in paragraph 3 of Rec. 16-01.

Several CPCs noted the inappropriateness of referring to the reference points specified in Rec. 19-02, paragraph 4(d), as "adjusted catch limits" in the Compliance Tables. The figures, therefore, have been deleted from the Compliance Tables to avoid any confusion. The final version of the Compliance Tables are attached as **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9**.

On a related matter, the Chair of Panel 1 clarified his conclusion with respect to the status of the Proposed Table of 2020 Bigeye Catch Limits. The document has not been adopted. Rather, it can be used as a basis for discussions for the work of the planned 2021 Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1.

3. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*

The Chair of the Panel presented for review the "Draft Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT to amend the Recommendation 19-02 by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 16-01 by ICCAT on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas". This document aimed to roll over some expiring provisions of that recommendation for one additional year. Following amendment, the Chair's draft recommendation was supported by a majority of CPCs.

A few CPCs expressed their disagreement with the amended draft recommendation because they felt that their views were not taken into account and that the process was not transparent and inclusive. These CPCs reiterated that paragraph 1 of the Chair's proposal should be rephrased as follows: "The provisions of the 2019 Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 16-01 on a multi-year conservation and

management program for tropical tunas (Rec. 19-02) applicable to the year 2020 are extended to 2021". Another CPC, supporting this new reformulation of paragraph 1, proposed the reformulation of paragraph 2 as follows: "An intersessional meeting of Panel 1 will be held in 2021 to review the existing measures and, in the event of new overages of yellowfin and/or bigeye TAC, to contemplate the adoption of a new multiannual plan for tropical tunas based on effort management". The Chair concluded that, at this stage of the discussions, no consensus had been reached on his draft recommendation within Panel 1, and the matter was submitted to the Commission for resolution.

Regarding the roadmap proposed by the Chair of the Panel, some CPCs, while not opposing it, would like the items for discussion not to be closed and that there be a possibility of developing the agenda items in due course. A new version was produced and is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 8**.

Statements to Panel 1 were submitted by Belize, Canada, the European Union, Gabon, Morocco, Senegal, South Africa, United States of America, Associação de Ciências Marinhas e Cooperação (SCIAENA), International Pole and Line Foundation (IPNLF), Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW), and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). All of these are attached in **Appendices 3 to 19 of ANNEX 8**.

4. Recommendations to the Commission based on the above findings

Panel 1 recommends that:

- The Commission thoroughly review the "Draft Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT to amend the Recommendation 19-02 by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 16-01 by ICCAT on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas" in the Plenary with a view to finding a way forward.
- The Commission adopt the work plan proposed by the Chair of Panel 1 for 2021 (**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 8**), and consider the list to be non-exhaustive, noting that the IMM Working Group will work on many Panel 1 related issues, and that the Panel will review the results of this Group.

REPORT BY THE CHAIR OF PANEL 2

1. Review of Panel membership

In accordance with ICCAT Circulars 7727/20 and 7729/20, Panel 2 welcomed Cabo Verde and the United Kingdom as members of Panel 2.

Panel 2 comprises the following 29 members: Albania, Algeria, Belize, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canada, China (P.R), Egypt, European Union, France (St. Pierre and Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Norway, Panama, Russian Federation, Senegal, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, and Venezuela.

2. Review of Compliance Tables

No specific issues were referred to the Panel; any interpretations made by Panel 2 in previous years regarding carryover measures still stand and have been taken into account in the drafting of the tables.

3. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities

Five proposals were tabled for Panel 2 consideration.

Northern albacore

A “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 16-06 Establishing a Multi-Annual Conservation and Management Programme for North Atlantic Albacore” was drafted by the Panel 2 Chair. This was supported by Chinese Taipei, European Union and Japan. The United States indicated that they could agree to the proposal with some minor modifications, which resulted in a new version.

The Panel 2 Chair also proposed a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 17-04 on a Harvest Control Rule for North Atlantic Albacore Supplementing the Multiannual Conservation and Management Programme of Rec. 16-06”. Belize requested Panel 2 to approve a quota transfer of 200 t from Chinese Taipei to Belize for 2021, which was not opposed by other Panel 2 members. With some additional minor edits, this was adopted by the Panel.

These two documents are put forward to the Commission for adoption.

Western Atlantic bluefin tuna

A “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 17-06 for an Interim Conservation and Management Plan for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna” was submitted by the Chair of Panel 2, while a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT extending and amending Recommendation 17-06 for an Interim Conservation and Management Plan for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna” was submitted by the United States.

The Chair of Panel 2 produced a new version of his proposal, taking into account the U.S. proposal and comments from other Panel 2 members. This was further amended which is the document being submitted to the Commission for adoption.

Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna

A “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 19-04 Establishing A Multi-Annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean” was put forward by the Panel 2 Chair. This was amended, and then further amended based on input from Panel 2 members, and is now being submitted to the Commission for adoption.

Statements on the above proposals were made by Canada, European Union, France (St. Pierre and Miquelon), Japan, Morocco, Norway, United Kingdom, United States, Chinese Taipei, PEW Charitable Trusts and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) (**Appendices 20 to 36 to ANNEX 8**).

4. Identification of outdated measures in light of 3 above

There are no outdated measures to be removed from the Active Compendium at this time. This issue will be revisited at the 2021 Commission meeting.

5. A request for clarification from the SCRS BFT sub-group on growth in farms

It was agreed that this issue would be discussed at the Panel 2 virtual Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 in March 2021.

6. Recommendations to the Commission based on findings of the above

On the basis of the above, Panel 2 recommends that the Commission adopt the following measures:

- Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 16-06 Establishing a Multi-Annual Conservation and Management Programme for North Atlantic Albacore
- Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 17-04 on a Harvest Control Rule for North Atlantic Albacore Supplementing the Multiannual Conservation and Management Programme, Rec. 16-06

In adopting these two draft Recommendations, the Panel confirmed that these should be consolidated at the 2021 Commission meeting.

- Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 17-06 for an Interim Conservation and Management Plan for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna

In adopting the consolidated recommendation, the Panel agreed to recommend to the Commission that a stock assessment for the western Atlantic bluefin tuna be conducted in 2021, one year earlier than the original SCRS plan. In relation to this agreement, Panel 2 understood that: (i) the proposed meeting for the stock assessment in September 2021 as well as the preparatory work required to conduct the assessment will not negatively affect the ongoing MSE process for bluefin tuna and if the SCRS considers a negative impact to be unavoidable, MSE will be given priority and the 2021 SCRS advice to the Commission on western Atlantic bluefin tuna will be based on the 2020 stock assessment; (ii) if the preparatory work does not proceed as planned, the SCRS will postpone the western Atlantic bluefin tuna assessment to 2022; and (iii) an external expert will be contracted to perform the required work specified in paragraph 6 in accordance with standard SCRS and Secretariat practices and procedures and will be supported by the Commission budget with a voluntary fund from Canada. Finally, the European Union States noted for the record during the correspondence process that it could go along with paragraph 5 of the measure, which will replace paragraph 16 of Rec. 17-06, with the clear understanding that it did not represent or imply a change to the SCRS schedule of work concerning the bluefin tuna MSE and, in that regard, the expectation remains that the SCRS will present fully elaborated candidate management procedures for selection by the Commission no later than 2022.

- Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 19-04 Establishing A Multi-Annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean

Regarding this recommendation, there was no consensus on the allocation request from Russia and the Panel recommends that the request be discussed at the 2021 Commission meeting. The Panel also recommends that the interpretation of paragraph 10 (regarding the transfer of quota between CPCs) in Rec. 19-04 be discussed at the 2021 Commission meeting, if necessary.

In addition, the Panel recommends the following:

Bluefin tuna farming

Regarding the question from the SCRS on the timing from which growth should be estimated, the Panel recommends that the discussion be deferred to the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 in March 2021.

Bluefin tuna catches by Gibraltar

The Panel recommends that the issue of the unilateral quota set by Gibraltar be discussed at the 2021 Commission meeting. Meanwhile, the Panel requests the Secretariat to contact Gibraltar to clarify the two points raised by Japan, i.e., (i) whether or not Brexit will affect their setting of autonomous quota; and (ii) whether or not Gibraltar exports its catch. The Secretariat will coordinate with Panel 2 and Compliance Committee Chairs regarding the letter to be sent to Gibraltar.

Dissemination of SCRS results

The Panel recommends that the 2021 Commission meeting discuss how to handle the results of SCRS meetings before the reports are uploaded on the Commission website, in order to avoid undesirable revelation of findings before the reports are approved.

Panel 2 Intersessional

The Panel recommends that the next Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 be held in a virtual manner in March 2021 taking into account the agreed schedule and workplan for preparing for and holding this meeting.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF PANEL 3

1. Review of Panel membership

In accordance with ICCAT Circular 7729/20, Panel 3 welcomes the United Kingdom as a member of Panel 3.

Panel 3 comprises the following 13 members: Belize, Brazil, China (P.R.), European Union, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Namibia, Panama, Philippines, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States and Uruguay.

2. Review of Compliance Tables

In accordance with Rec. 16-07, paragraphs 4(a) and 4(b), the following eligible Panel 3 members had requested the carryover of underages:

Belize

Belize would also like to express its intention to carry over our underage in 2019 to 2021 in accordance with paragraph 4(a) of Rec. 16-07. Since Belize's underage for 2019 exceeded 25% of its initial quota allocation of 250 t, Belize would like to carry forward 62.5 t of its underages in 2019 to 2021. Furthermore, Belize would also like to request to be considered for allocation of any remaining underage in accordance with paragraph 4(b) and/or (c) of Rec. 16-07 as appropriate to complement our initial quota allocation.

Brazil

Brazil intends to carry over 25% of initial quota from 2019 to 2021 (adjusted quota will be 2600 t (i.e. $2160 \times 1.25 - 100$ t to Japan).

China

China wishes to express the intention to carry over up to 25% of original quota of southern albacore from 2019 to 2021 in accordance with Para 4 a) of Rec. 16-07 as well as those carryovers under para 4 b) of Rec. 16-07.

Chinese Taipei

In response to ICCAT Circular #7703/20, Chinese Taipei would like to inform you that it will carry over the underage of its 2019 southern albacore quota to 2021 in accordance with Rec. 16-07. The underage amount of 2019 was 2,124 metric tons.

European Union

The EU informs, in accordance with paragraph 4(a) and (b) of Rec. 16-07, that it will carry over the underage of its 2019 quota to 2021. The underage of 2019 was 1755.77 t. However, since according to Rec. 16-07 the maximum amount of carryover allowed is 25% of the initial quota (1470.00 t), 367.50 t (25% of 1470.00 t) will be transferred to 2021.

Japan

Taking this opportunity, Japan informs, in accordance with paragraph 4(a) and (b) of Rec. 16-07, that it will carry over the underage of its 2019 quota to 2021. The underage of 2019 was 470.73 t. However, since the maximum amount of carryover is 25% of the original quota (1,355 t), 338.75 t (25% of 1,355 t) will be transferred to 2021.

Namibia

The underage of 2019 was 2,633.50 t. However, since the maximum amount of carryover is 25% of the original quota (3,600 t), 900 t (25% of 3,600 t) will be transferred to 2021.

South Africa

In accordance with ICCAT Circular 7324/20, South Africa would also like to inform the Secretariat that in accordance with paragraph 4(a) and (b) of Rec. 16-07, that it will carry over the underage of its 2019 quota to be fished during the 2021 fishing season. The underage of 2019 was 197.13 t.

St Vincent and the Grenadines

Reported through Compliance Tables carry over of 25% from 2019 to 2021.

Uruguay

Reported through Compliance Tables carry over of 25% from 2019 to 2021.

Statements on the above were presented by Belize, EU, Namibia and South Africa, which are attached as **Appendices 37, 38, 40 and 41 of ANNEX 8**.

These requests will be reflected in the final Compliance Table for approval by the Compliance Committee and Commission. It should be noted that in 2018, there was agreement by Panel 3 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%. All CPCs which requested underages have 25% of their initial quota available, so there are no additional allocations from pooled underages.

Statements on this issue were presented by Japan and South Africa, and attached as **Appendices 39 and 41 of ANNEX 8**.

3. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities

The Chair of Panel 3 had put forward the "Draft Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Recommendation 16-07 by ICCAT on South Atlantic Albacore Catch Limits for the Period 2017-2020". At the end of the correspondence period for Panel 3, round 2, no objections were received to this proposal which was actively supported by European Union, Japan and Namibia and South Africa. This support was reflected in the statements by EU, Namibia and South Africa attached as **Appendices 38, 40 and 41 of ANNEX 8**. Japan informed through a letter that Japan supports Panel 3 Chair's proposal on southern albacore to extend Rec. 16-07 for one year to 2021 and that Japan understands that it means all the conservation and management measures active in 2020 will be simply applied in 2021. The Chair of Panel 3 would therefore like to put this draft forward for adoption by the Commission.

4. Identification of outdated measures in light of 3 above

There are no outdated measures to be removed from the Active Compendium at this time. This issue will be revisited at the 2021 Commission meeting.

5. Recommendations to the Commission based on findings of above

Panel 3 recommends the adoption of "Draft Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Recommendation 16-07 by ICCAT on South Atlantic Albacore Catch Limits for the Period 2017-2020" and the endorsement of the South albacore Compliance Tables, as contained in **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9**, and that the Commission review the measures for South Atlantic albacore in 2021.

REPORT BY THE CHAIR OF PANEL 4

1. Review of Panel membership

In accordance with ICCAT Circular #7729/20, Panel 4 welcomes the United Kingdom as a member of Panel 4.

The Panel comprises the following members: Algeria, Angola, Belize, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canada, China (People's Republic), Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Gabon, The Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea Bissau, Guinea (Rep.), Honduras, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Sao Tomé & Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

2. Review of Compliance Tables

No specific issues were referred to the Panel; interpretations made by Panel 4 in previous years regarding carry-over measures still stand and have been taken into account in the drafting of the tables.

3. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*

Four proposals had been put forward to Panel 4 for consideration.

The first, the "Draft recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 19-03 by ICCAT for the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish", was adopted by the Panel by consensus.

Three proposals relating to shortfin mako were tabled:

- a) "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of North Atlantic Stock of Shortfin Mako Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries", proposed by the EU.
- b) "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to establish a rebuilding program for North Atlantic shortfin mako sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries", proposed by the USA. In addition to the draft Recommendation, the United States also put forward a document on "Best practices for reducing total mortality of North Atlantic shortfin mako sharks".
- c) "Draft recommendation by ICCAT on conservation of Atlantic shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries", proposed by Canada. This latter was subsequently co-sponsored by Gabon, Senegal, United Kingdom and Chinese Taipei and also received the support of Norway.

There was a divergence of views in the content of these three proposals and unfortunately consensus could not be reached. It was therefore noted that the provisions of Rec. 19-06 would remain in force for 2021, and further discussion would take place intersessionally.

Statements relating to shortfin mako were received from Canada, European Union, Gabon, Morocco, Senegal, United Kingdom, United States and Chinese Taipei.

Statements were also received from the following observers: Associação de Ciências Marinhas e Cooperação (SCIAENA), Ecology Action Centre (on behalf of several NGOs), Global Tuna Alliance, PEW Charitable Trusts, Project AWARE Foundation (on behalf of several NGOs), Shark Project, Shark Trust (on behalf of several NGOs) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

The statements to Panel 4 are attached as **Appendices 42 to 60 of ANNEX 8**.

4. Identification of outdated measures in light of 3 above

There are no outdated measures to be removed from the Active Compendium at this time. This issue will be revisited at the 2021 Commission meeting.

5. Recommendations to the Commission based on findings of above

Based on the above, Panel 4 recommends that the Commission adopt:

- The “Draft recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 19-03 by ICCAT for the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish”.
- That an intersessional meeting or Panel 4 be held in July 2021 to continue working on measures for shortfin mako.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8**Panel Agendas*****Panel 1***

1. Review of Panel membership
2. Review of compliance tables
3. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*
4. Recommendations to the Commission based on findings of above

Panel 2

1. Review of Panel membership
2. Review of Compliance Tables
3. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*
4. Identification of outdated measures in light of 3 above
5. A request for clarification from the SCRS BFT sub-group on Growth in farms
6. Recommendations to the Commission based on findings of above

Panel 3

1. Review of Panel membership
2. Review of compliance tables
3. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*
4. Identification of outdated measures in light of 3 above
5. Recommendations to the Commission based on findings of above

Panel 4

1. Review of Panel membership
2. Review of Compliance Tables
3. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*
4. Identification of outdated measures in light of 3 above
5. Recommendations to the Commission based on findings of above

Proposed Roadmap for Panel 1 Intersessional Meeting in 2021

(Submitted by Chair of Panel 1)

1) Virtual meeting in April 2021: MCS and reporting requirements to guarantee a solid implementation of catch limits

- Electronic recording of catches ;
- Observer coverage ;
- Catch and effort reporting requirements and other MCS related issues (for example, transshipments, port sampling, landing declarations).

2) Virtual meeting in June 2021: FADs

This meeting will be possible, if and only if, certain data from 2020 are available and processed by the SCRS.

3) In-person intersessional meeting (scheduled for 1-3 September 2021)

This meeting will address the following issues:

1. Bigeye tuna TAC for 2022 and beyond;
2. Allocation key for TAC distribution;
3. Capacity;
4. Others.

Statement by Belize to Panel 1 – Round 2

Belize would like to thank the Chair for proposing a way forward in extending the provisions of Rec. 19-02 that were due to expire in 2020 to 2021 as outlined in Doc. No. PA1_503A / 2020.

Considering the stock status for bigeye tunas, it is essential that the appropriate management measures are in place to ensure the continued sustainable utilization of this fish stock. While Rec. 19-02 made significant progress in achieving this objective, Belize remains concerned that there are still some important decisions to be made regarding catch limits and the management of the TAC, inter alia.

It is imperative to note that Belize's tropical tuna fishery represents the principal part of its high seas fisheries; and, without prejudice to our fishing rights, the agreed 10% reduction in recent average catches of BET as defined in Rec. 19-02 effectively translated to a 55% reduction in its catch limit. As a coastal developing State in ICCAT, this level of reduction is unsustainable and could threaten a collapse of our budding high seas industry. We noted that in the current allocation, of the BET quota, countries with no vessels or fewer vessels than Belize or those countries that are non-coastal states have been allocated almost similar quota but with half the fleet size and little to no historical catches. This is a situation that needs to be addressed as soon as is practicable for Panel 1 to have its next meeting.

Notwithstanding, the health and viability of the fish stock remains paramount and Belize continues to support meaningful and fair measures which reflects our shared but differentiated responsibility to conserve and manage the sustainable utilization of these species. Belize would like to invite all ICCAT CPCs that are members of Panel 1 to join us in supporting the Chair's proposal to carry forward the existing measures into 2021 with the intention to carry out further discussion on the additional measures.

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 8**Statement by Canada to Panel 1 – Round 2**

Canada supports the proposal from the Chair of Panel 1 to extend by one year the measures of Recommendation 19-02 which were due to expire this year and as amended in PA1-503A. Canada concurs with the many comments provided by CPCs that there is an need to adopt this pragmatic approach and endorse the proposal from the Chair of Panel 1, considering the limitations of the correspondence format for decisions this year.

Canada strongly supports working to resolve the outstanding matters of allocation, juvenile mortality, and overall conservation of the tropical tunas. As such, Canada endorses the Chair's road map to work via virtual intersessional meetings and potentially at a face to face intersessional meeting in 2021.

With regards to document PA1-502A, "2020 Bigeye tuna catch limits (including suggested limits)" Canada has the following observations:

- This table was originally developed to support a scheduled 2020 Panel 1 intersessional, which was cancelled due to the pandemic. As such, this table should not be used for compliance or any other purposes as these limits are not coupled to Rec 19-02.
- Canada supports the position of the United States that Panel 1 should simply take note of the document and its potential utility in supporting future allocation discussions.
- This table is for 2020 and is not directly linked to the pending draft recommendation which focuses on conservation and management measures for the tropical tuna stocks in 2021.
- In some cases, the Bigeye catch averages appear to contain errors due to the method used to calculate averages. For example, if a CPC bigeye catches were recorded as 0, 0, 1000, 0 over 4 years, their average was recorded 1000, when it ought to be 250. Omitting zero catch years from averages impacts future allocation discussions, therefore this table should be amended to ensure its accuracy prior to use as a reference document. Canada recommends that the table shall not be used until comprehensively reviewed.
- Should the table be retained after addressing errors, Canada requests that our previous catch limit of 1575t, as provided in Recommendation 16-01, be added in the notes field as a reference, as previous catch limits are a basis for calculating the new limits moving forward.

Canada notes that resources are earmarked in STF-209A to embark on a tropical tuna MSE in 2021. While developing such an MSE is an important long-term goal, we believe that the focus of the SCRS's TRO time, effort, and monies should be on conducting a stock assessment for skipjack and the Commission should focus on the implementation of science advice for Bigeye and Yellowfin. Thus this MSE does not seem to be the best possible place to allocate these resources at this time. If, despite the above concerns, the TRO MSE is funded in 2021, then the Commission should provide guidance on the scope of how the three species are to be managed.

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 8**Statement by Canada to Panel 1 – Round 3**

Canada would like to provide the following statement regarding document PA1_502B, "2020 Bigeye tuna catch limits (including suggested limits)."

As noted in our round 2 statement, there are accuracy concerns with table PA1_502B. The Bigeye catch averages continue to contain errors due to the method used to calculate the averages. For example, if a CPC's bigeye catches were recorded as 0, 0, 1000, 0 over four years, their average was recorded as 1000, when it ought to be 250. Omitting zero catch years from averages impacts future allocation discussions, therefore this table should be amended to ensure the accuracy of the averages prior to use as a reference document. Canada reiterates that the table, in particular the calculated averages, should not be used until comprehensively reviewed prior to any acceptance. If the average catches presented in table PA1_502B are used as reference points to determine future allocations, those allocations will be incorrect due to these inaccuracies.

As other CPCs have identified previously, the Compliance Tables already serve to calculate adjusted catch limits for CPCs that fall under paragraphs 4(a)-(c) of Rec 19-02. Table PA1_502B principally provides a visual reference for those CPCs whose catch limits are in accordance with para 4(a)-(c).

Rec. 19-02 does not contain binding limits or rules for determining a limit for CPCs with recent average catches of less than 1,000 t. Further, it is inaccurate to present any limits for those countries with a recent average of below 1,000 t. As such, CPCs under paragraph 4(d) have no catch limits and should not be included in a catch limits table. Nevertheless, CPCs covered by paragraph 4(d) should continue to make their best efforts to abide by the terms of that paragraph.

Canada also wants to emphasize that, for the purposes of future Panel 1 allocation discussions, our previous non-binding commitment to maintain our catches at less than 1,575 t, as articulated in paragraph 4 of Recommendation 16-01, is the valid reference point for calculating recommended catch levels moving forward.

Canada strongly encourages intersessional meetings in order to work towards the important management decisions to support conservation and sustainability of the tropical tunas. As such, Canada endorses the revisions in PA1_511A which aim to facilitate productive deliberations.

Appendix 6 to ANNEX 8

Statement by the European Union to Panel 1 – Round 1

The European Union continues to be deeply concerned about the status of the ICCAT stocks of bigeye and yellowfin tuna, and by the growing fishing capacity in fisheries targeting stocks already subject to overfishing. This is not consistent with the CPC's obligation, under Article IV of the ICCAT Convention, to apply the precautionary approach to the management of ICCAT fisheries.

While important progress was made with the adoption of the *Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 16-01 by ICCAT on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tuna* (Rec. 19-02), crucial decisions are still required, in particular concerning the proper implementation of the established catch limits. Once again, the total catches of bigeye and yellowfin tuna last year were above the TACs for these stocks. The European Union is deeply concerned by this trend and by the fact that the management of the TAC for bigeye tuna is not possible under the current scheme of allocation. While a reduction of the TAC for 2021 would appear as a rational way to compensate for the overfishing in previous year, such a decrease would in effect only penalise the CPCs with a TAC allocation. This would not be an acceptable outcome for European fishermen who respected their catch limits and who last year accepted a 21% reduction of their catches to facilitate the implementation of the TAC.

The European Union continues to strongly advocate for the establishment of a scheme of allocation of the TACs for both bigeye and yellowfin tunas, under which each ICCAT CPC would be fully accountable for possible overharvests, and the ending of the current system of aspirational limits, which has been, and continues to be, responsible for the overfishing of these stocks. This work should be a priority for the Commission and the European Union therefore strongly supports the suggestion from the Chair of Panel 1 to organise an intersessional meeting of Panel 1 in 2021 to focus on this issue. The European Union expects to be able to provide a voluntary financial contribution to facilitate the organisation of this meeting and of other possible intersessional meetings.

Conscious of the challenges to adopt new measures by correspondence, the European Union supports the proposal of the Chair of Panel 1 to extend by one year the measures of Recommendation 19-02 which were due to expire this year. However, this should not concern measures adopted in 2019 and due to enter into effect in 2021 concerning the implementation of a 3 months closure period (paragraphs 27 and 28 of Rec. 19-02) and of a lower maximum number of FADs (300 in 2021, under paragraph 30 of Rec. 19-02). The entry into effect of these measures was delayed to 2021 to allow a gradual implementation by the fleets concerned and there is therefore no justification for seeking an additional delay for their implementation.

In conclusion, the European Union urges all ICCAT CPCs to adopt a pragmatic approach and to support the proposal from the Chair of Panel 1.

Appendix 7 to ANNEX 8

Statement by the European Union to Panel 1 – Round 2

(Proposal PA1-503A, and documents PA1-502A & PA1-511)

PA1-503A *Draft Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT to amend the Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Rec. 16-01 by ICCAT on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas (Proposal submitted by the Chair of Panel 1)*

The European Union is pleased to confirm its support for the Chair's proposal PA1-503A, including the editorial comments from the US.

PA1-502A: 2020 Bigeye tuna catch limits (including suggested limits)

Several CPCs requested clarifications regarding the 2020 catch limits for bigeye tuna for the European Union, as provided in document PA1-502 and in particular the carryover of 2121.35 t from 2018. These CPCs refer to the quota of the EU in 2018 (16,989 t) and did not take into account that the adjusted catch limits for the EU that year was in fact 19,537.40 t, due to a carryover of 2548.35 t from 2016. This carryover only represents 44% of the under harvest of the EU that year. In recent years, and due to the successive TAC reductions, this under-harvest has been greatly reduced and the quota uptake must now be carefully monitored in order to prevent possible quota overshooting.

In 2020, in order to ensure the respect of the newly establish TAC of 62,500 t, the EU agreed to reduce its catch limits by 21%. This significant reduction has unfortunately been compensated by an increase of the catches by CPCs without specific catch limits, once again making futile the sacrifices made by the EU and the other TAC holders. The TAC is likely to become irrelevant unless ICCAT accepts to rationalise its management by ensuring that all CPCs harvesting BET are subject to specific catch limits. If it remains unresolved, this issue has the potential to undermine the entire management framework for tropical tunas in ICCAT.

PA1-511: Roadmap for Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1 in 2021

The European Union thanks the Chair of Panel 1 for preparing this document and would like to make the following comments:

While we appreciate the efforts of the Chair, we note that the proposed approach relies on the possibility to organise virtual meetings in the first part of 2021 as well as an intersessional meeting in June 2021. Regarding virtual meetings, the ICCAT Chair recently highlighted that many CPCs could not engage meaningfully in such meetings and that this was the reason for not holding a virtual annual meeting in 2020. Considering the important participation in Panel 1, we anticipate that the same limitations would preclude the organisation of virtual meetings as proposed by the Chair.

Regarding the proposed Intersessional meeting in June 2021, there remains a lot of uncertainty regarding the possibility for such meeting to take place that early in the year, and we would therefore encourage the Chair to also prepare an alternative solution in the event that this meeting does not take place. Finally, the European Union is also increasingly concerned by the high number of intersessional meetings being foreseen for 2021. In our view, the proposed calendar of meetings is unsustainable and will present significant challenges for the Secretariat (organisation, support and attendance) and for the CPCs (preparation and attendance). We therefore suggest that the Commission should take a broader look at the feasibility of organising so many intersessional meetings in 2021, including intersessional meetings of PA1 and PA4, and take the appropriate decision.

Regarding the proposed agenda for the virtual meetings, we note that several issues highlighted by the Chair may not be immediate priorities or may not have sufficient information early in 2021.

- The discussions proposed on the TAC for bigeye in February 2021 would benefit from the outcome of the stock assessment planned later that year. In the absence of this information, the exchanges will remain speculative.
- Regarding the allocation key for the TAC distribution, the European Union has already expressed the view that this is one of the most pressing issue to be resolved. Nevertheless, we also believe that it would be difficult to make progress without a better understanding of what the TAC will be. In addition, progress on this issue will require discussions and progress on the adoption of a robust system of capacity limits. It would therefore be difficult to engage in discussions on the TAC allocation without a clear understanding of how capacity will be managed to allow the recovery of the stock of BET. Consequently, in order to create the conditions necessary for progress to be achieved capacity limits and TAC allocation would have to be dealt with together.
- Finally, regarding the second proposed virtual meeting, we note that important progress was made in 2019 on the limitation of the number of FADs. Therefore, we do not see the need to revisit this issue in 2021. Similarly, there is no urgency to revisit the issue of the closure period for activities on FADs, and instead some stability in the measures is required to allow the evaluation by SCRS of their level of success. Instead, discussions should concentrate on the management of support vessels and the tracking and controls of the number of FADs.

Appendix 8 to ANNEX 8

Statement by Gabon to Panel 1 – Round 2

Gabon appreciates the efforts made by the CPCs that are members of Panel 1, so that this subsidiary body can achieve its objectives despite the health context we are experiencing.

Regarding document PA1-511/2020, Gabon supports the Chair's proposal provided that the issues of the bigeye tuna TAC for 2022 and beyond and allocation key for TAC distribution are referred to the physical intersessional meeting in June 2021. The time allocated (4h30) for the discussion will not enable a consensus to be achieved, and furthermore, logistical constraints linked to the running of virtual meetings will limit participation of developing countries. For this purpose, we propose that points 7 and 8 of the list of priorities for Panel 1 in 2021 be addressed during the first virtual meeting (February 2021).

Gabon also endorses document PA1-503A/2020, proposed by the Chair of Panel 1.

Appendix 9 to ANNEX 8

Statement by Morocco to Panel 1 – Round 1

In 2019, considerable efforts were made by ICCAT CPCs, in particular developing CPCs, for adoption of Rec. 19-02 on sustainable management of tropical tunas.

Morocco is one of the ICCAT CPCs that aim to develop the tropical tunas fishery in 2020, but unfortunately the health crisis, which started at the beginning of the year, has slowed down achievement of these ambitions, and this must be taken into account during future discussions on the tropical tunas recommendation.

However, Morocco supports the proposal of the Panel 1 Chairman to extend ICCAT Recommendation 19-02 to 2021 and postpone all the discussions on tropical tunas until the intersessional meetings scheduled for 2021, on account of the considerations raised in document PA1-503.

Appendix 10 to ANNEX 8**Statement by Morocco to Panel 1 – Round 2**

As regards document No. PA1-511/2020 on the proposed roadmap for the Panel 1 intersessional meetings in 2021, we would like to make the following comments:

The Kingdom of Morocco recognises the laudable efforts made by all members of Panel 1 to ensure continuity of the work of this subsidiary body through the correspondence communication process, due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Document No. PA1-511/2020 proposes that two virtual meetings be held:

- The first in February 2021 to discuss the bigeye tuna TAC for 2022 and beyond as well as the allocation key for TAC distribution;
- The second in April 2021 on limitation of the number of FADs in 2022 and beyond.

The option of engaging in discussions via video conference on two issues of such importance for Panel 1 members i.e. the 2022 bigeye tuna TAC and its allocation key, could prejudice CPCs, in particular developing countries, due to time differences, Internet network and fluctuating speed that causes the power supply to cut off and, consequently, interruptions in the interventions by delegates of these CPCs, making it difficult to follow the discussions and take the relevant decisions.

It should also be recalled that the discussions on TAC were included in the agenda of the 2019 annual meeting of the ICCAT Commission, held in Palma, but that these were postponed, without the Commission having arrived at a conclusion on this point. It is for this reason that Morocco has concerns about the effectiveness of resuming these discussions and about agreement by virtual consensus.

In this regard, the Kingdom of Morocco suggests that the discussions on these two issues be carried over to the in-person intersessional meeting scheduled for June 2021.

As to holding the second meeting in April 2021, the Kingdom of Morocco supports this proposal.

Morocco requests that this statement be circulated to all member CPCs of Panel 1.

Appendix 11 to ANNEX 8**Statement by Senegal to Panel 1 – Round 1**

Recommendation 19-02 aims to reduce catches while facilitating the recovery of bigeye tuna. It also contains important control and surveillance mechanisms which aim to ensure responsible management of the tropical tunas fishery and which must continue to be complied with.

A bigeye TAC of 61,500 t and a three-month (3) closure of the FAD fishery in 2021, which have been adopted by consensus, should be maintained.

Senegal supports your proposal to amend Rec. 19-02 (PA1-503/2020) to ensure compliance with management measures, in particular those contained in paragraphs 4, 8, 18 and 60 in 2021 and reaffirms its commitment to bigeye tuna recovery and sustainable management of stocks within the scope of the ICCAT Convention.

The Meeting of Panel 1 in 2021 is a good opportunity to assess the current management measures while moving towards mechanisms that appropriately reflect the rights of developing coastal States.

As regards bigeye catch limits in 2020, the table in PA1-502/2020 does not reflect the requirements and objectives of Rec. 19-02 on account of the following reasons:

- Limits declared unilaterally by CPCs in particular where these are not consistent with paragraph 4 of Rec. 19-02.
- Rec. 19-02 establishes rules for determining limits for the CPCs referred to in paragraph 4 (a-c) and does not mention limits (or rules for determining these) for CPCs whose recent average catches are less than 1,000 t. As a result, it is not adequate to establish limits for these CPCs or to calculate “total limits” since the limits (1,575 t and 3,500 t) are not applicable because Rec. 19-02 replaces Rec. 16-01 (see para 68 of Rec. 19-02).
- Any overage or underage permissible under paragraphs 10, 11 and 12 of Rec. 19-02, and verified by SCRS data, should be noted separately in the table to ensure full transparency. For example, there is no information on carryover by the EU of 2,121.35 t from 2018 to its 2020 bigeye limit.

Therefore, Senegal does not approve the table contained in PA1-502/2020 as presented, nor its use for compliance purposes or any other. The template below better presents the 2020 catch limits under Rec. 19-02, based on Secretariat estimates.

	<i>CPC catch limits according to para 4 (a-c)</i>	<i>Average of CPC recent catches to which para 4 (d) applies</i>	<i>Comments</i> <i>(Explain any overage, underage and transfer under Rec. 19-02)</i>

Appendix 12 to ANNEX 8

Statement by South Africa to Panel 1 – Round 2

Thank you for your ongoing leadership of Panel 1 and collaboration of the various ICCAT Panel 1 Contracting Party, Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity fishing (CPCs) views received to date. South Africa appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the current business of Panel 1, including PA1-502A, PA1-503A and the Proposed Roadmap for PA1 Intersessional meetings in 2021.

PA1_502A/20 - Proposed table to replace PA1-502/20 “2020 Tuna Bigeye Catch Limits”

South Africa thank the Chair for recognizing the points raised in our correspondence and appreciate the presentation of the alternative table format for the consideration of other CPCs.

Furthermore, South Africa would also like to thank the European Union (EU) for the provision of additional evidence with regards to the claim for carry-over of 2121.35 t from 2018 to 2020. It should however be noted that South Africa is very concerned about CPCs exploiting the lack of clarity in the measure that allows for under-catch of adjusted limits (as opposed to underage of the catch limits as listed in the Recommendation), and to this end, South Africa would appreciate if the ICCAT Secretariat could perhaps seek legal advice on the interpretation of these specific provisions and whether carry-over of undercatch from adjusted catch limits (rather than catch limits as specified in the Rec.) is in fact allowed.

PA1_503A/20 - Draft supplemental recommendation by ICCAT to amend Rec. 19- 02

South Africa support the proposal as drafted in PA1_503A.

PA1-511/20 - Proposed Roadmap for PA1 Intersessional Meetings in 2021

South Africa support the development of a roadmap for Panel 1 to continue our discussions and make progress towards the adoption of effective consideration and management measures for the Atlantic tuna stocks. We acknowledge that travel limitations may persist for some time and we cannot continue to delay discussion on these urgent matters. However, South Africa asks the Chair and CPCs to recognise the difficulties faced by some developing CPCs with online connectivity, which compromises our ability to reliably and effectively participate in discussions through online forums. As such, we are of the view that the virtual forums proposed by the Chair be framed as workshops, not decision-making forums.

With regards to the topic of discussion at the virtual workshops, South Africa is of the view that these discussions must be informed by evidence, including data on the implementation of measures in 2020. We therefore request that provisional data on catch, effort and Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) activity during 2020 be made available to inform the workshops. This will allow us to focus our discussions on the areas that are not having the intended effect, or gaps in the current regime.

South Africa is of the view that virtual workshops should not discuss matters that have significant impacts on national interests. The constraints of negotiating via online platforms preclude meaningful engagement by all CPCs, and therefore any highly controversial matters, or matters that directly affect outcomes for individual CPCs, should not be discussed. South Africa therefore does not support the discussion of an 'allocation key for TAC distribution' during the virtual workshops. As previously stated, given how challenging these negotiations were in person, we do not believe that consideration of allocation through online forums or correspondence would not provide for fair and robust outcomes. South Africa support inclusion of FAD management mechanisms in the list of items for consideration in the virtual workshops, and suggest that the FAD closure should be discussed together with the number of FADs. South Africa also supports the proposal to discuss the Bigeye tuna Total Allowable Catch (TAC) in a virtual workshop. However, information on catches in 2020 will be necessary for this discussion, which may affect the proposed timing.

South Africa supports the EUs view that the proper implementation of catch limits is a priority for Panel 1, including accountability for possible overharvests, and therefore suggest this be added to the list of Panel 1 priorities for 2021. We also suggest that catch and effort reporting be added to the list of Panel 1 priorities for 2021.

Appendix 13 to ANNEX 8

Statement by the United States to Panel 1 – Round 1

We would like to begin by offering our appreciation to the Panel 1 Chair for his efforts to draft a proposal to extend the expiring provisions of the Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 16-01 by ICCAT on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas [Rec. 19-02].

The United States notes that Recommendation 19-02 calls for a reduction in the bigeye tuna TAC of 1,000 t (from 62,500 t to 61,500 t) for 2021. While the Chair's proposal (PA1-503) does not contemplate the slight reductions needed in binding CPC catch limits for bigeye tuna to align them with the lower 2021 TAC, our strong preference is that any measure adopted for 2021 reflect such reductions. It is unclear to us if this omission in the Chair's text was intentional, and we are seeking clarification. If the intent is not to adjust binding catch limits for 2021 to bring them in line with the TAC, this should be a concern to all CPCs. A TAC of 61,500 t is already substantially higher than the scientific advice calls for to stop overfishing and begin rebuilding of the stock. Panel 1 needs to be prepared to take the needed steps to ensure this TAC level is not exceeded.

The United States is also offering in-line edits to PA1-503 to ensure the scope and effect of the measure are clear. These edits are not intended to change the substance of the measure. Note that we are proposing to strike the reference to Rec. 19-02 paragraph 17 in paragraph 1 of the proposal, as the yellowfin tuna TAC clearly applies to "2020 and subsequent years," so its inclusion is not necessary.

Regarding document PA1-502, "2020 Bigeye tuna catch limits (including suggested limits)", we note that this document was originally developed to support expected 2020 intersessional discussions by Panel 1 that were not able to take place, and those discussions are also not possible during this correspondence process. In light of that, the United States does not consider that any action on this document is necessary at this time. We suggest that Panel 1 simply take note of the document and its potential utility in supporting future allocation discussions. The annex provides important context and should also be taken note of by the Panel. With regard to the recent communication by Guatemala (ICCAT Circular #6957), the United States agrees that 2021 catch limits should be based on the most up-to-date Task 1 data, provided that CPCs follow the proper notification and data revision protocols required by the SCRS.

Appendix 14 to ANNEX 8**Statement by the United States to Panel 1 – Round 2**

PA1-503A: The United States thanks the Chair for incorporating our suggested changes and supports its adoption.

PA1-502A: The United States was disappointed to see that our comments were not taken into account in this new version. The United States agrees with many of the concerns Senegal and South Africa raised about this document and notes that the Compliance Tables already serve to calculate adjusted catch limits for CPCs that fall under paragraphs 4(a)-(c) of Rec 19-02. As a result we are not in a position to adopt or endorse PA1-502A and, further, do not consider action necessary on this document at this time. Instead, Panel 1 should simply take note of the document and its potential utility in supporting future allocation discussions, particularly its annex, which provides important context.

The United States also wants to emphasize that, for the purposes of future Panel 1 allocation discussions, our statement in the record of the 2019 annual meeting still stands: we consider 1,575 t to remain the applicable catch limit for CPCs included in the small harvester category established by Rec. 16-01, including the United States. Of course, CPCs covered by paragraph 4(d) should make best efforts to abide by its terms.

PA1-511: We are pleased to see the ambitious schedule proposed by the Chair although we have concerns with the proposed sequence of discussions. The 2021 meeting schedule (PLE-106) - which the Commission has yet to approve - includes a bigeye tuna stock assessment in late July. Should this remain, therefore, we are concerned that it may be premature to focus on the bigeye TAC and allocations in February, unless there are new ideas to consider. Likewise, it is not yet clear if there will be new scientific advice that would facilitate a review of measures regarding the number of FADs or closed areas. It would make sense to postpone both of these discussions until the most up-to-date information is available.

We suggest prioritizing discussion of other issues during the February and April intersessionals, such as FAD management and data collection, additional yellowfin tuna measures, review of electronic monitoring and observer measures, and the terms of reference for reviewing MCS mechanisms. We note that the yellowfin tuna TAC is already set based on scientific advice so should not be part of these discussions, absent new scientific information. Additionally, there were extensive discussions of supply vessel monitoring and control measures in 2019, but decisions on these measures were deferred to the intersessional. Finally, we suggest that the roadmap re-emphasize the topics on which Panel 1 would like to request additional SCRS advice to support 2021 negotiations, specifically advice related to time/area closures, FAD sets, support vessels, and impacts of size selectivity to bigeye and yellowfin MSY. We are submitting suggested changes to the 2021 roadmap to reflect these views.

The United States recognizes the heavy workload facing the SCRS in 2021, given the disruptions this year, but nevertheless hopes the SCRS can support the Panel 1 discussions to the extent possible.

Appendix 15 to ANNEX 8**Statement by the United States to Panel 1 – Round 3**

The United States thanks the Chair, the Secretariat, and Panel 1 members for their work on the challenging issues facing ICCAT related to tropical tunas. We are encouraged that the Panel was able to agree on a one-year roll-over of expiring provisions of Recommendation 19-02.

However, regarding PA1_502B our position remains unchanged: we cannot endorse this document. The substantive content of PA1_502B has been incorporated into the Compliance Tables (COC_304C), which sufficiently clarifies how CPCs subject to catch limits should be managing their fisheries. We reiterate our suggestions: Panel 1 should simply take note of the document and its potential utility in supporting future allocation discussions, particularly its annex, which provides important context.

The United States was disappointed to see that much of the specificity in the original roadmap was lost in version PA1_511A. It is also not clear why our detailed suggestions on the roadmap were not included in PA1_520 Annex 3. We are concerned that our suggestions continue to be ignored. We request that Annex 3 be updated to reflect our suggested edits to PA1_511, as well as the comments provided in PA1_516. We noted South Africa's suggestion in PA1_519 to review 2020 implementation of Rec. 19-02, and believe our suggestion of reviewing fishery management plans fits well with that discussion. We have also taken note of the emphasis many CPCs have placed on discussions related to paragraph 66 of Rec. 19-02, and believe this should be reflected on the agenda for one of the intersessional meetings. Even without new SCRS advice, there is enough information available to support a second FAD-focused virtual intersessional in April, as well as the discussion of supply vessel management deferred from the 2019 annual meeting. We reiterate our requests to the SCRS, as follows, which, although submitted, were not circulated in round 3:

Requested SCRS advice to support Panel 1 Priorities

- Advice on the efficacy of time/area closures (requested in Rec. 19-02 paragraphs 28 and 66).
- Advice on maximum number of FAD sets which should be established per vessel or per CPC (requested in Rec. 19-02 paragraph 31), and if not possible, any advice on what information should be provided by CPCs to support this analysis.
- Analysis on the impact of support vessels on the catches of juvenile yellowfin and bigeye tuna (Rec. 19-02 paragraph 33).
- Updated advice on the impacts to MSY of yellowfin and bigeye tuna catch by gear type (e.g., the decision support tool from the 2018 SCRS report) based on the 2019 yellowfin assessment and 2021 bigeye assessment.

In order to avoid prolonging the discussion, the United States can agree to version PA1_511A of the 2021 roadmap on the condition that it be considered a minimum list of topics to cover in 2021, and that this is reflected in the report of this decision-making process. We will work with the Chair to ensure U.S. concerns are taken into account in the development of agendas for 2021 Panel 1 intersessionals and encourage other CPCs to do the same.

Appendix 16 to ANNEX 8

Statement by Associação de Ciências Marinhas e Cooperação (SCIAENA) to Panel 1 – Round 1

The cancellation of this year's Commission meeting will limit very much the scope of the discussions that will take place. Nevertheless, for Sciaena, one of the Panel 1 stocks continues to be a great cause of concern – bigeye tuna.

As we have stated in the past, the critical state in which the Atlantic bigeye tuna stock is in is worrying because of the negative impacts it has on the population and the health of pelagic ecosystems, but also due to the importance of the stock for the fishing communities of the Azores and Madeira. As signatory of the Azores Declaration, Sciaena would like to see ICCAT and its CPCs recognizing the particularities and the importance of the pole and line fleets of Azores, Madeira and Canary Islands, which operate with very low environmental impact and are essential to the economies of these island communities.

Although Recommendation 19-02 adopted by ICCAT in 2019 doesn't fully live up to the urgency of the situation bigeye tuna is in, we believe it provides a good starting point to the discussions that will take place in 2021 and that it includes measures that will have a positive effect on the recovery of the stock. In our view, it is clear that Recommendation 19-02 requires a decrease in total catch between 2020 and 2021, and therefore any attempts to not fulfil this requirement cannot be considered by ICCAT or its CPCs.

Furthermore, Sciaena would encourage the scheduling of a Panel 1 intersessional meeting in 2021, to allow for work and discussions to be advanced on several of the stocks under its remit.

Statement by the International Pole and Line Foundation (IPNLF) to Panel 1 - Round 1

Despite unusual circumstances and the cancellation of this year's Commission meeting, IPNLF urges ICCAT Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs collectively) to continue addressing key challenges facing the conservation and responsible management of tropical tunas and lay the groundwork for holistic action in 2021. Through this year's correspondence procedure, there is a need to progress the following areas:

- Reduce bigeye and yellowfin tuna catches to comply with the agreed total allowable catches (TACs) in Rec. 19-02. In 2019, the TAC of overfished bigeye tuna was overshot for the fourth year in a row, this time by 14%. In 2016 - 2017 catches exceeded the TAC by 20% and in 2018 by 13%. In 2019, the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) determined that those catch rates provided only a 1% probability of BET recovery by 2033. While IPNLF applauds that ICCAT adopted a rebuilding programme for overfished bigeye tuna in 2019, the ICCAT Secretariat calculated that the current interim catch limit measure has the potential to allow for an overharvest of the TAC by almost 40% (PA1_502/2020). We urge that this issue will be resolved as a matter of priority, albeit by correspondence. While yellowfin tuna was not considered overfished in 2019, the TAC of this stock was overshot by 20% in 2019 and the SCRS expressed that such catch levels are expected to further degrade the condition of the stock. Although addressing of the overharvest of the bigeye tuna TAC this year might indirectly also reduce yellowfin tuna catches, yellowfin specific action should be taken in 2021.
- Ensure a roll-over of all expiring measures in Rec. 19-02 and prioritize an intersessional meeting of Panel 1 in 2021 to strengthen Rec. 19-02, especially:
 - An equitable bigeye tuna allocation mechanism that respects Res. 15-13, with an increased number of CPCs represented on the allocation table to improve accountability (as compared to those listed in 16-01), thereby addressing the interim nature of the catch limit measure adopted in Rec. 19-02 (para 4).
 - At least 20% longline observer coverage by 2022.
 - Assess if the FAD closure has been effective and adjust as needed to meaningfully reduce juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tuna fishing mortality.
 - Reduce and regulate the use of supply/support vessels - these enable overcapacity.
 - Reduce the number of drifting FADs (dFADs) deployed and improve their monitoring and control to ensure compliance with FAD limits that can be meaningfully verified.
 - The excessive and non-transparent use of dFADs continues to drive high catches of juvenile yellowfin and bigeye tuna, representing a major contributor to the overfished state of the bigeye tuna stock. Also, deliberate abandonment of dFADs likely constitutes infringements of MARPOL Annex V, the London Convention, London Protocol and the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and should be prohibited. dFAD components should be marked according to the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Marking of Fishing Gear while independent verification of FAD designs and construction materials should also be required prior to each deployment. FAD ownership must be assigned at the time of deployment and should not be allowed to change hands until the FAD is recovered and returned to port for responsible disposal.
 - Ensure the intent of para 40 of Rec. 19-02 on non-entangling and biodegradable FADs is fully respected.
 - Reduce the capacity of industrial longline and purse seine fleets while not undermining the legitimate rights of developing coastal States.
 - In addition to flag state associated catch data, ICCAT should transparently share data on catches by EEZ.
 - Further advance the development and implementation of harvest control rules (HCRs) for key tuna species as a matter of priority.
 - Adopt measures to reduce bycatch and protect endangered, threatened, or protected species, including sharks, seabirds, cetaceans, and turtles.

Appendix 18 to ANNEX 8**Statement by the International Pole and Line Foundation (IPNLF) to Panel 1 – Round 3**

IPNLF applauds the rollover of expiring PA1 measures and the provided clarification on the interpretation of the interim bigeye tuna catch limit table. We are pleased to see that virtual meetings have been proposed that will focus on improving FAD management and reviewing MCS and reporting requirements to promote the effective implementation of limits. We also gladly note the proposed in-person intersessional meeting to address the bigeye tuna TAC for 2022 and beyond, including a crucially needed TAC allocation scheme and means of addressing (over)capacity. Having witnessed the difficult negotiations in 2019, and noting the unlevel playing field to effectively participate in online meetings, we agree that an inclusive in-person meeting is the appropriate way forward.

We would like to stress again that bigeye and yellowfin tuna catches must be reduced to comply with the agreed TACs in Rec. 19-02. In 2019, the TAC of overfished bigeye tuna was overshoot by 14%. In 2016 - 2017 catches exceeded the TAC by 20% and in 2018 by 13%. In 2019, the SCRS determined that those catch rates provided only a 1% probability of BET recovery by 2033. While yellowfin tuna was not considered overfished in 2019, the TAC of this stock was overshoot by 20% in 2019, and the SCRS expressed that such catch levels are expected to further degrade the condition of the stock.

We specifically urge the following matters be addressed as a matter of priority:

- An equitable bigeye tuna allocation mechanism that respects Res. 15-13, thereby aligning with the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines), with an increased number of CPCs represented on the allocation table to improve accountability.
- At least 20% longline observer coverage by 2022.
- Assess effectiveness of the FAD closure and adjust as/if needed to meaningfully reduce juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tuna fishing mortality.
- Improve the monitoring and control of FADs to ensure compliance with limits that can be appropriately verified. Please note this new paper on the IUU nature of FADs: <https://bit.ly/37RN08N> Ensure the intent of para 40 of Rec. 19-02 is respected, preferably prohibiting all netting on FADs by 2022.
- Reduce the capacity of industrial longline and purse seine fleets while not undermining the legitimate rights of developing coastal States.
- Adding to flag State catch data, ICCAT should transparently share data on catches by EEZ.
- Further advance the development and implementation of harvest control rules (HCRs) for key tuna species.
- Adopt measures to reduce bycatch and protect endangered, threatened, or protected species, including sharks, seabirds, cetaceans, and turtles.

Appendix 19 to ANNEX 8**Statement by Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW) to Panel 1 – Round 2**

Now that Panel 1 has entered the second period of correspondence, The Pew Charitable Trusts would like to offer our thoughts on the current state of negotiations on the Panel's critical business.

Since the 2015 bigeye stock assessment, Pew has advocated for adoption of measures to prevent continued overharvest and rebuild the bigeye tuna stock by 2028 with at least 60% probability. In 2016, the Report of the Independent Performance Review of ICCAT echoed the concerns of scientists and the NGO community and recommended that "the sustainable management of the tropical tunas should be a key immediate management priority for ICCAT." Despite this, ICCAT has adopted TACs that allow for continued overfishing and has not put a rebuilding plan in place. Furthermore, incomplete or nonexistent allocation schemes continue to prevent adherence to TACs, leading to overages of 20% and 14% for yellowfin and bigeye, respectively, in 2019. In light of the cancellation of this year's intersessional and Commission meetings, Panel 1 will once again be unable to rectify this situation.

While it is not sufficient, as a minimum step forward, we support the Chair's proposal (PA1_503A) to prevent unintended expiration of any essential elements of Rec. 19-02. To ensure clarity, we strongly suggest that PA1_503A be revised to explicitly state that paragraph 3 of Rec. 19-02 remains valid and that the total allowable catch (TAC) for bigeye tuna will be lowered to 61,500 t in 2021, as adopted last year. During the 2019 Commission meeting, this provision was required by several CPCs to achieve consensus. Removing it now would not only potentially lose the support of those CPCs but also call into question the commitment to other Recommendations endorsed by Panel 1.

Addressing bigeye rebuilding and bigeye/yellowfin allocation should be the top priorities for 2021, so we are pleased to see that there are currently three proposed intersessional meetings on the calendar for next year (PLE_106). The three intersessional meetings must progress enough to enable smooth adoption at the 2021 annual meeting, even in the event that it cannot proceed as an in-person meeting. As such, bilateral and multilateral work will be required even before those meetings, and we recommend that the Panel 1 Chair follow the Panel 2 Chair's lead (PA2_618) in laying out specific and detailed instructions for how CPCs should prepare for those meetings. The Chair's proposed roadmap (PA1_511) is a good start but needs more detail, including deadlines for CPC submission of information and statements.

ICCAT's challenges with tropical tuna management underscore the urgent need to transition to management procedure (MP)-based regulation of these valuable stocks. Thankfully, the SCRS is poised to make considerable progress in the management strategy evaluation (MSE) processes over the coming year. Brazil is partnering on some MSE work for western skipjack that could result in an MP ready for Commission consideration as early as next year. The SCRS also has a week-long meeting scheduled for 2021 to advance MSE development for bigeye, yellowfin, and eastern skipjack, with a 2023 target for Commission adoption of an MP. Panel 1 should provide the necessary resources and support for this work – including sufficient financial resources – and stand by to review and comment on the MSE results as they become available. Initial input to the process is required in 2021 in the form of operational management objectives for the four stocks, against which the SCRS can begin to evaluate performance of candidate management procedures.

Appendix 20 to ANNEX 8

Statement by Canada to Panel 2 – Round 1

Canada supports the Chair's proposals on North Atlantic albacore tuna (PA2-606 and PA2-607).

Canada has reviewed the Chair's first proposal on western Atlantic bluefin tuna (PA2-608) and that submitted by the United States of America (PA2-610).

We recognize the limitations of the western bluefin tuna 2020 updated stock assessment and in order to address these limitations Canada supports the United States' proposal calling for a stock assessment in 2021.

The Commission should request a full assessment as was performed in 2017, not an interim or "turn of the crank" update as conducted in 2020 where new data was added to the 2017 models. Canada is open to discussion on how this new stock assessment would fit in to the work of the SCRS, including potentially delaying other work scheduled for 2021 if there is less urgency for results on other stocks.

Canada also proposes that an external stock assessment expert be contracted to participate in the new stock assessment in order to address concerns about the existing assessment process for this stock by including external expert input and review.

The market demand for Atlantic bluefin tuna has decreased in 2020 as a result of the global pandemic response such as the closing of restaurants and decreases in travel and tourism. In light of this, and in light of the fact that the interim SCRS advice for 2021-23 assumes that all quota included in the 2020 TAC would be caught in 2020, Canada proposes a temporary increase in the maximum percentage of underharvest that some CPCs are permitted to carry forward, as specified in paragraph 7(a) of the Recommendation by ICCAT for an interim conservation and management plan for Western Atlantic bluefin tuna [Rec. 17-06], from 10 percent to 25 percent.

Appendix 21 to ANNEX 8**Statement by Canada to Panel 2 – Round 2**

Canada recognizes that the 2020 update to the 2017 stock assessment was not able to fully explore all the data input, including a rigorous review of the indices. Therefore, Canada continues to strongly support the undertaking of a full stock assessment for 2021, and is pleased that this can be undertaken without delaying the important work on the Bluefin tuna Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE).

Canada also welcomes the establishment of an SCRS subgroup to conduct a thorough evaluation of the current indices of abundance and their use in the WBFT stock assessment. A thorough review of these indices will improve the assessment, and testing them through the assessment will significantly benefit the MSE from a technical perspective and ensure that all CPCs, observers, and other interested parties have greater confidence in both the assessment and the MSE.

Despite these concerns about the 2020 update, it is nevertheless the best scientific advice currently available and therefore the more appropriate basis for a decision about the 2021 total allowable catch (TAC). The current advice is clear that a rollover of the 2020 TAC of 2350 t will almost certainly lead to overfishing in 2021. Thus, out of precaution, Canada continues to support a TAC of 1785 t for 2021, which is associated with a 58 per cent probability of not overfishing for 2021.

The F0.1 strategy makes it possible to calculate a TAC at the target fishing mortality, but in the absence of biomass reference points it is not possible to evaluate the consequences of that TAC with respect to biomass reference points. The SCRS is requested to provide proxies or approximations for all maximum sustainable yield reference points and evaluate status relative to them the next time it provides advice for western Bluefin tuna.

Canada appreciates the Chair's inclusion of contracting an external expert to review the stock assessment process, and would like to clarify that their intended role would not be to lead the assessment, vet the results, or prepare and present the report. Rather, our proposal is to have the external expert review the stock assessment process as it unfolds, prepare a report on that process review, and present it to the Bluefin tuna species group. This would be conducted in line with the existing terms of reference for inclusion of external experts by the SCRS.

Canada would also like to highlight the importance of the proposed temporary increase in the maximum percentage of underharvest that some CPCs are permitted to carry forward, and the immediate benefit that this measure would have for our harvesters. Canada asks whether other CPCs can agree to this temporary increase as soon as possible rather than waiting for the correspondence process to conclude, by which point an increase may come too late to be helpful.

Appendix 22 to ANNEX 8**Statement by Canada to Panel 2 on Western Bluefin Tuna – Round 3**

Canada supports fisheries management decisions that are based on the best available scientific information, and, where there is uncertainty, the application of the precautionary approach.

These principles are well established, including within ICCAT in Resolution 15-12, in the amended ICCAT Convention, and more broadly, including in the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy's recently released *Transformations for a Sustainable Ocean Economy: a Vision for Protection, Production, and Prosperity*, to which some of Panel 2 members have signed onto. This declaration includes a call to strengthen regional fisheries management organizations by, among other steps, promoting the use of a precautionary approach and management that controls harvest levels based on scientific assessment.

Based on these principles, Canada is extremely dissatisfied with the outcome of this year's negotiations to adopt a total allowable catch (TAC) for western Atlantic bluefin tuna, an iconic species.

The projections provided by the 2020 stock assessment update and the resulting Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) advice – the best science advice we have available – make it clear that a prompt and significant total allowable catch (TAC) reduction is the most appropriate way to hold the risk of overfishing at an acceptable level.

A TAC of 2,350 tonnes in 2021 will result in a 94% probability of overfishing. Canada believes this is both contradictory to the objectives of ICCAT and not in the best long term interests of the species nor the industry.

Nevertheless, we have no desire for this measure to lapse and result in an unregulated fishery for 2021. To prevent such a scenario, Canada will not block consensus on the Chair's proposed TAC of 2,350 tonnes, as per PA2_608C, despite our significant concerns.

Throughout this correspondence process, Canada and others have advocated for a full assessment of this stock in 2021 beyond the simple update that was conducted in 2020. We believe that this would provide the SCRS with an opportunity to address issues with certain indices that have been identified by scientists, fully explore the data inputs, and provide certainty going forward in setting TACs fully in line with the scientific advice. Canada supports the inclusion of a request for a stock assessment in 2021 in the Chair's proposal PA2_608C.

Appendix 23 to ANNEX 8

General Statement by the European Union Relating to Proposals Submitted to Panel 2 – Round 1

EU Statement on Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 16-06 Establishing a Multi-Annual Conservation and Management Programme For North Atlantic Albacore Documents PA2-606/ 2020 and PA2-607/2020 (Chair proposals)

The European Union welcomes the proposals from the Chair to adapt the *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Program for North Atlantic Albacore* (Rec. 16-06) and the *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Harvest Control Rule for the North Atlantic Albacore Supplementing the Multiannual Conservation and Management Programme, Rec. 16-06* (Rec. 17-04) to secure a rollover of the existing measures for 2021. Ideally, as suggested by the Chair, both Recommendations should be merged in one, if possible, already in 2021.

However, the EU does not share the view of the Chair that the increase of the TAC should automatically trigger a revision of the allocation key. Considering precedents on this and other stocks, the updating of the TAC (increase or decrease) is not coupled necessarily with the revision of the allocation key, but with the modification of individual CPCs allocations following the pro-rata principle. It would be odd that an increase in the TAC would not immediately transpose into an increase of the allocations to CPCs participating in the fishery and that the increase of the TAC should not reward the CPCs responsible for the good stewardship of the resource.

The EU support the reviewing of the interim HCR in 2021 as mentioned by the Chair of Panel 2 under paragraph 3 of PA2-607, with a view to adopting a long term management procedure, and this will require the adequate organisation of Commission/SCRS' meetings regarding albacore tuna.

EU Statement on a Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 19-04 Establishing a Multi-Annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean Document PA2-609/2020 (Chair's proposal)

The EU agrees with the Chair's proposal with two comments, one regarding growth rates in farms and another on the evaluation of the possible modification of the fishing seasons. This last point is directly related to paragraph 18 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 18-02 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean* (Rec. 19-04), which is not mentioned in the Chair's proposal but we consider crucial to ensure the correct adjustment of the fishing capacity. Therefore, we propose in paragraph 18 to change the date by which the parameters should be reviewed by the SCRS from the current '2019' to '2021'.

On growth rates, we consider that the determination of those indices is urgent, and we urge the SCRS to produce them at the latest in 2022. In our view, the parameters of the fishing seasons is linked, in particular for purse seiners, with the revision of the 'best catch rates', which, following paragraph 18 of Rec. 19-04, was expected in 2019.

Regarding the amendment of paragraph 5 of Rec. 19-04, we suggest modifying the last sentence in the paragraph as follows: "*the allocation scheme above shall may be reviewed and amended, as appropriate, at the 2021 Commission annual meeting*".

Regarding the amendment of paragraph 15 of Rec. 19-04 we suggest that an intersessional meeting of Panel 2 to analyse and, as appropriate, endorse the plans referred to under paragraph 14: "*shall be convened not only for 2021 but during the implementation of the plan*". The number of issues found in different plans in previous years suggests that it would be prudent to maintain the peer review of the fishing and capacity plans.

**EU Statement on a Draft Recommendation by ICCAT extending and amending
Rec. 17-06 for an Interim Conservation and Management Plan for
Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Documents PA2-610 (US proposal) & PA2-608 (Chair proposal)**

The European Union is acutely aware that the soundness of the scientific assessment of a harvested fish stock is highly dependent on the quality of the data being used and that in turn, such data is often obtained through an incremental process requiring time and resources. This is particularly true for Atlantic bluefin tuna, and for that reason, the EU has provided substantial support to the SCRS, in particular in the context of the GBYP. We acknowledge the tremendous and successful coordinated work done on BFT by the SCRS scientists, although there are still some issues requiring further attention and improvements.

The recent SCRS updated assessment for western bluefin tuna (BFTW), although it does not include estimates of biomass reference points to determine the stock status, because of the uncertainty in recruitment potential, does however provide a clear picture of the persistent low biomass compared to historical levels, albeit slightly increasing over the last 10 years. Both assessment models are consistent in that regard and also show a declining trend in the estimated recruitment.

Although the SCRS considers that overfishing is not occurring with high probability, we operate in an unstable context where slight changes in the model setting and in the data may provide a different perspective; the catch limit of 2,350 t established in 2017 is now considered to have resulted in overfishing since 2018, although the reported catches complied with the catch limit.

Under these circumstances, and considering that the recent assessment is much more robust than the one done in 2017, the EU appreciates the initiatives from both the Panel 2 Chair (PA2-608) and the US (PA2-610) seeking to propose a way forward taking into account the SCRS advice for the rebuilding of the BFTW stock, but we would be concerned with retaining any management option that would not, at the very least, stop overfishing immediately with a reasonable degree of probability.

The way forward proposed by the United States raises some concerns for the European Union in terms of potentially derailing the SCRS activities in 2021, particularly for what concerns the MSE advancements. The SCRS has established a quite ambitious 2021 workplan with a view to substantially advance and secure some significant achievements on the BFT MSE, which is a priority for the EU, while also dedicating specific effort through two focussed technical groups to address sources of uncertainty on indices and assessment models as identified in the 2020 updated assessment. These actions, that may require financial support from ICCAT, will necessitate a sustained engagement by the scientists whose focus must not be affected by concerns related to a review of the WBFT catch limit expiring in 2021. In that respect we would like to recall that the MSE for BFT started in 2015 and was expected to be finalized by 2019; the GBYP ICCAT multiyear programme, 80% funded by the EU to a total of €14M so far, has substantially supported the MSE process by investing around €1M since 2014 without mentioning the investments done by the scientists of the different CPCs. Moreover, ICCAT has adopted *the Resolution by ICCAT on Development of Initial Management Objectives for Eastern and Western Bluefin Tuna* (Res. 18-03) on the development of initial management objectives as another preliminary steps towards the development of an MSE based harvesting strategy. The SCRS's workplan for BFT assumes that the WBFT TAC advice for 2021 and 2022 will be adopted and that a new full stock assessment will take place in 2022.

In addition to the added workload that would be generated by a new assessment for WBFT, we note that there are already many assessments scheduled for 2021 and that it is unlikely that any physical meeting will take place during the first semester of 2021. This will require organising virtual meetings, which in turn take place over longer periods than conventional meetings, therefore putting additional pressure on scientists and on the Secretariat.

For the above reasons, and considering the soundness of the 2020 stock assessment, the EU is not supportive of amending the existing SCRS planning for the stock assessments to facilitate a new assessment for western bluefin tuna in 2021, unless the SCRS confirms that the additional work would not impact on the finalisation of the MSE for BFT and other stocks such as northern swordfish, and would not put an extra burden upon the scientists and the Secretariat.

This approach is, of course, without prejudice to the fact that the SCRS could further improve its analysis and understanding of the indices and providing its considerations on the indices trends based on such an improved analysis of the indices in 2021. But it should not be seen as a formal task to re-discuss the established catch limit in 2021.

**EU Statement on the Correspondence from the Panel 2 Chair regarding the disclosure of BFT
Species Group meeting information** *Document PA2-604/2020*

The European Union supports the conclusions of the Chair and shares the view that this issue should be included on the Agenda of the plenary meeting of 2021. The European Union also believes that observers and scientists should refrain from revealing such information at least until the report is completed and uploaded to the website.

In addition to the Chair's proposal, the European Union suggests discussing the possibility to establish a code of conduct for participants in such meetings and/or the modification of the rules of procedure.

Appendix 24 to ANNEX 8

**Statement by France (on behalf of Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon) to Panel 2 on Western Bluefin Tuna –
Round 3**

Western bluefin tuna

France (in respect of Saint Pierre & Miquelon) thanked the Chair of Panel 2 and the Chair of the SCRS for their efforts and availability which have enabled detailed discussion on the very important issue of western bluefin tuna management.

New stock assessment in 2021

As regards a new stock assessment being held in 2021, France (in respect of Saint Pierre & Miquelon) recalls that a stock assessment is a complex activity which involves moving back and forth between data collection, processing and analysis. For it to be useful to decision-making, this process, and in particular the time necessary for its completion, must be respected.

A new assessment also calls for greater commitment of the scientists involved, and even if the general schedule can be adapted accordingly, this would impact their work schedule. It is essential that this does not affect the management strategy evaluation (MSE) process.

Moreover, the holding of this assessment must not set a precedent.

TAC level

France (in respect of Saint Pierre & Miquelon) supported, throughout the consultation process, the original proposal of the Chair of Panel 2, i.e. a TAC of 1,785 t for 2021, based on the best scientific advice available and to avoid overfishing of this stock.

France (in respect of Saint Pierre & Miquelon) regrets that these positions have not been heeded but will not oppose a consensus on the proposal of the Chair contained in PA2_608C, given that for stock management, a recommendation taken on this basis is preferable to the absence of a decision.

Appendix 25 to ANNEX 8

Statement by Japan on Panel 2 – Round 2

Northern Albacore

Japan supports the adoption of PA2-606A and PA2-607A.

Eastern BFT

Japan supports PA2-609A. The only remaining issue is the request from Russia for allocation. In the first round, Japan supported deferring such discussion to the 2021 Commission meeting. Japan maintains its position given the complex nature of the discussion and the requested allocation being not trivial.

Western BFT

Japan could support the proposal of Panel 2 Chair, namely, scenario 3 of the SCRS advises on TACs in 2021-23 (2,350t, 1,685t, and 1,632t respectively) on the assumption that a new stock assessment will be conducted in 2021. At this point, however, we are not clear whether the assessment will be conducted since it requires a decision of the Commission. Besides, informal discussion is still going on among CPCs concerned. We reserve the right to come back to the TACs later when things become clearer.

With regard to other matters in PA2-608, Japan submits comments as follows.

1) Consideration of stock mixing in the new stock assessment in 2021

Canada suggests that the new stock assessment in 2021 should consider not only stock indices but also stock mixing. However, the BFT MSE will examine the issue of stock mixing and requesting the SCRS to resolve the stock mixing issue in the next stock assessment is too demanding and would not be indispensable. Therefore, Japan suggests removing this issue from the request to the SCRS (para 17).

2) Carryforward of underharvest in 2020 to 2021

Japan does not necessarily oppose this proposal, but the suggested text from Canada gives an impression that this special treatment continues in future as well. Because of the reason explained by Canada, this measure should be temporary. From this perspective, we suggest that this measure be applied to only from 2020 to 2021. Whether the measure should be further extended should be discussed at the 2021 Commission meeting.

Appendix 26 to ANNEX 8

Statement by the Kingdom of Morocco to Panel 2 on the Draft Recommendation on Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna [PA2-609/20] – Round 1

The draft Recommendation PA2-609/20, presented to the Panel 2 Chair, suggests that the 2020 TAC [Rec. 19-04, paragraph 5] of 36,000 t be maintained for 2021 and 2022. However, the SCRS advice on Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna for 2022 will be reviewed in 2021 based on the update of abundance indicators.

Thus, Morocco supports the proposal of the Panel 2 Chair (document PA2-609) to roll over ICCAT Rec. 19-04 to 2021.

Appendix 27 to ANNEX 8

Statement by Norway to Panel 2- Round 2

Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna (WBFT):

The SCRS has conducted an updated stock assessment and scientific advice on WBFT in 2020. At present, there exists both limited data sources and obvious conflicting signals on relative abundance of WBFT from the available fishery-independent and fishery-dependent time series. New, and possibly crucial data being available in 2021 that was not available in time for the 2020 assessment, will generally be a valid argument for a new stock assessment for any fish stock in ICCAT. It is important to give the SCRS time to consider whether the new data material for the western component indicates that we need a new stock assessment in 2021, before the Commission make a decision on this matter.

The proposal from the Chair of Panel 2 includes the hiring of an external expert to review, prepare and present the findings in the proposed new stock assessment and scientific advice to the BFT Group. Norway requests further explanation as to why there is a need to hire an external expert. Norway would also like more information on how the external expert shall be chosen. As far as we understand, an external expert would usually be paid by the Commission and not by individual CPC's, and the external expert is selected after an open calling process organized by the SCRS and Secretariat.

Norway has expressed its support to the Panel 2 Chairs proposal in PA2-608 on a WBFT TAC level of 1,785 t in 2021. Norway maintains this position, and will not support a roll-over of the TAC for WBFT from 2020 to 2021. The reason for this is that the SCRS has already provided a whole range of different advice options on WBFT. A roll-over of a TAC of 2,350 t for WBFT from 2020 to 2021 is not precautionary, and will provide us with only a 6% probability of not overfishing (94% probability of overfishing) in 2021 (Option 3 in Table 4 in the SCRS report on WBFT). Option 2 in Table 4 suggested by Panel 2 Chair, on the other hand, gives us approximately 60% probability of not overfishing WBFT with a TAC of 1,785 t in 2021.

Furthermore, Norway is not certain of the role of the SCRS in relation to the suggested sub-group which will involve only a few selected CPC's within the SCRS, when conducting the new full stock assessment on WBFT I 2021. Norway would thus like more information on this issue.

Norway is concerned that a new full stock assessment of the WBFT may create a precedence amongst other CPC's if they do not agree with the outcome of an updated stock assessment.

Appendix 28 to ANNEX 8

Statement by Norway on Western Bluefin Tuna - Round 3

Norway would first of all like to thank the Chair of Panel 2 for his great effort in trying to reach consensus on a recommendation for the western bluefin tuna (WBFT).

Norway has, at an earlier stage, expressed our concerns on some of the draft recommendations related to WBFT from other CPC's. Our concerns relate, amongst others, to setting the TAC at 2350 tons in 2021. Norway has also questioned the process concerning the proposed stock assessment in 2021. Other CPCs have, however, argued for the importance of this stock assessment in 2021, and although Norway still has concerns with regards to the process, we have decided to show flexibility, and will not oppose or block such a stock assessment.

Regardless of the fact that a majority of the other CPC's in Panel 2 also have shown great flexibility in order to find a solution to the issues being raised with regards to the WBFT, a consensus has not been found, and a roll-over or a situation without any recommendation now are the alternatives. A roll-over provides us with a situation where the TAC is set at 2350 tons in 2021, which corresponds to a possibility

of only 6% of the stock not being overfished in 2021 and without any commitment to reduce the TAC in 2022 and 2023, as advised by the SCRS in their updated assessment. If Panel 2 had chosen to follow the updated assessment, this would have been in line with the precautionary approach. Although Norway has doubts concerning a stock assessment in 2021, we do, however, fear the consequences for the stock if the TAC is set to 2350 tons in 2021 and the possibility of an updated stock assessment will be lost, an update which could provide crucial information on the state of this stock. A situation without a recommendation is even worse, and we have now come in a situation where we have to choose between two evils. Whatever we choose the result is highly suboptimal, and could potentially jeopardize the stock and put ICCAT as an organization under unfavourable circumstances.

Appendix 29 to ANNEX 8

Statement by the United Kingdom to Panel 2 on Western Bluefin Tuna (Document PA2-608C) – Round 3

The UK would like to record its thanks to the Panel 2 Chair for his concerted efforts to achieve consensus on a measure for western bluefin tuna for 2021, in particular given the challenging circumstances this year in which CPCs have been unable to meet and discuss face to face. In lieu of meeting in person, the web conference meetings held were helpful and appreciated.

The UK supports fisheries management based on the best available scientific evidence and following a precautionary approach. Based on the 2020 stock assessment, the SCRS presented six management scenarios for three-year TAC advice. Three of these scenarios would have kept the probability of not overfishing the WBFT stock in line with ICCAT management objectives for each of the three projected years.

It is therefore deeply disappointing that the proposal for adoption (608C) includes a TAC of 2,350 t for 2021 which is associated with a worryingly low probability – only 6% – of the WBFT stock not being overfished in 2021; put another way, that with a TAC of this level there is a 94% probability that the stock will be overfished in 2021. The UK regrets that CPCs must choose between this unsatisfactory measure on the one hand, and on the other the prospect of no measure at all and an unregulated fishery in 2021. The UK does however welcome the fact that 608C includes text (to replace the current paragraph 4 of Rec. 17-06) which commits the Commission in its 2021 meeting to adopting significantly lower TACs for 2022 and 2023, which would bring the probability of not overfishing closer to more acceptable levels over the three year period, unless it decides otherwise based on new SCRS advice.

During the course of discussions, the UK noted the SCRS view that there are grounds to provide a better estimate of the population of the WBFT stock through a new stock assessment in 2021, with minimal disruption to the wider work of the SCRS, and in particular to the MSE process. With these assurances, and the helpful clarifications sought and received by other CPCs, the UK does not oppose the inclusion in 608C of the request for a stock assessment in 2021.

Taking these factors into account, acknowledging the challenges associated with decision-making by correspondence, and recognising the clear need as responsible parties to ICCAT to ensure there is no lapse in a measure being in place for WBFT in 2021, the UK will not block consensus on PA2-608C.

Appendix 30 to ANNEX 8

Statement by the United States to Panel 2 – Round 2

The United States notes that some of its edits to northern albacore proposals PA2-606A and 607A were not accepted. We maintain that Panel 2 will need to consider *all* relevant SCRS input in 2021 and have slightly revised edits to both proposals as well as a small edit to ensure consistency between the two proposals. The United States previously questioned the *pro rata* allocation of the TAC increase, especially its application to small harvesters and Japan's soft bycatch limit; this would be a novel approach for ICCAT. However, given the Chair's clarifications in PA2-616, the challenges of correspondence decision-making, and understanding that the approaches in these one-year measures do not set a precedent for our decisions in 2021, we can go along with PA2-606A and PA2-607A with our edits included.

Unfortunately, we are still not in a position to agree to the EBFT proposal. The Commission's agreed approach was to extend measures for one year; thus, a decision on the 2022 TAC should be deferred to next year. As the SCRS will review EBFT stock indicators next year but not provide quantitative TAC advice, we also continue to consider that 36,000 t should be specified as an upper limit for the 2022 TAC. We respectfully offer our edits to the Chair's proposal again and request they be taken onboard. Regarding Korea and Chinese Taipei's request to reinstate their quota transfer provision (Paragraph 5), we disagree with the Chair that this provision is not necessary to include in PA2-609A in light of Rec. 19-04, paragraph 10. Because that paragraph does not explicitly derogate from Rec. 01-12, which requires Commission authorization of temporary quota transfers, Korea and Chinese Taipei are correct that they will need authorizing language in PA2-609A.

The U.S. WBFT proposal (PA2-610) did not propose a TAC; given the range of scientific advice provided, we preferred to wait to hear the views of other CPCs. Unfortunately, this unprecedented year has made it virtually impossible to have meaningful negotiations. After two rounds of correspondence, a divergence of views remains. The Chair has worked diligently to find a path forward that is in line with the scientific advice and that everyone can live with. The SCRS provided a number of management scenarios for the three-year projection period that address overfishing with at least a 50% probability. Given the varying positions expressed by CPCs, the Chair made a thoughtful revised proposal that includes following scenario 3 as a way forward for this year under the current challenging circumstances. The Chair's revised proposal also incorporates a stock assessment in 2021, as originally proposed by the United States. We recognize that this is not the usual way ICCAT operates, nor should it become the norm. But in this very specific case, it is wholly appropriate given the legitimate and specific scientific issues identified intersessionally by the SCRS Bluefin Tuna Technical Sub-Group on Abundance Indices and confirmed by the SCRS Chair during the correspondence period. We also noted the SCRS Chair's definitive confirmation that the SCRS can carry out this assessment in 2021 without derailing progress on the bluefin tuna MSE or other SCRS activities. While there are some aspects of the Chair's proposal that need adjustment, particularly as this is, as previously agreed by the Commission, a one-year measure, we believe it provides a good basis for efforts to reach consensus in the limited time available to us. With a view to advancing that consensus, we have submitted specific edits to the Chair's proposal separately for consideration.

Appendix 31 to ANNEX 8

Statement by the United States to Panel 2 – Round 3

The United States would like to thank the Panel 2 Chair for his leadership on bluefin tuna and northern albacore issues during what has been an extraordinarily challenging correspondence process. This process could not support the extent of discussions we normally have when we meet face-to-face, and, without the Chair's leadership, the ability of the Panel to find ways forward on the large number of important Panel 2 issues would have been in jeopardy. For western Atlantic bluefin tuna, in particular, the Chair's proposal (PA2-608C) was instrumental in finding a compromise approach that ensures there is no gap in management and that measures reflect the most current science, based on the SCRS management scenario 3, while recognizing that a new stock assessment is needed in 2021 in light of the legitimate scientific issues identified after the 2020 assessment - issues that could have an important impact on the Commission's understanding of the stock status. At the same time, the proposal ensures that the important work of SCRS on bluefin tuna management strategy evaluation will not be negatively impacted by the new assessment, and it ensures the remaining management measures in Rec. 17-06 will continue. These elements, taken together, make an acceptable, if not perfect, package for managing the fishery in the near-term. For the Chair's compromise proposal to be acceptable, flexibility by all CPCs was required. We appreciate the spirit of cooperation shown during this unprecedented and difficult time. We look forward to a return to an in-person annual meeting in 2021 where we will consider the conservation and management of bluefin tuna and northern albacore once again.

Appendix 32 to ANNEX 8**Statement by Chinese Taipei to Panel 2 on Northern Albacore Proposals – Round 2**

Chinese Taipei has carefully read the two proposals on northern albacore and the letter from the Chair of Panel 2 as circulated in ICCAT Circular #7595/2020. Indeed, the allocation of TAC among CPCs has always been a major issue that needs discussion in detail. However, considering the exceptional circumstances that we are facing this year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, a pro-rata increase of the allocations, catch limits for small harvesters, and bycatch tolerance for Japan across the board in 2021 will be the most pragmatic way forward. This issue, together with others such as the consolidation of Rec. 16-06 and Rec.17-04, could be further deliberated at the 2021 annual meeting.

In light of the foregoing, Chinese Taipei supports the Chair's proposals on northern albacore (PA2_606A and PA2_607A).

Appendix 33 to ANNEX 8**Statement by Chinese Taipei to Panel 2 on Northern Albacore Quota Transfer – Round 3**

Regarding the proposed transfer of northern albacore (NALB) quota between Chinese Taipei and Belize for 2021, Chinese Taipei supports the insertion of relevant text into the Recommendation, as reflected in PA2-607C, should the said NALB transfer be approved by the Commission.

Chinese Taipei would also like to thank Panel 2 Chair and United States for taking into account the request and further amending the draft proposal at this point in time.

Appendix 34 to ANNEX 8**Statement by Pew Charitable Trusts to Panel 2 – Round 1**

Despite the cancellation of this year's Commission meeting, Panel 2 has a number of critical conservation and management decisions to consider via correspondence over the coming weeks. While this format is new to the Commission, a number of previously agreed measures provide members with a firm basis and clear-cut path forward for these decisions, including Rec. 11-13 on the principles of decision making, Rec. 15-12 on the precautionary approach, and stock management Recommendations for northern albacore and Atlantic bluefin. Additionally, following the ICCAT Chair's directive, the PA2 Chair has taken the initiative to submit four proposals that address essential business and are in line with these commitments.

The Pew Charitable Trusts strongly urges PA2 members to support each of the Chair's proposals. Specifically, PA2 should:

- Apply the harvest control rule (HCR) for northern albacore (NALB) by adopting a 12.5% increase in the TAC to 37,801 t. This increase is based on application of the results from the 2020 NALB stock assessment to the reference points defined in the HCR. The ability to apply the HCR in a straightforward way during an otherwise difficult year for fisheries management underscores one of the key benefits of managing ICCAT stocks in this way – allowing a TAC increase without negotiation. PA2 should adopt the Chair proposals PA2_606 and PA2_607 to implement this increase.
- Reduce the TAC for western bluefin tuna to 1,785 t to give a nearly 60% chance of ending overfishing in 2021. The western stock has been subject to overfishing since 2018, and Rec. 11- 13 requires overfishing to be ended with “high probability in as short a time as possible.” Western bluefin requires emergency action this year and a rollover of the existing TAC would not be an acceptable way forward for ICCAT, since it would lead to continued overfishing in 2021 with almost complete certainty. As such, PA2 should follow the lead of the Chair and adopt PA2_608 to prevent overfishing in 2021.

- The only other western bluefin proposal under consideration is from the United States (PA2-610), and this proposal is concerning in that it fails to propose a TAC that would end overfishing. It also calls for a western assessment in 2021, which is counter to the SCRS advice to convene the next assessment in 2022 and the SCRS practice of concurrent eastern and western assessments. Furthermore, the SCRS already has multiple assessments scheduled for 2021, and there is not adequate justification to divert resources to another western bluefin assessment just one year later. It would be beneficial to the work of the Commission, if the U.S. were to withdraw its proposal and enable consensus on the Chair’s proposal, PA2_608.
- Follow the advice of SCRS scientists and adopt a measure for East Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin that maintains the TAC at 36,000 t per year in 2021 and 2022. PA2 should adopt the Chair’s proposal PA2_609 to maintain the TAC at current levels and should continue to support the development of management strategy evaluation for both bluefin stocks.
- Schedule a PA2 intersessional meeting for late summer or fall 2021 to:
 - Make final recommendations for the expansion of the northern albacore HCR into a comprehensive management procedure (MP), including exceptional circumstances.
 - Advance the management strategy evaluation process for Atlantic bluefin tuna, including by providing feedback on preliminary candidate MP results and finalizing operational management objectives for bluefin management.

Appendix 35 to ANNEX 8

Statement by Pew Charitable Trusts to Panel 2 – Round 3

The Pew Charitable Trusts is pleased that issues related to east Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin and north Atlantic albacore management have been largely resolved by Panel 2. However, we remain highly concerned regarding western bluefin tuna negotiations and the ongoing threat of adoption of a TAC associated with a 94% chance of overfishing in 2021. Such a measure would be the opposite of precautionary.

When ICCAT decided to abandon its 20-year biomass-based, rebuilding plan for western bluefin in 2017 in favor of an F0.1 approach, it was clear that to be effective, this strategy would require raising and lowering the TAC in response to good or bad recruitment classes, or other factors outside managers’ control. ICCAT demonstrated its comfort with this approach when it immediately increased the TAC in response to a relatively positive assessment in 2017, and it should have a similarly rapid response to the concerning assessment this year. Since fishing mortality can be directly managed, this system does not allow for phased reductions in catch in order to be at or below the F0.1 level. Thus, we commend those governments calling for an immediate reduction of the TAC to 1785t for 2021, having a nearly 60% likelihood of ending overfishing. These CPCs are honoring ICCAT’s commitment to science, not short-term quota implications, as the driver of management decisions.

Regarding the table of western bluefin TAC scenarios provided to the Commission by the SCRS, we respectively disagree with the Panel 2 Chair’s characterization that each row of the table is the scientists’ advice. The SCRS was specifically asked by the Chair of the Commission to assess the consequences of rolling over the current measure. That line of the table (i.e., Scenario 3) should not be assumed to be their advice but instead a response to the Commission. Additionally, that response demonstrates what would be required in years two and three to end overfishing and return to the F0.1 strategy. But the current proposal, PA2-608B, only includes a TAC for 2021 with no indication how the 2022 TAC would be chosen, and thus no consequence for abandoning the F0.1 strategy.

Pew strongly urges Panel 2 members to seriously consider the wide-reaching implications of their decision on the western bluefin tuna TAC. A decision by the Commission to allow for near certain overfishing of western bluefin next year would be a failure of management, jeopardizing not only the status of this population but undermining the years of hard work and sacrifice by the Commission and industry to rebuild the bluefin tuna’s reputation in the market.

This ongoing lack of consensus on a sustainable path forward for western bluefin management next year also highlights the urgent need for a more precautionary, predictable and stable approach to management. And the ease with which albacore TAC discussions have been agreed by Panel 2 in a virtual setting this year underscores the advantages of a harvest strategies approach. It is therefore imperative that Panel 2 also adopts a TAC this week for 2022, when the management strategy evaluation (MSE) is scheduled to be completed and a management procedure (MP) will be adopted. Then, if ICCAT sticks to its schedule, the MP can be used to set a TAC in 2023 that best achieves the Commission's agreed management objectives for western bluefin while, while preventing the serious impasse the Commission is now experiencing.

Appendix 36 to ANNEX 8

Statement by WWF to Panel 2 – Round 1

WWF recognizes the constraints that the ICCAT CPCs and Secretariat must face with the global pandemic that made it impossible to run a physical meeting of the Commission and determined the cancellation or postponement of several other important meetings in agenda, including the SCRS annual meeting this year. Despite the unprecedented conditions, we urge CPCs to address the following urgent issues with no further delay in 2020.

Atlantic bluefin tuna

The 2020 stock assessment showed that recent recruitments of the western stock of bluefin tuna are lower than those estimated in 2017. The biomass is estimated to have unexpectedly declined by 11,7% in three years (2018-2020). A roll-over of Recommendation 17-06, maintaining the same level of catches of 2,350 t is therefore expected to maintain the status of overfishing, heading to a dangerous situation of decline for this stock.

WWF strongly recommends members of PA2 to agree on urgent measures to end overfishing and reverse the declining trend of the western stock of Atlantic bluefin tuna. According to scientific advice TAC should be decreased at least to 1,785 t to deliver a probability to end overfishing with nearly 60% of probabilities by 2021.

Proposals to improve control and traceability measures for the trade of live East Atlantic and Mediterranean stock of bluefin tuna were delayed due to the impact that the Pandemic had on the ICCAT agenda. WWF urges the members of Panel 2 to agree intersessionally on a set of ambitious amendments of ICCAT Rec. 19-04 to be presented to the ICCAT Commission in 2021.

The update of the stock assessment in 2020 did not provide reliable information on which the SCRS could base TAC advice for 2021. Uncertainties around the model used to estimate biomass were considered even higher than in 2017. Although the stock size indices confirmed an increase in the biomass and the stock not being overfished, considering the high uncertainties and the unknown magnitude of IUU catches that the SCRS recognized to be still happening and both affecting the assessment, WWF supports the Chair proposal and urges CPCs to follow scientific advice and not increase the current Total Allowable Catches (36,000 t) for 2021 and 2022.

Appendix 37 to ANNEX 8

Statement by Belize to the Chair of Panel 3 – Round 2

Belize would like to thank the Chair for the proposal outlined in Doc. No. PA3-701/20 to extend the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Southern Albacore Catch Limits for the Period 2017 to 2020* [Rec. 16-07] on South Atlantic Albacore Catch Limits which was due to expire in 2020 to 2021; and express our support for the adoption of this proposal.

Belize would also like to express its intention to carry over our underage in 2019 to 2021 in accordance with Paragraph 4(a) of Rec. 16-07. Since Belize's underage for 2019 exceeded 25% of its initial quota allocation of 250 t, Belize would like to carry forward 62.5 t of its underages in 2019 to 2021.

Furthermore, Belize would also like to request to be considered for allocation of any remaining underage in accordance with paragraph 4(b) and/or (c) of Rec. 16-07 as appropriate to complement our initial quota allocation.

Appendix 38 to ANNEX 8

Statement by the European Union to Panel 3 – Round 2

The EU supports Panel 3 Chair's proposal on southern albacore to extend the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Southern Albacore Catch Limits for the Period 2017 to 2020* (Rec. 16-07) for one year to 2021. The EU understands that it means all the conservation and management measures applicable in 2020 will continue to be applied in 2021.

Taking this opportunity and responding to the request made by the Chair (Document PA3-702), the EU informs, in accordance with paragraph 4a) and b) of the Rec. 16-07, that it will carry over the underage of its 2019 quota to 2021. The underage of 2019 is 1755,77 t. However, since according to Rec. 16-07 the maximum amount of carry-over allowed is 25% of the initial quota (1470,00 t), 367, 50 t (25% of 1470,00 t) will be transferred to 2021.

Appendix 39 to ANNEX 8

Statement by Japan Related to Belize's Statement to Panel 3 – Round 2

I'm writing with regard to the statement by Belize (Document PA3-705). While it notifies a transfer of its underage from 2019 to 2021 with the amount of 25% of its initial quota; they also request further allocation from the remaining underage of other CPCs in accordance with paragraphs 4(b) and (c) of Rec. 16-07. Belize seems to be requesting a carry forward of more than 25% of its initial quota in 2019.

I was involved in the negotiation to establish this Recommendation and my understanding is a bit different from that of Belize. In my view, paragraphs 4(b) and (c) are applicable only when the carry-over from the CPC's own underage is less than 25% of its initial, quota. For example, if a CPC has used 90% of the initial allocation, that CPC can carry over 10%, but it can request additional 15% if underage is available in accordance with these paras. Since Belize's underage in 2019 is more than 25% of its initial catch limit and Belize will transfer the underage to the maximum degree possible, paragraphs 4(b) and (c) do not apply in this case.

I must admit that paragraphs 4(b) and (c) of Rec. 16-07 are very complicated and misleading, and I may be wrong. Therefore, I would appreciate it if you could clarify this point or seek the views of other Panel 3 members if necessary.

Appendix 40 to ANNEX 8

Statement by Namibia to Panel 3 – Round 2

Namibia supports the proposal by the chair of Panel 3 proposal on Southern Albacore to extend Rec. 16-07 for one year to 2021 and all the conservation and management measures active in 2020 will be simply applied in 2021.

Namibia wants to register our intention, in accordance with paragraph 4a) and b) of Rec. 16-07, that we will carry over our underage of our 2019 quota to 2021.

The underage of 2019 is 2,633.50t. However, since the maximum amount of carry-over is 25% of the original quota (3,600t), 900t (25% of 3,600t) will be transferred to 2021.

Appendix 41 to ANNEX 8

Statement by South Africa to Panel 3 – Round 2

I hope this correspondence finds you well in what has been a challenging year for not only South Africa but also all other Member States in the important work in managing and conserving Atlantic tunas and other marine related species.

South Africa supports Panel 3 Chair's proposal on Southern Atlantic Albacore tuna, i.e., to extend the ICCAT Recommendation 16-07 (Rec. 16-07) or one year to 2021 (PA3-701), including all the current Conservation and Management Measures contained therein.

In accordance with ICCAT Circular 7324/2020, South Africa would also like to inform the Secretariat that in accordance with paragraph 4a) and b) of Rec. 16-07, that it will carry over the underage of its 2019 quota to be fished during the 2021 fishing season. The underage of 2019 is 1097.13 t.

Appendix 42 to ANNEX 8

Statement by Canada to Panel 4 – Round 2

Canada would like to thank the Chair of Panel 4 for his work to try to find common ground between the various proposals submitted this year to support the conservation of North Atlantic Shortfin Mako sharks (nSMA). We would also like to thank the co-sponsors of PA4-806 – Senegal, the United Kingdom, Chinese Taipei, and Gabon – for their support as well as other CPCs and the many observer organizations who made statements to Panel 4 in support of a retention ban on nSMA.

Canada continues to support a policy of non-retention for this species in ICCAT, taking into account the advice of the Standing Committee Research and Statistics (SCRS) that the exceptions in Rec. 17-08 that allow for the retention of some caught shortfin mako will not permit the recovery of the northern stock by 2070 (SCRS Annual Report 2019). Domestically we have enacted a ban on retention of shortfin mako in our ICCAT longline fisheries.

We agree with other CPCs, including the proponents of the other SMA proposals for 2020, that a retention ban alone will not reduce mortality enough to allow the stock to recover. We would certainly support the Commission and the SCRS exploring other best practices like time and area closures, gear modifications, and improved handling practices in order to reduce bycatch and improve post-release survival. Nevertheless, these measures are not a substitute for a ban on retention, and will take time to research and implement.

Canada also appreciates the Chair's suggestion that if consensus cannot be achieved here, interested CPCs could work together between now and the proposed intersessional meeting of Panel 4 in July 2021 to make progress on areas of agreement. We are prepared to work with other CPCs on complementary measures between now and July, and look forward to arriving at the intersessional meeting having made progress beyond our current situation.

Appendix 43 to ANNEX 8

Statement by the European Union Following the Submission of Draft Proposals PA4-805 and PA4-806 (Northern Shortfin Mako)– Round 1

The European Union has carefully analysed proposals PA4-805 (US) and PA4-806 (Canada) regarding northern shortfin mako sharks. In addition to the EU proposal (PA4-804), these initiatives reflect the commitment of ICCAT CPCs to proactively address the current situation of the stock.

The European Union is in agreement with the views expressed by the US that a retention ban will not address the core issue related to the need to reduce fishing mortality, for the reasons already provided in the explanatory note to proposal PA4-804. Instead, it will be necessary to adopt a more comprehensive approach and to continue seeking scientific and operational information in order to identify increasingly efficient measures to reduce mortality rates, for example through the avoidance of encounters of shortfin mako by the fleets.

It is also important to underline that the Canadian proposal restricts a potential retention ban to CPCs without a landing obligation. Aside from unfairly penalising the fishermen by making illegal the sale of fish caught already dead and without this offering any conservation benefits, this retention ban would therefore not be applicable to the EU fleets, which are managed in the context of the Common Fisheries Policy and are subject to a landing obligation. It is therefore surprising and incoherent for some observers to, on the one hand express their concerns about the scale of the catches by the EU (although these catches have been reduced by in excess of 900 t in 2 years, accounting for over 70% of the catch reduction in ICCAT), while at the same time supporting a retention ban which would not apply to the EU fleets. This raises questions about the real objectives of such a policy and particularly about the long-term impacts that this would have for the activities of all longline fisheries in ICCAT.

Regarding proposal PA4-805, the European Union continues to have reservations regarding the reference to the compulsory use of circle hooks, especially in the context of the existing evidence that they result in higher catches of shortfin mako sharks. The explanations provided by the US remain speculative and further work is required by SCRS to fully establish the pros and cons of such gear before an informed decision can be taken on whether it should be rolled out for all ICCAT longline fisheries. In addition, the use of monofilament leaders is relevant in only a restricted number of fisheries and for example would not be a viable option for the fleets for which blue sharks are an important component of the overall catches. A recent meta-analysis study¹, presented at the Sub-Committee on ecosystems, provides support to the above considerations. Finally, considering the dire situation of the stock and the urgent need to take action, it seems odd to suggest that some operators should be allowed to continue to deliberately kill northern shortfin mako and the EU would find it difficult to support such an exemption.

Despite the concerns expressed above, which currently prevent the European Union from supporting proposals PA4-805 and PA4-806, we would be keen to work with both Canada and the US, as well as any other CPCs, to improve the current management measures for northern shortfin mako. In particular, the EU believes that it is urgent to adopt catch limits ending overfishing in 2021.

Appendix 44 to ANNEX 8

Statement by the European Union on Panel 4 - Round 2

The European Union would like to thank the Chair of Panel 4 for his efforts in seeking consensus between the three proposals tabled this year in relation to northern shortfin mako. Despite these efforts, it has so far not been possible to find a solution to the current impasse between the different approaches foreseen. The European Union is particularly disappointed by this lack of progress as it increasingly looks like the current measures will be rolled over for another year, while additional action is required to rebuild the stock.

This lack of progress would not reflect well on ICCAT or on its ability to manage shark fisheries in the future. In this particular case, ICCAT's difficulties to make progress are a direct result of the polarisation of the positions around the issue of a compulsory retention ban which has been wrongly presented as the only solution to the current situation, although this assertion does not stand up to closer scrutiny. A full retention ban, might give the perception that strong action had been taken but the reality would be very different since it would not lead to less mortality, except on paper, as dead fish would merely be returned to the sea, and the problem hidden. Instead, the European Union strongly believes that ICCAT CPCs must use their common experience and expertise to agree on a set of management measures to deliver an effective and comprehensive plan for rebuilding of the stock of northern shortfin mako.

¹ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/da6d2ad9-1418-11eb-b57e-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-167066032>

Despite the current lack of progress and the impossibility to agree on a long-term plan this year with the limited time left, the European Union believes that the current measures are insufficient and that ICCAT can and should improve them already this year for the benefits of the stock even if a more long-term plan needs to be adopted next year. Without pre-judging possible future discussions, we therefore propose to adopt one-year interim rebuilding measures, which would include ending exemptions (paragraph 3 and 4 under the Recommendation 19-06) and introducing a TAC to end overfishing, while programming intersessional work to continue improving the management framework for shortfin mako.

We are aware of the limitations of this interim approach, including the need for the TAC to account for total mortality and the EU had in fact proposed in its draft recommendation for SCRS to be tasked with advising managers on this so the TAC could be adapted as necessary. However, we also believe that there is a scope for the fleets to further avoid shortfin mako, as recent catch figures strongly suggest, and for the TAC to therefore become a valuable tool to help rebuilding the stock. The criticism directed at a TAC approach from the proponents of a retention ban is in part justified by assuming that it would not account for full mortality. Apart from the fact that a process is actually already foreseen in our proposal for taking account of all mortality, no-one has so far been able to provide a valid explanation on how mortality would be reduced when fish under a retention ban would simply be discarded at sea.

The European Union confirms here its commitment to continue working towards this objective and urge all CPCs to be constructive and to avoid a simple roll-over of the current measures. We are convinced that this is still possible if everyone accepts to compromise on modifying the existing measure for one year so that it at least would take a step towards ending overfishing and thus bring us closer to the common goal of rebuilding the stock.

Appendix 45 to ANNEX 8

Statement by Gabon to Panel 4 - Round 2

A shortfin mako shark stock assessment was held in 2019. The results showed that the stock is currently overfished and overfishing is occurring. To that end, the advice from the SCRS was to ban the retention of shortfin mako sharks on board ensuring the recovery of this stock. It is in this context, during the Commission meeting in Palma de Mallorca, Gabon supported the proposal of Senegal, reflecting the advice of the SCRS.

This year the SCRS renewed the advice given in 2019. Faced with this situation, it is the Commission's task to adopt management measures to guarantee the recovery of the threatened stocks, shortfin mako shark, in particular.

For its part, Gabon, concerned with the state of the stock, supports the proposal PA4-806: *Draft recommendation by ICCAT on conservation of Atlantic shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries*, of Canada, Senegal and the United Kingdom, who follow the advice of the SCRS. Furthermore, Gabon Would like to co-sponsor this proposal and invites other CPCs to support this proposal.

Appendix 46 to ANNEX 8

Statement by Morocco to Panel 4 Regarding the Draft Recommendations on Shortfin Mako - Round 1

Morocco is concerned about the state of the shortfin mako stock and participates, along with other ICCAT CPCs, in the collective efforts to preserve and protect this species. Shortfin mako is not a species targeted by Moroccan fleets but is taken as bycatch in other ICCAT fisheries. Morocco has ensured a reduction in catches of the species in 2020 and has strengthened the scientific monitoring and traceability measures implemented for the species, in accordance with ICCAT and CITES recommendations (inclusion of the species in Appendix II).

Notwithstanding, it should be noted that it has not been possible to hold the intersessional meeting of Panel 4 due to current health context, and that there is a lack of indicators on the state of the stock in 2020, taking into account that the latest available data on this species are those of the 2017 assessment,

updated by the SCRS. Also, the Sharks Species Group concentrated in 2020 on the porbeagle stock assessments. No additional information on shortfin mako has been provided. The SCRS recommended that the Commission adopt a non-retention policy without exception in the North Atlantic for shortfin mako as in 2019.

On account of the foregoing, and of the difficulties encountered even during the in-person meeting in 2019 (2019 ICCAT Commission Meeting in Palma) regarding agreement on the proposals submitted by different CPCs, Morocco has concerns regarding the effectiveness of discussions and agreement by correspondence in relation to the draft recommendations submitted by the EU, the United States, Canada and Senegal for agreement and implementation of a shortfin mako recovery programme. Morocco thanks these CPCs for their proposals, but considers that the discussions on a shortfin mako recovery plan should be commenced at a later date during an in-person meeting.

In our opinion, the requests expressed by some CPCs in their draft recommendations for the SCRS to advise on spatio-temporal identification of nursery areas and areas of high concentration of shortfin mako in the North Atlantic, on identification of permanent or seasonal bycatch areas, and on the issue of whether space-time closures would be useful to reduce encounter and mortality rates, warrant particular attention.

We also think that zero catch proposal for shortfin mako will not reduce the mortality levels of this stock but, to the contrary, will lead to an increase in discards of this species.

Taking into account the arguments put forward, Morocco recommends extension of the recommendation in force (Rec. 19-06) on shortfin mako for 2021

Appendix 47 to ANNEX 8

Statement by Senegal to Panel 4 on Protection of Shortfin Mako - Round 1

Senegal takes note of the Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Conservation of Atlantic Shortfin Mako Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries, submitted by Canada, and previously discussed as PA4-805C/2019, but not adopted by the Commission at its regular meeting in 2019, in Palma de Mallorca.

The dire situation of shortfin mako in the North Atlantic, in particular, must be addressed by the Commission with courage and responsibility, by taking adequate management measures that are consistent with SCRS recommendations. SCRS advice is irrevocable and unambiguous: the North Atlantic stock is overfished and experiencing overfishing, and the South Atlantic stock is exposed to the same risk.

Senegal endorses Canada's proposal and supports the introduction of non-retention for the North Atlantic shortfin mako stock and a TAC of 2001 t for the South Atlantic shortfin mako stock.

My country wishes to co-sponsor Canada's proposal and invites the Commission to adopt it.

Appendix 48 to ANNEX 8

Statement by the United Kingdom to Panel 4 on Shortfin Mako - Round 1

In 2019 the SCRS reported that the overfished North Atlantic shortfin mako stock is subject to continued overfishing and a substantial reduction in fishing mortality is needed to begin rebuilding. Noting this advice, which reflects that the status of the stock is very poor, the UK was extremely disappointed that a strong measure was not agreed at the 2019 annual meeting.

Recommendation 19-06 states that '[t]he Commission, at its 2020 annual meeting, shall adopt a new management recommendation for North Atlantic shortfin mako, taking into account the scientific advice from the SCRS and the results of the 2020 Panel 4 intersessional meeting, in order to establish a rebuilding plan with a high probability of avoiding overfishing and rebuilding the stock to BMSY within a timeframe that takes into account the biology of the stock.'

Despite the extraordinary circumstances, ICCAT's priority business continues and we now have an opportunity for Parties to align with the SCRS advice and adopt much needed strong measures for shortfin mako management. Noting that the SCRS reiterates its advice to the Commission from 2019, the UK considers that a retention ban with no exemptions is the most appropriate course of action.

The UK is therefore in support of the proposal on North Atlantic shortfin mako submitted by Canada and Senegal (Ref. PA4-806: Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Conservation of Atlantic Shortfin Mako Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries) and wishes to become a co-sponsor of that proposal.

Appendix 49 to ANNEX 8

Statement by the United Kingdom to Panel 4 - Round 2

The UK would like to thank the Chair of Panel 4 for his efforts to mediate between the three proposals tabled this year relating to the northern Atlantic shortfin mako stock. We also thank CPCs for their contributions to the discussions so far. However, the UK is extremely disappointed that we have not yet been able to reach consensus in line with the scientific advice for this critical management measure.

The UK would like to reiterate the comments made in its previous statement on this matter (PA4-806). The only proposal which adheres to the clear advice provided by the SCRS - a full ban on retention - is that put forward by Canada, Senegal, Chinese Taipei, Gabon and the UK.

CPCs agreed at ICCAT last year (Rec. 19-06) that there is an urgent need to adopt a new management recommendation for this stock. In its 2019 updated assessment the SCRS stated that the stock will continue to decline until 2035, and that the exceptions that currently allow for the retention of some caught shortfin mako, if allowed to remain in place, mean the stock will not recover until at least 2070. Therefore, the most effective, simple and immediate measure to stop overfishing and achieve rebuilding (with over a 50% probability by 2040) is a complete prohibition of retention.

The UK notes the merit of additional measures that, on top of a retention ban, could further reduce incidental mortality, such as bycatch mitigation measures, gear restrictions, safe handling and best practice for the release of live shortfin mako. Acknowledging the different views among CPCs on the use of circle hooks, the UK suggests that a clear SCRS assessment of the impact and scale of their effects on shortfin mako capture and mortality would be helpful. As the current data is inconclusive, the UK cannot support their mandatory use at this stage. A similar assessment may be helpful with regard to wire leaders. However, the UK would again stress its view that agreeing any such additional measures should be separate to agreeing an immediate retention ban.

The UK believes there is still time to reach agreement as part of the current correspondence process. To that end the UK urges CPCs who supported the proposal for a retention ban last year to come forward once again and show their support, and appeals to all other CPCs who have not yet communicated their position on this issue to do so as soon as possible. To fail to act now would mean that the necessary protection, crucial to the long-term health of the northern Atlantic stock of shortfin mako, will not be in place for yet another year.

Appendix 50 to ANNEX 8

Statement by the United States to Panel 4 - Round 1

The United States notes that, due to at-vessel and post-release mortality, a simple no-retention requirement is not expected to reduce mortality enough to stop overfishing and rebuild the North Atlantic shortfin mako shark stock. In the 2019 Panel 4 sessions, the SCRS Vice Chair stated that a simple no-retention policy alone would likely still result in substantial mortality and that other changes to fishing practices would be needed to sufficiently reduce mortality. Similarly, a TAC and allocations, particularly without gear modifications or changes in fishing practices, will not effectively reduce catches of North Atlantic shortfin mako, inclusive of dead discards, and bring mortality in line with scientific advice.

The U.S. proposal seeks to comprehensively address the threats facing North Atlantic shortfin mako by reducing mortality to ensure rebuilding, while allowing for management practices that best achieve the necessary mortality reductions within the context of discrete fisheries. Under the U.S. proposal, an initial requirement for no retention across the board (similar to the approach proposed by Canada) is coupled with science-based reductions in individual CPC catches, as well as gear modifications (nylon monofilament leaders and large circle hooks in longline fisheries) and best practices for safe handling and release of sharks. This approach is designed to reduce both at-haulback and post-release mortality - mortality that is not addressed by other proposals under discussion - and offers the best approach to achieve SCRS recommended mortality reductions. The efficacy of such measures, if well implemented, has been demonstrated in U.S. fisheries (for information on how the United States has achieved reductions of shortfin mako mortality in excess of those required by PA4-805 “Draft recommendation by ICCAT to establish a rebuilding program for north Atlantic shortfin mako sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries”, see PA4-807, the U.S. paper on “Best practices for reducing total mortality of North Atlantic shortfin mako sharks”. Under the U.S. approach, CPCs would be responsible for achieving their required reductions and keeping their overall mortality at the specified, scientifically based level, with flexibility to allow some retention once they have met their obligation to reduce mortality to or below that level. Until these mortality reductions are met, however, the no retention requirement would apply.

Appendix 51 to ANNEX 8

Statement by the United States to Panel 4 - Round 2

The United States has had the pleasure of a number of discussions with Panel 4 members and the Panel 4 Chair regarding the need to advance the conservation of the North Atlantic shortfin mako stock. As part of this effort, the United States offered a proposed rebuilding program, PA4_805, as well as an informational paper, PA4_807, on Best Practices. The latter explained how, in 2019, the United States achieved a mortality reduction in excess of 80% in its fisheries through full compliance with the requirements of Rec. 19-06. Consistent with that recommendation, we ensure live release by all U.S. pelagic longline vessels, regardless of the size of the vessel, and we confirm the mortality status of North Atlantic shortfin mako at haulback by requiring observers and 100% electronic monitoring on the fleet. For our recreational fishery, we established a large minimum size limit. Beyond these ICCAT requirements, we require the use of circle hooks in both commercial and recreational fisheries. Other ‘best practices,’ such as monofilament leaders and safe handling and release techniques, are used in these U.S. fisheries as well.

The United States is unaware of any other CPC that has achieved a mortality reduction in their fisheries of this magnitude.

Furthermore, the mortality reduction accomplished as a result of our suite of measures exceeds the level identified by the SCRS as necessary to end overfishing and begin rebuilding - and, notably, it was accomplished without the application of a TAC or requiring a strict no retention policy. U.S. fisheries represent only a small portion of overall fishing mortality on the stock, however, and strong action by other CPCs is critical to ending overfishing and rebuilding shortfin mako. By following this proven model, we believe that other CPCs can achieve comparable mortality reductions in their fisheries and achieve the objective that each of us has been charged with, namely to immediately end overfishing and to rebuild this stock.

The United States is disappointed that the discussions among the proponents of the shortfin mako proposals have not yet been able to achieve consensus. Thus, after careful consideration of the many important points raised in these discussions, the United States has concluded that action should be taken without delay to implement an approach that focuses on the responsibility that each CPC has to reduce its own mortality consistent with the goals of Rec. 19-06. We must still respectfully point out that the proposals offered by other Panel 4 members do not adequately or equitably achieve the conservation goals articulated by the SCRS. The United States, therefore, strongly urges CPCs to implement the provisions of Rec. 19-06, and, specifically to adopt this “Best Practices” model during this correspondence process.

In doing so, ICCAT would be on a clear path to meet mortality reduction goals and achieve the objective to end overfishing and begin to rebuild this stock in line with the ICCAT Convention. The United States is certainly committed to consult with other CPCs on how they, too, can best implement those measures in their fisheries to achieve needed mortality reductions.

If CPCs choose not to follow the U.S. approach, their individual obligation nevertheless remains under Rec. 19-06 to reduce mortality to a level that will stop overfishing and begin rebuilding the stock. To achieve this will require proportional reductions from all CPCs of greater than 80% from the pre-assessment (2017) catch levels. Lack of consensus on a new measure this year does not in any way diminish this standing obligation.

We would also stress that it is essential for all CPCs to report fully on their implementation of Rec. 19-06, particularly through the shark implementation check sheet. We note that a number of CPCs did not submit updated check sheets this year with this information. Next year, review of this information should be a priority area for the COC. It is similarly essential that all CPCs report accurate data on landings and discards under Task I, as well as in their observer data.

Appendix 52 to ANNEX 8

Statement by Chinese Taipei to Panel 4 - Round 2

Chinese Taipei would like to firstly begin by expressing its appreciation to Panel 4 Chair for trying to find a way to converge the 3 proposals on northern Atlantic shortfin mako (N-SMA). It is a pity that no consensus has been reached so far.

The SCRS has recommended that, to accelerate the rate of recovery and to increase the probability of success, the Commission adopt a non-retention policy without exception in the North Atlantic. It is also worth noting that, in the range of TAC projected, a zero TAC will allow the stock to be in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot by 2045 with a 53% probability, yet a TAC of 500 t, including dead discards, has only a 52% probability of rebuilding the stock to the green quadrant in 2070. The projections also indicated that lower TACs achieve rebuilding in shorter timeframes, but regardless of the TAC, the stock will continue to decline until 2035 before any biomass increases can occur, which clearly shows the dire stock status of N-SMA.

Bearing in mind the SCRS recommendations and after carefully reading the 3 proposals submitted respectively by the European Union (PA4-804), the United States (PA4-805), as well as Canada, Senegal, and United Kingdom (PA4-806), Chinese Taipei supports PA4-806, which is the one that follows the scientific advice, and wishes to be a co-sponsor of that proposal. It is hoped that a direct and straightforward measure that pays heed to the SCRS advice could be adopted in time to rebuild the declining N-SMA.

Appendix 53 to ANNEX 8

Statement by Associação de Ciências Marinhas e Cooperação (SCIAENA) to Panel 4 - Round 1

The cancellation of this year's Commission meeting will limit very much the scope of the discussions that will take place. Nevertheless, Panel 4 will have the responsibility to host some of the most significant debates and the opportunity to produce some of the most meaningful outcomes for the Commission in 2020. This is all the more important because the concerned stock is indeed in need of urgent conservation measures – the Shortfin mako shark in the Atlantic.

Sciaena would like to fully support Plenary statement PLE-112, submitted by Shark Trust on behalf of several organizations, as we agree that “Decisive ICCAT action in the coming weeks can finally start to reverse the decline, but half measures will not be enough.”

For Sciaena, the advice provided in 2017 and reinstated again in 2020 by SCRS is clear and provides direct measures that must be taken with the utmost urgency in order to give Shortfin mako the best chances of recovering in the shortest amount of time.

We took due note and analysed the three proposals presented by CPCs on Shortfin mako. Although there are elements that would be beneficial to the conservation of Shortfin mako in the Atlantic in all three proposals, it is our understanding that only proposal PA4-806 submitted by Canada fully acknowledges the dire state that the population is in and fully takes into account the crucial elements of the SCRS advice, namely the clear call for a full retention ban of this species in the north Atlantic.

The desperate situation that Shortfin makos are facing in the Atlantic calls for decisive and urgent action. ICCAT and its CPCs have the responsibility to adopt a new measure, which must have the full ban of retention at its heart.

Therefore, we encourage all CPCs to endorse PA4-806. Only by doing so can the Shortfin mako stand a true chance to recover and fulfil its essential role in Atlantic pelagic ecosystems.

Furthermore, Sciaena would encourage the scheduling of a Panel 4 intersessional meeting in 2021, to allow for work and discussions to be advanced on several of the stocks under its remit. PA4-815.

Appendix 54 to ANNEX 8

Statement to Panel 4 by Ecology Action Centre with support of Defenders of Wildlife, Humane Society International, Project Aware Foundation, Shark Trust, The Ocean Foundation - Round 1

The Ecology Action Centre - with support from The Ocean Foundation, Shark Trust, Project AWARE, Defenders of Wildlife, Humane Society International - appreciates this opportunity to comment on proposals regarding our top priority for Panel 4 attention this year: shortfin mako sharks.

ICCAT scientists have warned about the inherent vulnerability of slow growing shortfin mako sharks for more than a decade. To prevent overfishing and collapse, they have recommended, *inter alia*, a South Atlantic 2001t TAC and a North Atlantic retention ban for several years running. The outlook for this species continues to deteriorate because this advice has yet to be heeded.

Spotlight on the North Atlantic

The recommendation to prohibit retention of shortfin mako sharks from the seriously overfished and declining North Atlantic population has been the cornerstone of the SCRS advice on this species for four years straight. We strongly oppose proposed allowances to continue landings because:

- Exceptions run counter to advice that resulted from thorough examination and deliberation by experts and explicitly states that the non-retention policy should be “without exception” and
- Allowing valuable makos to be landed if they are dead creates an incentive (not necessarily to “target” them but) to ensure that they arrive at the boat dead, which can be achieved through irresponsible fishing practices that unnecessarily increase mortality.

TACs and dead discards

In developing TAC scenarios, the SCRS thoroughly considered all sources of mako mortality, *including dead discards*, and concluded that a complete retention ban is the most effective way to achieve the reductions necessary to rebuild within about five decades. To reach the green quadrant of the Kobe plot by 2070 with at least 60% probability, the TAC (*including dead discards*) has to be 300t or less. Hence, their recommendation for a non-retention policy, without exceptions.

Management strategies for inherently vulnerable sharks like makos should incorporate chances for success that far exceed those of a coin toss. We recommend following the example set by the U.S. for its domestic shark fisheries: base decisions on a 70% probability of reaching targets. The repeated delays in ending the mako overfishing that was identified in 2017 bolster the argument for taking an especially precautionary approach now. The TACs proposed by ICCAT Parties for the North Atlantic are unacceptably risky.

Mako sharks will unfortunately be discarded dead under any scenario that allows longline fishing. This reality should be mitigated over time but does not justify rejecting the advice for an immediate ban.

Indeed, ICCAT has adopted retention bans for many other shark species. Several ICCAT Parties require that these and other threatened species - including basking sharks, whale sharks, and white sharks - be discarded, dead or alive, primarily to remove incentive to encounter and kill them.

Comments specific to Party proposals

Proposal from Canada (PA-806)

We applaud Canada for presenting the only mako proposal that matches the increasingly urgent scientific advice for shortfin mako sharks, offers realistic hope for rebuilding the North Atlantic population within the next fifty years, and addresses needs in the South Atlantic.

We urge Parties to promptly support this proposal, including through co-sponsorship and comments to the Panel 4 Chair for inclusion in the meeting report.

Proposal from the U.S. (PA-805)

We congratulate the U.S. for dramatically reducing shortfin mako mortality in recent years and working to address shark bycatch mortality in domestic fisheries. Despite these advances, we cannot support the excessive TACs outlined in this proposal or the unnecessary, intentional killing of makos that make it to the boat alive.

We welcome future SCRS advice specific to the effects of circle hooks on the mortality of makos and other sharks. In the meantime, the centerpiece of the SCRS advice remains a ban on retention, a policy that the U.S. currently applies domestically to roughly 20 species of Atlantic sharks.

We recognize that Parties had differing roles in the depletion of North Atlantic makos, but it is now clear that the most prudent, effective, and expedient road to recovery involves the across-the-board adoption of the primary recommendation by all Parties.

Proposal from the EU (PA-804)

We are deeply concerned that the 500t TAC proposed by the EU does not account for dead discards. It is therefore misleading, as it is not comparable to the SCRS TAC projections (that include dead discards), as well as seriously inadequate as a recovery strategy.

We disagree that the EU proposal “elements fully address any concerns about creating a marketing incentive to target these fish, and therefore undermine the only real argument put forward to justify a total retention ban” in that this is not “the only real argument” and this does not accurately reflect our argument (see above).

While shortfin mako sharks are clearly now too rare to be effectively targeted in the North Atlantic, they remain one of the world’s most valuable sharks. Moreover, an increase in mako meat prices was reported by Spanish media earlier this year. Hence, we reassert that only a complete ban, as advised by the SCRS, creates an incentive to avoid makos in the first place.

We agree that the 2019 CITES listing holds promise for bolstering mako conservation, but stress that associated trade measures are not automatic, depend on implementation at the national level, and should be directly linked to sustainable fishing limits.

We are pleased that Spain has recently reduced its shortfin mako landings but note they remain unsustainable while Portugal’s landings have increased by ~30% since 2014. In fact, EU landings alone in 2019 (1155t) exceeded the highest level of mortality assessed by the SCRS.

While we too hope for commitment and “buy-in” from industry to boost fishery management effectiveness, we reject the notion that conservation action should be limited to what vested interests are willing to accept, regardless of expert advice, treaty obligations, and opinions of other stakeholders. We urge the EU to instead be guided by the science.

To be clear, during 2019 mako advice questioning, the SCRS Vice Chair used the now famous phrase “no conservation value” to describe dead discards, not the advised retention ban. The shark experts on the SCRS, including the Vice Chair, spent many hours explaining in detail the mako advice in their 2019 report. We encourage the EU to focus on this document, as it reflects a broader picture that factors in all sources of mortality, including dead discards.

Summary

To prevent irreparable collapse and minimize long-term negative impacts for all stakeholders, we need immediate, concerted, effective action across the North Atlantic in the form of the recommended retention ban. To prevent a similar crisis from unfolding in the South Atlantic, we need science-based catch limits.

It's make or break time for makos. We urge Parties to adopt Canada's proposal this year.

Appendix 55 to ANNEX 8

Statement by Global Tuna Alliance to Panel 4 - Round 1

The Global Tuna Alliance (GTA) is an independent group of retailers and tuna supply chain companies, who are committed to realising harvest strategies for tuna fisheries, avoidance of IUU products, improved transparency and traceability as well as environmental sustainability, and progressing work on human rights in tuna fisheries.

It is clear that the impacts of COVID-19 have presented challenges to regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) in conducting meetings and addressing important conservation and management issues in 2020. In the case of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), it has led to the cancellation of the its annual commission and science (SCRS) meetings.

We do not believe current circumstances should prevent ICCAT from taking action to ensure the uninterrupted, sustainable management of the tuna stocks and marine ecosystems under its purview. In particular, with regards to the Panel 4 agenda, CITES App. II listed shortfin mako sharks require immediate attention by the Commission in 2020.

Shortfin mako is classified by IUCN as Endangered and listed under CITES. Recovery will likely take ~25 years even if fishing mortality could be cut to zero (53% chance of rebuilding by 2045). The ICCAT Science Committee recommended a ban on retention of North Atlantic shortfin makos and 2001t shortfin mako catch limit for the South Atlantic, but in 2019 the EU, US, and Curaçao offered complex counter proposals that fell far short of scientific advice and would allow hundreds of tons of North Atlantic makos to continue to be landed.

The GTA welcomes the proposal from Canada for a retention ban of mako sharks in the North Atlantic but are concerned that the proposals made by the EU and USA are in contradiction to the scientific advice, and proposing TACs for the North Atlantic that will not allow stock rebuilding by 2045.

The GTA requests that ICCAT should agree to protect shortfin mako sharks by heeding scientists' warnings about North Atlantic depletion and South Atlantic imminent risk. Specifically:

- Immediately prohibit all shortfin mako retentions.
- Ensure specific scientific advice for minimizing incidental mortality is developed and implemented as a matter of urgency.

Appendix 56 to ANNEX 8**Statement by Pew Charitable Trusts to Panel 4 - Round 1**

Despite the cancellation of this year's Commission meeting, Panel 4 has received three proposals for shortfin mako shark management in the Atlantic, all three of which are essentially identical to proposals from the same CPCs in 2019. As noted in the joint Plenary statement submitted by Shark Trust on behalf of several organizations, including The Pew Charitable Trusts (PLE-112), the status of the shortfin mako shark is dire and urgent action is needed in the Atlantic without delay. Even if no makos are caught in ICCAT fisheries, the north Atlantic population will continue to decline until at least 2035, and probabilities for recovery on 50-year timelines are very low, despite the requirement of Rec 11-13 which requires overfishing to be ended with "high probability...in as short a time as possible."

While negotiating over email will be challenging this year, the continued advice from SCRS for "no retention, no exceptions" is clear and strong. Proposal PA4-806, from Canada, is the only proposal that fully supports the scientific advice, including providing much needed management to the south Atlantic population. Proposals PA4_804 and PA4_805, from the European Union and United States, respectively, allow fishing to continue under some circumstances. This would only lead to further decline of an already depleted species. Pew urges the E.U., the U.S., and other governments to join Canada and ban the retention of shortfin mako sharks in the north Atlantic this year. These vulnerable ocean predators deserve a chance to recover and thrive. The rollover of an insufficient measure should not be the default action if Panel 4 members fail to take necessary action to reduce catch and agree to a plan that will rebuild the north Atlantic stock and manage the south Atlantic stock. Quicker, more substantial action must be taken this year.

Beyond mako sharks, Panel 4 must renew its commitment to development of a harvest strategy for north Atlantic swordfish by scheduling time on the agenda of a 2021 intersessional meeting for dialogue between scientists and managers on this issue. Scientists have made substantial progress on developing a management strategy evaluation (MSE), and it's vital that Panel 4 provide feedback, so that ICCAT stays on track to adopt this new and improved management approach for north Atlantic swordfish in 2022.

Appendix 57 to ANNEX 8**Statement to Panel 4 by Project Aware Foundation with the support of Defenders of Wildlife, Ecology Action Centre, Humane Society International, Shark Trust, The Ocean Foundation - Round 2**

Project AWARE - with support from Ecology Action Centre, Shark Trust, Shark League for the Atlantic and Mediterranean, The Ocean Foundation, Defenders of Wildlife, Humane Society International, Wildlife Conservation Society, The Pew Charitable Trusts, WildAid, Submon, Shark Foundation, Sciaena, Dutch Elasmobranch Society, Shark Project, iSea, Marine and Environmental Research Lab (Cyprus), International Seafood Sustainability Foundation; International Pole and Line Federation, David Suzuki Foundation, Earthworm Foundation, German Elasmobranch Society (D.E.G.), Sea Shepherd Legal, WildTrust, and the European Elasmobranch Association - is alarmed that Parties have not yet reached consensus on urgently needed protections for Endangered shortfin mako populations, despite prioritizing this issue as the only shark conservation action of the 2020 virtual negotiations. We appreciate, however, the recent clarification from the Panel 4 Chair that the matter is not yet closed.

We remain grateful to Canada, Senegal, and the UK for their continued shark conservation leadership and efforts to secure science-based mako protections through PA4-806. This joint proposal is the only one of the three that includes the core of the SCRS shortfin mako advice: a complete North Atlantic retention ban and a 2001t South Atlantic TAC. We note that 14 other countries cosponsored or endorsed the same proposal last year. We call on those nations and all ICCAT Parties to use the current correspondence period to clearly state on-the-record their strong support for immediate adoption of PA4-806.

We remind Parties that COVID-19 has not stopped mako overfishing. This concerning matter is the only shark issue on the ICCAT 2020 docket with several weeks remaining for negotiation and progress. The SCRS advice is straightforward. Action has been overdue for years. Further delays only exacerbate the risk for stock collapses that are irreparable in our lifetimes.

Appendix 58 to ANNEX 8

Statement to Panel 4 by Shark Trust with support from Associação de Ciências Marinhas e Cooperação, Defenders of Wildlife, Ecology Action Centre, Humane Society International, Project Aware Foundation, The Ocean Foundation - Round 1

The Shark Trust - with support from Project AWARE, The Ecology Action Centre, The Ocean Foundation, Shark League, Defenders of Wildlife, Humane Society International and Sciaena - appreciates this opportunity to respond to PA4-814 regarding shortfin mako sharks. In this document, the European Union now asserts that a North Atlantic retention ban – the principal conservation measure advised by scientists and proposed by Canada - would not apply to EU fleets because of a landings obligation under the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).

We regret that the European Union finds the conservation community “incoherent.” To clarify, the proposed retention ban would apply to EU fleets, assuming the European Commission properly implements the measure by adding North Atlantic shortfin makos to the EU prohibited species list, as has been done for the other sharks¹ prohibited by ICCAT. Under the CFP, prohibited shark species are exempt from the EU landings obligation.

As it has done with these sharks as well as basking sharks in the North Atlantic and whale sharks around the world, we encourage the EU to consider science-based shortfin mako limits, not only as penalties for overfishing, but also as necessary protections for endangered species.

We are perplexed as to why our support of SCRS advice for mako sharks would be “surprising” to the EU. If the suggestion is that our community should be pressing for additional, more proactive restrictions aimed at preventing longline interactions with makos in the first place, we look forward to such proposals after this critical first step is taken. Until then, we encourage the European Commission to engage more constructively with civil society through direct stakeholder consultations.

In the meantime, a joint NGO statement (PA4-810) addresses other aspects of the pending mako shark proposals and explains our support for Canada’s proposal.

Appendix 59 to ANNEX 8

Statement by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) to Panel 4 - Round 1

WWF recognizes the constraints that the ICCAT CPCs and Secretariat must face with the global pandemic that made it impossible to run a physical meeting of the Commission and determined the cancellation or postponement of several other important meetings, including the intersessional meeting of Panel 4 and the SCRS annual meeting this year. However this cannot become a reason to postpone the most urgent actions in 2020.

Despite the unprecedented conditions, three proposals for management measures of the North Atlantic stock of shortfin mako shark were submitted by CPCs and are now on the table for discussion.

The status of shortfin mako sharks in the Atlantic requires acting with no further delay. Urgent measures are needed to revert the declining trend of the North Atlantic stock.

WWF therefore strongly calls on CPCs to build a constructive and fruitful dialogue and spare no effort to prevent a simple rollover of the measures in place that will only continue the status quo of overfishing and expose the stock to the serious risk of collapse.

WWF urges CPCs to immediately stop the current overfishing and adopt a zero retention policy which, according to the clear scientific advice, is the measure that would increase the chances of success for the rebuilding of the stock by 2070.

¹ Silky sharks, bigeye threshers, hammerheads, and oceanic whitetip sharks.

Additional measures including area/time based management, technical measures on fishing gears, adoption of safe handling and best practices for the release of live specimens, and verification means are also crucial to mitigate bycatch, reduce mortality and increase post- release survival. A clear mandate should be given to the SCRS to collect and analyse all available data and identify specific measures aimed at minimizing the total mortality of shortfin mako sharks from all fisheries impacting this stock

Appendix 60 to ANNEX 8

Statement by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) to Panel 4 - Round 2

WWF is following with high concern the ongoing consultations on protections measures for Endangered shortfin mako populations in the Atlantic.

Although three proposals have been submitted for consideration this year, no consensus has been reached by CPCs on any of the texts in discussion to date.

The status quo and a rollover of the existing measures will be in no way addressing the dire state of the stock, resulting in further exposing the North Atlantic stock to the risk of collapse.

The scientific advice is clear indicating the ban of retention for the North Atlantic stock and a TAC for the Southern stock, to be the most effective measures to be urgently adopted.

WWF strongly calls for the adoption of an ambitious mitigation plan that aims at achieving a zero retention policy, while introducing additional measures including improved data collection, area/time-based management, technical measures on fishing gears, safe handling and best practices for the release of live specimens and verification means as crucial tools to mitigate bycatch, reduce mortality and increase post-release survival.

We therefore urge CPCs to make a further effort to overcome divergences and make the best use of time to agree on conservation measures that can end overfishing and start the rebuilding of shortfin mako sharks' populations.

**REPORT BY THE CHAIR OF THE CONSERVATION
AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE (COC)**

1. Review of CPC implementation of and compliance with ICCAT requirements, focusing on priority issues and/or cases

CPCs reviewed and commented on, through a multi-stage process, compliance-related information contained, *inter alia*, in the Annual Reports, Compliance Summary Tables, and the Compliance Tables. All late reports, check sheets etc. were published as addenda to the existing documents in order to inform the COCs' deliberations and recommendations. Questions posed by CPCs and answers received are attached in **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9**.

A revised version of the summary tables with all available information was published, which made some minor updates to the document previously labelled as final. Some minor amendments have been made to that version and are contained in **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9**¹.

The most recent version of the Compliance Tables are attached as **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9**. The bigeye table includes revisions to address an error in incorporating one CPC's request to remove numbers for CPCs without a hard catch limit in the adjusted catch limit column on the right hand side. Previously, the numbers for such CPCs were removed not only from the adjusted catch limit column, but also from the left hand column of the previous version. Therefore, the numbers for such CPCs have been reinserted in the left-hand column, in order to have greater transparency as to the applicable thresholds. Since this element of the table was not reflected in the version presented for final approval, this element of the BET table was considered to be a recommendation of the COC Chair for approval by the Commission. In the case of all other elements of the Compliance Tables which remain unchanged from the version presented for final approval and to which there were no objections by COC members, in accordance with the procedures for the correspondence process adopted by the Commission, these tables are deemed approved and are presented to the Commission for its endorsement.

Statements were received from the following CPCs and are appended to the meeting report as follows: Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, the EU, Senegal, the United States, which are contained in **Appendices 5 to 14 of ANNEX 9**.

2. Review of information relating to Non-CPCs

Having received no objections to the COC Chair's recommended actions in the case of Non-CPCs, as reflected below, these recommendations are deemed endorsed by the COC and are presented to the Commission for its approval.

¹ Following the correction of errors relating to the submission of information from Algeria which resulted in no letter being required and some changes to Philippines.

NCP	Recommended Action
Dominica	Letter expressing continued concern over significant harvest of blue marlin, while noting positively Dominica's response in 2020 outlining Dominica's fishing presence in ICCAT's area of competency and steps Dominica is taking to manage these fisheries. And to reiterate request that Dominica consider participating as a cooperating non-party or become a party to ICCAT.
Gibraltar	Letter thanking Gibraltar for information submitted and renewing request for bluefin catch data and information on measures in place to manage and control bluefin tuna.
St. Kitts and Nevis	Letter reiterating request for continued cooperation with ICCAT.
Tanzania	Letter reiterating request for information on fishing in ICCAT area for ICCAT species under an access agreement.

3. Determination of recommended actions to address CPC compliance issues

Having received no objections to the COC Chair's recommended actions in the case of CPCs, as reflected in the actions column of the Compliance Summary Tables (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9**), these recommendations are deemed endorsed by the COC and are presented to the Commission for its approval. Additionally, one CPC, in its comments on these recommended actions, noted that the draft Compliance Summary Tables documents did not note, in the case of some CPCs, non-submission of updated shark or billfish checksheets. The Chair recommends that such deficiency is raised through letters to relevant CPCs. Additionally, the Chair recommends that comments submitted by CPCs with respect to these recommended actions are appended to the compliance letters to provide such CPCs with additional context on matters raised and a further opportunity to respond intersessionally. The United States submitted a statement that it requested be included in the meeting report, attached as **Appendix 14 to ANNEX 9**.

With respect to "no data, no fish" provisions of Recommendation 11-15, the Secretariat will issue letters of prohibition on retention of ICCAT species to those CPCs which did not submit Task 1 or confirm zero catches for such species before 1 December 2020. Letters of prohibition will therefore be issued to Costa Rica, The Gambia, Grenada and Guinea Bissau.

4. Review and decisions on Cooperating status renewals and requests

One Contracting Party objected to the renewal of cooperating non-member status for Colombia, as reflected in **Appendix 10 to ANNEX 9**. Colombia's response was posted and is attached as **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 9**. Additional correspondence concerning this matter can be found in **Appendices 5 and 9 to ANNEX 9**. As no additional comments were received on Colombia's status, in accordance with Rec. 03-20 the COC is recommending that cooperating status not be renewed for Colombia. There was no objection to renewal for the others currently holding such status, but in the case of certain CPCs such renewal would be with the understanding that this may be revoked in 2021 for those with serious reporting deficiencies, unless such deficiencies are remedied, as reflected in **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9**.

5. Review of progress made by the Online Reporting Technology Working Group and next steps

No comments have been received on the Working Group for the Development of an Online Reporting System – 2020 Status Report (**Appendix 15 to ANNEX 9**), reflecting support for this group continuing its work as outlined in the document, including through a virtual meeting of the group is scheduled for February 2021.

6. Other matters

The *Resolution by ICCAT to Facilitate an Effective and Efficient Compliance Process* (Res. 16-22), para 6, provides “[O]nce every two years, the COC will hold a special session just prior to the ICCAT Annual Meeting for a CPC by CPC review.” This was intended to enable the COC to go into greater depth than is normally possible when the COC is limited to the standard four sessions during the Annual Meeting. The last such session was in 2018, and the special session scheduled for 2020 was not held due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In furtherance of para 6 of 16-22, the COC Chair recommends that the Commission schedule a session of the COC just prior to the Annual Meeting in 2021.

As has been noted by participants in past meetings of the COC, the COC has not addressed non-fulfilment of FAD data requirements, and in a submission to the COC in the 2020 correspondence process, it has been noted that information has not been available for the COC to support implementation of para 31 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 16-01 by ICCAT on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas* (Rec. 19-02), which provides “CPCs with purse seine vessels shall urgently undertake to report to the SCRS by 31 July 2020 the required historical FAD set data. CPCs that do not report these data in accordance with this paragraph shall be prohibited from setting on FADs until such data have been received by the SCRS.” The COC Chair recommends that the Secretariat work in coordination with the COC Chair to ensure that the appropriate information is available to the Commission for the full implementation of this provision in the future.

Regarding review of requests for, and renewal of, Cooperating Non-Member status, one CPC highlighted the existence of significant deficiencies regarding fulfilment of ICCAT requirements in the case of a number of current Cooperating Non-Members seeking renewal of such status. The COC Chair has raised similar concerns in the past, and compliance letters to a number of cooperating non-members in recent years have warned that cooperating status may not be renewed if the deficiencies continue. The COC Chair recommends that the Compliance Committee devote time at the 2021 meeting to discuss how to further address this matter in a coherent and a consistent manner going forward.

An observer organization submitted an informational paper entitled “A Comparative Analysis of AIS Data with the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas Reported Transshipment Activity”. Given the nature of the COC correspondence process in lieu of an in-person meeting, and the date of availability of this information, it was difficult for the COC to consider and discuss this information. The Chair recommends the COC further consider and discuss, as appropriate, compliance-related aspects of this information in its current or updated form at the 2021 Annual Meeting.

7. Recommendations to the Commission based on findings of above

- Adopt the list of recommended actions in **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9**;
- Include in letters to relevant CPCs information on non-submission of updated shark and billfish checksheets;
- Adopt the Compliance Tables (compliance annex) in **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9**;
- Renew cooperating status for Bolivia, Chinese Taipei, Costa Rica, Guyana and Suriname, noting that further renewal will be dependent on compliance performance, but not renew such status for Colombia;
- Support the continued work of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group, including through its virtual meeting in February 2021; and
- A special two day session of the COC should be scheduled to take place in conjunction with the annual meeting in 2021.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**Agenda**

1. Review of CPC implementation of and compliance with ICCAT requirements, focusing on priority issues and/or cases
 - a) Review of and Exchange on Compliance Summary Tables [COC-308] and other information relating to individual CPC compliance:
 - b) Response to Chair's letters arising from the 2019 meeting [COC-309]
 - c) Compliance Tables [COC-304]
 - d) Any other relevant information and issues, including submissions under Rec. 08-09
2. Review of information relating to Non-CPCs
 - a) Response to Chair's letters arising from 2019 meeting
 - b) Catch and trade data
 - c) Any other information
3. Determination of recommended actions to address issues of non-compliance by CPCs and issues relating to NCPs arising from item 2
 - a) Letters on Compliance Issues, and identifications or other actions under the trade measures Recommendation (Rec. 06-13)
 - b) Action under data Recommendations (Recs. 05-09 and 11-15)
 - c) Any other actions
4. Review and decisions on Cooperating status renewals and requests
5. Review of progress made by the online reporting working group and next steps
6. Recommendations to the Commission based on findings of above

Question from CPCs to CPCs and answers received

A. Questions posed by Japan

European Union:

1. What is the relationship between towing vessel and moved cage?

In the attached text, submitted by the European Union to the Secretariat, the EU did not mention the towing vessel "NOU CALPE QUATRE / ATEU0ESP01157".

2. Does this case relate to define geographical coordinates (with a clear definition of longitude and latitude for each one of the points of the polygon)?

When cages are moved, the geographical coordinates will be changed.

Response:

1. As a consequence of bad weather, 8 cages were moved from the farm *Caladeros del Mediterráneo* to the farm *Tuna Graso*. NOU CALPE QUATRE was needed and the only one available out of those already authorized until 31 August to be used for the towing operations. This vessel was not mentioned in the justification because we understood that the justification requested related only to weather conditions.

"We thank you and acknowledge receipt on 31 August 2020 of the EU's mail along with the EU-Spain "CP01-VessLsts"-submission [for 6 existing/active "P20m"-Towing Vessels "TW/NAP" for authorization updates, with 5 also active in "E-BFT Others"-list (until 31 August 2020), extended from 1 September 2020 to 30 October 2020 for presumably weather conditions having affected/moved farm cages (need for justifications)]."

2. About the second question, the operator sent us all the new and temporal positions in *Tuna Graso* farm and we reported them to ICCAT and EU. We did not ask for coordinates because new locations were placed on existing *Tuna Graso* polygons.

B. Questions posed by USA

Belize: The United States was pleased to read in its response to the Compliance Committee Chair that Belize is undertaking an internal MOU to collect better data on fisheries for ICCAT species within its EEZ. It is critical that CPCs provide data and apply ICCAT's management measures in all fisheries, both inside and outside their EEZs and for commercial, recreational, and artisanal fisheries. Given substantial landings of Atlantic swordfish and yellowfin tuna captured via longlines, we seek clarification from Belize on the lack of 2019 Task 1 data for blue marlin, white marlin and roundscale spearfish.

Response: Belize thanks the United States for its question and would like to reassure the Commission that ALL catches from its long line fishery for 2019 was reported in our Task 1 data which was submitted to the Commission on July 9th 2020. Regretfully, catch data from our sport and recreational fisheries is currently unavailable; however, this will be remedied upon the completion of the internal MOU for Data Sharing and Cooperation between the competent authorities. Notwithstanding, the Game Fishing Association, which coordinates 3 fishing tournaments annually, have a strict catch and release policy in place. Sport fishers are only allowed to take their largest catch which is judged to determine the winner of the tournament. Belize must emphasize that it is illegal for the product of sport or recreational fisheries to be sold commercially; therefore, these catches can be considered as negligible.

Cabo Verde: Documented COC_317 indicated Porto Grande has a high volume of port activity with unknown purpose, and a lack of reports through the ROP program or in-port transshipment reporting. The United States supports the Recommendation in this document [COC_317] for increased port inspection controls and measures in Porto Grande to ensure compliance to transshipment and landing controls. The United States requests Cabo Verde provide additional information on Porto Grande activities to inform that discussion.

Response: The Ministry of Maritime Economy, through the General Directorate of Marine Resources (DGRM), confirms receipt of your email of 16 November 2020 regarding the concern expressed by the United States in connection with transshipment and landing activities at Porto Grande, Cabo Verde.

In this respect, we take this opportunity to confirm to the ICCAT Secretariat that in the past few years, landing and transshipment activities of some tuna species by foreign fleets have increased in Cabo Verde in response to investment in two conservation and processing units, as well as logistical improvements to support fishing operations at Porto Grande in Cabo Verde.

We would like to hereby inform the ICCAT Secretariat that all landing and transshipment operations of ICCAT species in Cabo Verde are closely monitored and observed by the Fisheries Inspection Services (IGP), which is an entity of the Ministry of Maritime Economy and is responsible for catch certification and sanitary control of all transshipment and landing activities carried out in Cabo Verde.

To clarify, we inform that in 2019, the total volumes of transshipment and landing operations carried out by foreign fleets were 14,828 t and 30,596 t, respectively. A total volume of 45,425 t was landed or transhipped at Puerto Grande. Among the ICCAT species that are landed and transhipped in Porto Grande in Cabo Verde, we highlight the following in order of importance: SKJ-*Katsuwonus pelamis* (48.6%); YFT-*Thunnus albacares* (17%), BSH-*Prionace glauca* (11%), BET- *Thunnus obesus* (8%), SWO-*Xiphias gladius* (5%) and BFT-*Thunnus thynnus* (4%).

It is important to note that landings are used to supply raw material to the two fish companies that conserve and process fish.

Naturally, there are issues and difficulties with transshipment and landing operations statistics. However, the Ministry of Maritime Economy through the General Directorate of Marine Resources is working to provide the fisheries inspection services with a database that can respond more quickly and effectively to reporting needs in this area. In addition, we anticipate that the next annual report of Cabo Verde will contain more complete and objective information to ensure all the necessary transparency that this matter warrants for both the Secretariat and any CPC.

Finally, Cabo Verde would like to reiterate its full availability and commitment to work and cooperate closely with the ICCAT Secretariat to fulfil and comply with the ICCAT obligations and recommendations on inspection and control of transshipment activities in Cabo Verde.

China: The United States requests an explanation from China as to why no Task 1 data was submitted for North or South Atlantic shortfin mako. An updated shark Check Sheet was not submitted by China and thus, the United States was unable to assess why no data were submitted, which would have otherwise been addressed in response to *Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of North Atlantic stock of shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries* [Rec. 19-06], paragraph 10.

Response: There has been some misinterpretation by the data staff the reporting requirement and input "0 catch" in the Task I sheet (which actually required input as landing + discard). We will compile and submit the revised data sets (and shark sheet) as soon as possible, based on estimate from observer program.

Côte d'Ivoire: The United States noted the large increases in Côte d'Ivoire's landings for a number of species particularly for sailfish. The United States would appreciate an explanation from Côte d'Ivoire of the reasons behind these increases, such as changes in fishing practices or data collection methods.

Response: In recent years, Côte d'Ivoire has started to commission vessels flying its flag to carry out fishing activities. In 2018, Côte d'Ivoire acquired 11 vessels which fly the Côte d'Ivoire flag. Of this total, only 2 engaged in activity throughout the year while the other 9 effectively started their activities in November 2018 i.e. two months of activity. In 2019, Côte d'Ivoire acquired another 16 vessels, bringing the total to 27 Côte d'Ivoire flagged vessels. All these vessels are longliners. They mainly catch tuna but also catch billfish, taking sailfish as bycatch. Full time activity by all these vessels has led to an increase in production of all species, including sailfish.

El Salvador: El Salvador's response to their 2019 Identification letter is concerning. The record from last year's meeting clearly reflects the Commission decision to identify El Salvador under Rec. 06-13. Any effort to alter retroactively that decision inevitably undermines the integrity of ICCAT's compliance process and the work of the Commission as a whole. The United States insists that El Salvador accept the clear and unquestionable outcome of the 2019 Commission meeting on this matter - a meeting in which they participated. The United States also takes note that El Salvador appears once again to have not taken steps to show that it endeavored to remain within the 2019 bigeye tuna limit of 1,575 t, reporting a catch of 2,464 t for 2019. In the context of El Salvador's response to the Commission's letter of identification, we are concerned that this may indicate an intentional disregard of the requirement to endeavor to stay within that limit. This situation is made all the more troubling given the poor status of bigeye tuna. We would greatly appreciate clarification from El Salvador of this situation and details on what measures it has put in place to control its harvests in line with the terms of *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures* [Rec. 06-13].

Response: Firstly, we wish to reiterate that El Salvador is fully convinced and committed to comply with the provisions of the ICCAT Convention, its Recommendations and Resolutions. I would also like to highlight that our country has the relevant technical, logistical and regulatory infrastructure to ensure this compliance. In this sense, following adoption of Recommendation 19-02 imposing provisional bigeye catch limits for 2020, the internal control measure was imposed on 22 January 2020. It entailed allocation of catch limits to vessels, definition of control measures and establishment of the obligation for vessel owners to present their management and contention plan of the duly allocated catches; all within the context of the *Resolution establishing the compliance control mechanism for the bigeye catch limit in the Atlantic Ocean in accordance with Recommendation 19-02 of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas*. All these actions ensure that El Salvador will not exceed the catch limit adopted for the country by the Commission.

My Government disagrees with the comments contained in the introduction of the United States delegation's enquiry, and El Salvador appreciates the opportunity to transmit to the United States and the Commission the following warranted and essential clarifications:

- i. My delegation has been carrying out, within the framework of the due process and in the exercise of its rights as an ICCAT Contracting Party, the actions that it considers to be essential in light of our sovereignty, so that the decisions of the Commission that were adopted in the course of the meetings held, in particular, those held in November 2019, are correctly reflected in the Commission Proceedings and its corresponding Committees. On this basis, it is not correct to infer that this clarification process initiated by my country in any way implies retroactive alteration of the Commission decisions, or that this procedure undermines the integrity of ICCAT compliance functions and the work of the Commission as a whole. This is particularly true when the evidence from the audio and video recordings provided by the Commission reveal that the reality of events during the respective meetings was not accurately reflected in the report or in the proceedings.
- ii. In response to the sentence "...The United States insists that El Salvador accept the clear and unquestionable outcome of the 2019 Commission meeting regarding this issue, a meeting in which they participated", my delegation respectfully encourages the distinguished United States delegation to review the audios and videos in the custody of the Secretariat, both of the Compliance Committee meeting and the Commission meeting. This will enable the United States delegation to reflect on the relevance of its request, since it also participated in both meetings, and it will see that not a single measure was adopted at any point against my country, in relation to the provisions contained in Rec.06-13 on trade measures. In fact, the Compliance Committee Chair, Mr. Derek Campbell, introduced El Salvador's situation regarding possible overharvests to the Committee, by stating the following:

*"... I would like to note one item that I've requested to the Secretariat that we considered adding under "Other Issues", under, again, these are potential issues of noncompliance; they are not necessarily issues that have been determined to be noncompliance, and that is bigeye tuna harvest. I understand from the compliance table that, in the case of El Salvador, the harvest was 2,634 t, and that there is an obligation for CPCs such as El Salvador to endeavor, or shall endeavor, to keep catches at 1,575 t. **So, even though it's not a hard limit, there is a binding obligation to take best efforts - "all endeavor" to keep catches to that level.** And this is quite high compared to that 1,575 t level at 67% above the limit, so I think that raises questions about the sufficiency of management measures, monitoring control, etc., to keep the catches to that goal. So, **I wanted to suggest that is added, and because El Salvador didn't have the opportunity to respond to that particular issue in their written response, welcome any thoughts that El Salvador may have, or other CPCs, for that matter, and that can also be addressed in a follow-up written response.**" (emphasis added, maintaining the language in which the verbal intervention was made)*

The Compliance Committee Chair recognized that, as originally provided for in paragraph 4 (a) of Rec. 16-01, my country was not subject to a mandatory limit. Therefore, the main point of analysis was whether El Salvador had fulfilled its *bona fide* commitment to maintain its annual bigeye catches below 1,575 t, in light of the subjective criterion of the Chair, who indicated that catches 67% above this level "raise questions regarding the sufficiency of measures on management, monitoring, control, etc." We firmly disagree with that subjective criterion, on account of the reasons amply covered in the response transmitted to the Compliance Committee Chair in January of this year. The provision contained in paragraph 4 (a) of Rec. 16-01 did not establish an obligation as to result, but a midway commitment to make an effort to contain increases, which El Salvador satisfied. Any other interpretation would undermine the legality of the Commission, as it would impose sanctions without having firstly established, with absolute clarity, the objectionable conduct.

Furthermore, it is very clear that the Compliance Committee Chair recognized that my delegation had not had the opportunity to respond in writing in relation to this matter and, in accordance with due process, decided – without any objection from any of the Parties - that he would welcome a feedback in this regard from El Salvador or any other CPC, and which could be expanded on in a subsequent written response.

The only enquiry at the meeting came from the United States, but in relation to a different context. They requested clarification as to whether El Salvador operated 5 vessels in the Convention area and I categorically answered that only 4 fishing vessels operate in that area. And in response to the Compliance Committee Chair, I informed that my country reserved the right granted to it to respond in writing. Following direct consultations with the Chair, it was decided that a response should be provided by 31 January 2020, which is effectively what happened.

Therefore it is true to say that the Compliance Committee did not finish the discussion on overharvests by my country, which would have allowed substantive analysis of the case. Instead the matter was put on hold until the written response of my country could be analysed. The 2019 COC report completely omits this sequence of events, which debase the following sentence that was included in the report:

"The COC also recommended that the Commission identify the following seven CPCs in accordance with Rec. 06-13 on trade measures: El Salvador, [...]"

This is particularly the case if it is considered that the COC report, the Commission proceedings, and the recordings reviewed do not indicate that the procedures set out in paragraph 2, sub-paragraphs a), b) and c), among others, of Rec. 06-13 had been complied with, yet again implying an infringement of due process.

- iii The contested Commission Proceedings do not correctly reflect the events of the meeting held in Palma de Mallorca in 2019, in that it states that the COC report was adopted by correspondence, in the past tense. This is inaccurate, because this report was only published for the first time in July 2020. Therefore, the Commission Proceedings should indicate that the report would be adopted by correspondence, if appropriate. Certainly, in the verbal report provided by the Compliance Committee Chair to the Commission, there was no kind of reference to any action being taken against El Salvador in compliance with Rec. 06-13, which is why the Commission did not take note of the identification of my country in accordance with this Recommendation and, unquestionably this is what should be on record.
- iv. Another very significant event took place, of no less importance: As dictated by the consolidated practice in ICCAT, and in the other international bodies, in the adoption process of proceedings and reports, it is recognized that there is a need to submit the drafts to the members of the respective collegiate bodies - either the Commission itself or the Compliance Committee - so that any relevant observations or amendments may be included. All delegations can attest to this practice and, within the context of good will and due process that mark the spirit of collaboration of these bodies, it is expected that this practice is embedded in legality, which implies taking into account the principle of "closure of process proceedings", whereby a phase that has been advanced for certain, cannot be reopened.

My delegation does not object to expanding on this special issue to the extent required, beyond what has been hereby courteously and concisely expressed. However, unable to ignore the omissions, inaccuracies, and incorrect information related to the issues discussed above contained in the 2019 Commission proceedings and 2019 Compliance Committee report, my delegation submitted the respective observation and proposal for text corrections to the Secretariat and the Chairs of the respective collegiate bodies. Through ICCAT Circular #5356/2020, dated 3 August 2020, the Secretariat circulated to CPCs for review the sixth draft of the Commission proceedings and the second draft of the Compliance Committee Report, enabling CPCs to submit comments up to 18:00 hrs (Madrid time) on 12 August 2020. It was also indicated that:

"If no comments are received by this deadline, these proceedings of the 26th Regular Meeting of the Commission will be considered adopted."

Through Circular ICCAT #5590/2020, of 13 August 2020, the Executive Secretary informed CPCs that:

In response to ICCAT Circular #5356 of 3 August 2020, requesting changes or corrections to the 2019 Commission Plenary Report and Report of the Compliance Committee the Secretariat has received minor editorial corrections to the Report of the Compliance Committee and has incorporated them accordingly. No changes of substance were received.

The 2019 Commission Proceedings are now considered final and have been published on the ICCAT web site (click here).

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration"

For my delegation, it is therefore clear that no reservation or objection was lodged by any delegation in relation to the information communicated by the Secretariat in its Circular #5356/20, including the clarifications relevant to my country. Therefore, and in view of this obvious fact, there was no reason for the surprising communications of 27 August 2020 from the Compliance Committee Chair as well as the Executive Secretary, informing that the legal certainty of the changes had been undermined. These had been accepted by all Parties, for being appropriate, including the honourable delegation of the United States, which did not object to the timeframe from 3 August to 12 August 2020.

My delegation completely rejects the concern expressed by that Party in its comments to the effect that my country's attitude, in defending its rights, constitutes "*intentional negligence with regard to the requirement to endeavour to remain within that limit*" referring to bigeye resources.

El Salvador has provided compelling evidence over time of its correct, transparent and disciplined attitude towards strengthening ICCAT objectives. As all CPCs are aware, the problem of bigeye in the Atlantic, which is a concern to everyone, is not the result of the catches taken by my country. The overages, which are well above the agreed TAC, derive from the same management structure which is currently under review by the SCRS, Panel 1 and the Commission itself, as these overages are greater than the annual 20,000 t; this is also associated with an unequal and discriminatory structure of fishing rights which must be resolved.

When Rec. 16-01 was drafted - which was in force during the years in which my country, as a developing State, was finding a footing in the tropical tuna fisheries - El Salvador was included with the countries that were not subject to catch limits (paragraph 4 (a)). For these countries, reference amounts were established that do not constitute hard limits, as recognised by the Compliance Committee Chair, and for which, as has been the case for other countries with much higher reference amounts (3,500 t), the need for limits or quotas would be assessed if necessary.

In accordance with Rec. 16-01, my country has not failed to comply with any obligation. In fact, El Salvador has maintained a catch contention scheme for its 4 purse seine vessels, which entails a reduction in their catches to below the average of the average productivities of the vessels, with significant sacrifices. This accounts for the reduction that occurred between 2018 and 2019. The sacrifices were greater in 2020, due to the strengthening of the catch contention strategy, which entailed an effort to reduce their basic potential by more than 40%, which is much higher than the 21% reduction required of those countries included in paragraph 3 of Rec. 19-02.

In the hope that this communication satisfies the requests for clarification, my delegation wishes to reiterate to the United States and the other CPCs its firm desire for proper management and joint efforts, inspired by the principles of international law and with a view to safeguard conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources, in particular, those under the Commission's administration. I will happily expand on the comments contained in this communication, either bilaterally or multilaterally, as deemed necessary.

European Union: In addition to discrepancies in the blue marlin and white marlin data reported to Task 1 compared to the compliance tables, it is not clear that the EU is implementing a repayment plan for overharvest of white marlin in 2014-2016. The EU states that they will “undertake to compensate the overharvest for 2016 by reducing white marlin catch to zero for the years 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020,” however, landings are reported in 2017-2019, including 9 t of white marlin landings by Spain reported in Task 1. Additionally, the EU white marlin landings limit was already reduced by 22.4 t each year in 2018-2020 to payback overharvest in 2015. We would like to ask the EU to provide an explanation with regard to these matters.

In regards to the Shark Check Sheet, the EU states they allow retention of North Atlantic shortfin mako under the authority of Rec. 19-06 paragraph 3. We seek clarification on this response so that the COC can understand which specific provisions of the recommendation EU is implementing and how they are doing so. In that regard, more detailed information about the extent of observer and/or electronic monitoring coverage for this fleet is requested. Additionally, we seek clarification on how the EU implements minimum size requirements as stated in response to Rec. 19-06, paragraph 4.

Response: The European Union (EU) refers to the questions from the United States (US) in appendix 1 of COC-318 and is pleased to provide the following additional details:

Regarding the discrepancies between the blue marlin and white marlin data reported to Task I and in the compliance tables, we previously explained that these differences are due to the fact that scientific data is provided in task I, which consists of estimations based on sampling data, while catches declared in the compliance table corresponds to the official figures based on the professional fishermen's catch declarations and validated by EU Member states authorities.

The catch limit of white marlin for EU at ICCAT level was fixed at 27.60 t in 2019, in order to compensate for the overharvest in previous years. To prevent overfishing occurring again, a zero-catch limit for the EU-MS was established at the EU level in the (EU) regulation 2019/124 fixing for 2019 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters. Despite this zero-catch limit, incidental catches occurred in 2019 and have been declared in the compliance table and Task I. Those incidental catches remain far below the catch limit established for the EU for 2019.

With regards to the information provided in the shark check sheet, we confirm that catches of shortfin mako reported by the EU fleet have been made under the provisions of para 2.1 of Recommendation 19-06, corresponding to fish caught already dead, as verified through the coverage by observers or electronic monitoring systems. This coverage has been steadily increasing in the last years and is always above the ICCAT requirements of 5% (e.g. [9,94] % in 2017, [5,15] % in 2018 and [7,81] % in 2019) measured in terms of observer fishing days in the ICCAT Convention area. Additionally, following the US comments, we identified a mistake in page 19 of the shark check sheet regarding the implementation of para 4 of Recommendation 19-06. The item must be considered as non-applicable taking into account that the EU has not established any minimum size in its legislation, and consequently no authorisations have been delivered to EU vessels in relation to the provision under para 4 of Rec. 19-06. The EU vessels have not been authorised to kill shortfin mako, and instead can only retain fish caught already dead. While we thank the US for highlighting this erroneous reference in the shark sheet, we would in turn be interested in better understanding to what extent the catches of northern shortfin mako retained on board and reported by the US occurred in the context of paragraph 4 of Rec 19-06.

The Gambia: The United States notes that The Gambia, a new Member of the Commission, has missed a number of critical reporting requirements. In addition, the IUU listed vessel *Sage* is operating under The Gambia's flag. We encourage The Gambia to work to improve its adherence to ICCAT's reporting requirements. The United States also noted that no vessels flagged to The Gambia appear on ICCAT's authorized vessel list (established per *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]) and would like to inquire whether that is an oversight or whether The Gambia does not currently flag any vessels that are 20 m LOA or greater.

Response:

It is understood that the fishing vessel SAGE is Gambian flagged. Currently the vessel has no authorization to fish in The Gambia. The vessel was last licensed to fish in The Gambia waters from 9 October 2019 to 8 January 2020 and operated for only seven days. During the above-mentioned period fisheries observer was posted on board but after the seven days the fishing vessel left for Dakar Port. However, the Department of Fisheries is in contact with The Gambia Maritime Administration (GMA) as the competent authority for registration of vessels for the procedural measures to delete SAGE from The Gambian Register. This deletion certificate will serve internationally for the arrest and prosecution of the vessel in conduct of IUU fishing. Currently there are no Gambian flag fishing vessels authorized to fish in the ICCAT region.

Japan: In *2019 Compliance tables received in 2020* [COC_304A], it appears that Japan is claiming a quota carry forward of North Atlantic swordfish that exceeds the maximum allowed under *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish, Rec. 16-03* [Rec. 17-02]. We understand the rules to only allow a carry forward of up to 126.3 t based on Japan's initial quota allocation. We also seek clarification of why Japan answered "No" to Rec. 19-06, paragraph 1, in the Shark Check Sheet, as live North Atlantic shortfin mako should be released in a manner that causes the least harm independent of allowing retention of dead shortfin mako under paragraph 3.

Response:

Northern swordfish:

Japan's swordfish catch is by-catch, which has been fluctuating year by year mainly due to the shift of the fishing ground for bigeye tuna. For this reason, the four-year block quota is applied to Japan in accordance with paragraph 4 of Recommendation 17-02. Therefore, the maximum limit of carryover (15% of initial catch limit) does not apply to Japan.

North Atlantic shortfin mako:

Japan confirms that live shortfin mako are released. It answered “No” to Rec. 19-06, paragraph 1, because it reads, when separated from para 3, as if asking whether release is mandatory without any exception. Since there is an exception in accordance with para 3, Japan responded “No”. In order to avoid any misunderstanding, we will elaborate our measure on live release in the next year’s Shark Check Sheet.

Korea: Based on Korea’s Shark Check Sheet, it is unclear to us whether retention of North Atlantic shortfin mako is required or prohibited by Korea, and we request clarification of this matter. We also seek clarification as to why no discard data in 2019 was reported for the North Atlantic shortfin mako.

Response: At the moment, we can answer the second question from the US only: For 2019, there was no reported discard of North Atlantic Shortfin Mako although we have discard reports of South Atlantic Shortfin Mako for 2019. As for the first question, we will do our best to provide our response as soon as possible.

Liberia: Document COC_317 states that Liberia's carrier vessel fleet had the highest number of high seas loiterings with no regional observer onboard and questions whether unreported transshipments were occurring. The United States requests information from Liberia regarding how it monitors the activities of its carrier vessels while on the high seas and why there is a large instance of loitering by these vessels.

Response: This is in response to your inquiry concerning the question from the U.S.A. as it relates to Liberia’s carrier vessel fleet and the alleged increased number of high seas “loitering” with no regional observer onboard and whether unreported transshipments are occurring.

Liberia confirms that it monitors its entire fleet by means of Automatic Identification System (AIS) and Long-Range Identification Tracking (LRIT). All vessels flagged to Liberia are required by law and international obligations to install AIS and LRIT thereby enabling the flag Administration to track and monitor vessel’s movements. In addition to AIS and LRIT, carrier vessels engaged in high seas transshipment activities are monitored via the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), which is also required by Liberia fisheries law and regulations.

Liberia’s Fish Monitoring Center (FMC) is primarily responsible for monitoring Liberian flagged and foreign vessels’ activities. The FMC is the nucleus in Liberia’s effort to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities through close collaboration with national and regional authorities.

To this end, kindly provide a list (including names, dates and location activities) of Liberian carrier vessels that are allegedly “loitering” on the high seas to enable us do our diligence promptly.

Morocco: We would like to seek clarification on two issues from Morocco. We noted that the 2019 Task 1 tables in the SCRS report do not include data on discards of North Atlantic shortfin mako for Morocco, yet Morocco’s Shark Check Sheet indicates that these data have been submitted (see Shark Check Sheet response to Rec. 19-06, paragraph 10). Regarding Rec. 19-05, paragraph 9, Morocco reports that dead discards are prohibited for blue and white marlin. Given that, we would expect to see landings by Morocco reported to SCRS. There are, however, no reported landings for Morocco in the 2019 Task 1 data for either species. We would appreciate it if Morocco would clarify this situation.

Response: As regards shark, please note that while the 2019 data on discards of shortfin mako indicated in the Shark Sheet do not appear in the SCRS Report, they have been communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat in form ST09. As regards marlin, I inform that Morocco has banned fishing for blue and white marlin in national waters for 5 years as from November 2018.

Mauritania: The United States noted that Mauritania is not reporting catches of North Atlantic swordfish in its compliance tables or Task 1 data but is receiving quota transfers from some CPCs. We would like to confirm whether Mauritania is actively fishing for this species.

Response: Following a transfer, Mauritania had obtained a quota of 100 t of swordfish. This amount was reduced by 25 t, which previously had been granted to the United States as they wanted to have these 25 t. Our country has tried to persuade national operators to shift efforts over to this fishery. While some fishers are interested, they are hesitant to invest fully, as they consider the quota to be derisory (75 t). In short, Mauritania does not report any catches of these resources, because they have not fished them.

Panama: We noted that Panama did not report blue marlin catch in either its compliance tables or Task 1 data. Given past catches and overharvests of this species by Panama, we would like to confirm whether Panama has, in fact, eliminated all catches of blue marlin in 2019 or if reporting of the catch data has been delayed.

Response: I would like to thank the United States delegation for their enquiry regarding blue marlin reporting in the compliance tables and Task 1 data. First, we would like to indicate that blue marlin is not a target species in the fisheries operated by Panamanian vessels within the Convention area, and that the data reflected in the blue marlin catch reports correspond to bycatch taken by our fleet. Panama has not eliminated all the blue marlin catches for 2019. While it is true that the Task 1 data did not include marlin catches, the observers report identified recording of this species. Therefore, we are correcting the table for 2020. The CP13 report has been attached with the updated data for recording at the Secretariat and in the compliance reports.

Senegal: The United States noted that Senegal's compliance tables did not seem to take into account transfers in place for North Atlantic swordfish. The United States also notes a number of concerns related to the activities of current or former Senegal-flagged vessels and would like to express concern related to apparent difficulties being encountered by Senegal with regard to the fulfilment of its flag State responsibilities.

Response: In response, we confirm the omission of the transfer of 125 t of swordfish from the North to Canada for the year 2019. We send you attached COC_304A, Annex 1 and the compliance table to which we have made the appropriate corrections. With regard to the second point raised by the United States on concerns about the exercise of the responsibilities of the Flag State, we will send you a reply within the deadline.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines: Document COC_317 provides information about an at-sea encounter between two vessels flagged to St. Vincent and the Grenadines, one of which may have been a carrier vessel and the other, which was a longline vessel. This encounter may have been a transshipment at sea but it was not reported through the ROP. This is the second time such activity has been reported, and, as it would be outside ICCAT's rules on transshipment, a recommendation that ICCAT strengthen its transshipment rules to better discern and control transshipment activity has been made. The United States requests additional information from St. Vincent and the Grenadines on the rules it has in place and the steps it takes to monitor potential transshipment activities of its flagged vessels.

Chinese Taipei: In response to Rec. 19-06, paragraph 10 in the Shark Check Sheet, Chinese Taipei indicated that they reported the "number of dead discards and live releases" of North Atlantic shortfin mako, and that Chinese Taipei no longer allows the retention of this species. However, given our understanding of Chinese Taipei's fisheries, we would expect the level of discards to be much higher. The United States requests an explanation of how these estimates are determined.

Response: We have prohibited the retention of NSMA since 2018 for conservation purpose. Our numbers of NSMA dead discards presented in T1NC are from the amount reported by our fishermen through the electronic logbook system. NSMA is the bycatch species for our tuna longliners, and the percentage of its landing and/or discards amount accounting for the total catch amount of targeted species has been stable in recent years. It is our understanding that SMA is primarily found in coastal and offshore waters which are not the typical fishing grounds of our vessels. As such, our NSMA amount reported is low due to less interactions with the NSMA. In addition, our observers have reported quite small amount of NSMA retention and/or discards as well. Relevant data are submitted to ICCAT in accordance with applicable requirements.

It is also observed that our NSMA amount (landing and discards) reported is on a downward trend, likely reflecting the declining population of this species."

Colombia: The United States recalls the discussions from 2019 when the Commission was considering granting Cooperating status to Colombia and particularly the request for additional information on its fishing interests and management regime. We also take note of the Secretariat's request for information on Colombia's access agreements. In response to these matters, we request Colombia to provide all relevant information to the Commission without delay. This request includes an update on the status of the development of Colombia's tropical tuna fishery as notified to Panel 1 earlier this year.

Responses: Colombia has reported the following information through a revised Annual Report on Access Agreements: For 2019, Colombia presented an access agreement with Tanzania and Japan with the FV HALELUYA and FV KOYU MARU No. 7, respectively. It should be noted that on 7 October 2019 the FV shipowner requested a change of flag to the competent Authority of Colombia. The FV HALELUYA reported 68,600 kg of landings. The FV KOYU MARU No. 7 reported 755,043 kg of catches. This information should coincide with the reports presented by the flag states of Tanzania and Japan, respectively.

Colombia has also requested that the information contained in Documents COC-322 be considered also as response to the above.

COMPLIANCE SUMMARY TABLES

CPC	2019			2020		
	Potential issues of non-compliance 2019	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2019	Potential issues of non-compliance-2020	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2020
ALBANIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Statistical data received late.			Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Turtle handling guidelines submitted (in Albanian) but unclear if implementation of paragraphs 1 and 2 of turtle measures is complete i.e. legally binding.	All measures taken in relation to turtles are binding in Albanian Law No. 64/2012		Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: ROP_BFT: See COC-305/2019 for a PNC and response.			Other issues:		

2019				2020		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
ALGERIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Rec. 16-14: No national scientific observers deployed. Some species in Task I not reported (blanks shown in COC-303 Appendix 3)	Observer coverage for tuna purse seiners is 100%. The administration controllers, all of whom are fisheries engineers, are capable of carrying out the tasks stipulated in the recommendation. For longline fisheries with a length less than 15 m (the segment with the highest number of vessels is between 4.80 and 9m), without a pontoon, with little space to embark in addition 4 crew members and equipment and an observer (onboard safety issue). Algeria has resorted to an alternative measure. Information collection has been possible through implementation of an awareness programme aimed at fisheries professionals and intervention by fisheries inspectors at landing points.	Letter on implementation of ICCAT requirements on domestic scientific observers, turtles, and reporting of Task II data.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.

<p>Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 10-09/13-11: It is unclear if mandatory measures were implemented to reduce by-catch and safe handling of turtles; Rec. 11-10: No information on progress concerning the reduction of by-catch and discards.</p>	<p>See response to 2018 letter contained in COC-309. In addition to our responses related to compliance issues for Algeria, it should be recalled that within the context of mitigation of sea turtle by-catch, a circular note was sent to all decentralized fisheries services and representatives of the profession regarding compliance. Coastguards, as the maritime police, also received this note for compliance on the field. A copy of this note is attached to this response. It should be noted that regarding participation in SCRS work, in particular data collection and compliance with paragraph 3 of Recommendation 11-10, Algeria presented at the 2016 Intersessional Meeting of the Sharks Species Group, a paper with reference SCRS/2016/186, on identification of shark species existing in Algeria "Preliminary inventory of sharks species found in Algerian waters".</p>
<p>Quotas and catch limits:</p>	
<p>Other issues: PNC concerning the ROP-BFT presented in document COC-305/19, together with the responses.</p>	

<p>Conservation and Management Measures:</p>		
<p>Quotas and catch limits:</p>		
<p>Other issues: See COC-305 for PNCs reported under ROP-BFT and responses. See Annex 9 to COC-303 for Port Inspection Reports with possible infringements and action taken</p>		

		2019		2020		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
ANGOLA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report submitted late (14 November). No Task II data received. Rec. 16-14: No ST11 or ST09 (scientific observer information/data). No T1 fleet characteristics. Some species in Task I not reported (blanks shown in COC-303 Appendix 3)		Letter on recurring reporting issues, no list of designated ports (Rec. 18-09), and implementation of ICCAT requirements on domestic scientific observers.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report received late, in incorrect format and without explanation of 'not applicable'. Fleet characteristics and Task 2 data received late, but all data relate to foreign fleets. No statistical data for national fleet received. Rec. 16-14: No information on observer programmes.		Letter on recurring reporting issues, no list of designated ports (Rec. 18-09), and implementation of ICCAT requirements on domestic scientific observers.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-05: No billfish check sheet received; Rec. 18-06: No updated shark check sheet received; Rec. 16-01: Quarterly reports of BET catches in 2018 and 2019 not submitted. Rec. 12-07/18-09: No list of designated ports. Rec. 14-07: No submissions of requirements regarding access agreements.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-05: No billfish check sheet received; Rec. 18-06: No shark check sheet received; Rec. 16-01: No quarterly reports of BET catches submitted. Rec.18-09: No list of designated ports. Rec. 14-07: No notification of access agreements but catch data was reported.		
	Quotas and catch limits: No compliance tables received.			Quotas and catch limits: No compliance tables received.		
	Other issues: No reply to COC Chair letter			Other issues: No reply to COC Chair letter		

CPC	2019			2020		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2019	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2019	Potential issues of non-compliance-2020	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2020
BARBADOS	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Rec. 16-14: No observer programme yet in place so no data / information submitted		Letter on reporting issues; no domestic scientific observer program in place; continued marlin overharvest; implementation of ICCAT requirements on turtles; no designation of ports under Rec. 18-09.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Rec. 16-14: No observer programme yet in place so no data / information submitted. Barbados is examining options to comply with Rec. 16-14.		Letter on no domestic scientific observer program in place and continued marlin overharvest.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Full implementation of turtle measures unclear (e.g. whether best handling practices are obligatory). Rec. 18-09: Unclear if entry of foreign fishing vessels is prohibited generally or on a case by case basis.	See response to 2019 letter contained in COC-309.		Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits: Continued overharvest of BUM. Overharvest of WHM in 2018.			Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest of Blue Marlin and White Marlin. Some differences between Task 1 and Compliance tables for historical data.		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

2019

2020

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
BELIZE	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Unclear from Annual Report if Belize is implementing ICCAT requirements in a binding manner for vessels fishing in Belize's national waters. Rec. 16-14: not clear that minimum % observer coverage being met. Some species in Task I not reported (blanks shown in COC-303 Appendix 3).		Letter on implementation of Rec. 16-14 on domestic scientific observer program, > 45 day retroactive vessel notification (Rec. 13-13/14-10), and on implementation of ICCAT requirements in waters under Belize's national jurisdiction, while noting	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.
	Conservation and management measures: Rec. 13-13/14-10 Vessel reported for inclusion on ICCAT Record more than 45 days retroactively.		Belize's response on the latter matter in its 2019 COC response letter.	Conservation and management measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

2019			2020			
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
BRAZIL	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Rec. 16-14: Unclear if scientific observer coverage levels are as yet in line with requirements. ST09 received late	Brazilian scientific observer program was restarted in 2018, with a level of coverage of less than the 5% required on boats that do not pose an extraordinary safety concern. In order to increase coverage, electronic monitoring system will need ICCAT funds to support the implementation of scientific observer programs, particularly regarding guidance on electronic monitoring systems.		Annual Reports/ Statistics:		Letter on late BET quarterly reports, and missing compliance table size limits.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-05: Billfish check sheet received late. Rec. 16-01: Some quarterly BET catches received late.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-01: Some quarterly BET catches received late.		
	Quotas and catch limits: Size limits not completed on compliance tables.			Quotas and catch limits: Size limits not completed on compliance tables.		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

2019

2020

CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2019	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2019	Potential issues of non-compliance-2020	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2020
CABO VERDE	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual report received late (9 Oct). Rec. 16-14. No ST11 or ST09 (observer programme information / data) received. No T1 fleet characteristics. Some species in Task I not reported (blanks shown in COC-303 Appendix 3).		Letter on reporting issues, no port inspection reports, implementation requirements on domestic scientific observers.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual report summary table received late. Rec. 16-14: No scientific observer programme implemented, no observer data received		Letter on reporting issues, implementation requirements on domestic scientific observers.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-01: Third and fourth quarterly catch reports combined for 2018, but no information reported for 2019; Rec. 18-05: Late submission of billfish check sheets; Rec. 18-06: Late submission of shark check sheets; Rec. 14-07: No submission of access agreement requirements.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-05: No billfish check sheet received		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits: No compliance tables received		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

CPC	2019			2020		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2019	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2019	Potential issues of non-compliance-2020	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2020
Canada	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec, 19-01: Tropical fishing plan received late.	It was not possible to provide notice of this small adjustment until after the set deadline, as Canada's consultation with relevant stakeholders and indigenous partners occurs after January 3.	
				Quotas and catch limits: Some differences between Task 1 and compliance tables.		
				Other issues:		

2019			2020			
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
CHINA, People's Rep.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Some species in Task I not reported (blanks shown in COC 303 Appendix 3).		Letter on implementation of Rec. 18-09 requirements on designation of ports, while noting positively information provided on actions taken thus far and planned as detailed in China's 2019 COC response letter.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		Letter on implementation of Rec. 18-09 requirements on designation of ports and late reporting on implementation of eastern bluefin measures.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-09 (formerly Rec. 12-07): no list of designated ports.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-09: no list of designated ports.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: ROP_Transhipment: See COC-305 for list of PNCs and responses.			Other issues: ROP_Transhipment: Response to PNCs under ROP-transhipment (see COC-305) contained in COC-305, Addendum 1 to Appendix 1.		

2019				2020		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Rec. 16-14. No ST11 or ST09 (observer programme information /data) received. Annual Report reporting summary tables received late.		Letter on reporting issues, implementation of requirements on national scientific observers, designation of ports, incomplete compliance tables.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report received. Rec. 16-14: No information on scientific observer programme received.		Letter on reporting issues, implementation of requirements on national scientific observers.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-01: BET quarterly catch reports received for 2018, but missing 2nd quarter for 2019; Rec. 01-22: SDP data received late. Rec. 16-15: Report on transshipment received late and without the comprehensive evaluation report. Rec. 14-07: No information from access agreements submitted (no new agreements in 2018 according to Annual Report).			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-05. No billfish check sheet received. Rec 18-06: No updated shark check sheet received.		
	Quotas and catch limits: "Sizes" and "adjustment" sheets missing in COC sheets.			Quotas and catch limits: Some differences between Task 1 and compliance tables.		
	Other issues: PNC concerning ROP-TRANS in COC-305/19 including response.					

		2019		2020		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
CURAÇAO	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Part II reporting summary received late; Unclear whether ICCAT requirements are implemented in Curaçao's domestic waters or only on high seas. Some species in Task I not reported (blanks shown in COC-303 Appendix 3).	All ICCAT measures are applicable in Curaçao's domestic waters, but there is currently no fishing and no fishing licences have been issued for the EEZ.	Letter on reporting issues.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-01: Some quarterly reports for 2019 received late.			Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late			Quotas and catch limits: Some differences between Task 1 and compliance tables.	This is the result of different methods used for counting said categories: Task 1 reflects estimates by Captains on board the vessels while Compliance tables reflect real numbers reported once the fish have been offloaded at a port or factory.	
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

2019				2020		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
EGYPT	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No ST09 received. Some species in Task I not reported (blanks shown in COC 303 Appendix 3)		Letter on implementation of requirements on national scientific observers, while noting positively Egypt's outreach to Secretariat to seek assistance at the 2019 meeting and encouraging follow-up on this matter.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-05: Billfish check sheet received late.	Egypt has mentioned in its annual report that there is no recorded fishing activities for these species as we do not have these species up till now.	
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:	ICCAT Compliance Reporting Table was sent on 2020/08/08.	
	Other issues: No reply to letter from COC Chair.			Other issues:		

2019

2020

CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2019	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2019	Potential issues of non-compliance-2020	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2020
EL SALVADOR	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual report received late. Some statistical Task II data received late.	A written response was received in advance from El Salvador: As regards this issue, I would like to inform you that since June 2019 a new democratically elected Government, took office. Last August, I was appointed Director of Fisheries and a series of cases of non-compliance concerning different international bodies were observed. This legacy was left to us by the public officials of the previous administration. The best efforts are being made to update the submittal of information to ICCAT corresponding to 2018, and we commit to reply within the established deadline included in the Chair's letter of concern that we received a few days ago.	Identification due to recurring and significant reporting deficiencies, and BET harvest level that indicates significant deficiency of implementation of measures in this fishery.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report received late.	a. The missing document was submitted on 7 October last. Although this is 21 days after the established deadline, it is because of the special circumstances we are experiencing this year worldwide due to the COVID-19 pandemic and because the report had to be reviewed by the International Fisheries Panel of my country, designated as part of the remedial plan to ensure compliance with ICCAT requirements.	Letter on reporting issues, while noting improvement, and BET harvest level (2,452 t) that indicates deficiency of implementation of measures in this fishery to maintain catch less than 1,575 t in accordance with Rec. 16-01, 4(d).
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-15: transshipment report received late: Rec. 01-21 and 01-22: SDP data received late: Rec. 06-13: Trade data received late: Recs 10-09/13-11: Unclear if measures are fully implemented / legally binding. Rec. 18-05 and 18-06: No billfish check sheet or updated shark check sheet received. Rec. 16-01 , para. 4(a) BET harvest (2,634 t) indicate possible insufficient measures to maintain annual catch below 1,575 t"			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 19-01: Fishing and FAD plans submitted late (with previous notification).	As to the fishing and FAD plans submitted by my country on 29 April 2020, described as late submission, my country would like to point out that, while Recommendation 19-02 entered into force following the declaration to this effect by ICCAT, with the greatest will and resolve to comply, even in the difficult context of the pandemic that we have been experiencing, the submission of the plans was prepared, processed and reviewed, so that the Commission can be sure that my country has not only developed the plans, but has also committed to comply with them, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the current Recommendation, as from its entry into force.	
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late.			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

		2019		2020		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
EU	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Some statistical data received late (see PLE-105).		Letter on reporting, while noting positively actions the EU has indicated it has taken or will take to address. Request updates on EBFT investigations.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Some statistical data received late or in incorrect format-(see PLE-105).	Some statistical data was indeed late but we observed some improvement compared to 2019. All other data was submitted on time. We are not aware of any missing data. [Sec note: data from Lithuania not received on first sending due to email problems, but had been sent].	

<p>Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-02: Some caging declarations received late. EU-Portugal and EU-Greece BFT Other/Catching vessels over 15 m did not report any VMS messages.</p>	<p>Caging declarations: this is a recurrent problem stemming from specific EU farm flag Member States which have to face huge amounts of caging operations. The time necessary to analyse and validate the caging footages, as well as the delay necessary to adapt the eBCD references in collaboration with the catching flags EU Member States or other CPCs justify the late transmission of the caging declarations and caging reports. Efforts have been deployed by the EU Member State concerned to address this issue. An extension of the delay to submit the requested documentation should be considered. Regarding VMS, The EU.Portugal vessels are not sending VMS positions because none of these vessels are targeting BFT (only by-catch); EU.Greece has regularly sent those VMS reference to the EU all along 2019. EU committed to send all outstanding VMS data by the end of the meeting.</p>
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<p>Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-05: Late submission of some SWO-MED vessels. Rec. 19-04: Retroactive inclusion of vessels on BFT lists- one case of force majeure without explanatory documentation. Rec. 13-14: Termination of chartering arrangement not notified.</p>	<p>The closure period adopted for EU vessels for SWO-Med fishery is from 1 January to 31 March, so that the vessels authorised in January before the deadline cannot start their fishing activity before 1 April 2020. Notification of changes (which includes the start of activity) is possible for commercial SWO-Med vessels up to 45 days retro-actively (Rec.13-13 applies mutatis mutandis in this respect). Consequently, the deadline of 15 January is – at least for EU vessels – a pure formality without any practical impact in view of the earliest possible start date of fishing activity on 1 April. See Annex for more detailed explanation.</p> <p>Two cases where Member States had requested the inclusion of BFT other vessels without respecting the 15 days minimum notice period according to paras 50/ 1 BFT other vessel (towing vessel): request date: 31.08.2020; authorisation start date: 31.08.2020; documentation provided to ICCAT: 02.09.2020 ESP: 1 BFT other vessel (towing vessel): request date: 28.09.2020; authorisation start date: 28.09.2020; documentation not yet provided to ICCAT; last reminder to ESP sent on 20.10.2020. As case 1 has received an explanatory documentation and case 2 is very recent and the documentation requested still pending, we cannot see a non-compliance at this stage. Justification was sent for the second case on 17 November and circulated to CPCs through Circular 7904-20. In accordance with the Guidelines, the charterers should send the CP05 form and EU.Spain provided the CP06 forms and therefore there is no Potential issue of non-compliance.</p>
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Letter on reporting, while noting improvement. Request further updates on EBFT investigations (Tarantelo Operation), while thanking for updates provided to date.

<p>Quotas and catch limits: Possible underreporting of WHM as significant differences between compliance tables and Task 1 for 2017.</p>	<p>EU is investigating this and will take any necessary measures once the investigation has been finalised.</p>	<p>Quotas and catch limits: Some differences between Task 1 and compliance tables</p>		
<p>Other issues: ROP_BFT: See COC-305/2019 for a list of PNCs and responses.</p>	<p>Some PNCs were sent with the final reports and it was therefore difficult to track these. The Consortitum is requested to send PNCs through the usual channels, in order for these to be investigated.</p>	<p>Other issues: ROP_BFT: See COC-305/2020 for a list of PNCs and responses.</p>		

CPC	2019			2020		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2019	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2019	Potential issues of non-compliance-2020	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2020
FRANCE (St. Pierre & Miquelon)	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Late submission of Annual Report (14 October).		Letter on late reporting.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report received late.		Letter on late reporting.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-05: Billfish check sheets for the implementation of measures submitted late; Rec. 18-06: Updated shark check sheet submitted late.			Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: No reply to letter from COC Chair.			Other issues:		

		2019		2020		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
GABON	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Responses in Annual Report incomplete/insufficient in some cases. Rec. 16-14: No ST11 or ST09 (observer programme information/data) received.		Letter on reporting issues, designation of ports (Rec. 18-09), access agreements.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report received late, some response may be incomplete. Task 1 data received late. No fleet characteristics or Task 2 data received. Rec. 16-14: No observer programme information/data received.		Letter on reporting issues.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 12-07/18-09: No list of designated ports and unclear if foreign fishing vessels prohibited from entering ports. Rec. 14-07: Access agreements not submitted (clarification needed as regards Annual Report: "In 2018, 15 fishing licenses were granted for purse seine vessels flying a foreign flag. Catches amount to 25,689.9 t"). Rec. 14-07: No information from access agreements submitted.			Conservation and Management Measures: Recs 18-05 and 18-06: Late submission of updated bill/shark check sheets.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: No response to letter from COC Chair (only acknowledgement).			Other issues:		

CPC	2019			2020		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2019	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2019	Potential issues of non-compliance-2020	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2020
THE GAMBIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report or statistical data were submitted, but The Gambia joined ICCAT in February 2019 (was not a Contracting Party in 2018).			Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report or statistical data were received.		
	Compliance and mangement measures: The Secretariat has received no responses to the reporting requirements to date, but the Gambia was not a Contracting Party in 2018.			Compliance and mangement measures: The Secretariat has received no responses to the reporting requirements.		
				Other issues: One vessel on IUU list, see PWG-405-B, for details.	Currently the vessel has no authorization to fish in The Gambia. The vessel was last licensed to fish in The Gambia waters from 09-10-2019 to 08-01-2020 and operated for only seven days. During the above-mentioned period a fisheries observer was posted on board but after the seven days the fishing vessel left for Dakar Port. However, the Department of Fisheries is in contact with The Gambia Maritime Administration (GMA) as the competent authority for registration of vessels for the procedural measures to delete SAGE from The Gambian Register. This deletion certificate will serve internationally for the arrest and prosecution of the vessel in conduct of IUU fishing.	Letter on reporting issues.

2019

2020

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
GHANA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Some Task II data received did not pass filter (could not be processed).	Ghana has been using the Task II software recommended by ICCAT and have encountered processing issues.	Letter on reporting issues and procedure followed in submitting vessel to 16-01 tropical list, while noting positively steps taken to rectify these issues.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Task 2 data received in incorrect format	Ghana has been using the Task II software recommended by ICCAT and has encountered processing issues.	Letter on reporting issues.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-09: Period of designation of ports on ICCAT Record expired.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 01-21 [18-07]: Bigye Statistical Document bi-annual report received late.		
	Quotas and catch limits: Size data sheet not completed on compliance tables.	Ghana will work with the Secretariat to resolve this.		Quotas and catch limits: Some differences between Task 1 and compliance tables.	Ghana will work with SCRS to resolve the issue.	
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

2019

2020

	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
GRENADA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report received, no statistical data received. Rec. 16-14. No ST11 or ST09 (observer programme information/data) received.		Identification due to recurring significant reporting issues (including no Annual Report, no statistical data).	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report received. Rec. 16-14: No information on scientific observer programme. Statistical data received late and incomplete - no 2019 data.		Letter on recurring reporting issues, including no Annual Report, while noting improvement from previous years.
	Conservation and Management Measures: No submissions received in 2019.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-5 and 18-06: No shark or billfish check sheets received. No submissions received in 2020.		
	Quotas and catch limits: No compliance tables, (applicability cannot be determined as no other information received).			Quotas and catch limits: No compliance tables received.		
	Other issues: No response to letter from COC Chair. Prohibited under Rec. 11-15.			Other issues: Prohibited under Rec. 11-15.		

	2019			2020		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
GUATEMALA	<p>Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report received late. Information on scientific observer programmes received late (Rec. 16-14). Some species in Task I not reported (blanks shown in COC 303 Appendix 3).</p>	<p>Written explanation received from Guatemala: Unfortunately there was an overlap of information and the required information was not sent.</p>	<p>Letter on reporting issues, implementation of national scientific observer program, shark, billfish, and turtle measures.</p>	<p>Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual report received late. Statistical data received late. Rec. 16-14: No scientific observer data sent and no programme implemented.</p>	<p>As stated in the Annual Report submitted, through the responses to the respective questionnaires, i.e. the Scientific Reporting Summary Table (Item S10), Section 2 on research and statistics, and Section 5, my country complies with the above-mentioned Recommendation 16-14. Even though there is no programme implemented by national civil servants, the services are contracted of a qualified entity with experience in implementation of observers programmes onboard the national fleet, whose management is acknowledged and supervised by Guatemala. In fact, since the start of operations by my country in the Convention area, the services have been contracted of another institution or provider for compliance with the obligations of the national scientific observers programme, which must be understood to endorsed, supervised and implemented by Guatemala as the flag State.</p>	<p>Letter on reporting issues, implementation of national scientific observer program.</p>

<p>Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-01: No quarterly BET catch reports received. FAD management plan received late. Rec. 18-05 and 18-06: Shark and billfish check sheets received late. Rec. 10-09 and 13-11: Unclear if provisions have been implemented in a legally</p>	<p>Many new staff at the Ministry unfamiliar with the requirements, but will make every effort to provide all the information needed.</p>	<p>Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-01: No quarterly BET catch reports received.</p>		
<p>Quotas and catch limits:</p>		<p>Quotas and catch limits: Some differences between Task 1 and compliance tables.</p>		
<p>Other issues:</p>		<p>Other issues:</p>		

CPC	2019			2020		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2019	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2019	Potential issues of non-compliance-2020	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2020
GUINEA BISSAU	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report received, no statistical data received, Rec. 16-14. No ST11 or ST09 (observer programme information / data) received.		Identification due to recurring significant reporting issues, including no Annual Report or statistical data received for three years in a row.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report received or any statistical data were received. Rec. 16-14. observer programme information / data received.		Maintain identification under ICCAT Rec. 06-13 due to recurring significant reporting issues, including no Annual Report or statistical data received for four years in a row.
	Conservation and Management Measures: No response to any reporting requirement received including no shark sheet, no billfish sheet, no list of designated ports.			Conservation and Management Measures: No response to any reporting requirement received in 2020.		
	Quotas and catch limits: No compliance tables, applicability cannot be determined).			Quotas and catch limits: No compliance tables, (applicability cannot be determined).		
	Other issues: No reply to COC Chair's letter. Prohibited under Rec. 11-15.			Other issues: Prohibited under Rec. 11-15.		

		2019		2020		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
GUINEA EQUATORIAL	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Statistical data received late. Catches shown for 2018 while under prohibition. Rec. 16-14: No information on national scientific observer programme.	Will try to improve reporting in future years.	Letter on reporting issues, catch in 2018 while under prohibition of retention pursuant to Rec. 11-15.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Task 1 data received late No Fleet Characteristics or Task 2 data received.	Fleet characteristics not applicable. Equatorial Guinea does not have a national fishing fleet.	No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-01: No quarterly BET catch reports for 2018 (or 2019).			Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits: No compliance tables received.			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: Prohibition maintained as 2017 data missing. Reply to letter from COC Chair received during meeting.			Other issues:		

	2019			2020		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
GUINEA Rep.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report received, no statistical data received. Rec. 16-14. No ST11 or ST09 (observer programme information/data) received.		Identification due to recurring significant reporting issues, including no Annual Report or statistical data received for three years in a row.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report received. Task 1 data received late.		Maintain identification due to recurring significant reporting issues, including no Annual Report received for three years in a row, while noting improvements.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-01: No quarterly BET catch reports received; Rec. 18-05: Billfish check sheets note submitted; Rec. 18-06: No update of shark check sheets submitted; Rec. 12-07/18-09: No list of designated ports.			Conservation and Management Measures: No response to any reporting requirement received in 2020.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: Prohibited under Rec. 11-15. No reply to letter from COC Chair.			Other issues:		

CPC	2019			2020		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2019	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2019	Potential issues of non-compliance-2020	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2020
HONDURAS	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report received late, confirmation of zero catch received late.		Letter on recurring reporting issues, including late submission of Annual Report multiple years in a row.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report received.		Letter on recurring reporting issues, including late or (in case of 2020) non-submission of Annual Report multiple years in a row.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: Recs. 18-05 and 18-06: No billfish or shark check sheets received.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: No reply to letter from COC Chair.			Other issues:		

<i>CPC</i>	2019			2020		
	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
ICELAND	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-06: Updated shark check sheet received late.			Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

		2019		2020		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
JAPAN	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Section 3 received late.		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-05: Billfish check sheet received late.	Japan guided by first circular from Secretariat which was later corrected through erratum.		Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits: Some differences between Task 1 and compliance tables due to fishing year data reported for compliance purposes,	Task 1 data is compiled on a calendar year basis while compliance tables are compiled on a fishing year basis (from August to next July). This causes some differences between Task 1 and compliance tables and should not be regarded as a non-compliance.	
	Other issues: ROP_Transhipment: See COC-305 for list of PNCs and responses.			Other issues: See COC-305 for PNCs under ROP-transhipment and responses.		

2019				2020		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
KOREA, Rep. of	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Part IV of Annual Report submitted late. Some species in Task I not reported (blanks shown in COC-303 Appendix 3).	New staff at Ministry unfamiliar with report format and had not included section 4 with the rest of the report (which was received on time).	No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: Recs 01-21/01-22 and [18-07] Bigeye and Swordfish Statistical Document bi-annual reports received late.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits: Some minor differences between Task 1 and compliance tables		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

		2019		2020		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
LIBERIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No T1 fleet characteristics; no Task II catch and effort. Rec. 16-14: No information on scientific observer programmes or alternative measures for national fleet (canoes). Some species in Task I not reported (blanks shown in COC-303 Appendix 3).	Liberia has no flagged tuna vessels other than artisanal fisheries.	Letter on reporting issues, implementation of domestic scientific observer program (Rec. 16-24), no compliance tables received, no list of designated ports (Rec. 18-09).	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual report received late: Rec. 16-14: No ST-09 received as scientific observer programme currently being established, hence data not yet available. No Task 2 data received.		Letter on reporting issues, implementation of domestic scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14), no list of designated ports (Rec. 18-09), possible blue marlin overharvest, and to further inquire about information submitted to ICCAT (see document COC-317/20) indicating loitering by Liberian vessels without regional observer coverage.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-09: No list of designated ports, unclear whether foreign vessels are prohibited.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-09 No list of designated ports. Rec 18-05: No billfish check sheet received; Rec. 18-06: No updated shark check sheet received		
	Quotas and catch limits: No compliance tables received, but some catches reported for N.SWO, N. ALB and BUM in Task I.			Quotas and catch limits: Some differences between Task 1 and compliance tables. Possible over harvest of blue marlin.		
	Other issues: No reply to letter from COC Chair.			Other issues:		

	2019			2020		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
LIBYA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Task II data in incorrect format. Rec. 16-14: Unclear if national scientific observer coverage is in line with provisions.	Libya could not have a certain program, hoping to establish it in near future and might require assistance from ICCAT Secretariat. Information has been collected from the crew and dead fish.	Letter on reporting issues, on implementation of ICCAT requirements on national scientific observers (Rec. 16-14), IMO number requirement (Rec. 13-13), VMS transmission (Rec. 18-02).	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report received. Task 1 data received late; No. Rec. 16-14: No Task 2 Catch and Effort data. informaton on scientific observer progrmme.	Annual Report was submitted late on 27/12/2020. Re Task 2: The unstable situation in the country has proved to be a serious obstacle in the overall collation of data - however the situation is now bettering and personnel have been recruited to handle this task in a more reliable manner in 2021.	

<p>Conservation and Management Measures: Recs 10-09-13-11: Unclear if provisions are legally binding, despite infrequent interaction. Rec. 13-13: One vessel without IMO number on ICCAT Record. Rec. 18-02: One BFT vessel did not send VMS messages while operating in Mediterranean, 5-19 June.</p>	<p>The updated local Decree No. 33/2019, Article 26 shows the prohibition of catching sea turtles and to be released and returned to the sea after recorded in logbook, in fishing season 2019 there was no sea turtles and/or seabirds reported by Libyan purse seiners. Libya is working on update of General fishing law No. 14 issued on 1981; ICCAT fishery rules will be included. Rec. 13-13: Vessel owner is currently in correspondence with IHS Markit Rec. 18-02. Following investigation, a technical error was discovered which prevented the data being forwarded to ICCAT from Loqua; the missing data has been sent to the Secretariat.</p>	<p>Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-02/19-04: No regulations and other related documents adopted to implement Rec.</p>	<p>Refer to Doc PA2-10B:2020: The Annual Farming, Fishing & Management Plan (Chapter 4 para.a2) adopted in March 2020 clearly indicates that ICCAT Recs. were transposed into local legislation by way of Decree 33/2019.</p>	<p>Letter on reporting issues, on implementation of ICCAT requirements on national scientific observers (Rec. 16-14), lack of regulations to implement EBFT measure (Rec. 18-02/19-04), no compliance tables submitted.</p>
<p>Quotas and catch limits:</p>		<p>Quotas and catch limits: No compliance tables received.</p>	<p>Compliance table was submitted on 30.09.2020</p>	
<p>Other issues: ROP_BFT: See COC-305/19 for a list of PNCs and responses.</p>		<p>Other issues:</p>		

CPC	2019			2020		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2019	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2019	Potential issues of non-compliance-2020	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2020
MAURITANIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual report received late and incorrect format. Rec. 16-14: No information on national scientific observer programme.		Letter on reporting issues, implementation of requirements on national observer programs, sharks, marlin, access agreements, designation of authorized ports (Rec. 18-09), while noting positively work in 2019 with Secretariat to address data deficiencies for previous years.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Rec. 16-14: No scientific observer data submitted. Tuna vessels not incorporated into the national observer programme. No fleet characteristics or Task 2 data received.		Letter on reporting issues, implementation of requirements on national observer programs.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-05: Billfish check sheets not submitted; Rec. 18-06: No update of shark check sheets submitted; Rec. 14-07: Requirements on Access agreements not submitted.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec 18-06 Shark check sheet not updated.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: No reply to letter from COC Chair.			Other issues:		

	2019			2020		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
MEXICO	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Rec. 16-14: Information on scientific observer programmes received late. Some species in Task I not reported (blanks shown in COC 303 Appendix 3).		Letter on reporting issues and IMO number requirement, while noting positively the efforts reported to address these issues.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-01: BET catch reports received for last two quarters of 2018 received late. Rec. 13-13: Some vessels on ICCAT Record missing IMO number. Recs 18-05 and 18-06: Billfish and shark checksheets received late. Rec. 18-13: BCD report received late.	Mexico requested a number in 2015 but the request was rejected at that time as the vessels were less than 100 GT. Following clarification from the Secretariat, Mexico has once again submitted requests for IMO No. (copies of requests sent to Secretariat) and are awaiting the allocation of numbers.		Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 01-22 [18-07]: Swordfish Statistical Document bi-annual report received late.	The Mexican Government reiterates that the Secretariat's work is taken into consideration by the Mexican authorities when complying with the Convention objectives and purposes in support of fishing in accordance with responsibility and sustainability criteria. The Mexican Government is working on the necessary corrective mechanisms. The information was submitted in accordance with the indications on 8 May 2020.	

<p>Quotas and catch limits:</p>	
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<p>Quotas and catch limits:Some minor differences between Task 1 and Compliance tables for historical data.</p>	<p>In the section “Initial catch limits” of the ALBN sheet there are no catch limits for Mexico. Furthermore, the figures in the section “Current catches (CP13)” have not been reported in the compliance tables because the catches were sporadic and very few in number. That is why in the section “Diff >1” no figures match, even though the Task 1 catch figures have been reported. In the section “Diff >1” of the WHM sheet, for 2018, the difference arises because the figure in the compliance table is incorrect, as 15,894 kg (16 t, round figure) were caught.</p>	
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	Other issues:			Other issues:		
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	2019			2020		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
MOROCCO	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Summary and Part V of Annual Report received late.	Were not informed of the missing parts until after the deadline.	No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Some statistical data received late.		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures:		

Quotas and catch limits:	
Other issues: ROP_BFT: See COC-305/19 for a list of PNCs and responses and COC-312/2019 for information under Rec. 08-09.	The activities are contemplated in Rec. 18-02 and do not constitute PNCs.

Quotas and catch limits:		
Other issues:		

		2019		2020		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
NAMIBIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Rec. 16-14. Information on scientific observer programmes received late. Some species in Task I not reported (blanks shown in COC 303 Appendix 3).		Identification for significant, recurring overharvest of blue marlin for 3 years in a row (LL of 10 t; reported landings 32 (2016), 57 (2017), 84 (2018)); letter also to note late reporting issues; > 45 day retroactive vessel notification (Rec. 13-13/14-10).	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Rec. 16-14: No information on scientific observer programs.		
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec.13-13/14-10: Two vessels reported for inclusion on ICCAT Record more than 45 days retroactively. Rec. 16-15: Report on transshipment received late.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-01: No bigeye quarterly reports transmitted. Rec. 13-14: Termination of chartering agreements not communicated.		

<p>Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest of BUM</p>		<p>Quotas and catch limits: Overharvest of blue marlin. Some differences between Task 1 and compliance tables.</p>	<p>Namibia collects statistical data from its Large Pelagic fishing fleet, through information gathered from the log-sheets supplied to Masters of fishing vessels, as well as data collected at sea by Fisheries Observers. Data provided in the compliance table are actual landings data collected by fisheries Inspectors deployed at all landing points.</p>	<p>Identification for significant, recurring overharvest of blue marlin for 4 years in a row (landings limit of 10 t; reported landings 32 t (2016), 57 t (2017), 84 t (2018) 52.72 t (2019); resulting in negative 185.72 t landings limit; letter also to note reporting issues. Recommend that the COC and Panel 4 consider additional measures at the 2021 Annual Meeting to address this continuing overharvest</p>
<p>Other issues: ROP_Transhipment: See COC-305 for list of PNCs and responses. No response to letter from COC Chair.</p>				

<i>CPC</i>	2019			2020		
	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
NICARAGUA	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		Letter on reporting issues (no billfish or shark check sheet).	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		Letter on recurring reporting issues (no Billfish Check Sheet (Rec. 18-05) or updated Shark Check Sheet (Rec. 18-06)).
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-05 and 18-06: No billfish or shark check sheet submitted.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-05: no Billfish Check Sheet received; Rec. 18-06: No updated Shark check sheet received		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: No response to letter from COC Chair.			Other issues:		

		2019		2020		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
NIGERIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual report incomplete (summary and reporting tables sent).		Letter on incomplete Annual Report, notification of designated ports (Rec. 18-09).	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report received.		Letter on reporting issues, including no Annual Report, no notification of designated ports (Rec. 18-09), no Billfish Check Sheet (Rec. 18-05).
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-09: Status of Port entry by foreign vessels unclear.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-09. No list of designated ports submitted. Rec. 18-05: No billfish check sheet received.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

		2019		2020		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
NORWAY	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.			No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: ROP_BFT: See COC-305/19 for a list of PNCs and responses.			Other issues:		

2019

2020

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
PANAMA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual report received late. Statistical data received late. Rec. 16-14. ST11 or ST09 (observer programme information/data) received late.	Administration undergoing changes which has caused delays.	Letter on continued late reporting issues (including Annual Report and statistical data received multiple years in a row); > 45 day retroactive vessel notification (Rec. 13-13/14-10).			Letter on reporting issues (no Billfish Check Sheet (Rec. 18-05) or updated Shark Check Sheet (Rec. 18-06)), and no compliance tables submitted, while noting improvement on reporting compared to previous years.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 13-13/14-10 Several cases of vessels reported for inclusion on ICCAT Record of vessels more than 45 days retroactively. Rec. 18-05: Billfish check sheet received late (15 Nov).	New legislation is being enacted strengthening MCS measures including legally binding requirements for carrier vessels to have VMS.		Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-05: No Billfish Check Sheet received; Rec. 18-06: No updated Shark check sheet received.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits: No compliance tables received.		
	Other issues: Response to Chairs letter received late (15 Nov).			Other issues:		

	2019			2020		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
PHILIPPINES	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report received. No statistical data received (prohibition still in place).		Letter on continued reporting issues, including no annual reports or statistical data two years in a row.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report or any statistical data were received.		Letter on continued reporting issues, including no annual reports three years in a row, while noting receipt of confirmation of zero catch during 2020 proceedings.
	Conservation and Management Measures: No information received in response to any reporting requirement, including Rec. 18-05 and 18-06: Billfish and shark check sheets. Rec. 18-09: No list of designated ports.			Conservation and Management Measures: 18-05 and 18-06: No billfish or shark check sheets submitted. Rec. 18-09: No list of designated ports submitted.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		

	Other issues: Prohibited under Rec. 11-15. No response to letter from COC Chair.		Other issues: Prohibition maintained and missing data not yet submitted.		
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		2019		2020		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
RUSSIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: ST09 received late.		Letter on reporting issues, including no billfish check sheet or updates to shark check sheet submitted.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Some statistical data received late.	Annual Reports/Statistics were sent 14/09/2020, 07/07/2020 respectively. In order to exclude technical failures, additional control over the sent information is organized.	Letter on late reporting, while noting improvement in reporting compared to previous years.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-05 and 18-06: No billfish check sheet received. No updated shark check sheet received.	Russia has no vessels targeting tuna or tuna-like species, any tuna fish is taken as bycatch in other fisheries.		Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-05: Billfish check sheet received late. Rec. 18-06: Updated shark check sheet received late.	Billfish check sheet and updated shark check sheet were sent 15/10/2020. In order to exclude technical failures, additional control over the sent information is organized.	
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

	2019			2020		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
SÃO TOMÉ & PRÍNCIPE	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report, no statistical data; Rec. 16-14: No ST11/ST09 - observer information or data.		Letter on reporting issues (including no billfish or updated shark check sheet received), no list of designated ports (Rec. 18-09), information on access agreements.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report received late and incomplete. Rec. 16-14: No information on observer programmes. No fleet characteristics or Task 2 data received.		Letter on reporting issues, while noting improvement from previous years.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-01: No response to reporting requirements e.g. Quarterly BET catch reports for the 4th quarter of 2018 and 2019 not submitted. Rec. 18-05: Billfish check sheet not submitted. Rec. 18-06: No update of shark check sheets (not submitted); Rec. 12-07/18-09: No designated list of ports; Rec. 14-07: Requirements on access agreements not submitted.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-05: No billfish check sheet received. Rec. 18-06: No updated shark check sheet received.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits: No compliance tables received.		
	Other issues: No response to letter from COC Chair.			Other issues:		

	2019			2020		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
SENEGAL	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report received late. Rec. 16-14: No ST11/ST09 - scientific observer programme information / data.	See response to Chair letter (COC-309).	Letter on late reporting, implementation of requirements on national scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14), incomplete compliance table information, vessel without IMO # (Rec. 13-13), while noting positively information provided in its 2019 COC response letter on steps being taken to address certain issues.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Rec. 16-14. Some statistical data received late. No ST-09 received as scientific observer programme currently being established, hence data not yet available.		Letter on late reporting, implementation of requirements on national scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14).
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 02-21 and Rec. 02-22: Late submission of biannual SDP reports (BET and SWO, respectively). Rec. 13-13: One vessel without IMO No. reported for inclusion on ICCAT Record of vessels.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 13-14: Termination of chartering arrangements not communicated.		
	Quotas and catch limits: Size information sheet for compliance tables received late.			Quotas and catch limits: Some differences between Task 1 and compliance tables.		
	Other issues:			Other issues: One vessel on IUU list, see PWG-405-B, 412, 415 and 416 for details.	Senegal reiterates its request for the current flag of the vessel <i>Mario 11</i> to be changed from Senegal to unknown on the IUU list, because it is considered [by Senegal] that the elements to enable this change have been provided.	

		2019		2020		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
SIERRA LEONE	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report received late (during meeting) and incomplete. No ST11/ST09 - scientific observer programme information/data.		Letter on reporting issues and no designation of ports (Rec. 18-09).	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual report received late. Rec. 16-14: No scientific observer programmes		Letter on late reporting and no scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14)
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-09. No list of designated ports.			Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: No response to letter from COC Chair.			Other issues:		

CPC	2019			2020		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2019	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2019	Potential issues of non-compliance-2020	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2020
SOUTH AFRICA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Part II of Annual Report received late. Some size data (T2) received late.	South Africa strives for 100% compliance. Some late reporting in 2019 due to administrative oversight. Task II originally sent within the deadline, but with the wrong format. Corrections were hence sent after the deadlines.	No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report received late. Fleet characteristics (ST01) received late.		Letter on reporting issues.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 19-01. Tropical tuna fishing plan received late; Rec. 11-09/07-07: Information on seabird mitigation measures received late. Rec. 13-14: Termination of chartering arrangements not communicated; Recs. 18-05 and 18-06: Shark / Billfish checksheets received late.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits: Some differences between Task 1 and compliance tables.		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

		2019		2020		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
ST.VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No ST09 received. Some species in Task I not reported (blanks shown in COC 303 Appendix 3).		Letter on reporting issues, including on implementation of requirements for national scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14), no updated shark check sheet (Rec. 18-06), and incomplete compliance tables.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:- Fleet Characteristics (ST01) received late. Rec. 16-14. SVG did not deploy any scientific observers in 2019 due to unforeseen late scheduling in the national observer deployment programme and unanticipated delays	Late submission due to administrative oversight	Letter on late reporting issues, implementation of requirements for national scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14), late submission of compliance tables, and overharvest.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-06: No updated shark check sheet received.			Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits: Size limit sheet of compliance table not completed.			Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late. Overharvest of white marlin (WHM) and possible overharvest of S. SWO. Some differences between Task 1 and compliance tables.	Late submission due to administrative oversight.	
	Other issues: ROP_Transhipment: See COC-305 for list of PNCs and responses. No response to letter from COC Chair.			Other issues:		

		2019		2020		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
SYRIA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No ST11/ST09 scientific observer programme.		Letter on reporting issues, including BCD annual report and billfish check sheet not received; implementation of national scientific observer requirements (Rec. 16-14), while noting request for technical assistance in 2019 COC response letter; and to seek clarification on designated ports for foreign flag vessels with species other than bluefin tuna (Rec. 18-09).	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Rec. 16-14: No scientific observer programme (only one vessel operated for BFT and the regional observer was on board).		Letter on Billfish Check Sheet not received; implementation of national scientific observer requirements (Rec. 16-14), while noting request for technical assistance in 2019 COC response letter; vessels submitted for inclusion on ICCAT Record less than 15 days before start date.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-13: No BCD annual report. Rec. 18-05: No billfish check sheet received. Rec. 18-09: List of port sent on date indicated in Annual Report refers only to BFT, but see response to Chair's letter in COC-309.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-05: No billfish check sheet submitted. Rec. 19-04: Vessels submitted for inclusion on ICCAT Record less than 15 days before start date.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: ROP_BFT: See COC-305 for a list of PNCs.			Other issues:		

2019

2020

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Rec. 16-14: No. ST11/ST09 - observer information or data. Some species in Task I not reported (blanks shown in COC 303 Appendix 3).	Legal framework for the implementation of these requirements almost complete.	Letter on implementation of requirements on scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14) and, designation of ports (Rec. 18-09), while noting positively the update on both issues provided at the 2019 Annual Meeting and in 2019 COC response letter.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual report received late; Task 2 data received late. Rec. 16-14: Domestic observer program not yet implemented in Trinidad and Tobago. An action plan to address the deficiencies in Trinidad and Tobago's legal, administrative and MCS frameworks has been submitted to the Cabinet for consideration.		Letter on reporting issues and implementation of requirements on scientific observer program (16-14).
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-09: No list of designated ports.	Have recently ratified FAO PSMA and hope to be able to send the list of designated ports soon.		Conservation and Management Measures: Recs 01-21 and 01-22 [18-07]: Bigeye and Swordfish Statistical Document bi-annual report received late.		
	Quotas and catch limits: BUM and WHM figures still negative, but actions have been taken; zero catch in 2017-2018.			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

		2019		2020		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
TUNISIA	Annual Reports/Statistics:		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		Letter on reporting issues and implementation of requirements on scientific observer program (16-14).
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-02: Caging operations after 22 August, due to causes of <i>force majeure</i> .			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 13-13/14-10/19-04: Vessels submitted for inclusion on ICCAT Record retroactively. Rec. 18-13: Carry over from farms submitted late.	4 vessels (other BFT vessels) are concerned. The start of their operations was notified late by the operator due to logistical emergencies. It should also be noted that the our administration functioned slower following the health restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.	
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits: Some differences between Task 1 and compliance tables.	Difference is from bycatches reported and not taken into consideration in the ST02 form (Task 1).	
	Other issues: ROP_BFT: See COC-305 for a list of PNCs and responses.			Other issues: ROP_BFT: See COC-305/2020 for a list of PNCs and responses.		

<i>CPC</i>	2019			2020		
	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
TURKEY	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 01-21 and 01-22; Bi-annual report of SDP data received late.	Some difficulties in 2019 in submitting the information on time due to its being collected from a range of institutions, some of which delayed their submission.		Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: ROP_BFT: See COC-350 for a list of PNCs and responses.			Other issues: See COC-305/2020 for a list of PNCs and responses.		

CPC	2019			2020		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2019	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2019	Potential issues of non-compliance-2020	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2020
UNITED KINGDOM (In respect of Overseas Territories for Reporting Period under consideration)	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Rec. 16-14: No scientific observer programme in place.	UKOT is examining ways to comply with the requirements and have undertaken a full review and gap analysis in an effort to reach full compliance.	Letter on implementation of requirements on national scientific observers (Rec. 16-14), late BCD report, vessel without IMO #, while noting positively the updates provided on efforts made to address these issues.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-13 BCD Annual Report received late. One vessel without IMO No. reported for inclusion on ICCAT Record of vessels.	The IMO number has been issued and will be communicated to the Secretariat as soon as possible and before the end of 2019.		Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

		2019		2020		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</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:	Some differences between Task 1 and compliance tables.	
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

		2019		2020		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
URUGUAY	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Recs. 18-05 and 18-06: Billfish and shark check sheets received late.	As to non-submission of the shark check sheet during the 2018 meeting, we understood that, since we had not carried out any fishing operation in 2017, it was not necessary to report the measures. This year full information has been reported even though we did not carry out any fishing operation in 2018.		Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: No response to letter from COC Chair.	Regarding reporting of in port inspections, we were not in a position to submit the reports in 2018, since we had to comply with some internal processes. The report that currently have to be submitted are those of vessels for which infringements have been observed. In this regard, we inform that we have not detected any infringements for the vessels inspected in 2018.		Other issues:		

		2019		2020		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
VANUATU [as a CPC until 31 Dec 2020]	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual report received late.		Letter on reporting issues (late Annual Report, no billfish or updated shark check sheets received), no designated ports submitted (Rec. 18-09; Vanuatu's response that it is not a coastal State is insufficient).	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report received.		Letter on reporting issues (no Annual Report, no billfish or updated Shark Check Sheets received), no designated ports submitted (Rec. 18-09).
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-09 No list of designated ports. Have responded that Vanuatu is not a coastal State. Rec. 18-05 and 18-06: No billfish or updated shark check sheet received.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-05: No billfish check sheet received. Rec 18-06: No updated Shark check sheet received 18-09: No list of designated ports submitted.		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: No response to letter from COC Chair.			Other issues:		

		2019		2020		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
VENEZUELA	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report received; No statistical data received. Rec. 16-14: No ST11/ST09 - observer information or data.		Letter on continued reporting issues, > 45 day retroactive authorized vessel submission (Rec. 13-13/14-10), implementation of requirements on national scientific observers (Rec. 16-14), no compliance table received.	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report received late. Some statistical data received late.		Letter on continued reporting issues, no designated ports submitted (Rec. 18-09), no compliance table received.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 13-13/14-10: Vessels reported for inclusion on ICCAT Record more than 45 days retroactively. Rec. 18-09. No list of designated ports.			Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-05: No billfish check sheet received. Rec 18-06: No updated shark check sheet received 18-09: No list of designated ports submitted.		
	Quotas and catch limits: No compliance tables received.			Quotas and catch limits: No compliance tables received.		
	Other issues: No response to letter from COC Chair.			Other issues:		

BOLIVIA	2019			2020		
	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual report summary text missing. 'Not applicable' responses not adequately explained.		Letter on reporting issues (Annual Report incomplete; billfish and updated shark check sheets received late).	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual report and statistical data received late		Letter on late reporting issues. Cooperating status renewed.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-05 and 18-06 Billfish and updated shark check sheets received late.			Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

CHINESE TAIPEI	2019			2020		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2019	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2019	Potential issues of non-compliance-2020	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2020
	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary. Cooperating status renewed.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits: Some differences between Task 1 and compliance tables.	The reason for such differences might have resulted from whether the amount of discard is counted into catch amount or not, as it seems that there is no common rule for all the species.	
	Other issues: ROP transshipment: See COC-305 for PNCs and responses.			Other issues: PNCs reported by ROP observers and responses contained in COC-305.		

2020

COLOMBIA	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report received late.		
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-06: Shark check sheet submitted late.		Letter on late reporting and to seek additional information on access agreements. Cooperating Status not-renewed.
	Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues: Clarification on Access Agreement requested.		

	2019			2020		
COSTA RICA	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Clarification required regarding Task I data currently under revision. Some answers in Annual Report insufficient (N/A not explained).		Identification for significant, recurring overharvest of white marlin for multiple years (landings limit of 2 t; reported landings 55.24 (2016), 45.00 (2016) 69.20 (2017) 35.10 (2018); current adjusted landings limit for 2019: negative 194.54 t) and past overharvest of north Atlantic swordfish for multiple years (Costa Rica does not have a catch limit, and its compliance table reflects the following catches: 27 t (2015), 21.3 t (2016), 32 t (2017), and 2019 response to COC Chair letter reports 40 t for 2019. Letter to also address	Annual Reports/ Statistics: No Annual Report received. No statistical data received.		Maintain identification under ICCAT Rec. 06-13 due to failure to submit Annual Report, statistical data, other reporting issues, and past significant overharvest for multiple years of white marlin and north Atlantic swordfish. Cooperating status renewed for 2021, but letter to note that continuing non-compliance will have bearing on ICCAT decision whether to renew Costa Rica's Cooperating Non-Party status.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 18-09: Unclear if foreign vessels are allowed to enter any ports (see response to Chair's letter in COC-309). Rec. 18-05 and 18-06: Billfish and shark check sheets received late.		reporting issues, including Task I data and no submission of billfish or shark check sheets; incomplete information regarding designated ports (Rec. 18-09) (response only addresses ports in ICCAT Convention area). Letter to note that continuing non-compliance will have bearing on ICCAT decision whether to renew Costa Rica's Cooperating Non-Party status.	Conservation and Management Measures: 18-09: No list of designated ports submitted.		
	Quotas and catch limits: Continued overharvest white marlin and northern swordfish.			Quotas and catch limits: No compliance tables received		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

2019			2020			
GUYANA	Potential issues of non-compliance-2019	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2019	Potential issues of non-compliance-2020	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2020
	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual Report received late and some answers incomplete; Task I & II data received late; Rec. 16-14: No ST11/ST09 - observer information or data.		Identification for significant recurrent WHM overharvest over a number of years (landings limit of 2 t, but current adjusted landings limit of negative 165.26 t); letter also to address recurring reporting issues; no designation of ports (Rec. 18-09); implementation of requirements on national scientific observers (Rec. 16-14); late compliance tables; and noting that non-compliance has a bearing on the	Annual Reports/ Statistics: Annual report Part II received late.		Maintain identification due to past significant recurrent WHM overharvest and potential continued overharvest of WHM and SSWO in 2019; late Annual Report and Compliance Tables. Cooperating status renewed for 2021, but letter to note that non-compliance has a bearing on ICCAT decision on whether to renew Guyana's Cooperating Non-Party status.
	Conservation and Management Measures: Rec. 16-01: No quarterly catches of BET reported. Rec. 18-09: No list of designated ports received. Rec. 18-05 and 18-06: Billfish check sheet and updated shark sheet received late. Rec. 14-07: No information from access agreements submitted. Rec. 02-21: Data from Statistical Document data indicates possible exports of southern swordfish. Guyana has no quota for this species.		ICCAT decision on whether to renew Guyana's Cooperating Non-Party status.	Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late. Overharvest of WHM.			Quotas and catch limits: Compliance tables received late. Possible overharvest of blue marlin and southern swordfish		
	Other issues: No reply to letter from COC Chair.			Other issues:		

	2019			2020		
SURINAME	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2019</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2019</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2020</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2020</i>
	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No actions necessary.	Annual Reports/ Statistics:		No action necessary. Cooperating status renewed.
	Conservation and Management Measures:			Conservation and Management Measures:		
	Quotas and catch limits:			Quotas and catch limits:		
	Other issues:			Other issues:		

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9

Compliance Tables

(All quantities are in metric tons)

NORTH ALBACORE

YEAR	Initial catch limits					Current catches				Balance				Adjusted quota/catch limit						
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2016	2017	2018	2019	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
TAC	28000	28000	33600	33600	33600															
BARBADOS	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	38.10	15.90	14.60	7.12	201.90	224.10	235.40	257.88	240.00	240.00	250.00	265.00			
BELIZE	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	398.50	448.44	385.14	216.09	51.50	1.56	64.86	200.47	450.00	450.00	450.00	416.56	465.00		
BRAZIL	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00			
CANADA	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	19.92	16.99	26.40	31.19	230.07	233.01	223.60	233.81	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00			
CHINA	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	103.20	123.65	123.84	129.16	146.80	126.35	126.16	135.84	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	265.00		
CHINESE TAIPEI	3271.70	3271.70	3926.00	3926.00	3926.00	3134.00	2385.00	2926.00	2770.00	655.62	1404.62	1355.62	1773.93	3789.62	3789.62	4281.62	4543.93	4707.50		
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	150.56	248.70	0.00	75.91	99.38	1.30	201.30	189.09	250.00	250.00	201.30	265.00			
CURAÇAO	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00		10.00	21.50	0.00	3.20	40.00	28.46	50.00			50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	
EU	21551.30	21551.30	25861.60	25861.60	25861.60	24308.65	20699.71	25086.83	30076.89	233.05	6239.41	1007.82	-540.04	24541.70	26939.12	26094.65	29536.85	26869.42		
FRANCE (St. P&M)	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	265.00		
JAPAN	449.52	394.89	393.98	397.33		254.90	335.00	210.60	319.27	194.62	59.89	183.38	78.05	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
KOREA	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	13.18	7.90	27.27	48.48	236.82	242.10	222.73	216.52	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	265.00		
LIBERIA		200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00		90.00	2.90	0.00		110.00	200.00	265.00		200.00	200.00	265.00			
MAROC	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	25.00	230.00	230.00	230.00	240.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	265.00	265.00	268.75
MEXICO						2.19	0.38	7.19	0.29	-3.51	-3.89	-11.09	-11.38	-1.32	-3.51	-3.89	-11.09	-11.38		
ST.VINCENT & GRENADINES	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	291.60	296.20	173.26	180.45	6.89	3.80	133.63	38.35	298.49	300.00	306.89	218.80	265.00	268.75	
TR. & TOBAGO	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	70.70	48.20	33.10	22.03	179.30	201.80	216.90	242.97	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	265.00		
UK-OT	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	0.60	0.36	0.38	0.79	249.40	249.64	249.62	264.21	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	265.00	265.00	215.00
USA	527.00	527.00	632.40	632.40	632.40	250.22	238.35	102.57	221.36	408.53	420.40	661.58	569.14	658.75	658.75	764.15	790.50	790.50		
VANUATU	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		250.00	250.00	250.00		250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00			
VENEZUELA	250.00	250.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	286.98	301.35	0.00		-702.19	-753.54	-453.54		-415.21	-452.19	-453.54	-153.54			
TOTAL CATCH						29343.30	25286.13	29161.58	34124.03											
Rec. number	13-05	16-06	17-04	17-04	17-04									13-05	16-06	16-06	17-04	17-04	17-04	

BELIZE: intends to use 1.56 t of its underage from 2017 in 2019 (Rec. 16-06, para 7).

BELIZE: receives a transfer of N-ALB from Chinese Taipei 200 t for 2019/2020.

BELIZE: intends to use 50 t of its underage from 2018 ($Q2018 \times 0.25 = 50t$) in 2020 (Rec. 16-06, para 7)

CANADA: all 2019 catches are inclusive of dead discards.

EU: authorized to transfer in 2017 to Venezuela 60 t of its 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.

JAPAN: 2019 adjusted limit = BET 2019 catch * 4% (para 6 of Rec. 16-06).

KOREA: underage up to 25% of the initial catch quota has been carried over biennially.

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: authorized to transfer to Venezuela 150 t in 2017 of its 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: 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.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2019 adjusted quota is 4543.93 t ($=3926+(3271.70 \times 0.25)-200$) due to the inclusion of 2017 underage and 2019 initial catch quota and the transfers of 200 t to Belize.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2020 adjusted quota is 4707.5 t ($=3926 \times (1+0.25)-200$) due to the inclusion of 2018 underage and 2020 initial catch quota and the deduction of transfer of 200 t to Belize.

SOUTH ALBACORE

YEAR	Initial catch limits					Current catches				Balance				Adjusted quota/catch limit				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2016	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
TAC	24000	24000	24000	24000	24000													
ANGOLA	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00										
BELIZE	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	122.86	219.03	310.52	158.14	189.64	93.47	1.98	154.36	312.50	312.50	312.50	251.98	312.50
BRAZIL	2160.00	2160.00	2160.00	2160.00	2160.00	657.59	496.85	396.00	1002.66	2042.41	2103.15	2204.00	1597.34	2600.00	2600.00	2600.00	2600.00	2600.00
CHINESE TAIPEI	9400.00	9400.00	9400.00	9400.00	9400.00	8907.00	9090.00	9227.00	9626.00	2843.00	2660.00	2523.00	2124.00	11750.00	11750.00	11750.00	11550.00	11524.00
CHINA	100.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	94.37	184.55	116.45	132.07	30.63	20.05	133.55	87.98	204.60	250.00	220.05	250.00	250.00
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	122.40	6.18	19.36			2.60	96.43	105.64	125.00	102.60	125.00	
CURAÇAO	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	12.00	13.30	0.00	0.00			36.70	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	
EU	1470.00	1470.00	1470.00	1470.00	1470.00	54.77	178.20	102.81	81.73	1782.73	1659.30	1734.69	1755.77	1837.50	1837.50	1837.50	1837.50	1837.50
GUINEA EQ.			25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.77	0.00			24.23	25.00		25.00	25.00		
GUYANA	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.04	0.00	3.00	1.00	24.96	25.00	22.00	24.00	25.00	25.00	25.00		
JAPAN	1355.00	1355.00	1355.00	1355.00	1355.00	1212.80	2135.80	1654.50	1465.57	480.95	-418.70	239.25	470.73	1717.10	1893.75	1936.30	2693.75	1693.75
KOREA	140.00	140.00	140.00	140.00	140.00	48.27	85.96	166.64	170.01	126.73	89.04	8.36	4.99	175.00	175.00	175.00	148.36	
NAMIBIA	3600.00	3600.00	3600.00	3600.00	3600.00	994.00	365.62	888.80	966.50	3506.00	4111.38	3612.00	3533.50	4477.00	4500.00	4500.00	4500.00	4500.00
PANAMA	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	3.20	23.50	0.00	13.00	21.80	1.50	25.00	12.00	25.00	25.00	25.00		
PHILIPPINES	140.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		140.00	25.00			25.00	25.00	25.00		
SOUTH AFRICA	4400.00	4400.00	4400.00	4400.00	4400.00	2065.00	1762.00	2572.50	4402.87	2335.00	3738.00	2027.50	197.13	5500.00	5500.00	4600.00	4900.00	4597.13
ST. VINCENT & GRENADINES	100.00	140.00	140.00	140.00	140.00	107.40	101.00	98.21	30.63	-0.73	38.27	41.79	144.37	139.27	140.00	175.00	175.00	175.00
TR. & TOBAGO	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.40	0.00	0.00	3.30	24.60	25.00	25.00	21.70	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	
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	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
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	440.00	550.00	550.00	550.00	550.00	550.00
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.	25.00	25.00	25.00	
VANUATU	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.40	0.00	0.00		99.60	100.00	100.00		100.00	100.00	100.00		
TOTAL CATCH						14280.10	14778.20	15543.38	18072.85									
Rec. number	13-06	16-07	16-07	16-07	16-07									13-06	16-07	16-07	16-07	16-07

BELIZE: intends to use 62.5 t of its underages from 2017 in 2019 (Rec. 16-07, para 4b).
 BELIZE: intends to use 1.98 t of its underages from 2018 in 2020 (Rec. 16-07, para 4a).
 BELIZE: Belize's underage in 2019 up to 25% of the initial catch quota of this year was carried over to the 2021 initial limit (Rec. 16-07).
 BRAZIL: Brazil's underage in 2019 up to 25% of the initial catch quota of this year was carried over to the 2021 initial limit (Rec. 16-07).
 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 % carryover request made by China at the 2017 Regular Commission meeting has been completed using their underage from 2016 of 30.63 t and 19.37 t of the total underage of the TAC from 20
 CHINA: in accordance with para 4b of Rec. 16-07, wishes to request its intention of such carry-over.
 CHINA: China's underage in 2019 up to 25% of the initial catch quota of this year was carried over to the 2021 initial limit (Rec. 16-07).
 EU: EU's underage in 2019 up to 25% of the initial catch quota of this year was carried over to the 2021 initial limit (Rec. 16-07).
 KOREA: underage up to 25% of the initial catch quota has been carried over biennially.
 JAPAN: 2017 to 2018 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).
 JAPAN: informed the Commission in 2019 that its underage in 2018 will be carried over to the 2020 initial limit (Rec. 16-07).
 JAPAN: 2019 adjusted limit = 1,355 t (Limit) - 418.7 t (2017 overage (para 5 of Rec. 16-07))+100 t (transfer from Brazil (para 3 of Rec. 16-07)) + 100 t (transfer from S. Africa (para 3 of Rec. 16-07)) + 800 t (transfer from S. Africa (Circular #0888/19)).
 JAPAN: Japan's underage in 2019 was carried over to the 2021 initial limit (Rec. 16-07).
 JAPAN: 2020 adjusted limit = 1,355 t(Limit)+239.25 t(2018 carry over (para 4a of Rec. 16-07))+99.5 t(complement from underage from the total TAC(para4b of Rec. 16-07))+100 t(transfer from Brasil (para 3 of Rec. 16-07))+100 t(transfer from S. Africa(para 3 of Rec. 16-07))+500 t(transfer from S.Africa (circular#1304/2020))+200 t(transfer from Chinese Taipei (circular#4313/2020))+100 t(transfer from Brazil (circular#4498/2020)).
 JAPAN: 2021 adjusted limit = 1,355 t(Limit)+338.75 t(2019 carry over(1355*25%)) (para 4a of Rec. 16-07))
 NAMIBIA: Namibia's underage in 2019 up to 25% of the initial catch quota of this year was carried over to the 2021 initial limit (Rec. 16-07).
 PHILIPPINES: the multi-year payback plan presented at the 2014 Commission meeting was pending the adoption of the Panel 3 and the Commission reports by correspondence.
 CHINESE TAIPEI: 2018 adjusted quota is 11750.00 t (=9400+2350), which was approved by the Commission at the 25th Regular meeting.
 CHINESE TAIPEI: 2019 adjusted quota is 11750.00 t (=9400+2350), which was approved by the Commission at the 21st Special meeting.
 CHINESE TAIPEI: 2020 adjusted quota is 11550.00 t (=9400*(1+0.25)-200) due to the inclusion of 2018 underage and 2020 initial catch quota and the deduction of transfer of 200 t to Japan.
 CHINESE TAIPEI: Chinese Taipei's underage in 2019 up to 25% of the initial catch quota of this year was carried over to the 2021 initial limit (Rec. 16-07).
 SOUTH AFRICA: transferred 800 t of its SALB to Japan in 2019.
 SOUTH AFRICA: will transfer 500 t of its SALB to Japan in 2020.
 SOUTH AFRICA: in accordance with the Rec. 16-07, South Africa is also transferring 100 t of its SALB to Japan until 2020.
 SOUTH AFRICA: South Africa's underage in 2019 up to 25% of the initial catch quota of this year was carried over to the 2021 initial limit (Rec. 16-07).
 ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES: St. Vincent and Grenadines's underage in 2019 up to 25% of the initial catch quota of this year was carried over to the 2021 initial limit (Rec. 16-07).
 URUGUAY: Uruguay's underage in 2019 up to 25% of the initial catch quota of this year was carried over to the 2021 initial limit (Rec. 16-07).

NORTH SWORDFISH

YEAR	Initial quota					Current catches				Balance				Adjusted quota					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2016	2017	2018	2019	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
TAC	13700	13700	13200	13200	13200														
BARBADOS	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	20.50	20.70	18.10	9.95	47.00	46.80	44.90	53.05	67.50	67.50	63.00	63.00	63.00	
BELIZE	130.00	130.00	130.00	130.00	130.00	29.50	59.08	145.32	116.80	224.89	197.92	111.68	140.20	254.39	257.00	257.00	257.00	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	45.00	45.00	50.00	50.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	
CANADA	1348.00	1348.00	1348.00	1348.00	1348.00	1558.88	1209.21	786.81	997.23	481.32	860.99	1283.39	1047.97	2040.20	2070.20	2070.20	2045.20	1845.20	
CHINA	75.00	75.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	135.06	81.31	86.49	91.56	2.44	6.69	3.95	2.40	137.50	88.00	90.44	93.96	103.95	
CHINESE TAIPEI	270.00	270.00	270.00	270.00	270.00	151.72	95.51	169.22	122.25	218.28	274.49	173.78	220.75	370.00	370.00	343.00	343.00	323.00	
COSTA RICA						21.30	32.00	40.00		-48.30	-80.30	-120.30							
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	27.45	21.13	57.40	21.80	47.55	53.87	12.60	48.20	75.00	75.00	70.00	70.00	62.60	
EL SALVADOR						0.00	0.09	0.00	0.00										
EU	6718.00	6718.00	6718.00	6718.00	6718.00	5765.63	5573.66	4966.42	5740.22	1625.07	1852.04	2419.28	1645.48	7390.70	7425.70	7385.70	7385.70	7385.70	
FRANCE (St. P & M)	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	112.75	108.75	108.75	100.00	112.75	108.75	108.75	108.75	
JAPAN	842.00	842.00	842.00	842.00	842.00	397.70	406.00	289.30	394.99	740.50	1016.50	544.00	831.01	1138.20	1422.50	833.30	1226.00	1463.01	
KOREA	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	9.14	18.56	8.79	9.37	56.20	56.44	61.21	60.63	65.34	75.00	70.00	70.00	70.00	
LIBERIA							94.69	4.55	6.76		-94.69	-99.24	-105.99			-94.69	-99.24	-105.99	
MAROC	850.00	850.00	850.00	850.00	850.00	850.00	900.00	950.00	950.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	850.00	950.00	950.00	950.00	1045.00	
MAURITANIA						0.00	0.00	0.00											
MEXICO	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	36.00	64.00	45.00	30.00	264.00	236.00	235.00	250.00	300.00	300.00	280.00	280.00	280.00	
PHILIPPINES	25.00	25.00				0.00	0.00			na	na			na	na				
SENEGAL	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	52.33	50.51	43.54	13.64	680.74	324.49	156.46	211.37	733.07	375.00	200.00	225.00	225.00	
ST. VINCENT & GRENADINES	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	33.40	51.80	26.26	12.28	52.10	33.70	78.74	92.72	85.50	85.50	105.00	105.00	105.00	
TR. & TOBAGO	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	13.30	35.00	3.00	5.91	99.20	76.90	97.00	94.09	112.50	112.50	100.00	100.00	75.00	
UK-OT	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	2.36	0.00	0.00	1.46	50.14	52.50	49.00	47.54	52.50	52.50	49.00	49.00	49.00	
USA	3907.00	3907.00	3907.00	3907.00	3907.00	1497.50	1404.81	1274.78	1744.98	2970.55	3063.24	3218.27	2748.07	4468.05	4468.05	4493.05	4493.05	4493.05	
VANUATU	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		31.00	25.00	25.00		31.00	25.00	25.00	35.00		
VENEZUELA	85.00	85.00	85.00	85.00	85.00	52.75	52.26	0.00		74.75	62.49	114.75		127.50	114.75	114.75	119.00		
DISCARDS																			
CANADA						11.00	21.00	4.83											
USA						11.00	21.00	4.83											
TOTAL DISCARDS						11.00	21.00	4.83											
TOTAL CATCH						10665.52	10191.32	8919.81	10269.21										
Rec. number	13-02	16-03	17-02	17-02	19-03									13-02	16-03	17-02	17-02	19-03	

BELIZE: intends to use 52 t of its underage from 2017 in 2019 (Rec. 17-02, para 3); receiving a transfer of N-SWO from Trinidad & Tobago: 75 t (Rec. 17-02, para 2b).

BELIZE: is carrying forward 40% of its initial catch limit (52 t).

BELIZE: intends to use 52 t of its underages from 2018 in 2020 (Rec. 17-02, para 3); receiving a transfer of N-SWO from Trinidad & Tobago: 75 t (Rec. 17-02, para 2b).

BRAZIL: 1Q2018= OQ2018 (=50-25 to Mauritania)+B2017= 25+20= 50 (OQ from Rec. 17-02 and B from Rec. 13-02).

BRAZIL: 1Q2019= OQ2019 (=50-25 to Mauritania)+B2018= 25+20= 45 (OQ from Rec. 17-02 and B from Rec. 16-03).

CANADA: all 2019 catches are inclusive of dead discards.

CANADA: Initial allocation + transfers (from Senegal 125 t, Japan 35 t, Chinese Taipei 35 t, and the EU 100 t) + underage from 2018 (202.2 t - max. carry forward).

CHINA: adjusted limit for 2018 = initial quota (100) - 12 (payback quota) + available balance of 2016 (2.443 t) = 90.443.

CHINA: adjusted limit for 2019 = initial quota (100) - 12.726 (payback quota) + available balance of 2017 (6.69 t) = 93.964.

CHINA: adjusted limit for 2020 = initial quota (100) + available balance of 2018 (3.95t) = 103.95.

CHINA: pay back plan for the over-harvest of 2015: pay back 12 t in 2017, pay back 12 t in 2018, pay back 12.726 t in 2019.

KOREA: underage up to 50% of the initial catch quota has been carried over biennially.

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."

EU: the underharvest of the EU in 2017 is of 1852.04 t, which corresponds to more than 15% of its quota. In line with Rec. 17-02 the EU can only carry over to 2019, 15% of its 2017 initial catch limit (i.e. 1007.7 t).

EU: for 2019 the adjusted limit is calculated by taking into account the transfers to Canada (300 t from EU-Spain) and of 40 t to S. Pierre et Miquelon as provided for in Rec. 17-02.

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: as Mauritania did not submit its North Atlantic swordfish development plan in 2018, the transfers provided for in Rec. 17-02 are considered null.

JAPAN: adjusted quota/catch limit of N-SWO for 2014, 2015 and 2016 are corrected. Correct figures have been used in the "form for the application of over/underharvest".

JAPAN: 2018 adjusted limit = 842 t (Limit) + 842*0.15 (2017 carry over (para 3 of Rec. 17-02)) - 100 t (transfer to Morocco (para 2 of Rec. 17-02)) - 35 t (transfer to Canada (para 2 of Rec. 17-02)).

JAPAN: 2019 adjusted limit = 842 t (Limit) + 544 t (2018 carry over (para 4 of Rec. 17-02)) - 100 t (transfer to Morocco (para 2 of Rec. 17-02)) - 35 t (transfer to Canada (para 2 of Rec. 17-02)) - 25 t (transfer to Mauritania (para 2 of Rec. 17-02)).

JAPAN: 2020 adjusted limit = 842 t (Limit) + 831.01 t (2019 carry over (para 4 of Rec. 17-02)) - 150 t (transfer to Morocco (para 1a of Rec. 19-03)) - 35 t (transfer to Canada (para 2 of Rec. 17-02)) - 25 t (transfer to Mauritania (para 2 of Rec. 17-02)).

MOROCCO: 2020 adjusted quota: 1045 t = initial quota allocated to Morocco (850t) + 150 t (transferred by Japan to Morocco) + 20 t (transferred by Chinese Taipei) + 25 t (transferred by T&T) Rec. 19-03/para 1 amending Rec. 17-02.

MOROCCO: 2021 Adjusted quota: the total of 1045 t has been confirmed for the year 2021, in addition to the current quota of 950 t (850 t + 100 t from JPN) and following the agreement of related CPCs, an additional quota of 95 t will be transferred to Japan (50 t), to Trinidad and Tobago (25 t) and to Chinese Taipei (20 t).

MAURITANIA: Brazil, Japan, Senegal and United States transfer 25 t each, totalling 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).

SENEGAL: 2018 adjusted limit = 2018 catch limit + (2017 catch limit x 0.4) - Canada transfer = 250 + (250*0.4) - (125 + 25) = 200 t.

SENEGAL: 2019 adjusted limit = 2019 Limit + max. balance (Limit 2018*0.4) - transfer Canada (125 t) = 250 + (250 * 0.4) - 125 = 225 t.

SENEGAL: 2020 adjusted limit = 2020 Limit + max. balance (Limit 2019*0.4) - transfer Canada (125 t) = 250 + (250 * 0.4) - 125 = 225 t.

UK-OT: 50% carry forward of underage until 2017, and then a 40% carry forward of underage; 50% = 17.50; 40% = 14.00.

USA: 2016-2017 adjusted limit includes 25 t transfer from U.S. to Mauritania. No transfers were authorised for 2018-2020.

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.

CHINESE TAIPEI: As clarified by the Commission at its 21st Special Meeting, catches should include dead discards. Revised Catch(B) in 2014, 2015 and 2016 are 85.07 t, 133.41 t and 151.72 t, respectively.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2019 adjusted quota is 343 t (=270+270*40%-35) due to the underage of 2017 exceeding 40% of 2019 initial catch quota and a transfer of 35 t to Canada.

CHINESE TAIPEI: Catches(B) from 2014 to 2018 have included dead discards.

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SOUTH SWORDFISH

YEAR	Initial quota					Current catches				Balance				Adjusted quota					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2016	2017	2018	2019	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
TAC	15000	15000	14000	14000															
ANGOLA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	13.50	0.00			86.50	100.00							
BELIZE	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	149.60	166.01	115.22	55.33	137.90	108.99	172.28	219.67	287.50	275.00	287.50	275.00	275.00	275.00
BRAZIL	3940.00	3940.00	3940.00	3940.00	3940.00	2934.78	2406.03	2798.00	2858.83	2137.22	2665.97	1880.00	1819.17	5072.00	5072.00	4678.00	4678.00	4678.00	4678.00
CHINA	313.00	313.00	313.00	313.00	313.00	222.22	301.58	354.85	210.91	119.68	13.76	37.05	115.85	341.90	315.34	391.90	326.76		
CHINESE TAIPEI	459.00	459.00	459.00	459.00	459.00	478.00	416.00	472.10	395.31	57.90	100.90	87.80	151.49	535.90	516.90	559.90	546.80	550.80	550.80
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	25.21	16.80	46.80	101.46	162.29	170.70	128.20	73.54	187.50	187.50	175.00	175.00	175.00	175.00
EU	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	5461.54	5120.23	4776.32	4508.96	139.52	104.15	187.20	419.19	5601.06	5224.38	4963.52	4928.15	5011.20	5243.19
GHANA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	36.00	55.10	6.10	0.00	64.00	44.90	93.90	100.00						
GUYANA						5.63	8.70	4.50	1.70	-6.29	-14.99	-19.49	-21.19						
JAPAN	901.00	901.00	901.00	901.00	901.00	870.90	659.50	698.00	662.04	488.56	340.20	641.56	529.16	1359.46	999.70	1339.56	1191.20	1451.00	1380.16
KOREA	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	19.25	10.92	17.18	8.70	28.12	54.08	42.82	51.30	47.37	65.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00
NAMIBIA	1168.00	1168.00	1168.00	1168.00	1168.00	466.00	717.00	881.00	811.28	1286.00	987.00	659.00	690.32	1752.00	1704.00	1540.00	1501.60		
PHILIPPINES	50.00	50.00				0.00	0.00			n.a	n.a			n.a	n.a				
S.T. & PRINCIPE	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	77.40	64.50			22.60	42.70			100.00	112.10				
SENEGAL	417.00	417.00	417.00	417.00	417.00	173.30	159.96	92.80	166.90	346.57	340.44	407.60	333.50	519.87	500.40	500.40	500.40	500.40	500.40
SOUTH AFRICA	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	124.40	159.00	188.70	288.56	876.61	842.00	812.30	712.44	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00
ST.VINCENT & GRENADINES						4.69	8.96	4.19		-4.69	-13.65	-17.84	-32.69		-4.69	-13.65	-17.84	-32.69	-32.69
UK-OT	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	37.50	32.50	32.50	30.00	37.50	32.50	32.50	30.00	30.00	30.00
URUGUAY	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	1627.60	1627.60	1627.60	1502.40	1502.40	1502.40
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	99.94
VANUATU	20.00	20.00				0.00	0.00			29.00	29.00			29.00	29.00				
TOTAL CATCH						11048.92	10283.79	10455.76	10069.98										
Rec. number	15-03	16-04	17-03	17-03	17-03									15-03	16-04	17-03	17-03	17-03	17-03

BELIZE: intends to use 25 t of its underage from 2017 in 2019 (Rec. 17-03, para 2); receiving a transfer of S-SWO from the United States: 25 t, Brazil: 50 t and Uruguay: 50 t (Rec. 17-03).

BELIZE: is carrying forward 20% of its initial catch limit (25 t).

BELIZE: intends to use 25 t of its underages from 2018 in 2020 (Rec. 17-03, para 2); receiving a transfer of S-SWO from the United States: 25 t, Brazil: 50 t and Uruguay: 50 t (Rec. 17-03, para 5).

EU: allowed to count up to 200 t against its uncaught northern SWO.

JAPAN: Japan's underage in 2014 was carried over to the 2016 initial limit (Rec. 13-03), (Rec. 15-03), (Rec. 16-04).

JAPAN: adjusted limit from 2011 to 2021 excluded 50 t transferred to Namibia (Rec. 09-03 to Rec. 17-03).

JAPAN: 2019 adjusted limit = 901 t (Limit) + 340.2 t (2017 carry over (para 1(3) of Rec. 17-03) - 50 t (transfer to Namibia (para 5 of Rec. 17-03))).

JAPAN: 2020 adjusted limit = 901 t (Limit) + 600 t (2018 carry over (para 1(3) of Rec. 17-03)) - 50 t (transfer to Namibia (para 5 of Rec. 17-03)).

JAPAN: Japan's 2021 adjusted limit = 901 t (Limit) + 529.16 t (2019 carry over (para 1(3) of Rec. 17-03)) - 50 t (transfer to Namibia (para 5 of Rec. 17-03)).

KOREA: underage up to 30% of the initial catch quota has been carried over biennially.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2018 adjusted quota is 559.90 t (=459+100.9) due to the inclusion of 2017 underage.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2019 adjusted quota is 546.8 t (=459+87.80) due to the inclusion of 2018 underage.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2020 adjusted limit is 550.8 t (=459*(1+20%)) due to the inclusion of 2019 underage and 2020 initial catch quota.

USA: the 2016-2020 adjusted quota reflects transfers to Namibia (50 t), Belize (25 t) and Côte d'Ivoire (25 t) in accordance with Rec. 16-04/17-03.

MEDITERRANEAN SWORDFISH

YEAR	Initial quota					Current catches					Balance					Adjusted quota						
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
TAC*	10185	9879	9583	9296	9017																	
ALBANIA																						
ALGERIE	533.49	517.50	502.00	486.94	472.33	528.00	514.79				5.49	2.71				533.49	517.50	502.00	486.94	472.33		
EGYPT																						
EU	7188.17	6972.52	6763.35	6560.44	6363.63	3937.33	5197.8				3250.84	1774.74				7188.17	6972.52	6763.35	6560.44	6363.63		
LIBYA																						
MAROC	1013.61	982.26	952.79	924.2	896.47	1013.00	982.26				0.61	0.00				1013.61	982.26	952.79	924.20	896.47		
SYRIA																						
TUNISIE	977.45	948.13	919.68	892.09	865.33	974.00	934.00				3.45	14.13				977.46	948.14	919.70	892.10	865.34		
TURKEY	427.77	414.94	402.4918	390.417	378.7045	427.00	414.0				0.77	0.94				427.77	414.94	402.49	390.42	378.70		
TOTAL CATCH						6879.33	8042.83															
Rec. number	16-05	16-05	16-05	16-05	16-05											16-05	16-05	16-05	16-05	16-05		

*NOTE: 3% reduction from 10,500, as required by para 4 of Rec. 16-05. Over the period 2018-2022, the TAC should be gradually reduced by 3% each year.

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EAST BLUEFIN

YEAR	Initial quota					Current catch				Balance				Adjusted quota				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2016	2017	2018	2019	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
TAC	19296	22705	28200	32240	36000													
ALBANIA	47.40	56.91	100.00	156.00	170.00	45.79	56.00	100.00	156.25	0.51	0.91	0.00	-0.25	46.30	56.91	100.00	156.00	169.75
ALGERIE	202.98	243.70	1260.00	1446.00	1655.00	448.39	1037.67	1299.99	1436.95	4.59	6.03	6.01	9.05	452.98	1043.70	1306.00	1446.00	1655.00
CHINESE TAIPEI	58.28	69.97	79.00	84.00	90.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	48.28	59.97	29.00	34.00	48.28	59.97	29.00	34.00	40.00
CHINA	53.90	64.71	79.00	90.00	102.00	53.89	64.38	78.99	88.96	0.01	0.33	0.01	1.04	53.90	64.71	79.00	90.00	102.00
EGYPT	94.67	113.67	181.00	266.00	330.00	99.33	123.67	180.99	263.34	0.34	0.00	0.01	0.00	99.67	123.67	181.00	263.34	122.08
EU	11203.54	13451.36	15850.00	17623.00	19460.00	10974.35	13084.30	15584.70	17064.09	229.19	367.06	265.30	558.91	11203.54	13451.36	15850.00	17623.00	19460.00
ICELAND	43.71	52.48	84.00	147.00	180.00	5.76	0.42	0.00	0.00	37.09	52.06	84.00	147.00	42.85	52.48	84.00	147.00	180.00
JAPAN	1608.21	1930.88	2279.00	2544.00	2819.00	1578.37	1910.65	2269.76	2523.73	4.84	0.23	9.24	20.27	1583.21	1910.88	2279.00	2544.00	2839.27
KOREA	113.66	136.46	160.00	184.00	200.00	161.08	181.19	207.97	232.43	2.58	0.27	2.03	1.57	163.66	181.46	210.00	234.00	251.57
LIBYA	1323.28	1588.77	1846.00	2060.00	2255.00	1367.80	1630.75	1791.60	2043.56	5.48	8.02	8.40	16.44	1373.28	1638.77	1800.00	2060.00	2255.00
MAROC	1792.98	2152.71	2578.00	2948.00	3284.00	1783.30	2141.20	2571.00	2920.00	9.68	11.51	7.00	28.00	1792.98	2152.71	2578.00	2948.00	3488.62
MAURITANIA	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
NORWAY	43.71	52.48	104.00	239.00	300.00	43.80	50.86	12.31	49.30	-0.09	1.53	91.69	189.70	43.71	52.39	104.00	239.00	311.95
SENEGAL					5.00													
SYRIA	47.40	56.91	66.00	73.00	80.00	47.39	56.91	66.00	71.97	0.01	0.00	0.00	1.03	47.40	56.91	66.00	73.00	80.00
TUNISIE	1491.71	1791.00	2115.00	2400.00	2655.00	1461.34	1755.13	2103.23	2379.55	30.38	35.87	11.77	20.45	1491.71	1791.00	2115.00	2400.00	2675.40
TURKEY	785.59	943.21	1414.00	1880.00	2305.00	1324.30	1514.70	1283.70	1770.78	137.52	260.30	130.30	109.22	1461.82	1775.00	1414.00	1880.00	2305.00
TOTAL CATCH						19394.89	23607.82	27550.24	31000.91									
Rec. number	14-04	14-04	17-07	18-02	19-04									14-04	14-04	17-07	18-02	19-04

JAPAN: 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 1 data.

JAPAN: current catch for 2018 includes 7.42 t of dead discards.

JAPAN: 2019 adjusted limit = 2544.00 t (Limit) (para 5 of Rec. 18-02).

JAPAN: current catch for 2019 includes 9.25 t of dead discards.

JAPAN: Japan's 2020 adjusted limit = 2819.00 t (Limit) (para 5 of Rec. 19-04) + 20.27 t (2019 carry over (para 7 of Rec. 19-04)).

KOREA: since 2018, Chinese Taipei transferred 50 t of its quota to Korea every year.

Korea: Korea carried forward its unused quota of 2019 (1.57t) to 2020.

LIBYA: transfers 46 t of its quota to Algeria in 2018.

MOROCCO: 2020 adjusted quota = 2020 national adjusted quota following the transfer (204,62 t) of Egypt (3284+204,62 = 3488,62 tonnes).

MAURITANIA: may catch up to 5 t for research in each year until the end of 2017 (Rec. 14-04, paragraph 5).

MAURITANIA: may catch up to 5 t for research in each year, if they respect the rules of reporting of catches defined in the Recommendation. The catch shall be deducted from the unallocated reserve (Rec. 19-04, para 5).

NORWAY: according to Rec. 19-04 para 5, Norway was initially allocated a quota of 300 t of eastern BFT in 2020. Referring to Rec. 19-04, para 7, Norway requested in Panel 2 to transfer a maximum of 5 % of its 2019 quota to 2020. A total of 49.3 t of the Norwegian catch quota (239 t) was utilised in 2019, and 11.95 t (5 % of 239 t) may, according to para 7, be transferred to 2020.

TURKEY: the adjusted quota for 2017 indicating 1775.00 t is the independent catch limit announced for 2017 by Turkey in its objection to Rec. 14-04.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2018 adjusted quota is 29 (=79-50) due to the transfer of 50 t to Korea.

CHINESE TAIPEI: agrees to transfer 50 t of its 2019 quota to Korea (Rec. 18-02).

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2019 adjusted quota is 34 t (=84-50) due to the transfer of 50 t to Korea.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2020 adjusted quota is 40 t (=90-50) due to the transfer of 50 t to Korea.

SENEGAL: may catch up to 5 t for research in each year, if they respect the rules of reporting of catches defined in the Recommendation. The catch shall be deducted from the unallocated reserve (Rec. 19-04, para 5).

WEST BLUEFIN

YEAR	Initial quota					Current catches				Balance				Adjusted quota/limit				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2016	2017	2018	2019	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
TAC	2000	2000	2350	2350	2350													
CANADA	452.47	452.47	530.59	530.59	530.59	466.11	471.65	553.98	632.87	40.63	16.96	67.55	20.84	506.74	488.61	621.53	653.71	635.65
FRANCE (St. P & M)	4.51	4.51	5.31	5.31	5.31	9.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.32	4.19	9.50	1.00	9.02	4.19	9.50	1.00	6.31
JAPAN	345.74	345.74	407.48	407.48	407.48	345.49	345.83	407.00	406.29	1.34	1.25	1728156	2.92	346.83	347.08	408.73	409.21	410.40
MEXICO	108.98	108.98	128.44	128.44	128.44	55.00	34.00	80.00	39.00	26.90	27.90	15.90	25.90	81.90	61.90	95.90	64.90	
UK-OT	4.51	4.51	5.31	5.31	5.31	0.00	0.46	0.41	0.34	8.00	8.56	10.21	9.87	8.00	9.02	10.62	10.21	10.62
USA	1083.79	1083.79	1272.86	1272.86	1272.86	1026.70	996.80	1028.26	1190.78	165.47	195.37	352.98	209.37	1192.17	1192.17	1381.24	1400.15	1400.15
TOTAL LANDING						1902.64	1848.74	2069.65	2269.28									
Discards																		
CANADA																		
JAPAN																		
USA																		
TOTAL DISCARDS																		
TOTAL REMOVAL																		
Rec. number	14-05	16-08	17-06	17-06	17-06									14-05	14-05	17-06	17-06	17-06

CANADA: as of 2018, the Canadian fishing season opens on 24 June and closes on 23 June of the subsequent year. All 2019 catches are inclusive of dead discards.

France-Saint-Pierre & Miquelon: would like to transfer to Canada, the amount of 9.62 t of bluefin tuna from its 2018 and 2019 quota allocation.

JAPAN: the underharvest of up to 10% of the initial quota allocation may be added to next year (Rec. 14-05, 16-08, 17-06).

JAPAN: current catch for 2018 includes 1.10 t of dead discards.

JAPAN: 2019 adjusted limit = 407.48 t (Limit) + 1.73 t (2018 carry over (para 7a of Rec. 17-06)).

JAPAN: current catch for 2019 includes 0.21 t of dead discards.

JAPAN: Japan's 2020 adjusted limit = 407.48 t (Limit) + 2.92 t (2019 carry over (para 7a of Rec. 17-06)).

MEXICO: transfer of its adjusted quota to Canada for 2017 is 73.98 t, Rec. 16-08, para 6d).

MEXICO: transfer of 60.44 t of its adjusted quota in 2018 to Canada, Rec. 17-06, para 6d).

MEXICO: transfer of 79.44 t of its adjusted quota in 2019 to Canada, Rec. 17-06, para 6d).

USA: Initial quota/catch limit includes 25 t allocation for by-catch, as per Rec. 17-06 para 6a.

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BIGEYE																			
YEAR	Initial catch limit/Threshold ⁽¹⁾					Current catches					Balance				Adjusted catch limits				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 ⁽²⁾	2016	2017	2018	2019	2016	2017	2018	2019	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
TAC	65000	65000	65000	65000	62500														
ANGOLA					3.00	0.00	2.80												
BARBADOS					22.74	18.60	31.70	29.20	14.24										
BELIZE					1603.40	1764.10	1960.70	2135.20	2306.91										1603.40
BRAZIL					6043.00	7660.20	7258.20	5096.00	6249.36										6043.00
CABO VERDE					1781.68	1679.00	1054.00	1416.10											1781.68
CANADA					215.37	171.12	214.25	237.02	192.82										
CHINESE TAIPEI	11679.00	11679.00	11679.00	11679.00	9226.41	13115.00	11845.00	11630.00	11288.00	3238.90	2171.45	2023.85	2365.85	16353.90	14016.45	13653.85	13653.85	11201.26	
CHINA	5376.00	5376.00	5376.00	5376.00	4462.08	5852.39	5514.36	4823.08	5718.49	1330.01	1449.93	2359.32	1463.91	7182.40	7182.40	7182.40	7182.40	5731.39	
COLOMBIA					0.00														
COSTA RICA					0.00	1.12	3.90	5.20											
CÔTE D'IVOIRE					559.09	544.39	1238.90	1169.81	1997.95										
CURACAO	3500.00	3500.00	3500.00	3500.00	2558.87	3436.00	2597.44	3276.25	3027.77	64.00	902.57	223.76	472.23	3500.00	3500.00	3500.00	3500.00	2558.87	
EL SALVADOR	1575.00	1575.00	1575.00	1575.00	1552.77	1450.00	1826.00	2634.00	2452.00									1552.77	
EU	16989.00	16989.00	16989.00	16989.00	13421.31	18059.42	20220.53	17416.05	16910.53	5729.68	168.52	2121.35	246.97	23789.10	20389.10	19537.40	17157.50	15842.65	13668.28
FRANCE (SP&M)					0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00										
GABON					0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00										
GHANA	4250.00	4250.00	4250.00	4250.00	3968.23	4813.00	4086.00	3571.00	2864.50	-830.00	-295.50	116.50	1455.50	3983.00	3790.50	3687.50	4320.00	3968.23	
GUATEMALA					911.93	640.27	2102.40	2824.00	2414.22										
GUINEA EQ					10.53			6.90	7.54										
GUINÉE REP.					1000.22														1000.22
GUYANA					29.27	52.73	37.00	52.00	1.90										
JAPAN	17696.00	17696.00	17696.00	17696.00	13979.84	11238.00	9872.20	9849.59	9933.18	8929.65	9408.20	5566.29	9347.22	20167.65	19280.40	15415.88	19280.40	13079.84	
KOREA	1486.00	1486.00	1486.00	1486.00	677.37	561.97	432.09	622.69	539.84	1518.93	1276.81	863.21	946.06	2080.90	1708.90	1485.90	1485.90		
LIBERIA					31.53														
MAROC	3500.00	3500.00	3500.00	3500.00	342.13	350.00	410.00	500.00	850.00										
MAURITANIE					0.83	20.40	21.00	0.00	0.00										
MEXICO					2.21	2.00	3.00	4.00	3.00	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		
NAMIBIA					301.08	359.00	122.30	109.00	69.15										
NICARAGUA					0.00														
NIGERIA					0.00														
PANAMA					1707.05	1617.11	1413.00	3312.48	3253.00	1688.89	2087.00	187.52	247.00	3306.00	3500.00	3500.00	3500.00	1707.05	
PHILIPPINES	286.00	286.00	286.00	286.00	1767.59	0.00	0.00			n.a.	0.00			n.a.	n.a.	223.54		1767.59	
RUSSIA					0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00										
S. TOME & PRIN					389.20	421.10	388.00												
SENEGAL					1322.73	1500.30	3120.00	2865.60	2495.30										1322.73
SOUTH AFRICA					225.70	107.30	249.60	308.20	413.08										
ST. VINCENT & GRENADINES					509.37	622.20	888.98	427.87	503.58										
TR. & TOBAGO					49.47	37.10	25.30	17.30	13.17										
UK-OT					52.65	77.10	70.42	45.19	4.30										
URUGUAY					0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00										
USA					844.65	567.94	836.40	920.87	831.38										
VANUATU					4.00	0.00	0.00												
VENEZUELA					193.73	156.00	317.80												
TOTAL CATCH						76894.86	78163.26	75304.60	74355.21										
Rec. number	16-01	16-01	16-01	16-01	19-02									16-01	16-01	16-01	16-01	19-02	19-02

⁽¹⁾ In accordance with Rec. 16-01 para 4, those shaded in orange with the number 1575 entered in years prior to 2020 are CPCs that do not have an explicit catch limit but a threshold below which they should endeavour to maintain their catches of BET. And for those shaded in orange with the number 3500 in years prior to 2020, if catches exceed the threshold of 3500 Rec. 16-01 required establishment of a catch limit for that CPC for the following years.

⁽²⁾ In accordance with Rec. 19-02 para 4, those shaded in orange in the 2020 column are CPCs that do not have an explicit catch limit but a threshold below which they are encouraged to maintain catch (Rec. 19-02 para 4d: "Those CPCs with recent average catch of less than 1,000 t are encouraged to maintain catch and effort at recent levels.")

COSTA RICA: neither fishing plan nor statement of intent/requested inclusion in the quota table.

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.

CHINA: adjusted limit for 2018 = initial quota (5376) + 5376*15% (available balance of 2016) + 1,000 t transfer from Japan = 7182.4 t

CHINA: adjusted limit for 2019 = initial quota (5376) + 5376*15% (available balance of 2017) + 1,000 t transfer from Japan = 7182.4 t

CHINA: adjusted limit for 2020 = initial quota (4462.08) + 4462.08*15% (available balance of 2018) + 600 t transfer from Japan = 5731.39 t

EU: in 2017 the underharvest was of 168.52 t, which is less than the maximum allowed of 15% provided in Rec. 16-01. Therefore, the EU is entitled to carry over 168.52 t to 2019.

GHANA: committed to payback the overharvest of 2006 to 2010 from 2012 until 2021 with 337 t per year.

GHANA: Adjusted limit for 2017 = Initial quota + 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 (337 t).

GHANA: Rec. 18-01, para 2 removes payback from Ghana.

JAPAN: the 2017 adjusted limit included 15% of the initial limit as carry-over from 2016 underage and excluded 1,000 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 1,000 t transferred to China and 70 t transferred to Ghana (Rec. 16-01).

JAPAN: adjusted catch limit for 2017 does not take into account the "pay back" stipulated in para 2a of Rec. 16-01.

JAPAN: 2018 adjusted limit = 15415.88 t (it was deducted by the "pay back" provision in para 2a of Rec. 16-01)

JAPAN: 2019 adjusted limit = 17,696 t (Limit) + 2,654.4 t (2018 carry-over (17696*15%) (para 8 of Rec. 16-01) - 1,000 t (transfer to China (para 7 of Rec. 16-01)) - 70 t (transfer to Ghana (para 7 of Rec. 16-01)).

JAPAN: current catch for 2018 includes 26.09 t of dead discard.

JAPAN: current catch for 2019 includes 16.60 t of dead discard.

JAPAN: Japan's 2020 adjusted limit is 13,079.84 t (after transferring 600 t to China and 300 t to EU).

KOREA: since 2018, Korea transferred 223 t of its quota to Chinese Taipei every year.

KOREA: underage up to 30% of the initial catch quota has been carried over to the following year in 2014 and 2015. Since 2016, underage up to 15% of the initial catch quota has been carried over to the following year.

KOREA: 20 t of bigeye catch quota had been annually transferred to Ghana until 2015.

KOREA: in light of the decisions at the 21st Special Commission meeting, Korea's BET adjusted quota for 2017 is 1,708.9 t.

KOREA: 2018 BET adjusted quota is 1,486 t. It reflects the transfer of 223 t to Chinese Taipei.

KOREA: 2019 BET adjusted quota is 1,486 t. It reflects the transfer of 223 t to Chinese Taipei.

SAO TOME E 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.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2019 adjusted quota is 13653.85 t (=11679+11679*15%+223) due to the underage of 2017 exceeding 15% of 2019 initial catch limit and a transfer of 223 t from Korea.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2020 adjusted quota is 11201.26 t = 9226.41 t (initial quota) + 11679*15% (carry-over of 15% of 2018 initial quota pursuant to Rec. 16-01) + 223 t (transfer from Korea).

BLUE MARLIN																	
YEAR	Landings limit					Current landings				Balance				Adjusted landings limit			
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2016	2017	2018	2019	2018	2019	2020	2021
TAC	1985	1985	1985	2000	1670												
BARBADOS	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	11.12	24.03	13.55	13.48	-24.84	-38.87	-42.42	-45.90	-28.87	-32.42	-35.90	
BELIZE	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	13.10	1.08			-3.10	5.82			10.00			
BRAZIL	190.00	190.00	190.00	190.00	159.80	79.19	63.30	37.00	19.91	190.00	190.00	190.00	190	209.00	209.00	178.80	
CANADA	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.11	0.28	0.18	0.06	9.89	9.72	9.82	9.94				
CHINA	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	37.90	49.71	40.31	42.19	46.40	0.63	5.27	3.44	3.87	45.63	50.27	41.34	
CHINESE TAIPEI	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	126.20	75.00	73.00	74.00	40.00	90.00	92.00	91.00	125.00	165.00	165.00	141.20	
COSTA RICA	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.14	0.08	0.00		9.86	9.92	10.00		10.00	10.00		
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	126.20	50.61	43.61	14.54	163.45	114.39	121.39	150.46	1.55	165.00	165.00	141.20	
CURACAO	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00		48.00	2.30	0.00			-38.00	-20.30	-28.00	-10.30	-0.30	
EL SALVADOR	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00		0.41	0.00	0.31	10.00	9.59	10.00	9.69		10.00		
EU	480.00	480.00	480.00	480.00	403.80	355.07	338.75	120.79	79.62	52.56	76.00	341.96	448.38	528.00	528.00	449.80	449.80
GHANA	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	210.30	43.66	162.02	59.70	44.40	206.34	87.98	190.30	230.60	275.00	275.00	275.00	
GUATEMALA			10.00	10.00	10.00		26.00	0.00	0.00		-16.00	-6.00	4.00	-6.00	4.00	10.00	
GUINEA EQ.			10.00	10.00	10.00			0.05	0.00			9.95	10.00	10.00	10.00		
GUYANA			10.00	10.00	10.00				128.22				-118.22		10.00	-108.22	
JAPAN	390.00	390.00	390.00	390.00	328.10	412.40	308.10	352.20	336.89	16.60	120.90	54.40	92.11	429.00	429.00	367.10	367.10
KOREA	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	29.40	26.19	25.13	24.55	12.91	8.81	9.87	17.45	29.09	42.00	42.00	36.40	
LIBERIA		10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	126.85	10.34	0.78	1.98	-116.85	-117.19	-107.97	-99.95	-107.19	-97.97	-89.95	
MAROC	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	7.40	82.00	0.00	0.00	2.60	-72.00	-62.00	-52.00	-62.00	-52.00	-42.00	-32.00
MEXICO	70.00	70.00	70.00	70.00	58.90	65.00	60.00	68.00	51.00	-9.00	1.00	3.00	22.00	71.00	73.00		
NAMIBIA		10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	32.00	57.00	84.00	52.72	-22.00	-69.00	-143.00	-185.72	-59.00	-133.00		
PANAMA		10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00		23.79	0.00	3.00		-13.79	-3.79	3.21	-3.79	6.21	10.00	
S. TOMÉ & PRÍNCIPE	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	37.90	9.80	12.60			6.59	32.40			51.59	54.00		
SENEGAL	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	50.50	12.52	25.88	35.00	0.00	47.48	34.12	25.00	66.00	66.00	66.00		
SOUTH AFRICA	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.74	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	
ST. VINCENT & GRENADINES			10.00	10.00	10.00		2.01	1.98	1.18		7.99	8.02	8.82	10.00	10.00		
TR. & TOBAGO	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	16.80	18.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	-83.60	-63.60	-43.60	-23.60	-43.60	-23.60	-4.80	
UK-OT	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	2.04	1.42	1.85	1.25	7.96	8.58	8.15	8.75	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
VENEZUELA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	84.10	82.51	97.41			27.49	-17.41			82.59	100.00		
TOTAL LANDINGS						1473.38	1526.54	932.66	996.78								
USA(# of bum+whm)	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	169.00	129.00	188.00	189.00	81.00	121.00	62.00	61.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
Rec. number	15-05	15-05	15-05	18-04	19-05									15-05	18-04	19-05	19-05

BELIZE: had an overharvest of 3.10 t in 2016 which is being adjusted in 2018. As such the adjusted balance for 2018 will be limit minus overharvest which will equal 6.9 t.

BRAZIL: balance and adjusted landings due to Rec. 15-05, para 2. Brazil prohibits dead discards, hence blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish that are dead when brought alongside the vessel and that are not sold or entered into commerce do not count against the landing limits.

CHINA: adjusted limit for 2018 = initial limit (45) + available balance of 2016 (0.629 t) = 45.629 t.

CHINA: adjusted limit for 2019 = initial limit (45) + available balance of 2017 (not exceeding 20% of 45) = 50.27 t.

CHINA: adjusted limit for 2020 = initial limit (37.90) + available balance of 2018 (not exceeding 20% of 37.90) = 41.34 t.

CURACAO: BUM catches of the Curaçao fleet fall under the conditions of para 2 of the Rec. 15-05 by ICCAT to further strengthen the plan to rebuild blue marlin and white marlin stocks which states that: "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".

EU: in 2015, the quota was exceeded by 130.51 t. The EU proposes a payback of this overharvest over 2 years 2017 and 2018, which corresponds to 65.25 t per year.

EU: in 2016 and 2017, the underharvest being over the maximum allowed of 10% provided in Rec. 15-05, the EU is entitled to carry over 48 t respectively to 2018 and 2019.

GHANA: catch is from artisanal gillnet fisheries.

GUYANA: The data stated as white marlin is actually blue marlin so the figures will be adjusted. There should be no negatives.

JAPAN: 2018 adjusted limit included 10% of the initial limit as carry-over from 2016 underage (Rec. 15-05).

JAPAN: 2018 adjusted limit = 390 t (Limit) + 16.6 t (2016 carry-over (para 3 of Rec. 15-05)).

JAPAN: 2019 adjusted limit = 390 t (Limit) + 39 t (2017 carry-over (390*10%) (para 3 of Rec. 15-05)).

JAPAN-BUM: Japan's 2020 adjusted limit = 328.1 t (Limit) + 39 t (2018 carry-over (390*10%) (para 3 of Rec. 18-04)).

JAPAN-BUM: Japan's 2021 adjusted limit = 328.1 t (Limit) + 39 t (2019 carry-over (390*10%) (para 3 of Rec. 18-04)).

KOREA: underage up to 20% of the initial catch quota is carried over biennially.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2018 adjusted quota is 165 t (=150+150*10%) due to the underage of 2016 exceeding 15% of 2018 initial catch limit.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2019 adjusted quota is 165 t (=150+150*10%) due to the underage of 2017 exceeding 15% of 2019 initial catch limit.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2020 adjusted quota is 141.2 t = 126.2 (initial landing limit in 2020) + 150*10% (2018 carry-over pursuant to Rec. 18-04).

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: Adjusted limit for 2020 = IQ2020+Balance2019+2 t EU transfer provided by Rec. 19-05.

USA: total marlin landings for 2018 include 90 BUM, 78 WHM, and 20 RSP.

USA: total marlin landings for 2019 include 79 BUM, 75 WHM, and 35 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.

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WHITE MARLIN

YEAR	Landings limit					Current landings				Balance			Adjusted landings limit				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2016	2017	2018	2019	2018	2019	2020	2021
TAC	355	355	355	400	355												
BARBADOS	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	14.23	17.40	17.50	11.50	-2.23	-7.10	-9.73	-8.60	7.77	2.90	0.27	
BRAZIL	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	66.93	46.58	62.00	76.31	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	1.00	55.00	55.00	
CANADA	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	1.03	2.30	1.64	1.50	8.97	7.70	8.36	8.50	12.00	12.00	12.00	
CHINA	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.26	2.53	3.23	2.88	11.74	9.48	8.77	9.12	12.00	12.00	12.00	
CHINESE TAIPEI	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	11.00	7.00	9.00	3.00	44.00	48.00	46.00	52.00	55.00	55.00	55.00	
COSTA RICA	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	45.00	69.20	35.10		-96.24	-163.44	-196.54		-161.44	-194.54		
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.97	1.12	0.00	0.25	9.03	8.88	10.00	11.75	12.00	12.00		
CURAÇAO	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00			0.80	0.00			1.20	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	
EL SALVADOR	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	2.00	1.80		2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	
EU	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	101.54	14.67	0.17	0.70	-77.64	9.23	27.43	26.90	27.60	27.60	32.60	55.00
GHANA	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00		0.10				1.90						
GUATEMALA	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00		0.11				1.89						
GUYANA	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	48.42	57.20	67.00	0.00	-47.06	-102.26	-167.26	-165.26	-100.26	-165.26	-163.26	
JAPAN	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	12.60	9.20	14.40	10.85	29.40	32.80	27.60	31.15	42.00	42.00	42.00	42.00
KOREA	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	0.00	0.14	0.00	0.00	20.00	19.86	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	
LIBERIA		2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00			1.05	1.05			0.96	0.95	2.00	2.00		
MAROC	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.40	0.50	0.00	2.00	1.60	1.50	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	
MEXICO	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	20.00	12.00	15.89	9.00	4.00	13.00	13.11	21.00	29.00	30.00	30.00	
PANAMA	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00		0.11		0.00		1.89	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00		
S. TOME & PRINCIPE	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	15.00	13.00			5.00	7.00			24.00	24.00		
SENEGAL	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00			0.22	0.00			1.78	2.00				
SOUTH AFRICA	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	
ST.VINCENT & GRENADINES			2.00	2.00	2.00			8.00	0.00	5.12		-6.00	-4.00	-7.12	-4.00	-2.00	-5.12
TR. & TOBAGO	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	19.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	-79.20	-64.20	-49.20	-34.20	-49.20	-34.20	-19.20	
UK-OT	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.25	0.30	0.19	0.21	1.75	1.70	1.81	1.79	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
VENEZUELA	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	157.98	150.09			-107.98	-181.35	-131.35		-131.35	-81.35		
TOTAL LANDINGS						515.11	411.65	228.69	122.37								
USA (# of bum+whm)	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	169.00	129.00	188.00	189.00	81.00	121.00	62.00	61.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
Rec. number	15-05	15-05	15-05	18-04	19-05									15-05	18-04	19-05	19-05

BRAZIL: Balance and adjusted landings due to Rec. 15-05 para 2. Brazil prohibits dead discards, hence blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish that are dead when brought alongside the vessel and that are not sold or entered into commerce do not count against the landing limits.

CANADA: all 2019 catches are inclusive of dead discards.

CHINA: adjusted limit for 2018 = initial quota (10) + available balance of 2016 (10*20%) = 12 t.

CHINA: adjusted limit for 2019 = initial quota (10) + 10*20% = 12 t.

CHINA: adjusted limit for 2020 = initial quota (10) + 10*20% = 12 t.

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).

EU: in 2014 the quota was exceeded by 52.21 t. The EU proposes a payback of this overharvest over 2 years in 2016 and 2017, which corresponds to 26.10 t per year.

EU: in 2015 the quota was exceeded by 67.19 t. The EU proposes a payback of this overharvest over 3 years in 2018, 2019, 2020, which corresponds to 22.4 t per year.

GUYANA: The data stated as white marlin is actually blue marlin so the figures will be adjusted. There should be no negatives.

JAPAN: 2018 adjusted limit = 35 t (Limit) + 7 t (2016 carry-over (35*20%)) (para 3 of Rec. 15-05)).

JAPAN: 2019 adjusted limit = 35 t (Limit) + 7 t (2017 carry-over (35*20%)) (para 3 of Rec. 15-05)).

JAPAN: 2020 adjusted limit = 35 t (Limit) + 7 t (2018 carry over (35*20%)) (para 3 of Rec. 18-04)).

JAPAN: 2021 adjusted limit = 35 t (Limit) + 7 t (2019 carry over (35*20%)) (para 3 of Rec. 18-04)).

KOREA: underage up to 20% of the initial catch quota is carried over biennially.

USA: total marlin landings for 2018 include 90 BUM, 78 WHM, and 20 RSP.

USA: total marlin landings for 2019 include 79 BUM, 75 WHM, and 35 RSP.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2018 adjusted quota is 55 t (=50+50*10%) due to the underage of 2016 exceeding 10% of 2018 initial catch limit.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2019 adjusted quota is 55 t (=50+50*10%) due to the underage of 2017 exceeding 10% of 2019 initial catch limit.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2020 adjusted quota is 55 t = 50 (initial landing limit in 2020) + 50*10% (2018 carry-over pursuant to Rec. 18-04.)

Compliance with size limits in 2019										
Species	SWO			BFT						
Area	AT.N	AT.S	Medi	AT.E	AT.E	Adriatic	Medi	AT.E	Medi	AT.W
Recommendation Number	17-02 § 9-10	17-03 § 6-7	16-05 § 15-17	18-02 § 35	18-02 § 35	18-02 § 35	18-02 § 35	18-02 § 37	18-02 § 37	17-06 § 9-9
Gear/fishery	all			BB, TROL, >17 m ⁽¹⁾	BB <17 m ⁽²⁾	Adriatic catches taken for farming purposes ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	coastal artisanal fisheries ⁽⁵⁾	17-07 all other gears	all other gears	all gears
Min. weight (kg)	A=25 kg LW or B=15 kg/15 kg DW	A=25 kg LW or B=15 kg/15 kg DW	10kg RW or 9 kg GG or 7.5 kg DW	8 kg	6.4 kg		8 kg	30 kg	30 kg	30 kg
Min. size (cm)	A=125 cm LJFL/ 63 cm CK or B= 119 cm LJFL/ 63 cm CK	A=125 cm LJFL/ 63 cm CK or B= 119 cm LJFL/ 63 cm CK	90 cm LJFL	75 cm FL	70 cm FL	75 cm FL	75 cm FL	115 cm FL	115 cm FL	115 cm FL
All-SWO: Option chosen A or B			Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
EBFT: Amount allocated. To be introduced for: *, **, *** and ****	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable					Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Max. tolerance	A=15% 25kg/125 cm; B= 0% 15kg/119cm		5%	0%	100 t**	0%	0%	5% between 8-30 kg; 75-115 cm FL	5% between 8-30 kg; 75-115 cm FL	10%
Tolerance calculated as	number of fish per total landings		weight or number of fish per total landings	weight or number of fish per total landings of allocation	weight per allocation of max 100t	weight or number of fish per total catch	weight or number of fish per total landings of allocation	number of fish per total landings	number of fish per total landings	weight of the total quota of each CPC
PERCENTAGE (%) OF TOTAL CATCH UNDER MINIMUM SIZE										
Albania										
Algérie	Non applicable	Non applicable	1%	Non applicable	Non applicable	Non applicable	0%	Non applicable		Non applicable
Angola										
Barbados	0									
Belize	0%	0%								
Bolivia										
Brazil		31.00%								
Cabo verde										
Canada	5.7									0
China	0	0	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	0	Not applicable	Not applicable
Chinese Taipei	0.17% (<=125cm) 0% (<=119cm)	0.82% (<=125cm) 0% (<=119cm)	na							
Costa Rica										
Côte d'Ivoire		0%								
Curacao										
Egypt							zero			
El Salvador										
EU raw data under min. size	A	A		1 227,52 t	100 t	776,51 t				
EU	4.21%	14.76%	0.48%	0.09%	NA	NA	1.07%	0.00%	2.60%	
France (SPM)	0%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0%
Gabon										
Ghana										
Grenada										
Guatemala										
Guinea Ecuatorial										
Guinée Bissau										
Guinée République										
Guyana				0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Honduras										
Iceland										
Japan	3.62%	0.00%	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	0.00%	N.A.	0.00%
Korea	0	0	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	0	Not applicable	Not applicable
Liberia										
Libya										
Maroc	0%	NA	0%	NA	NA	NA	0%	0%	NA	NA
Mauritania										
Mexico	21									0
Namibia										
Nicaragua										
Nigeria										
Norway								0%		
Panama										
Philippines										
Russia										
Sao Tome										
Sénégal	3.45%	7.97%								
Sierra Leone										
South Africa										
St. Vincent & Grenadines	1.15%									
Suriname										
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.	0.06%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0.00%	n.a.
UK-OT										
Uruguay										
USA	0									5.6
Vanuatu										
Venezuela										

Statement by Colombia to the Compliance Committee – Round 2

As regards the request by the European Union, allow me to make the following considerations:

- For 2020, Colombia had presented the implementation of an operational plan to the Commission including four Colombian-flagged fishing vessels to conduct activities within the framework of the status approval at the end of 2019;
- As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the operational plan could not be implemented, and none of the abovementioned fishing vessels conducted activities in Commission waters;
- Consequently, Colombia was unable to conduct transfers of fishing capacity from the Pacific to the Atlantic during the 2020 period;
- It is of particular interest for Colombia to implement the operational plan presented for 2021, once the requested status is ratified.

Owing to the above, Colombia ratifies:

Commitment of the Government of Colombia to the conservation and management measures adopted by ICCAT

The Government of Colombia, through the National Authority of Fisheries and Aquaculture (Autoridad Nacional de Acuicultura y Pesca, AUNAP), remains committed to implement the necessary administrative measures for Colombian fishing vessels to comply with the current regulations adopted by ICCAT. Colombia has experience in managing Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and each year implements management and conservation measures for its fishing vessels operating in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. Development, conservation and management measures adopted by Colombia within the framework of IATTC include time-area closures for the tropical tuna fisheries, FAD usage restrictions, management measures for the conservation of sharks, rays and chimaeras, protection plans for sea turtles and the International Agreement for the Protection of Dolphins (*Acuerdo Internacional para la Protección de los Delfines, APICD*), among others. Colombia undertakes to comply with ICCAT's management and conservation measures and thereon will inform the Secretariat of the administrative actions taken to guarantee, that Colombian vessels and foreign vessels with access agreement in Colombian waters, comply with conservation and management measures of the Commission.

Commitment of the Government of Colombia to provide fisheries information in the ICCAT area

The Government of Colombia is aware that is important to provide information on catch and fishing effort of the species under ICCAT mandate. Today, the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Authority does not only account with the capacity to monitor the compliance of national and international fishery regulations, but also has an international affairs area that is responsible for communications with different RFMOs such as IATTC and ICCAT and provides the necessary information to these organizations.

In summary, Colombia is in a position to guarantee the compliance of requirements established by ICCAT and, therefore, we have decided to request the renewal of Cooperating Non-Contracting status.

Appendix 6 to ANNEX 9**Response by Colombia to COC Chair Letter – Round 2**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Directorate of Economic, Social and Environmental Affairs – extends its greeting to the Honourable International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and has the honour to refer to ICCAT Circular 8644/20 of 21 December 2020 and to document COC_324/2020, concerning the renewal of Columbia's status as a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party.

We were surprised at the objection submitted by the European Union (EU), considering that Columbia has demonstrated its sustained commitment to strengthen and comply with the provisions on sustainable fishing, both within the context of ICCAT and other fisheries management organizations with whom we work.

Through the National Aquaculture and Fisheries Authority (AUNAP), Colombia has honoured the responsibilities undertaken as part of the Collaborator status, and in this respect, has responded to the periodic reports established by ICCAT and to the different reporting requirements of the Commission and its members.

It should be noted that the Colombian fisheries authority has reiterated the existing commitment to fight illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, in accordance with the international commitments and compliance with national fisheries regulations.

Therefore, on 23 October, the date on which ICCAT notified the irregularities concerning the vessel *Haleluya*, and related to the actions of the Colombian authorities, AUNAP embarked on a technical study to compile evidence and determine the existence or not of an alleged infringement of the fisheries regulations within the framework of this Commission and national sovereignty. The documentation and inquiry on this matter were submitted through the established channels of communication, as stated in ICCAT Circular # 8131/20 of 26 November last.

In light of the above, it is clear that Colombia has fulfilled its obligations as a Cooperating Non-Contracting Party and is committed to continuing to do so.

Finally, Colombia reiterates its special interest in implementing the Operational Plan submitted for 2021, following confirmation of the requested status. The foregoing is consistent with what has been indicated in Memorandum AUNAP-DG-0407-2020, which was submitted on 23 November 2020, and provides a response to EU concerns on renewal of Cooperator status.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that ICCAT – and the delegation of the European Union, with whom Columbia has maintained close cooperation – reconsider and reassess the possibility of maintaining cooperator status for Columbia. The country is also fully willing to implement any possible suggestions of the Compliance Committee in the corresponding scenario.

Appendix 7 to ANNEX 9

Statement by El Salvador on Compliance Committee – Round 2

The Delegation of El Salvador would like to respectfully extend its greetings to you and would like to refer to document COC-308 Appendix 2/2020, regarding the recommendations on compliance actions presented by you and which have resulted in a letter to El Salvador on reporting issues with reference to the compliance of catch limits.

The Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 16-01 by ICCAT on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas [Rec. 19-02], which was agreed at the 26th Regular Meeting of the Commission in November 2019, for the first time established a catch limit for El Salvador, in force in 2020, as well as a series of control measures on fishing effort, such as FAD closures in the Atlantic Ocean and FAD limitations per vessel. Despite the sacrifice imposed on the fleet, my Government established the relevant control mechanisms, and I am pleased to inform you and the Committee that El Salvador has complied accordingly and in a timely manner with all the measures imposed, thus reflecting El Salvador's renewed commitment to comply with ICCAT's provisions effectively, in particular complying with the bigeye catch limit of 1,553 t for 2020, which implies a 40% reduction compared to the catch in recent years.

The Republic of El Salvador has implemented strong compliance control mechanisms to meet its obligations, both at domestic level and those agreed within the framework of regional fisheries management organizations, in particular with ICCAT. Therefore, we can guarantee that El Salvador has resolved all reporting difficulties and we hope to focus our efforts on the correct management of the fisheries managed by ICCAT, whose success also depends on the social, economic and environmental development of my country.

Appendix 8 to ANNEX 9

Statement by Guatemala on Compliance Committee – Round 2

The Republic of Guatemala would like to extend its greeting to you, and also to refer to Doc. No. COC_308_Apendice 2/2019 (sic), of 14 December 2020, informing of the compliance actions recommended by you for CPCs.

Guatemala wishes to reiterate its commitment to compliance and constant improvement in the discharge of its obligations, as already informed through the Annual Report and the communications submitted to the different Commission bodies.

Given the content of the observation for my country, developed in the document referred to above, my delegation considers it essential to clarify an essential aspect which may address the potential concern regarding implementation, functioning and compliance with the national scientific observers programme (*Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Minimum Standards for Fishing Vessel Scientific Observer Program* (Rec. 16-14)).

As stated in the Annual Report submitted, through the responses to the respective questionnaires, i.e. the Scientific Reporting Summary Table (Item S10), Section 2 on research and statistics, and Section 5, my country complies with the above-mentioned Recommendation 16-14. Even though there is no programme implemented by national civil servants, the services are contracted of a qualified entity with experience in implementation of observers programmes onboard the national fleet, whose management is acknowledged and supervised by Guatemala. In fact, since the start of operations by my country in the Convention area, the services have been contracted of another institution or provider for compliance with the obligations of the national scientific observers programme, which must be understood to endorsed, supervised and implemented by Guatemala as the flag State.

My delegation considers that the recommended action may have been addressed through this clarification and there is therefore no need to recommend any action in the document COC_308_Appendix_2/2020.

Appendix 9 to ANNEX 9**Statement by European Union on renewal of cooperating status – Round 1**

The European Union takes note of document on *Information for review of Cooperating status* [COC_313] and would like to express its concern regarding the lack of cooperation from the countries which have either not submitted an Annual Report (Bolivia and Costa Rica) or who submitted an incomplete one (Guyana). In particular, we note that Bolivia also sent a request for renewal even though it did not submit its Annual Report or other obligatory information.

The EU also noted that when reports have been submitted, in some instances zero catches have been reported. In this regard the EU would like to request further clarifications on the “zero catches” reported.

Regarding Colombia, the EU would like to recall the concerns expressed by several CPCs in 2019 regarding the risk of a transfer of fishing capacity from the Pacific to the Atlantic. Therefore, we would like to receive clear commitments from Colombia that such transfer will not occur, before to consider the renewal of membership to ICCAT.

The EU strongly believes that unless there is a clear commitment in respecting the duties impending on a cooperating non-contracting party, membership should not be automatically renewed.

Appendix 10 to ANNEX 9**Statement by the European Union on the cooperating status of Colombia – Round 2**

The EU has taken note of the information provided by Colombia in Doc. COC_322 and regrettably, the necessary reassurances that fleet capacity will not be transferred from the Pacific to the Atlantic have not been given. It is understood from the operational programme submitted in 2019 (Doc. No. COC_307/2019) that Colombia’s intentions are to build up a fleet both through the reallocation of capacity from the Pacific and the flagging of new vessels to exploit fisheries under the ICCAT purview. This was already a concern raised by the EU during last year’s meeting.

The implementation of the operational programme raises concerns in view of the status of the stocks of tropical tunas, and the overcapacity which already exists. It is therefore expected that any review of the TAC system will bring about a reduction of the present fleet so that it is commensurate to the existing available resources. It is therefore difficult to reconcile Colombia’s ambitions with the realities of the fisheries involved. Another point of concern is on the capacity of Colombia to exercise the necessary governance over its activities. On the latter point, the EU recalls the case of the vessel HALELULYA, which is still being addressed at the PWG, and whereby Colombia has already informed (Doc. PWG_418/2020) that it has authorised a stateless vessel to fish through the renewal of its fishing licence and that its activities, including the catches, have not been monitored and reported because they were attributed, erroneously, to Tanzania’s responsibilities.

The EU also recalls that, as recorded in the Report of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC) adopted as part of the 2019 Commission proceedings, Colombia had committed to provide more details on its fisheries¹. In this regard, the EU notes that this commitment remains unfulfilled. Additionally, what was at the time understood as a failure on the part of Tanzania to respect the rules of ICCAT seems now to be attributable to Colombia. This is reminiscent of the reasons for which Colombia’s cooperating status had been withdrawn in 2013.

Within this context, since Colombia has not shown in a tangible manner that it intends to or is in a position to discharge its obligations as a cooperating non-contracting party, the European Union expresses its opposition to the renewal of such status.

¹ “Several CPCs raised concerns about the new request for cooperating status from Colombia, particularly the lack of details regarding its proposed fishery. Ultimately, contingent on receiving more information on the nature of its fisheries, the COC supported extending cooperating status to Colombia. One CPC expressed concern about the possibility that Colombia may seek to bring purse seiners from the Pacific to the ICCAT Convention area.”

Appendix 11 to ANNEX 9

Statement by Senegal to the ICCAT Compliance Committee Chair – Round 1

The bigeye tuna catch limits for 2020, which are set out in the table contained in PA1-502/2020, do not reflect the requirements and the objectives of Recommendation 19-02, on account of the following reasons.

The table in PA1-502/2020 should not include the limits that have been unilaterally declared by CPCs, particularly where these are not consistent with paragraph 4 of Rec. 19-02.

Recommendation 19-02 establishes rules for determining limits for the CPCs referred to in paragraphs 4 (a-c) and does not mention limits for CPCs whose recent average catches are less than 1,000 t, or rules to determine these. Therefore, it is not adequate to set limits for these CPCs or to calculate "total limits" since the previous limits of Rec. 16-01 (1,575 t or 3,500 t) are no longer applicable because Rec. 16-01 has been replaced by Rec. 19-02 (see para 68 of Rec. 19-02).

In my view, any overage or underage permissible under paragraphs 10, 11 and 12 of Rec. 19-02 and verified by SCRS data, should be noted separately in the table to ensure full transparency. For example, there is a lack of information on how the EU has added the carryover of 2,121.35 t from 2018 to its 2020 bigeye tuna limit.

Therefore, I do not approve the table in PA1-502/2020 as presented, nor its use for compliance purposes or any other. The template below better presents the catch limits under Rec. 19-02, based on estimates by the Secretariat for approval by COC and Panel 1.

	<i>CPC catch limits according to para 4 (a-c)</i>		<i>Average of CPC recent catches to which para 4 (d) applies</i>	<i>Comments (explain any overage, underage and transfer under Rec. 19-02)</i>
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Appendix 12 to ANNEX 9

Statement by Senegal to the ICCAT Compliance Committee Chair – Round 2

On behalf of the Republic of Senegal, I would like to thank the Chair of the ICCAT Compliance Committee for the efforts made to advance the Commission’s decision-making process.

Following review of the documents presented, we would like to make the following comments:

Implementation and application of ICCAT requirements, focusing on priority issues and/or cases

As regards the revised draft version of COC-308 published as COC-308B and in relation to the vessel included in the IUU list (see PWG-405-B, 412, 415 and 416 for further details), Senegal reiterates its request for the current flag of the vessel *Mario 11* to be changed from Senegal to unknown on the IUU list, because it is considered that the elements to enable this change have been provided.

As regards the document PA1-502-A, Senegal notes that paragraph 4 c is not applied to the countries affected by this 10% reduction of average recent catches. It has been noted that in this document there are some calculation errors in the 2020 limits for some CPCs, in relation to paragraph 4-c of Rec. 19-02 (see PA1 502-Annex-bigeye tuna catch limits).

Appendix 13 to ANNEX 9**Statement by the United States to the Compliance Committee – Round 1**

The United States continues to have serious concerns about apparent underreporting of North Atlantic shortfin mako catch data by CPCs with large-scale longline fisheries. Landing and discard data reported by some CPCs have been unusually low in the period right before and since the entry into force of Rec. 17-08. Given the scale and scope of these CPCs' longline fisheries and that some use J-hooks and wire leaders, which are lethal to sharks, these low – or nonexistent – catch reports strongly suggest significant underreporting. This is concerning; it introduces more uncertainty into the stock assessment, undermines the conservation and management of the stock, and places an unfair burden on CPCs, including the United States, that adhere fully to reporting and other requirements of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of North Atlantic stock of shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries* [Rec. 19-06]. In our case, compliance with these requirements has substantially reduced mortality, to a level fully consistent with scientific advice. ICCAT's effectiveness hangs on ensuring accurate reporting and compliance with conservation measures. Considering the number of years that lack of compliance with data reporting and other North Atlantic shortfin mako obligations has been of concern, we look to the Compliance Committee to take the necessary actions to ensure such non-compliance is rectified, including those outlined in ICCAT's Schedule of Actions (*Resolution by ICCAT Establishing an ICCAT Schedule of Actions to Improve Compliance and Cooperation with ICCAT Measures* [Res. 16-17]). The United States notes that the Secretariat has not yet provided information to COC to support implementation of the *Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 16-01 by ICCAT on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas* [Rec. 19-02], paragraph 31, which requires CPCs with FAD fisheries to provide historic FAD data by 31 July 2020. Failure to provide these data – which have been required since 2011 – results in the automatic prohibition of setting on FADs until it is received. Without information on who has or has not reported their required data, the COC cannot ascertain what automatic FAD fishing prohibitions should apply. The United States requests the COC Chair and Secretariat to work together without delay to identify CPCs who may be out of compliance with paragraph 31 of Rec. 19-02. This information should be provided to the Compliance Committee as soon as possible so that non-compliant CPCs can be notified of the automatic suspension of their FAD fisheries until the required historical FAD data are provided.

The United States supports the Secretariat's request to ensure clarity whether CPCs have implemented ICCAT's sea turtle measures in a legally binding way, and we call on CPCs to reference their relevant domestic rules in their 2021 annual reports.

The United States remains concerned with the state of reporting for blue and white marlin, including landings and discard data in recreational fisheries. ICCAT could not adopt the 2019 compliance tables for these stocks due to these reporting deficiencies; yet, the United States remains the only CPC reporting recreational data, despite clear evidence that many other CPCs have recreational marlin fisheries. We strongly encourage efforts by the Secretariat and Compliance Committee to seek improved marlin compliance. To that end, the United States supports rescheduling the two-day COC special session, originally planned for 2020, in 2021. It should focus, inter alia, on marlin compliance, as well as compliance with shark measures and observer requirements.

Statement by the United States to the Compliance Committee – Round 2

The United States thanks the COC Chair for the list of recommended compliance actions (COC_308 Appendix 2). We can support these recommended actions, including proposals to lift identifications and instead send compliance letters to El Salvador, Grenada, and Dominica to acknowledge recent improvements as well as remaining compliance concerns. We noted that COC_308C is missing information on some CPCs that did not submit shark and billfish check sheets, as identified in COC_314, COC_315, and their addendums. The United States requests that the compliance actions include letters to all CPCs that did not submit check sheets, reminding them of the importance of submitting those reports prior to the 2021 COC meeting.

The United States offers some comments for the purpose of articulating our views and helping inform the Chair's compliance letters:

General comments: We have noted that a number of CPCs have failed to meet basic reporting requirements for a number of years in a row and have failed to address these issues after receiving several compliance letters. The United States is concerned that this repeated failure to report may be the result of a broader failure to implement ICCAT measures. ICCAT's Schedule of Actions outlined in Rec. 16-17 describes frequent non-reporting as a significant compliance issue that meets the threshold for identification under Rec. 06-13.

The United States took note of several comments by CPCs in their billfish check sheets or in responses to the COC that indicated recreational catches are not reported to ICCAT, in some cases implying that the impact of those catches is minimal. We would like to remind CPCs of their obligation to report recreational catches to ICCAT, regardless of whether that catch took place inside or outside of EEZs. Even in the case of catch and release fisheries, recreational catch provides important data for scientists to understand temporal, spatial and size distribution, as well as stock status, and it is critically important that CPCs provide all relevant data from all relevant fisheries to the SCRS. As noted above, this frequent non-reporting and/or insufficient reporting of recreational catch can meet the threshold for identification for undermining the effectiveness of ICCAT.

If the reporting failures seen this year continue into next, stronger action from the Commission will be required. CPC-specific comments are contained in **Attachment 1 to Appendix 14 to ANNEX 9** [COC_328_APP_1/20].

Attachment 1 to Appendix 14 to ANNEX 9

United states response to the Compliance Committee Chair's suggested actions

Barbados: The United States commends Barbados for its submission of a shark check sheet but was disappointed to see the lack of information on robust implementation of ICCAT's shark measures. For example, ICCAT has prohibited oceanic whitetip retention since 2011, but it appears Barbados has not yet implemented the required measures for this threatened species.

China: We thank China for clarifying its North Atlantic shortfin mako data. We look forward to seeing an updated data submission and respectfully encourage China to submit discard data given that its fleet does not retain North Atlantic shortfin mako, as stated in their Shark Implementation Check Sheet. Timely submission of these data are essential to support enhanced shark science and management.

Côte d'Ivoire: The United States thanks Côte d'Ivoire for its response to our questions. Given that Côte d'Ivoire is actively expanding its longline fleet, it is particularly important that implementation of billfish and shark measures is reported in the check sheets. Rec. 16-11 requires that CPCs 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.

El Salvador: We agree with the Chair's suggested approach of sending a letter to El Salvador, which will effectively lift their 2019 identification. The United States notes that while El Salvador's catches last year continued to exceed the 1,575 t bigeye cap under Rec. 16-01, their catches did decrease from the previous year.

That said, the United States must express its shock and grave concern regarding El Salvador's response to our questions in COC_320A. It appears that rather than make efforts to improve compliance with ICCAT measures in the seriously overfished bigeye fishery, El Salvador has chosen to try to re-litigate its 2019 identification by the Commission through efforts to alter the ICCAT meeting proceedings. This is inappropriate and a significant waste of everyone's valuable time. There is no question that El Salvador was identified last year. As a result, the Commission issued a letter of identification. The suggestion that CPCs could consent to a post facto change to a Commission decision simply by failing to notice a late, substantive, and inappropriate change to the COC report - a change that was not appropriately brought to the attention of CPCs - is absurd. El Salvador's request to remove itself from the list of identified CPCs came late in the process after a majority of CPCs, including the United States, had already undertaken a thorough review of the report. We encourage El Salvador and all CPCs to respect the decisions of the Commission. We further hope that this episode does not reflect El Salvador's current level of willingness to undertake good-faith negotiations to adopt improved tropical tuna management measures, which are seriously needed.

Korea: Based on submission of updated information as well as correspondence from Korea, it is still not clear to the United States whether Korea bans or requires retention of North Atlantic shortfin mako. We ask that Korea clarify their domestic rules in their 2021 annual report and shark check sheet submission and ensure that discard data are being appropriately collected and reported to ICCAT. Korea has also indicated that discrepancies in reported data may be due to the fishermen's ability to identify shark species. We encourage Korea to provide fishermen with the necessary training to identify bycatch species, which will lead to more accurate discard and landing data.

Liberia: The United States thanks Liberia for its response to our questions in COC_320A. Our analysis identified thirteen vessels that undertook suspicious loitering activity while flagged to Liberia:

<i>Vessel name</i>	<i>Flag at time of incidents</i>	<i>IMO</i>	<i>Number of Events</i>	<i>Current Status</i>
GENTAMARU	LBR	9620384	36	Flagged to Panama 2019-03

CHIKUMA	LBR	9666493	32	Ownership Transferred to "Eikyo Marine Inc" 2020-03
MEITAMARU	LBR	9071583	22	Flagged to Panama 2020-09
SHOTAMARU	LBR	9194892	8	Flagged to South Korea 2020-01. Renamed "Lake Aurora"
VICTORIA2	LBR	9140097	5	Flagged to Panama 2018-09, Flagged to Russia 2020-01. Renamed "AMFITRITA"
PACIFICMERMAID	LBR	9045924	3	Remains Liberian flagged
ATLANTICREEFER	LBR	9179256	2	Remains Liberian flagged
EASTERNBAY	LBR	9143752	2	Flagged to Panama 2019-12. Renamed "FRIO GALICIA"
EVERESTBAY	LBR	8911073	1	Remains Liberian flagged
ZENIT	LBR	8700228	1	Broken up 2019-03
PACIFICREEFER	LBR	9179268	1	Remains Liberian flagged
BALTICPATRIOT	LBR	9038488	1	Flagged to Bahamas 2020-09
REINA	LBR	8202226	1	Broken up 2019-03

We hope this additional information is helpful to Liberia and other CPCs and can inform Liberia's letter from the COC Chair.

Morocco: The United States thanks Morocco for its response to our question in COC_320A. We urge Morocco to report dead discard and recreational data for marlins in 2021.

Namibia: The United States agrees with the Chair's suggestion of identification given several concerning compliance issues. We have also noted the increasing chartering activity and the Secretariat's concerns with CPCs failing to implement the required chartering reporting requirements. We encourage Namibia and its chartering partners to ensure its charter fleet is properly monitored and its chartering activities are appropriately reported to ICCAT.

Senegal: The United States remains concerned about Senegal's recent performance as a flag and port State and encourages Senegal to ensure proper monitoring and enforcement of its fleet and ports.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines: The United States encourages St. Vincent and the Grenadines to provide information to the Commission on the suspicious at sea encounters referenced in COC_317 and COC_320A, and we ask that the COC Chair include this request in the Commission's letter to St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Chinese Taipei: The United States remains concerned that Chinese Taipei may be underreporting its discards of North Atlantic shortfin mako (and perhaps other species). We encourage them to provide more information about how these estimates are derived and/or the methods used by its vessels to avoid these interactions.

Appendix 15 to ANNEX 9**Working Group for the Development of an Online Reporting System –
2020 Status Report****Overview of Working Group Activities for 2020**

The Online Reporting Technology Working Group (WG-TOR) was scheduled to meet intersessionally 8-9 May 2020 at the ICCAT Secretariat headquarters in Madrid to continued advancing the development of the Integrated Online Management System (IOMS) in anticipation of presenting to the Commission for its consideration a prototype of the system in relation to this first phase in 2020. Unfortunately, due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the intersessional meeting was postponed and has not yet been rescheduled.

Despite the postponement of the scheduled WG-TOR intersessional meeting, the ICCAT Secretariat has made continued progress in the development of IOMS. The IOMS Phase 1 is considered completed and is awaiting the revision by the WG-TOR for a final approval by the Commission. Phase 1 included the creation and development of the IOMS database, the IOMS core application and the IOMS annual report Part II/Section 3. The most up-to-date version of IOMS was deployed in the ICCAT cloud infrastructure and has been used as a “working prototype” for testing and demonstration purposes. In addition, the IOMS development team has moved on to the first stages of phase 2 which will involve four main web applications/modules: a) ICCAT Vessel manager; b) Port manager; c) Bluefin tuna weekly and monthly reports manager; d) Statistical document programs (SDP) manager (BET, SWO). Additional details on the current status and planned next steps for the technical development are described in **Attachment 1 to Appendix 15 to ANNEX 9**.

Also during 2020, Ms. Oriana Villar (USA) resigned as Chair of the WG-TOR. The WG-TOR agreed that Ms. Terra Lederhouse (USA) would serve as interim Chair of the Group until it is able to meet to select a new Chair from among its membership, consistent with paragraph 5 of Rec. 16-19.

Next steps for the WG-TOR:

1. Testing of IOMS Phase 1 working prototype and identify potential refinements. It is proposed that this testing may take place virtually by individual WG-TOR members and refinements shared with the Secretariat by correspondence.
2. Reschedule the 2020 WG-TOR intersessional meeting for early 2021 to:
 - a) Receive a status update of the IOMS Phase 1.
 - i. New features and major corrections after testing.
 - ii. Approval to deploy IOMS Phase 1 into production.
 - b) Work plan for IOMS Phase 2.
 - i. Main modules and requirements involved.
 - ii. Roadmap.
 - iii. Intersessional work.
 - c) Select a new Chair from among the WG-TOR membership
3. Complete necessary refinements and present to the Commission in 2021.

ICCAT IOMS Project: Current status and planned tasks

Introduction

The ICCAT Integrated Online Management System (IOMS) is a long-term project that aims to manage online (compile, validate, store, publish, etc.) and in a centralised way, all the structured information (for compliance and scientific purposes) reported by ICCAT CPCs to accomplish the data requirements behind the ICCAT regulatory measures, including the Article IX of the Convention.

The IOMS implementation started in June 2019 with Phase 1, a 12 months development period. It is now under Phase 2 development, a 24 months period, planned to be finished in May 2022. The IOMS was planned to be developed by the ICCAT Secretariat (two Senior Software Engineers were hired) primarily to take advantage of the existing expertise in database development which will streamline the migration of the current ICCAT database system (ICCAT-DB) to the new IOMS database models. Since Phase 1, the most up-to-date version of IOMS system was deployed in the ICCAT Cloud infrastructure and has been used as a “working prototype” for testing and demonstration purposes.

By adopting in 2019 the *Recommendation by ICCAT to continue the development of an Integrated Online Reporting System* [Rec.19-12+, which supplements the Rec. 16-19 (*Recommendation by ICCAT for the Development of an Online Reporting System*)], the Commission approved the continuity of the IOMS project, which will be governed by the Online Reporting Technology Working Group (WG-TOR).

IOMS current development status

The IOMS Phase 1 is considered completed and is waiting the revision by the WG-TOR for a final approval by the Commission. Phase 1 covered the creation and development of the IOMS database, the IOMS core application and the IOMS annual report Part II/Section 3. In addition, the IOMS development team has already started the first stages of Phase 2 which will involve four main web applications/modules: a) ICCAT Vessel manager; b) Port manager; c) Bluefin tuna weekly and monthly reports manager; d) Statistical document programs (SDP) manager (BET, SWO).

The IOMS core application consists of common components such as, the Security manager (user authentication, user profiles/roles, etc.), the Requirements manager, the Message handler, the Notification manager, the Auditing tool and the master database tables administration. The components that take part of the IOMS Annual report module are the data storage model, the version control manager, and the import/export tools to handle standard Part II/Section 3 templates.

The Secretariat aims to use the 2019 and 2020 Annual Report Part II/Section 3 submissions as input to extensively test the IOMS system. This task will require a complex and time-consuming work on data transformation, collation, and finally, data integration and it is expected to last two months. This is a very important step to further improve and optimize the IOMS system. This effort will also contribute to the ICCAT CPCs learning phase, by using their own 2019 and 2020 data to interact with the IOMS on actions like editing, updating, filtering and download/upload Annual Report.

Working environment and versioning

Two working environments have been deployed for the IOMS implementation: the development environment, and the production environment. The first one has a local server in the ICCAT intranet and is mainly used for development and testing new functionalities. The second one has two servers in the ICCAT Cloud infrastructure (@rackspace data centre) one for the database and webservices and the other one for the frontend. This production environment is where final users connect and as noted before is currently working and ready for testing.

All the IOMS source code is managed with GitLab (<https://gitlab.com>) as a private repository that could be opened to some users in the future if required. It uses a rolling release development with continuous integration/continuous deployment model and takes advantage of git functionality. Periodically, when some versions achieve a reasonable level of improved functionality, a new version will be released in the production environment.

The IOMS versions released for production will be tagged with a sequential version number. The versioning nomenclature adopted has three hierarchical levels (format “9.9.9”) sequentially numbered (0.1.0, ..., 0.6.0, 0.7.0, 0.8.0, ..., 1.0.0, 1.0.1, ..., 1.1.0, ...). The first hierarchy is reserved for major versions. The second hierarchy will contain new functionality. The third hierarchy is reserved for bug corrections and minor improvements only. The adopted versioning system aims to capture the progressive evolution of IOMS in time, and at the same time to be used as a reference for any user feedback. The current IOMS version released in the production environment is “IOMS 0.8.38”.

Future actions

The Secretariat has already started the IOMS Phase 2 with the design of the Vessel manager (11 authorisation lists, chartering arrangements, transshipment authorisations, data exchange with other systems). These first design stages, includes the migration and modification of the ICCAT vessels database, the definition of the webservices and the design of the user interface for the frontend that will manage this module.

Planned for all the IOMS development phases, is the availability to the registered users of testing facilities. In each Phase, the system will have a probation time period in which the user’s testing and the resulting feedback will allow the development team to solve (fix, redesign, etc.) some issues that remain uncovered. The testing period will require the engagement of the ICCAT CPC officers to test and evaluate the IOMS functionality and efficiency. Any IOMS modification will be reviewed by the WG-TOR and presented to the Commission for final approval.

Table 1. Preliminary schedule of IOMS Phase 1 and Phase 2.

<i>IOMS version</i>	<i>Phase</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Meeting ref.</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
0.8 (alfa)	2	Up to Nov/2020	(Ongoing Secretariat work)	First stages for Phase 2 development. Module 1 - ICCAT Vessel Manager. This module will manage all current ICCAT vessels registered and their authorizations, chartering arrangements, transshipment authorizations, and synchronization with external services such the e-BCD system and the CLAV vessel list.
0.9 (beta)	1	Dec/2020 - Feb/2021	(intersessional work)	The WG-TOR members will be invited to test and provide feedback on the use of the IOMS Phase 1. The 2019 Annual Report, Part II, Section 3 will be preloaded to facilitate the user interaction.
0.9 (beta)	1, 2	Mar/2021	WG-TOR meeting	Detailed revision of IOMS Phase 1, including the decisions based on the feedback received. Comments, corrections, and enhancements to IOMS Phase 2 schedule.
1.0 (release)	1	Jun/2021	(intersessional work)	Stable version (“production ready” version to work with 2021 submissions of Part II/Section 3 data). The IOMS system will start with a “cleaned” database, but preloaded with initial data on at least, the authorised CPC users, and the 2019 and 2020 Part II/Section last submission.
1.0 (release)	1,2	Commission 2021	Commission 2021	The WG-TOR will present to the Commission the 2021 IOMS status report.

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

1. Consideration of the effectiveness and practical aspects of implementation of MCS measures (e.g. Catch Documentation and Statistical Document Programs; Observer and Inspection Schemes or Programmes; Rules for chartering and other fishing arrangements)

As proposed in the letter from the Chair (ICCAT Circular #4379/20), it was agreed that discussion on these items would be deferred to the IMM intersessional correspondence period/meeting in 2021. The correspondence period would start in March 2021 (date TBC) followed by an in-person meeting in June 2021 if circumstances allow, otherwise an online meeting would be held. PWG members are encouraged to send working documents and proposals in order to advance the work and capitalise on the meeting in June. The working procedures for the correspondence period and meeting will be distributed in early 2021. The draft agenda for this work taking into account views expressed by PWG members is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10**.

Statements by the EU, Japan, Morocco, Senegal, United States and PEW and Oceana pertaining to this and other matters of relevance to IMM/PWG Working Group in 2021 are attached as **Appendices 3 to 18 of ANNEX 10**.

2. Consideration of additional technical measures needed to ensure effective implementation of ICCAT's conservation and management measures

The Chair of PWG put forward a "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend Rec. 18-12 on the Application of the EBCD System". This proposal was supported by the European Union, Morocco and, Norway.

In order to make an informed decision on this draft, the United States requested further information from the European Union through their statement contained in **Appendix 12 to ANNEX 10**. The information requested was provided by the European Union through their statement contained in **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 10**.

Following this exchange, no further questions were raised nor were any objections received and hence the "Draft recommendation by ICCAT to Amend Rec. 18-12 on the Application of the EBCD System" was endorsed by the PWG and put forward to the Commission plenary for adoption.

3. Review and establishment of the IUU vessel list

The US communicated procedural concerns related to the cross-listing of IUU vessels from the RFMOs not referred to in paragraph 11 of Rec. 18-08. Of the 40 vessels presented for cross-listing through the 2020 IOTC IUU List, 30 were subsequently removed from the draft list. The United States noted that these vessels could be reconsidered for cross-listing when supporting information is received, in accordance with Rec. 18-08 paragraphs 11-12. The US also requested clarifying the scope and intent of the cross-listing provisions of its IUU vessel listing measure through future discussions of the IMM/PWG, and this has been included on the tentative agenda for the next correspondence period/ IMM meeting.

Senegal requested the removal of *Mario 11* from the list however there was no support for this request, with opposition through statements from EU, Japan and United States (**Appendices 4, 7 and 13 to ANNEX 10**). Senegal later requested through a statement (**Appendix 10 to ANNEX 10**) a change of flag of the *Mario 11* from Senegal to 'unknown' on the grounds that this vessel was no longer flagged to Senegal and undergoing a delisting process and for which they provided documentation (**Attachment 1 to Appendix 11 of ANNEX 10**). The United States and EU informed however that they could not support this until the documentation proving the completion of the delisting process had been provided, hence the vessel remained as flagged to Senegal on the list. The Chair proposed to continue to discuss possible procedures for inter-sessional changes to the IUU list as possible in the context of para 8 of Rec. 18-08 during the 2021 IMM correspondence period/meeting, alongside with the issue of cross-listing procedures.

Colombia made available some additional information regarding the activities of the vessel *Haleluya*. The references to this and other relevant information received from CPCs in the establishment of the IUU List can be found in **Appendix 19 to ANNEX 10**.

A Statement relating to IUU activities was presented by Oceana and is contained in **Appendix 18 to ANNEX 10**.

The EU requested two issues be referred to the COC; the operations of the Gambian vessel *Sage* (**Appendix 6 to ANNEX 10**) and the implementation of Port State Measures by Senegal (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 10**). They also requested, more broadly, that outstanding responses to any unanswered questions in relation to the IUU list be followed-up in the 2021 correspondence period/meeting of IMM and PWG.

4. Recommendations to the Commission based on findings of above

Based on the above, the PWG recommends to the Commission that:

- The “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend Rec. 18-12 on the Application of the EBCD System” be adopted by the Commission;
- The ICCAT List of IUU vessels be adopted by the Commission, with possible discussions on intersessional modification to be held at the next IMM correspondence period/meeting;
- That an intersessional meeting of IMM be held, physically if possible, in June 2021, with initial work to be carried out during a period of correspondence commencing in March 2021 in order to make progress. The procedures for the correspondence period and other information on the meeting will be communicated to PWG members in due course;
- A virtual meeting of the eBCD Technical Working Group is also foreseen in the first half of 2021 (before June 2021), the dates and proposed agenda for which will also follow in due course.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 10

Agenda

1. Consideration of the effectiveness and practical aspects of implementation of MCS measures (e.g. Catch Documentation and Statistical Document Programs; Observer and Inspection Schemes or Programmes; Rules for chartering and other fishing arrangements).
2. Consideration of additional technical measures needed to ensure effective implementation of ICCAT's conservation and management measures
3. Review and establishment of the IUU vessel list
4. Recommendations to the Commission based on findings of above

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10

Tentative Agenda for the IMM Intersessional Meeting in June 2021

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
4. Review of Statistical and Catch Documentation Schemes (SDP/CDS) including:
 - 4.1 Consideration of measures referred from PA2/BFTCT WG (Rec. 18-12 and 18-13)
 - 4.2 Consideration of eBCD and any further actions and work of the eBCD Technical Working Group, including data extraction and reporting
 - 4.3 Overall strategy for CDS in ICCAT and potential expansion of CDS to other species
 - 4.4 Consideration of current SDPs (Bigeye and Swordfish) and any further actions (Rec. 01-21 and 01-22)
5. Consideration of measures relating to monitoring and inspection and flag state responsibilities, including:
 - 5.1 Vessel Monitoring Systems:
 - a) Consideration towards a Regional VMS
 - b) Measures related to BFT and live trade (Rec. 19-04)
 - 5.2 Observer Programmes:
 - a) Minimum standards for Electronic Monitoring Systems (Recs. 19-02 and 19-05)
 - b) Regional Observer Programmes:
 - Transhipment
 - Bluefin tuna (interpretation points from ROPs)
 - Consideration of possible scope and benefits of a new programme (Rec. 19-02)
 - c) Review of scientific observer programs, including implementation and consideration of any needed revisions or other actions (Rec. 16-14)
 - d) National observer training requirements (Rec. 19-04)
 - 5.3 At sea boarding and inspection, including updates on pilot program on voluntary exchange of inspection personnel (Res. 19-17) and vessel sightings (Rec. 19-09)
 - 5.4 Port State measures:
 - a) Composition of response to FAO on Port State Measures

- b) Evaluation of the outcomes of the Fourth Meeting of the Joint FAO/IMO/ILO Ad Hoc Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and Related Matters (Torremolinos, Spain, 23-25 October 2019)
 - c) Review of the progress of the Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity Building and Assistance including training module
- 5.5 At sea and in port transshipment
 - 5.6 Reporting form for lost and abandoned gear (Rec. 19-11)
 - 5.7 Other issues
- 6. Review of vessel listing measures, including:
 - 6.1 Rec. 18-08, including IUU Vessel listing procedures including cross-listing
 - 6.2 Other issues
 - 7. Performance review follow-up
 - 8. Other matters
 - 9. Adoption of report and adjournment

Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10

Statement by the European Union in relation to the PWG – Round 1

1. IUU listing process in ICCAT (Documents PWG-405 and PWG-405A)

The European Union (EU) would like to draw the attention of the ICCAT members and of the Secretariat to the ICCAT IUU vessels list. It is of paramount importance that the list contains consolidated and up to date information, so that vessels that are on the list can be more easily detected when attempting to register under the flag of a CPC or use one of its ports.

In that regard, the EU is of the view that the existence of two entries for the same vessel (FV Labiko/Claude Moinier, IMO 7325746) in the draft IUU list that was circulated on 29 September (Doc. PWG-405) calls for more substantial verifications of the consistency of details entered for each vessel in the list, and in particular those that have been subject to cross-listing.

The EU also considers that it would be important to clarify the status of vessel SAGE (IMO 7825215, current flag The Gambia) as there are substantial indications that this vessel would be the former vessel CHIAO HAO No. 66, currently listed in ICCAT. The EU has taken note of the statement made by the United States (ICCAT Circular #7275/20) and supports it. Necessary amendments (current flag State and name) should be made to the draft IUU vessel list, unless the flag State or the vessel's owner is able to provide information that confirms that this is a different vessel.

The EU would also appreciate that further clarifications be given by Senegal and The Gambia on this vessel. In the [Doc. No. COC_312/2020](#), Senegal confirms it has authorised the vessel SAGE to enter the port of Dakar on several occasions from 2017 to 2020, and to offload tuna and tuna-like species in the port of Dakar in April 2020. It appears, from the information available, that at least during that last call the vessel was not on the list of ICCAT authorised vessels. Therefore the EU believes that it would be useful to understand, for each of the calls made from 2017 to 2020, on which grounds the vessel was authorised to use the port of Dakar, which authorisations it held from its flag State and which were the species landed.

The EU also shares the concerns expressed by the US that a Contracting Party could have registered under its flag an IUU listed vessel. Clarifications that The Gambia could provide in that regard, especially regarding the verifications carried out prior to the registration of the vessel, would be highly appreciated.

2. Draft proposal, submitted by the chair of PWG, to amend the Recommendation 18-12 by ICCAT on the application of the eBCD system (Document PWG-408)

The European Union has submitted its report of the implementation of para 5b and 5d of the Recommendation [18-12]. The European Union considers that the decision-making process in ICCAT in 2020 due to the COVID-19 situation, and in particular the limited scope for exchanges between CPCs in the absence of an annual meeting, prevents the technical exercise required for a meaningful review of the scope and relevance of para 5b and 5d. Consequently, the European Union supports the Chair's proposal to rollover these provisions for one year that would prevent these provisions expiring in 2020 and leaving a legal vacuum for a year, and would in turn offer the opportunity to instead undertake the planned review in a proper manner in 2021.

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 10

Objection by the European Union to the removal of vessel *Mario 11* from the ICCAT Draft IUU Vessel List – Round 2

In accordance with the relevant provisions of *Recommendation by ICCAT on Establishing a List of Vessels Presumed to have Carried out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities* [Rec. 18-08], the European Union (EU) objects to the removal of vessel MARIO 11 from the draft IUU vessel list.

The EU has taken note of the reply from Senegal (PWG_412/20), and of the statement that “shark fins attached to the deck [...] does not constitute sufficient proof that the vessel carried out fishing operations”. The EU is of the view that, on the contrary, the presence of shark fins on the deck confirms that the vessel has been involved in fishing or transshipment operations. The EU also notes that Senegal itself stated, in ICCAT Circular #3977/20, that “the Senegalese flag is in the process of being withdrawn from *MARIO 11, AT000SEN00031*, since 7 January 2020. This vessel does not hold a valid license applicable to all vessels flying our flag while fishing on high seas. Therefore, in accordance with national legislation, this fishing activity is considered illegal”.

Furthermore, the retention of shark fins on the vessel seems to be in breach of paragraph 5 of *Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT* [Rec. 04-10] in that “*Fishing vessels are prohibited from retaining on board, transshipping or landing any fins harvested in contravention of this Recommendation*”.

Based on the above, the EU considers that the vessel should only be considered for removal from the draft IUU list upon clarifications on the following points being provided by Senegal and that it can be concluded that the vessel has not been involved in IUU activities:

- a) Date of the withdrawal of the high seas fishing licence;
- b) Activities of the vessel since its high seas fishing licence was withdrawn;
- c) Origin of the fish observed on board and dates of catch;
- d) Activities and location of the vessel from the moment it was sighted by the US Coast Guard to the completion of the Senegalese flag withdrawal process;
- e) Current location of the vessel in case it is still flying the Senegalese flag.

Furthermore, the EU reiterates the questions raised in its statement [PWG_411A] as regards vessel SAGE, and would appreciate that further clarifications be given by Senegal on the implementation of *Recommendation by ICCAT on port state measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing* [Rec. 18-09] (and previously Rec. 12-07) as regards this vessel. As previously indicated in our statement, in the [Doc. No. COC_312/2020](#), Senegal confirms it has authorised the vessel SAGE to enter the port of Dakar on several occasions from 2017 to 2020, and to offload tuna and tuna-like species in the port of Dakar in April 2020. It appears, from the information available, that at least during that last call the vessel was not on the list of ICCAT authorised vessels. Therefore the EU believes that it would be useful to understand, for each of the calls made from 2017 to 2020, on which grounds the vessel was authorised to use the port of Dakar, which authorisations it held from its flag State and which were the species landed.

Further clarifications are also sought from The Gambia as regards vessel SAGE, particularly regarding the verifications carried out prior to the registration of the vessel. The EU repeats its concerns that a contracting Party could have registered under its flag an IUU listed vessel.

In view of the lack of implementation of the Port State Measures the EU asks the PWG to refer the matter to the Compliance Committee.

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 10

EU Statement by the European Union to PWG – Round 2

The European Union (EU) refers to the questions from the United States (US) in PWG-413 and is pleased to provide the following additional details regarding trades of bluefin tuna recorded in the eBCD system in 2019. Figures refer to trades from seller EU Member States, in order to avoid duplication. Quantities are cumulative, understanding that a same quantity may be traded several times. The number of crosschecks and verifications performed by EU is being collected and needs to be verified and will be communicated as soon as these are ready.

(1) Total number and weight of trades:

	<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>Spain</i>	<i>France</i>	<i>Greece</i>	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Italy</i>	<i>Malta</i>	<i>Portugal</i>	<i>other</i>
Total trades	36	35146	16352	4298	2843	41894	1129	933	88
Weight (t)	66,43	10804,91	1256,69	343,69	2805,64	2533,75	11705,52	436,25	22

(2) Number of trades and amount of tonnage for which an exemption from validation (EXE)¹ was used:

		<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>Spain</i>	<i>France</i>	<i>Greece</i>	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Italy</i>	<i>Malta</i>	<i>Portugal</i>	<i>other</i>
EXE	Trades	31	24721	16335	4297	977	10721	0	51	59
	% ²	86,1%	70,3%	99,9%	100%	34,4%	25,6%	0%	5,5%	67%
	(t)	66,21	3171,12	1255,45	343,59	11,46	495,06	0,00	10,14	6,35
	%	99,7%	29,3%	99,9%	100%	0,4%	19,5%	0%	2,3%	29,5%

(3) Number and amount of tonnage of trades exempted of validation subject to derogation in para 5b (STA) and trades involving tagged fish (TAG):

		<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>Spain</i>	<i>France</i>	<i>Greece</i>	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Italy</i>	<i>Malta</i>	<i>Portugal</i>	<i>other</i>
EXE STA	Trades	0	5862	1468	138	22	144	0	0	24
	% ³	0%	24%	9%	3%	2%	1%	0%	0%	41%
	(t)	0	327,24	67,22	42,10	0,53	16,34	0	0	1,92
	%	0%	10%	5%	12%	5%	3%	0%	0%	30%
EXE TAG ⁴	Trades	31	3362	14867	3887	0	0	0	0	51
	%	100%	14%	91%	90%	0%	0%	0%	0%	86%
	(t)	65,87	282,37	1188,23	286,39	0	0	0	0	6,31
	%	99%	9%	95%	83%	0%	0%	0%	0%	99%

(4) Exports from the EU to other CPCs (EXP):

		<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>Spain</i>	<i>France</i>	<i>Greece</i>	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Italy</i>	<i>Malta</i>	<i>Portugal</i>	<i>other</i>
EXP	Trades	0	5501	53	911	192	28	613	47	0
	(t)	0	6079,40	1,33	95,21	2641,28	2,85	11590,83	22,36	0

¹ Include trades between EU Member States, trades of tagged fish and internal trades of non-tagged fish.

² % of total trades.

³ % of trades exempted of validation.

⁴ Tagged fish may concern both trades between EU Member States and internal trades inside a EU Member State.

(5) Total volume of trades between EU Member States (STA) not including internal trades:

		<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>Spain</i>	<i>France</i>	<i>Greece</i>	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Italy</i>	<i>Malta</i>	<i>Portugal</i>	<i>other</i>
STA	Trades	29	8454	2343	2296	459	1124	346	181	60
	(t)	65,84	678,52	261,75	199,09	41,60	204,25	70,15	302,57	11,08

(6) Internal trades inside Member States territories (INT):

		<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>Spain</i>	<i>France</i>	<i>Greece</i>	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Italy</i>	<i>Malta</i>	<i>Portugal</i>	<i>other</i>
INT	Trades	7	21191	13956	1091	2192	40742	170	705	28
	(t)	0,43	4046,98	993,61	49,39	122,76	2326,65	39,20	111,32	10,42

With regard to the request to receive an update on the Tarantelo investigation, we refer to the EU's reply to the Chair's of CoC letter of compliance which can be found in document COC-309.

The EU hopes that the reply will fully cover the information requested by the US.

Appendix 6 to ANNEX 10

Statement by the European Union to the PWG – Round 3

In view of the information provided by Senegal in Doc. PWG-418/20, the European Union (EU) agrees with the PWG Chair's proposal not to refer to MARIO 11 as a Stateless vessel in the draft IUU list. Flag State information should be updated only once Senegal confirms that the deregistration procedure initiated in January has been completed.

Prior to that, the vessel should be considered as a vessel that remains under Senegal's responsibility. In that regard, the EU is also deeply concerned that a vessel that had its fishing authorisation withdrawn four months earlier was nonetheless able to leave port and engage in fishing activities on the high seas without the Senegalese authorities be aware of it. The EU calls on Senegal to clarify the measures that have been taken to avoid the repetition of such scenario in the future, and to clarify questions raised in Annex 1.

The EU would also be grateful that Senegal and The Gambia provide, for vessel SAGE, the clarifications which have been already requested in previous rounds. This information should be taken into account by the Compliance Committee when assessing compliance with Port and Flag States obligations (**Attachments 1 and 2 to Appendix 6 to ANNEX 10**).

As regards the vessel HALELUYA, the EU would like to thank Colombia for the information provided in Circular 8131/20. The EU notes with concern, though, that a fishing licence was issued to a Stateless vessel and calls on Colombia to provide further information on the vessel's activities from 27 June 2019 to 6 October 2019, once ongoing verifications will be completed. The EU also notes that although Colombia had already received information that the vessel might have been operating as a Stateless vessel from 27 June to 6 October 2019, a new fishing licence valid until 16 August 2021 was issued to the vessel on 7 July 2020. The EU also notes that the vessel is still not in the ICCAT Record of fishing vessels. The EU would appreciate that the ICCAT Secretariat clarifies whether appropriate information has been received from Colombia, and that Colombia clarifies whether the vessel is currently actively fishing for tuna and tuna-like species.

The European Union would also be grateful that Colombia shares with ICCAT the information based on which Colombia reported that the vessel was operating "in both Colombian waters and waters of other countries" (COC-307/19). The summary of access agreements published by the ICCAT Secretariat in October (COC-303/20) does not seem to include references to access agreements involving a Tanzania-flagged vessel, and therefore the EU calls on Colombia to help clarifying other authorisations held by the vessel.

Finally, considering that we are still awaiting on several answers to important questions, the EU would like to request that a thorough follow up be given to these outstanding issues and that the CPCs concerned be requested to reply and provide information before the next intersessional meeting of PWG/IMM.

Attachment 1 to Appendix 6 to ANNEX 10**Further clarifications requested from Senegal on vessels *MARIO 11* and *SAGE***

As regards vessel *MARIO 11*, the EU would like to request Senegal to:

- a) Provide to the PWG the deregistration certificate of the vessel, which should otherwise be maintained in the list with Senegal as the current Flag State.
- b) Clarify the legal action it intends to take as regards the Senegalese company that owns the vessel, and is therefore responsible for the fishing activities it carried out without a fishing licence.
- c) Reply to questions raised in paragraph 4 of the previous EU statement (PWG-416/20) as these questions currently remain unanswered.
- d) Provide the same information for the fishing vessel *MARIO 7* (date of the withdrawal of the fishing licence; deregistration certificate; activities and location from the moment the fishing authorisation was withdrawn to the completion of the deregistration process), since the EU understands that this vessel was in a similar situation (ICCAT Circular #3977/20).

As regards vessel *SAGE*, the EU reiterates the questions raised in its previous statements (PWG-411A and PWG-416/20). To date no clarifications have been provided by Senegal on calls made by the vessel from 2017 to 2019, the type of authorisations it held from its Flag State, the species it landed and whether Senegal confirmed the vessel was on the ICCAT record of vessels. The EU is concerned that these questions remain without answer and urges Senegal to clarify how it implemented ICCAT Recommendations 18-09 and 12-07 in relation to that vessel. The EU also asks the PWG to refer to the Compliance Committee possible issues detected in relation to the port calls made by this vessel from 2017 to 2020.

Attachment 2 to Appendix 6 to ANNEX 10**Further clarifications requested from The Gambia on vessel *SAGE***

The EU asks the PWG to refer to the Compliance Committee the issue of the registration by The Gambia of a vessel with tuna longliner characteristics but that was not subsequently added to the ICCAT record of vessels nor effectively monitored to ensure it would not engage in this fishery, so that the case can be reviewed in light of the provisions established in Recommendation 13-13 (and notably its points 5 and 7). Unless The Gambia provides clarifications during this third round of exchanges, the EU also asks the PWG to request the Compliance Committee to take into account the absence of reply from The Gambia to previous statements and questions.

Appendix 7 to ANNEX 10**Statement by Japan on *Mario 11* to PWG – Round 2**

Regarding the removal of *Mario 11* from the draft IUU list requested by Senegal, Japan would like to provide the following observations and comments:

1. Through ICCAT Circular 4085-20 dated June 16, 2020, the United States informed the Commission of the possible IUU activities by this vessel.
2. Through ICCAT Circular 4211-20 dated June 19, 2020, Japan informed the Commission that 1.7 tons of marlins harvested by *Mario 11* in the Atlantic Ocean was being imported to Japan and Japan requested Senegal to confirm the legality of the product so that Japan would be able to import it.

3. Through ICCAT Circular 4826-20 dated July 13, 2020, Senegal said, "I would like to inform you that, throughout 2019, the vessels MARIO 11 and MARIO 7 were under the flag of Senegal and their activities were monitored in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations. However, on 7 January 2020, Senegal began a procedure to withdraw the Senegalese flag from these two vessels and has removed them from the ICCAT Record of Vessels."
4. Through ICCAT Circular 5127-20 dated July 22, Japan informed that Japan was not clear about whether "monitoring" means that the product was legally caught and requested Senegal to confirm that the product, 1.7 tons of marlins harvested by Mario 11 in the Atlantic during the period between 19 September and 20 December 2019, was legally caught and to provide the basis for the confirmation.
5. Since that time, Japan has not received any response from Senegal. Taking into account the exchange of the letters above and the information provided by the United States, Japan opposes removal of the vessel from the Draft IUU list unless:
 - 1) Senegal confirms the legality of 1.7 tons of marlins.
 - 2) Senegal explains the current status of the registration of the vessel, i.e., whether the vessel is still flagged to Senegal or has been deleted.
 - 3) Senegal explains whether it has investigated or plans to investigate the vessel to check its fishing activities and provides the results in case it has conducted such investigation.

Appendix 8 to ANNEX 10

Statement by Japan to PWG – Round 3

Japan would like to submit its comment on the tentative items to be discussed in the IMM throughout 2021 (PWG_422_APPENDIX_1).

Japan will submit to the meeting a discussion paper regarding risk analysis on transshipment activities both at sea and in port.

In this perspective, we would like to propose to establish an independent agenda item "Transshipment at sea and in port", instead of "Transshipment" as a sub-topic under 5.2 b) Regional Observer Program because the paper contains elements other than observer programs such as port State measures and high seas boarding and inspection. We consider that the placement of this new item should be after 5.1, but will follow the decision of the Chair as long as it remains a separate item.

Appendix 9 to ANNEX 10

Statement by Morocco to PWG – Round 2

The Kingdom of Morocco welcomes the efforts made to continue the work of the PWG in these special health circumstances.

The Kingdom of Morocco supports the proposal to extend the provisions of Recommendation 18-12 that are due to expire (PWG_408). In our view, more time is needed to review and discuss the elements and information on these provisions than we currently have available within the framework of our work.

As regards abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear, in our view, the draft forms for reporting this gear (PWG-404) contain all the information required under Recommendation 19-11. We also agree with the proposal of the United States to merge the two forms into one.

The Kingdom of Morocco supports the approach proposed by the PWG Chair for the 2021 IMM meeting, including the holding of physical and/ or virtual meetings to accelerate and consolidate the preparatory work of the issues to be addressed by IMM Working Group (in-person meetings are only envisaged if health conditions permit).

However, to raise the profile of the IMM meeting, and given the considerable number of outstanding issues of interest, or potential interest, for the work of the IMM Working Group (the elements of point 1 of PWG-400, the points approved intersessionally by Panel 2 and referred to the IMM), the Kingdom of Morocco proposes that the PWG Chair prepare a list of all the outstanding matters to be addressed by the IMM Working Group in 2021, indicating the elements which could be prepared and discussed during the preparatory work for the IMM meeting.

In this regard, the Kingdom of Morocco wishes to recall the points that were approved intersessionally by Panel 2 and referred to the IMM, following the work of the meeting of the Working Group on Bluefin Tuna Control and Traceability Measures, i.e.:

- Discussion on training of national observers;
- Discussion of VMS issues (transmission frequencies, monitoring/location of transport cages);
- Preparation of a proposal to amend the provisions of Rec. 18-12 / 18-13 to include eBCD grouping in the case of internal transfer of fish from the same flag of origin / the same JFO;
- Review of data extraction from the eBCD system, including inter-fam data.

The Kingdom of Morocco requests that these points that were approved in March 2020 by Panel 2 at its intersessional meeting be included in the agenda of the upcoming work of the IMM and the corresponding preparatory work.

Appendix 10 to ANNEX 10

Statement by Senegal on inclusion in the IUU list of the vessels *Sage* and *Mario 11* – Round 1

Senegal takes careful note of the draft IUU vessel list and the remarks made, and wishes to make the following comments.

Senegal notes the concerns of the EU and the United States regarding the vessel SAGE (OMI 7825215) flagged to The Gambia.

However, Senegal maintains that the vessel SAGE has been authorised to use the port of Dakar following submission of all the documents (Gambian fishing licence, certificate of Gambian nationality, role of crew etc.).

Furthermore, given the cooperation between Senegal and the Gambia in relation to the fisheries, the Senegalese authorities accepted the official documents issued by the Gambia to authorise entry into the port of DAKAR by this vessel and to carry out a routine inspection, during which no infringement was detected.

Consequently, it is the responsibility of the flag State to confirm the authenticity of the onboard documents of the vessel “SAGE” which, in addition, has not returned to the port of Dakar since the Senegalese authorities were alerted to this matter.

Given the absence of a response from the Gambian authorities, Senegal, like the European Union and the United States, supports the inclusion of the vessel “SAGE” on the ICCAT IUU list.

As regards the vessel “MARIO 11”, Senegal thanks the United States for the information regarding shark fins attached to the deck, which does not constitute sufficient proof that the vessel had carried out fishing operations especially since it was not authorised under Senegalese legislation.

Therefore, Senegal requests suspension of inclusion of this vessel on the IUU list, until evidence is found proving that the vessel did in fact carry out fishing operations.

Statement by Senegal to PWG regarding *Mario 11* – Round 2

Senegal acknowledges proper receipt of the comments by Japan, the United States and the European Union informing of their opposition to removal of *Mario 11* from the draft ICCAT IUU list.

In response, Senegal wishes to make the following comments.

Further to ICCAT Circular 4085/20 of 16 June 2020, whereby the United States informed the Commission of the presumed IUU fishing by *Mario 11*, Senegal communicated to the United States its full cooperation in this area and exchanges have been made in this regard. I would also like to highlight that Senegal continues to closely monitor its vessel owner and if necessary takes useful measures for the purpose of compliance with the national regulation.

As regards Japan's opposition to Senegal's request for removal of *Mario* from the IUU list, Senegal thanks Japan and expresses its will for constructive cooperation in this regard.

At the time, Senegal provided Japan with a full response to the situation of *Mario* and wishes to confirm its comments contained in ICCAT Circular No. 4826/20 of 13 July 2020, Japan's understanding of which may have been hampered by a semantic issue.

Clearly put, Senegal was saying that "the activities (including fishing operations) of the vessels *Mario 7* and *11* in 2019 were monitored and these activities complied with the laws and regulations in force"; consequently, no non-compliance was noted, which confirms the legality of the catch of 1.7 t of marlin at that date.

Senegal thanks the European Union and wishes to reaffirm that the vessel *Mario 11* has not been granted fishing authorization in 2020. A removal procedure was commenced on 7 January 2020 by Senegal (**Attachment 1 to Appendix 11 to ANNEX 10**). In addition, Senegal has even requested and obtained removal of *Mario 11* from the ICCAT list of vessels authorised in 2020.

In light of the above, Senegal supports the United States proposal of "changing the current flag of the vessel on the ICCAT IUU vessel list from "Senegal" to "unknown", with Senegal listed as the previous flag of the vessel."

As regards the vessel *Sage*, Senegal reminds that this vessel was authorised following submission of the required documents issued by the Gambian authorities (Ref. PWG_412). Senegal does not oppose inclusion of *SAGE* in the ICCAT IUU list, in the absence of clarification of the authenticity of the documents by the flag State (The Gambia).

Attachment 1 to Appendix 11 to ANNEX 10

Request for removal of national flag from vessels *Mario 11* and *Mario 7* – Round 2

HFHSIN-FEI
TRADING and INVESTMENT CO. LTD
NARTIC

Dakar, 7 January 2020

To
Director General of the
National Agency of Maritime Affairs

Subject: Request for removal of the vessels MARIO 7 AND MARIO 11

Director General,

We request the removal of the vessels Mario 7 and Mario 11, registered respectively DAK 1272 and DAK 1273.

Please accept, General Director, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Signed and sealed: NATIONAL AGENCY OF MARITIME AFFAIRS

Signed and sealed: NSIN FEI TRADING AND INVESTMENT CO. LTD

Republic of Senegal
One people - One goal - One faith
Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Economy
Directorate of Maritime Fisheries

No. 00735
Dakar, 7 August 2020

Subject: Removal of national flag from vessels MARIO 11 and MARIO 7

Director General,

Through the letter of 7 January 2020, the Director General of the vessel owner HSIN FEI SARL Ltd requested of you that the national flag be removed from the vessels MARIO 11 and MARIO 7, registered respectively as DAK 1273 and 1272.

In this regard, you are kindly requested to inform me of the result of this request.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Please accept, Director General, the assurances of my highest consideration.

TO

Mr. Massamba Achille Edouard GUEYE
Director General of the
National Agency of Maritime Affaires
DAKA

Diène FAYE

Appendix 12 to ANNEX 10

Statement by the United States to PWG - Round 1

The United States appreciates the Chair's proposal (PWG-408) to extend the expiring provisions of Rec. 18-12 for one year. We would also like to thank the EU for providing information in PWG-407 on its implementation of the two expiring provisions of that recommendation, which provide validation derogations to the EU in the case of small bluefin tuna that are tagged as well as certain product types of bluefin tuna that are domestically traded.

To assist the United States in taking a decision on PWG-408, we would like to request additional details from the EU. While the EU presented data in PWG-407 listing the number of trade events that were rejected, the percent of trade events that were cross-checked was not included. We would appreciate it if the EU could provide this information. Furthermore, consistent with past requests, the United States requests information on validations and trades between individual EU Member States, specifically: (1) the total number of trades and the percentage of such trades that were cross-checked; and (2) the number of trades and amount of tonnage when an exemption from validation was used. PWG-407 provides information on exports from the EU to other CPCs, total volume of trades among all EU Member States and internal trades inside Member States territories - but this information is not broken out to show trades between each Member State. The EU's report is helpful in getting an overall picture of the derogations, but a more granular level of data showing validations and trades between individual EU Member States would allow a mass balance analysis to be conducted to identify potential inconsistencies in the trade data associated with these derogations. The IUU activity uncovered in the Tarantelo operation highlights the need for this level of detail. We also look forward to an update in the PWG and/or COC on the Tarantelo operation and how the

EU has sought to close the loopholes in its management regime, including its implementation of eBCD, that allowed those illegal operations to take place. We look forward to receiving additional details from the EU through the correspondence process.

The United States also takes note of the draft forms provided by the Secretariat on abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG). Generally the information requested in the forms seems fine to us and consistent with Recommendation 19-11. If feasible, we suggest consideration be given to combining them into one form related to ALDFG.

Appendix 13 to ANNEX 10

Statement by the United States to the PWG – Round 2

The United States takes note of Senegal's statement (PWG_412) in which they request the removal of the F/V Mario No. 11 from the draft IUU vessel list (PWG_405A). The United States opposes the removal of this vessel from the IUU vessel list and would like to take the opportunity to request additional explanation from Senegal.

The information the United States provided to ICCAT regarding this vessel, coupled with supporting information provided by Senegal itself, clearly demonstrates that this vessel conducted IUU fishing activities as defined by *Recommendation on Establishing a List of Vessels Presumed to have Carried out IUU Fishing Activities* [Rec. 18-08]. The presence of a large number of shark fins on the deck of the vessel indicates processing at sea of recent shark catches rather than transport, and after several unsuccessful attempts to establish verbal communication with the fishing vessel, a Mario No. 11 crew member on the deck held a tuna overhead in response. These factors indicated that the vessel was engaging in fishing activities in the Atlantic with a high degree of certainty.

The United States also notes that in June 2020 Senegal advised through ICCAT Circular #3977/20 that the Mario No. 11 does not hold a valid license for fishing on the high seas and was fishing illegally. Senegal additionally reported that the Mario No. 11 is under a cancellation procedure of Senegal's flag, which had been in progress since 7 January 2020. In the communication proposing the listing (ICCAT Circular #6488/20), the United States recognized Senegal's efforts to de-register the F/V Mario No. 11 and noted that it may be a stateless vessel. Pending additional supporting information from Senegal, the United States supports changing the current flag of the vessel on the ICCAT IUU vessel list from "Senegal" to "unknown," with Senegal listed as the previous flag of the vessel.

The United States requests that Senegal share any findings surrounding this vessel's fishing activities that would clarify the request to remove it from ICCAT's IUU vessel list. We request any information on the registration status of this vessel. If the vessel has been deregistered, we would like to request Senegal to provide the Commission a copy of the relevant deregistration documents. The United States would also be interested in receiving any information related to contact with or investigations regarding the F/V Mario No. 11 and the F/V Mario No. 7 by Senegal or any other ICCAT CPC.

The United States would like to thank Senegal for its partnership and assistance in clarifying this important matter so the 2020 ICCAT IUU vessel list can be finalized.

Appendix 14 to ANNEX 10

Additional information from the United States to EU statement on document PWG-413

The European Union refers to the questions from the United States in PWG-413 and is pleased to provide the following additional details regarding crosschecks of trades of bluefin tuna recorded in the eBCD system in 2019.

In 2019, Member States of the European Union performed 47177 crosschecks. Ninety percent (42476) of these crosschecks took place in the context of the validation process of trades events, while the remaining 10% concerned exempted trades (4701). All eBCDs subject to validation were crosschecked. In addition, 8622 trades were subject to further verifications following inconsistencies. At least 1789 physical controls including inspections at landing and physical controls of products traded took place in 2019.

This information can be challenging to compile since there is no legal requirement for the Member States of the European Union to provide this level of detailed data.”

Appendix 15 to ANNEX 10

Statement by United States to PWG – Round 3

Regarding the proposal to extend the EU's eBCD derogations (PW_408), the United States would like to thank the EU for providing additional information in document PWG_420, including its Appendix. We continue to have some concerns with the implementation of the derogations, including the very low number of cross checks associated with trade that is exempt from validation and the high number of trades found to have unspecified inconsistencies and that were subject to verifications. The United States is working through those concerns with the EU, and would like to request a short extension of the third correspondence round - at least until the end of this week (i.e., December 11) to try to finalize this matter and provide an update to PWG. Alternatively, if PWG's business must close before this effort is concluded, we suggest PWG-408 be referred for further consideration by the Commission through the Plenary correspondence process. We look forward to the PWG Chair's guidance on next steps.

The United States is also submitting some suggested edits to the IMM agenda to make it more inclusive of some pending issues that have been deferred due to the situation in 2020. Our edits broaden the agenda item related to review of national observer programs, explicitly add reviews of inspection personnel exchanges (Res. 19-17) and vessel sightings (Rec. 19-09) to the agenda item on at sea boarding and inspection, and add an agenda item regarding at sea and in port transshipment measures. We would like to take this opportunity to remind the PWG that a proposal to strengthen ICCAT's current transshipment measure was submitted by the United States in 2019 and deferred until the next IMM meeting.

The United States would also like to thank the PWG Chair for his efforts to advance the work of this important body throughout this process, including on the IUU vessel list. The United States agrees with the Chair's proposed way forward on that issue as set out in PWG_422 and reflected in version PWG_405C of the IUU vessel list.

Appendix 16 to ANNEX 10

Statement by Pew Charitable Trusts to PWG - Round 1

The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of having mechanisms in place that help RFMOs to ensure legal and sustainable management of fish stocks, including when management needs to happen remotely or absent human observers onboard vessels. The cancellation of this year's IMM meeting is particularly problematic, as this meeting serves as the starting point for discussion among ICCAT members on the operational issues under the PWG's charge, including the development and adoption of tools to improve ICCAT's oversight of its fisheries. During ICCAT proceedings over the next six weeks, it is imperative that ICCAT set a date for the 2021 IMM intersessional, and the agenda should prioritize the following objectives:

- **Improve reporting and monitoring of transshipment activity to minimize opportunities that facilitate the laundering of illegally caught fish through the supply chain.** More specifically, ICCAT should update Recommendation 16-15 to require all vessels involved in transshipments be flagged to a Contracting Party, Cooperating non-Contracting Party, or Fishing Entity (CPC) and that transshipment authorizations, declarations, and observer reports be sent to all relevant authorities in near-real time.

- **Develop an Electronic Monitoring (EM) program to complement human observer coverage.** Recognizing that Recommendation 19-02 directs the SCRS and IMM to recommend EM standards at the 2021 annual meeting, PWG should support the development and implementation of a comprehensive EM program to improve oversight of ICCAT fisheries.
- **Increase the use of IMO numbers to uniquely identify ICCAT fishing vessels and reduce the ability for illegal operators to fish in the ICCAT Convention Area.** In December 2017, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Assembly adopted Resolution A.1117(30) expanding the IMO Number eligibility criteria to all motorized inboard fishing vessels, including those made of wood, down to a size limit of 12 meters. ICCAT should expand its IMO number requirements as per international best practice to all vessels that are eligible to obtain a number and wish to register to participate in ICCAT fisheries.
- **Ensure CPCs comply with ICCAT's port State measures and related information exchange requirements.** Port inspectors are on the front lines, preventing illegally caught products from entering the seafood trade. Now that ICCAT's port State measures Recommendation has entered into force, it is important to ensure the measures are being implemented and information is being shared among the relevant authorities.
- **Effectively deter nationals (both physical and legal persons) from any activities related to illegal, unreported, or unregulated (IUU) fishing.** Recommendation 06-14 should be strengthened to cover nationals not only engaged in, but also those who are responsible for, benefiting from, or supporting, IUU fishing activities (e.g. as operators, effective beneficiaries, owners, logistics and service providers, insurance providers, and other financial service providers). The ability to change a vessel's flag should no longer protect individuals from consequences of illegal activity.

In addition to our request to forward these items to a 2021 intersessional meeting of IMM, Pew acknowledges that some action regarding the electronic bluefin catch document (eBCD) system will need to be taken this year. We maintain our position that intra-EU trade of bluefin should be tracked by the eBCD with the same oversight required for trade between CPCs to ensure that it does not present a loophole for trade in IUU-caught bluefin. As such, we urge members of PWG to allow the original derogations for intra-EU trade to expire this year, as scheduled.

Appendix 17 to ANNEX 10

Statement by Pew Charitable Trusts to PWG - Round 1

In response to the Chair's specific request for comments (PWG-414) about his proposed way forward in 2021 and the need to work via correspondence prior to an intersessional meeting of IMM, The Pew Charitable Trusts offers the following.

Pew believes very strongly that an IMM meeting must happen in 2021, as IMM – perhaps more than any other intersessional ICCAT meeting – sets the stage for success at the Commission meeting in the fall. We share the Chair's opinion that there this is much work for PWG in 2021 and agree that CPCs will need to collaborate, bilaterally and multilaterally, ahead of the special virtual meetings and the proposed in-person meeting over the summer. Even if that meeting is unable to happen in person, it should go on in the virtual format, to the best of our abilities. We direct PWG's attention to the letter that Mr. Shingo Ota sent to Panel 2 (PA2-618), where he provides very specific guidance about what exactly CPCs should prepare ahead of each meeting and when they should submit it. Pew supports looks forward to similar specific guidance to PWG to guide the work of CPCs in the first quarter of next year.

We would also like to redraw your attention to Pew's opening statement to PWG (PWG-410), where we highlighted several of the issues that we understand either would have happened this year or next year under normal circumstances and that we believe should be near the top of the PWG priority list as the Chair and members develop an agenda and work plan for intersessional work between now and next summer. These issues, include:

- Improving reporting and monitoring of transshipment activity to minimize opportunities that facilitate the laundering of illegally caught fish through the supply chain.
- Developing an electronic monitoring (EM) program to complement human observer coverage.
- Increasing the use of IMO numbers to uniquely identify ICCAT fishing vessels and reduce the ability for illegal operators to fish in the ICCAT Convention Area.
- Ensuring CPCs comply with ICCAT's port State measures and related information exchange requirements.
- Effectively deterring nationals (both physical and legal persons) from any activities related to illegal, unreported, or unregulated (IUU) fishing.

Appendix 18 to ANNEX 10

Statement by Oceana to PWG

The current Coronavirus crisis has led to a public health emergency with dire consequences on our lives and economies, including also to the fishing sector. Oceana wishes to express its support to all affected and looks forward to gathering all our strength and resilience to manage this crisis collectively.

We remain committed to continuing our engagement with the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) in efforts to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Particularly during this time where new challenges in fisheries monitoring and control are being faced, it is important to stay vigilant against the threat of IUU fishing. This current situation provides opportunities for unscrupulous operators to carry out illicit activities undetected and/or without consequence. For these reasons, we would like to respectfully highlight a policy recommendation that would align ICCAT with global best practices in the fight against IUU fishing.

Specifically, we are urging ICCAT to amend Recommendation 06-14, in order to prevent nationals from deriving benefits from or supporting IUU fishing. This Recommendation promotes compliance by nationals of ICCAT Contracting Parties with ICCAT conservation and management measures. Currently, its applicability is limited to any natural or legal persons subject to their jurisdiction (nationals) that are found to be engaging in IUU fishing activities. Other RFMOs, including CCAMLR, SPRFMO, SIOFA and GFCM have recently adopted measures that explicitly extend the mandate of their CPCs to verify and take appropriate action when nationals are found to be otherwise benefiting from or supporting the activities of IUU vessels through, for example, the provision of services.

As RFMO IUU vessel lists are publicly accessible and widely available, avoiding business contracts with IUU vessels and denying them access to services is fully achievable and has the potential to significantly impede the activities of IUU fishing vessel operators. Through taking this approach, ICCAT can help to dismantle the global network of beneficiaries and service providers that support IUU fishing.

Although we understand the limitations of the ICCAT decision making process in 2020, we ask for your support in considering the adoption of this recommendation in future meetings. We also urge the Chair and the members to the PWG to consider this issue while developing the agenda for intersessional work, including that of the IMM Working Group, in the first quarter of 2021. For more information on this and other recommendations for future consideration that Oceana is promoting together with The Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF), The Pew Charitable Trusts and WWF (the EU IUU coalition), please refer to our joint policy brief, available online.

Appendix 19 to ANNEX 10

Recommendation 18-08: IUU List 2020
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 (Previous)</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)		
20050001	Not available	BRAZIL -fishing in Brazilian waters with no licence	03/08/2005	1615	Unknown	SVG	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	

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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	7302548	EU - Vessel suspected to have carried out IUU fishing activities in the Convention area, observed near the port of Shidao (CNSHD)	13/06/2019	E19-05088	Mongolia	Panama	ZHI MING	GOLDEN LAKE NO. 101 GLORIA	JVAW7	INTERA COMPAGNY S.A.	Suite 1203, 12th Floor, Ocean Business Plaza Building, Calle Aguilino de la Guardia y Calle 47 Este, Panama City, Panama		Longline
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	
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	

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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	
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 AT000GUI000002)	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
20080004	Not available (former ICCAT Register number AT000LIB00039)	ICCAT Chairman information	27/06/2008	1226	Unknown	Libya (previously British)	SHARON 1	MANARA 1 (previously POSEIDON)	NO INFO	MANARAT AL SAHIL Fishing Company	AL DAHRS. Ben Walid Street	MEDI	Purse seiner

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20080005	Not available (former ICCAT Register number AT000LIB 00041)	ICCAT Chairman information	27/06/2008	1226	Unknown	Libya (Previously Isle of Man)	GALA I	MANARA II (previously ROAGAN)	NO INFO	MANARAT AL SAHIL Fishing Company	AL DAHRS. Ben Walid Street	MEDI	Purse seiner
20090001	7826233	IOTC. Contravention of IOTC Resolutions 02/04, 02/05 and 03/05	09/03/2020	E20-02026	Panama	Equatorial Guinea	XING HAI FENG	OCEAN LION	3FHW5	Ocean Lion Shipping SA	Panama City, Panama	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	09/03/2020	E20-02026	Unknown	Malaysia	HOOM XIANG II			Hoom Xiang Industries Sdn. Bhd.	Malaysian International Tuna Port, 11960 Batu Maung Pulau, Pinang		
20110003	M-00545***	IATTC WCPFC: Fishing on the high seas of the WCPF Convention Area without being on the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels (CMM 2007-03-para 3a)	30/08/2011 09/03/2016	E11-05762 E16-02093/16	Unknown	Georgia	Neptune		4LOG	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

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20110014	7825215	IATTC US' request that the draft ICCAT IUU vessel list entry for the Chia Hao No. 66 be updated to reflect the vessel's IMO No. (7825215), new name (Sage), and new flag State (The Gambia).	30/08/2011	E11-05762	The Gambia	Seychelles (Belize)	Sage	Chia Hao No. 66 (Chi Fuw No. 6)	C5J82 (V3IN2)	Song Maw Fishery S.A.	Calle 78E Casa No. 30 Loma Alegre, San Francisco, Panama	Pacific Ocean	LL
20130001	7355662	WCPFC: Vessel is without nationality and harvested species covered by the WCPFC in the Convention Area (CMM 2007-03, para 3h)	25/03/2020	E20-02914	Unknown	Georgia	Fu Lien No. 1		4LIN2	Fu Lien Fishery Co., Georgia			
20130002		WCPFC: Fishing in the EEZ of the Rep. of the Marshall Islands without permission and in contravention of Republic of the Marshall Islands' laws and regulations (CMM 2007-03, para 3b)	25/03/2020	E20-02914	Unknown	Chinese Taipei	Yu Fong 168**		BJ4786	Mr. Jang Faa Sheng (Chinese Taipei)	Chang Lin Pao-Chun; 161 Sanmin Rd., Liuciuo Township, Pingtung County 929, Chinese Taipei		
20130003		IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 07/02	04/06/2013	E13-4010	Unknown	Unknown	Fu Hsiang Fa No. 21*		OTS 024 or OTS 089	Unknown			
20130004		IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 07/02	04/06/2013	E13-4010	Unknown	Belize	Full Rich		HMEK3	Noel International 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	Longline

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20130006		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown	Panamá	Goidau Ruey No. 1	Goidau Ruey 1	HO-2508	Goidau Ruey Industrial, S.A	1 Fl, No. 101 Ta-She Road Ta She Hsiang Kaohsiung Chinese Taipei	Pacific Ocean	Longline
20130007		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown	Unknown	Jyi Lih 88					Pacific Ocean	Longline
20130008		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown	Belize	Orca	Orca				Pacific Ocean	Longline
20130009		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown	Belize	Reymar 6	Reymar 6				Pacific Ocean	Longline
20130010		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown	Belize	Ta Fu 1					Pacific Ocean	Longline
20130011		IATTC	20/08/2013 09/03/2020	E13-06833 E20-02026	Unknown	Belize, (Costa Rica)	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 09/03/2020	E13-06833 E20-02026	Unknown	Belize	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 (Uruguay)	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 IndoenesiaPT	JL. Ikan Tuna Raya Barat IV, Pel. Benoa-Denpasar	N Atl	Drifting longline

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20150001	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	ANEKA 228		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
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		

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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		
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		

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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		
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		

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20150019	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Malaysia	HOOM XIANG 103		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
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	Unknown	KIM SENG DENG 3		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150022	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	KUANG HSING 127		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150023	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	KUANG HSING 196		No info	Unknown	Unknown		

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20150024	7322897	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03 CCAMLR Commission Report (para. 8.20): Sighting 57 (26 Feb 2015)	09/03/2020	E20-02026	Equatorial Guinea	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (delisted Feb. 2016); Unknown	ASIAN WARRIOR	Kunlun; Taishan; Chang Bai; Hongshui; Huang He 22; Sima Qian; Baru 22; Corvus; Galaxy; Ina Maka; Black Moon; Red Moon; Eolo; Thule; Magnus; Dorita	3CAG J8B5336	High Mountain Overseas S.A. (Stanley Management Inc; Rep Line Ventures S.A. Rajan Corporation; Meteora Development Inc.; Vidal Armadores S.A.; Navalmar S.A.)	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		
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		

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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		
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 CCAMLR: Hauling 58.4.1H (6 Jan 2015)	09/03/2020	E20-02026	Mauritania	Equatorial Guinea	Pescacisne 1, Pescacisne 2	Zemour 1; Kadei; Songhua; Yunnan; Nihewan; Huiquan; Wutaishan Anhui 44; Yangzi Hua 44; Trosky; Paloma V	3CAF 9LU2119	Eastern Holdings (Eastern Holdings; Omunkete Fishing Pty Ltd; Mabenal S.A.)	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		
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		

<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 (Previous)</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Name</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Address</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>
20150042	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	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; Chinese Taipei		
20150043	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	Abundant 9	YI HONG 116	CPA222	Huang Jia Yi /Pan Chao Maon	C/O Room 18-E Road Lin Ya District Kaohsiung; Chinese Taipei		
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; Chinese Taipei		
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	Unknown	Abundant 1	YI HONG 6	CPA 226	Huang Jia Yi /Hatto Daroi	C/O Room 18-E Road Lin Ya District Kaohsiung; Chinese Taipei		

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Serial No.	Lloyds/IMO Number	Reporting CPC/RFMO	Date Informed	Reference #	Current Flag	Previous Flag	Name of Vessel (Latin)	Name (Previous)	Call Sign (Previous)	Owner/ Operator Name	Owner/ Operator Address	Area	Gear
20150047	9042001	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03 CCAMLR Commission Report (para. 8.4): Fishing 58.4.1H (12 Jan 2015)	09/03/2020	E20-02026	Unknown	Equatorial Guinea	ATLANTIC WIND	Zemour 2; Luampa; Yongding; Jiangfeng; Chengdu; Shaanxi Henan 33; Xiong Nu Baru 33; Draco I; Liberty; Chilbo San 33; Hammer; Seo Yang No. 88; Carran	3CAE 5IM813	High Mountain Overseas S.A	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	
20170013	n.a.	IOTC: Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	09/03/2020	E20-02026	Unknown	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; Chinese Taipei		
20170014	n.a.	IOTC	15/07/2017	E17-09210	Unknown	Unknown	SHENG JI QUN 3		CPA 311	Chang Lin / Mr. Chen, Chen-Tsai	Pao-Chun No. 161, Kaohsiung; Chinse Taipei		
20170015	n.a.	IOTC Report 2017-CoC14-07 Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	15/07/2017	E17-09210	Unknown	Unknown	SHUN LAI	HSIN JYI WANG NO.6	CPA 514	Lee Cheng Chung / Mr. Sun Han Min	5 Tze Wei Road, Kaohsiung; Chinese Taipei		

<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 (Previous)</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Name</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Address</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>
20170016	n.a.	IOTC Report 2017-CoC14-07 Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	15/07/2017	E17-09210	Unknown	Unknown	YUTUNA 3	HUNG SHENG NO. 166	CPA 212	Yen Shih Hsiung / Mr. Lee, Shih-Yuan	No. 3 Tze Wei Forth Road, Kaohsiung; Chinese Taipei		
20170017	n.a.	IOTC Report 2017-CoC14-07 Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	15/07/2017	E17-09210	Unknown	Unknown	YUTUNA NO. 1		CPA 302	Tseng Min Tsai / Mr. Yen Shih-Shiung	No. 3 Tze Wei Forth Road, Kaohsiung; Chinese Taipei		
20180001	7637527	IOTC Circular 2018-015 Contravention of IOTC Resolution 17/03	06/06/2018	E18-05503	Honduras	Unknown	WISDOM SEA REEFER		HQXQ4	Wisdom Sea Refer Line S.A. / Claudia E. Ramos Cerrato; Virgin Fishing Company / Myo Thant			
20180002		IOTC Circular 2018-015 Contravention of IOTC Resolution 17/03	09/03/2020	E20-02026	Somalia	Djibouti ; Thailand	MARWAN 1	AL WESAM 4; CHAICHANACHO KE 8	Unknown (HSN5721)	Somlink Fisheries Investment (Marine Renown SARL)	Unknown		
20180003		IOTC Circular 2018-015 Contravention of IOTC Resolution 17/03	06/06/2018	E18-05503	Unknown	Djibouti ; Thailand	AL WESAM 5	CHAINAVEE 54	Unknown (HSN5447)	Unknown / (Marine Renown SARL)	Unknown		
20180004	8692342	Circular 2018-015 Contravention of IOTC Resolution 17/03	09/03/2020	E20-02026	Cameroon	Djibouti ; Thailand	SEA VIEW	AL WESAM 2; CHAINAVEE 55	Unknown (HSB3852)	Unknown / (Marine Renown SARL)	Unknown		
20180005	8692354	Circular 2018-015 Contravention of IOTC Resolution 17/03	09/03/2020	E20-02026	Cameroon	Djibouti ; Thailand	SEA WIND	AL WESAM 1; SUPPHERMNAVE E 21	Unknown (HSN5282)	Unknown / (Marine Renown SARL)	Unknown		

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Serial No.	Lloyds/IMO Number	Reporting CPC/RFMO	Date Informed	Reference #	Current Flag	Previous Flag	Name of Vessel (Latin)	Name (Previous)	Call Sign (Previous)	Owner/ Operator Name	Owner/ Operator Address	Area	Gear
201900001	Not available	IOTC: Engaged in fishing or fishing related activities in waters of a coastal State without permission or authorisation	17/09/2019	E19-08760	Unknown	Djibouti	CHOTCHAINAVE E 35		Unknown	Green Laurel International SARL / Master/Patron : Mr Prawit Kerdsuwan			
20190002	7330399	SEAFO (2017): Seen in Yongon 6 Feb 2020; Fishing inside FAO Area 47 in 2016. Investigation initiated by Ecuadorian Fisheries Authority	24/09/2019	E19-09119	Unknown	Illegally Bolivia; (Bolivia, 04/2014); (São Tomé and Príncipe, 01/2014); (Unknown, 06/2013); (South Africa, 04/1998); (Canada, 11/1973)	Cobija	Cape Flower (Cape Wrath)	CPB3000	Unknown (Express Financial Ventures Group Inc.)			
20190003	7036345	CCAMLR: Commission Report (para. 8.20): Sighted 58.4.2 (23 Jan 2004)	09/03/2020	E20-02026	Unknown	Unknown	Amorinn	Iceberg II; Lome; Noemi	5VAN9	Seric Business S.A. / Infitco Ltd (Ocean Star Maritime Co.)			
20190004	7236634	CCAMLR: Commission Report (para. 3.49): Supporting IUU-listed vessels (03 Mar 2016)	09/03/2020	E20-02026	Unknown	Unknown	Antony	Urgora; Atlantic Oji Maru No. 33; Oji Maru No. 33	PQMG	World Ocean Fishing SL (Urgora S de RL; Atlantic Pez)			
20190005	9037537	CCAMLR: Commission Report (para.10.52-10.53): Sighted 57 (14 Feb 2014)	09/03/2020	E20-02026	Tanzania, Republic of	Nigeria; Mongolia; Togo; Sierra Leone	Baroon	Lana; Zeus; Triton I	5IM376	Vero Shipping Corporation (Vero Shipping Corporation;			

Serial No.	Lloyds/IMO Number	Reporting CPC/RFMO	Date Informed	Reference #	Current Flag	Previous Flag	Name of Vessel (Latin)	Name (Previous)	Call Sign (Previous)	Owner/ Operator Name	Owner/ Operator Address	Area	Gear
										Punta Brava Fishing SA.)			
20190006	6622642	CCAMLR Commission Report (para. 9.11): Sighted 58.4.3b (08 Feb 2008)	09/03/2020	E20-02026	Unknown	Unknown	Challenge	Perseverance; Mila	H05381	Advantage Company S.A.; (Vidal Armadores S.A.; Prion Ltd)			
20190007	7020126	CCAMLR Commission Report (para.10.52-10.53): Resupplying IUU vessels 51 (09 Feb 2007)	09/03/2020	E20-02026	Nigeria	Unknown	Good Hope	Toto; Sea Ranger V	5NMU	Port Plus Ltd (Sharks Investments AVV)			
20190008	6607666	CCAMLR Commission Report (para. 9.11): Fishing 58.4.3b (20 Jan 2009) SEAFO (2012)	09/03/2020	E20-02026	Unknown	Unknown	Jinzhang	Hai Lung; Yele; Ray; Kily; Constant; Tropic; Isla Graciosa	PQBT	Belfast Global S.A.; (Vidal Armadores S.A.; Nalanza S.A.; Arniston Fish Processors Pty Ltd.)			
20190009	7322926	CCAMLR Commission Report (para. 8.3): Fishing 57 (29 Jul 2005)	09/03/2020	E20-02026	Unknown	Unknown	Heavy Sea	Duero; Julius; Keta; Sherpa Uno	3ENF8	Barroso Fish S.A. (Metora Shipping Inc.; Meteroros Shipping; Muner S.A.; C & S Fisheries S.A.)			
20190010	7905443	CCAMLR Commission Report (para.9.1 & 9.9): Sighted 58.4.1 (15 Feb 2011)	09/03/2020	E20-02026	Iran, Islamic Republic of	Unknown	Koosha 4	EGUZKIA	9BQK	Pars Paya Seyd Industrial Fish			

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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 (Previous)</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Name</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Address</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>
20190011	7388267	CCAMLR Commission Report (para. 8.20): Sighted 58.4.3b (25 Jan 2007)	09/03/2020	E20-02026	Unknown	Unknown	Limpopo	Ross; Alos; Lena; Cap George; Conbaroya; Tercero	Unknown	Alos Company Ghana Ltd (Lena Enterprises Ltd; Grupo Oya Perez (Kang Brothers))			
20190012	8808903	CCAMLR Commission Report (para. 3.49): Supporting IUU-listed vessels (03 Mar 2016)	09/03/2020	E20-02026	Angola	Unknown	Northern Warrior	Millennium; Sip 3	PJSA	Orkiz Agro-Pecuaria, Pescas, Transportes E Comercio Geral, Limitada (South Atlantic Fishing NV; Snoek Wholesalers; Areapesca SA; SIP)			
20190013	5062479	CCAMLR Commission Report (para. 8.20): Sighted, boarded 57 (22 Apr 2015)	09/03/2020	E20-02026	Unknown	Unknown	Perlon	Cherne; Bigaro; Hoking; Sargo; Lugalpesca	5NTV21	Americagalaica S.A. (Americagalaica S.A.; Jose Lorenzo SL.; Vakin S.A.)			
20190014	7424891	CCAMLR Commission Report (para. 10.52-10.53): Fishing 58.4.4b (10 Nov 2006)	09/03/2020	E20-02026	The Gambia	Stateless	Sea Urchin	Aldabra; Omoa I	5VAA2	Farway Shipping (Cecibell Securities)			
20190015	8514772	CCAMLR Commission Report (para. 3.49): Sighting in Area 57 (6 Apr 2017)	09/03/2020	E20-02026	Togo	Unknown	STS-50	Ayda; Sea Breeze; Andrey Dolgov; Std No. 2; Sun Tai No. 2; Shinsei Maru No. 2	5VDR2	Marine Fisheries Corp. Co. Ltd (Red Star Co. Ltd; STD Fisheries Co. Ltd.; Sun Tai International Fishing Corp.; Taiyo A & F Co. Ltd.; Taiyo Susan; Taiyo Namibia;			

Serial No.	Lloyds/IMO Number	Reporting CPC/RFMO	Date Informed	Reference #	Current Flag	Previous Flag	Name of Vessel (Latin)	Name (Previous)	Call Sign (Previous)	Owner/Operator Name	Owner/Operator Address	Area	Gear
										Maruha Corporation)			
20200001	7306570	SEAFO NAFO: vessel listed pursuant to Article 53.4.d of the NAFO CEM (NEAFC IUU-listed vessel); Last known location: Port of Gibraltar (31 March 2009); Current location unknown.	24/09/2019	E19-09119	Unknown	Panama; St. Kitts and Nevis	ALBORAN II	WHITE ENTERPRISE	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown		
20200002	8604668	SEAFO: Last seen in NEAFC Regulatory Area (29 Oct 2007) NAFO: vessel listed pursuant to Article 53.4.d of the NAFO CEM (NEAFC IUU-listed vessel); Last known location: St. Eugenia de Ribeira, Spain (5 March 2009)	24/09/2019	E19-09119	Unknown	Panama; Seychelles	EROS DOS	FURABOLOS	Unknown (HO-5115; S7KC)	Unknown	Unknown		
20200003	6719419	SEAFO: La Coruña, Spain (September 2007) NAFO: vessel listed pursuant to Article 53.4.d of the NAFO CEM (NEAFC IUU-listed vessel); Last known location: La Coruña, Spain (Sept 2007).	24/09/2019	E19-09119	Unknown	Sierra Leone; Panama	GORILERO	GRAN SOL	Unknown (9LYF36; H03738)	Unknown	Unknown		
20200004	7332218	SEAFO: Indian Ocean (2007); Current location: Unknown NAFO: vessel listed pursuant to Article 53.4.d of the NAFO CEM (NEAFC IUU-listed vessel); Last known location: Indian Ocean (2007).	24/09/2019	E19-09119	Unknown	Panama	IANNIS I		H03374	Unknown	Unknown		
20200005	7325746	SEAFO (included in 2017) from NAFO (vessel listed pursuant to Article 53.4.d of the NAFO CEM)	24/09/2019	E19-09119	Guinea Conakry		LABIKO	Claude Monier; Maine	Unknown (3XL2)	Unknown	Unknown		

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Serial No.	Lloyds/IMO Number	Reporting CPC/RFMO	Date Informed	Reference #	Current Flag	Previous Flag	Name of Vessel (Latin)	Name (Previous)	Call Sign (Previous)	Owner/ Operator Name	Owner/ Operator Address	Area	Gear
		and from NEAFC IUU-listed vessel (Last known location: NEAFC RA (29 October 2007))											
20200006	7385174	SEAFO NAFO: vessel listed pursuant to Article 53.4.d of the NAFO CEM (NEAFC IUU-listed vessel; Last known location: Aveiro, Portugal (since 2005))	24/09/2019	E19-09119	Unknown	Togo	MURTOSA		Unknown (ZDBLI)	Unknown (Aveiro, Portugal, since 2005)	Unknown		
20200007	7645237	IOTC (Date 1st included: Dec 2019) NEAFC	09/03/2020	E20-02026	Ukraine	Unknown	NEFELIN		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown		
20200008	7816472	IOTC (Date 1st included: Dec 2019) NEAFC	09/03/2020	E20-02026	Belize	Unknown	OKAPI MARTA		Unknown	Unknown	Unknown		
20200009	7321374	SEAFO NAFO: vessel listed pursuant to Article 53.4.d of the NAFO CEM (NEAFC IUU-listed vessel; Last known location: Tema, Ghana (Sept 2011))	24/09/2019	E19-09119	Unknown	Ghana; Panama; Morocco	TRINITY	ENXEMBRE; YUCATAN BASIN; FONTENOVA; JAWHARA	Unknown (3EGV5; V3XB; H02933)	Unknown	Unknown		
20200010	8665193 (former ICCAT Register Number: AT000VUT 00017; delisted on 9 Feb 2016)	USA: sighting of tuna longline vessel in the Convention Area; not on ICCAT Record of Vessels; No valid Flag. Communicated via radio, vessel stated purpose was fishing.	19/05/2020	E20-04293	Unknown	Vanuatu (2016) / Bolivia (2012)	Ocean Star No. 2	Wang FA (2006-2012)	YJRU6	Ming Shun Fishery Co LTD	Port Vila, Vanuatu	Atl Ocean	Tuna LL
20200011	8529533 (former ICCAT Register Number: AT000SEN 00031)	USA: the U.S. Coast Guard observed approximately 250 shark fins strung from lines throughout the vessel's decks.	15/09/2020	E20-08757	Senegal	Unknown	Mario 11	Unknown	6WMR	HSIN FEI Trading Investment Co. Ltd		Atlantic Ocean	Longliner

<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 (Previous)</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Name</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Address</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>
20200012	4000354 (as as per http://uvicolombia.org/#)	EU : suspects this vessel, without nationality, may be engaging in fishing activities in ICCAT Convention Area. Believed by Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) to be flagged or previously flagged to Tanzania (See Doc. COC-312/2020)	25/09/2020	E20-09219	Unknown	Tanzania	Haleluya		5IM615	Imanely SAS / NIT: 900076756 / Reg No.: 21591712 / Status: Active / Country: Colombia Mr. Chin Tien Chen / ID n°: 3264069 / Chinese Taipei	Barrio Bosque Transversal 52, No 21A-62, Cartagena de Indias, Colombia		Longliner

(*) No information from IOTC on whether the two vessels FU HSIANG FA NO. 21 (Serial Nos 20130003 and 20150014) are the same vessels.
(**) Vessel with name “Yu Fong 168” has been listed in the WCPFC IUU List since 11 December 2009 (Serial No. 20130002); it is also currently on the IOTC IUU list, since 21 June 2019, as communicated on 17/09/2019 (E19-08760) (Serial No. 20150048).
(***) It is the last known National Registry Number. The IMO number is unavailable.

BACKGROUND NOTES FOR THE DRAFT IUU LIST IN 2020

In the framework of the implementation of Paragraph 11 of Rec. 18-08
Intersessional incorporation of IUU Vessel Lists of other RFMOs

The nine RFMOs and their IUU Vessel Lists, contemplated by Rec. 18-08 are:

- Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC):
<https://www.wcpfc.int/doc/wcpfc-iuu-vessel-list>
(n=3 IUU vessels, updated 8 May 2020, including additional information about Master of Yu Fong 168);
- Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC):
<https://www.iattc.org/VesselRegister/IUU.aspx>
(n=16 IUU vessels; adopted on 26 July 2019 by the Commission at its 94th meeting);
- Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC):
https://www.iotc.org/sites/default/files/documents/compliance/vessel_lists/IUU%20lists/IOTC_IUU_Vessels_List_20200228_EF.pdf;
(n= 156 IUU vessels; updated 28 Feb 2020);
- Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR):
<https://www.ccamlr.org/en/compliance/illegal-unreported-and-unregulated-iuu-fishing>
Only Non-Contracting Party IUU List (n= 16 IUU vessels; updated 24 Aug 2020):
<https://www.ccamlr.org/en/compliance/non-contracting-party-iuu-list>
- Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT):
https://www.ccsbt.org/sites/default/files/userfiles/file/docs_english/CCSBT_IUU_Vessel_List.pdf;
(n= 116 IUU vessels; updated 26 Feb 2020);
- General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM):
<http://www.fao.org/gfcm/data/iuu-vessel-list>
(n= 65 IUU vessels; adopted by the Forty-third session of the Commission (4-8 Nov 2019));
- North Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO):
<https://www.nafo.int/Fisheries/IUU>
(n= 7 IUU vessels; latest update October 2018);
- North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC):
<https://www.neafc.org/mcs/iuu/alist>
(n=154 IUU vessels; adopted 6 Sept 2020 in accordance with Article 44.6);
- South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO):
<http://www.seafo.org/Management/IUU>
(n= 8 IUU vessels; updated 6 February 2020)

Note: Photos of some the IUU vessels listed could be found in the websites of these nine RFMOs.

Summary of the 2020 IUU Vessel Lists' cross-listing carried out and updates

<i>All nine RFMOs</i>	<i>Incorporation to ICCAT IUU List</i>	<i>Removal from ICCAT IUU List</i>	<i>Some changes in ICCAT IUU List from the other lists or following new information communicated by CPCs</i>	<i>No changes</i>	<i>Total</i>
Total	12	0	28	87	127

From the 39 IUU vessels cross-listed from IOTC, shown in yellow shading on pages 19 to 31 of PWG_405A, communicated on 05/10/2020 through ICCAT Circular n° 6845/20), only 9 were kept as being cross-checked from the RFMOs listed in the footnote in Rec. 18-08 paragraph 11, following the United States' proposal (see Circular n° 7726/20 dated 11/11/2020).

Information for the ICCAT IUU Vessels List in 2020

(regarding the three vessels included by ICCAT and other new information)

On 19 May 2020, the United States informed the Secretariat that, according to para. 2 of Rec. 18-08, the United States wished to alert the Secretariat on the possibility of a tuna longliner, not on ICCAT Record of Vessels with no valid flag, seen in the ICCAT Convention Area. Communicated via radio, this vessel's stated purpose was fishing. The vessel concerned by this alert is purportedly registered as follows:

- Name: OCEAN STAR NO.2
- IMO: 8665193
- IRCS: YJRU6
- Previous Flag: Vanuatu (until Feb 2016) / Bolivia (since 2012)
- Registered owner: Ming Shun Fishery Co LTD.

The United States informed that it has collected evidence indicating that this vessel has carried out illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities in the ICCAT Convention Area in 2020. The presumed IUU activity meets the following elements of Rec. 18-08:

- 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 flag State is without quota, catch limit or effort allocation under relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures;
- c) Being without nationality and harvest tunas or tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention area.

The flag of the vessel is undetermined, and the vessel is presumed to be without nationality.

On 14 September 2020, the United States informed the Secretariat that, according to para. 2 of Rec. 18-08, the United States wished to alert the Secretariat on the possibility for a longline vessel on ICCAT Record of Vessels with ICCAT No. AT000SEN00031 (Senegal as the Flag State), seen by the United States Coast Guard in the ICCAT Convention Area. Communicated via radio, this vessel's stated purpose was fishing. The vessel concerned by this alert is purportedly registered as follows:

- Name: MARIO NO 11
- IMO: 8529533
- IRCS: 6WMR
- Current Flag: Senegal
- Registered owner: HSIN FEI Trading Investment Co. Ltd (Dakar, Senegal).

On 6 May 2020, at 1515Z, a patrol carried by the U.S. Coast Guard sighted the FV “MARIO NO 11” (IMO 8529533) in position 24° 28.0 N 063° 40.0W, which is located on the high seas within the ICCAT Convention Area. The U.S. Coast Guard patrol vessel made contact with the FV MARIO NO 11 via VHF radio but, due to language barriers, was unable to discern any pertinent information. A person onboard the FV MARIO NO 11 held up a frozen tuna, indicating the vessel was engaged in fishing. The Coast Guard patrol vessel observed 16 persons on the deck of the FV MARIO NO 11 and approximately 250 shark fins, which were strung from lines throughout the vessel’s decks.

Due to the quantity of shark fins observed, and recognizing Senegal’s previous stated positions in support of a ban of shark finning at-sea, information on this vessel sighting is being provided in support of inspection and compliance monitoring, specifically the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association With Fisheries Managed by ICCAT* [Rec. 04-10].

On 28 May 2020, the Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) communicated, under the provisions of Rec. 08-09 (COC-312/20), the alert a potential IUU fishing activities by a former Tanzanian fishing vessel and suspected that this vessel, currently without nationality, may be engaging in fishing activities in ICCAT Convention Area:

- Name: HALELUYA
- NatRegNo. (Tanzania): 40035 (Tanzania) and 400354 as per *Registro Nacional de Barcos Pesqueros*, ‘Haleluya. Details of the vessel’, accessed 14/04/2020, <http://uviolombia.org/sandbox/vessels/181/details>.<http://uviolombia.org/#>;
- External Marking: CP-050284-A
- IRCS: 5IM615
- Current Flag: Stateless
- Previous Flag: Tanzania
- Registered Owner: Imanely SAS; NIT: 900076756; Reg. No.: 21591712; Status: Active; Country: Colombia || Mr. Chin Tien Chen; ID No.: 3264069; Country: Chinese Taipei.

On 25 September 2020, in its notification, the European Union (EU) recalled the information available in ICCAT document N° COC-307/19: the vessel “HALELUYA” is a longliner flagged to Tanzania that catches species covered by ICCAT and operates both in Colombian waters and waters of other countries.

In its ICCAT reporting form for IUU activity, the EU suspects that this longline vessel has harvested tunas and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention area without being registered on the relevant ICCAT list of vessels authorized to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention (Rec. 18-08, para 1(a) and Rec. 13-13, para 1).

The EU recalled that the information provided by Colombia in page 6 of the document on *Requests for Cooperating Status* [COC-307/19] states that this vessel is a 24.5 meters longliner flagged to Tanzania that catches species covered by ICCAT and operates both in Colombian waters and waters of other countries.

According to the same information the vessel was authorised to fish for tuna and other fish in Colombian waters until 26 July 2020 at least.

Documents supporting potential inclusion of three vessels on the ICCAT IUU List

OCEAN STAR NO. 2 VESSEL

INFORMATION ON ALLEGED IUU ACTIVITIES – REC. 18-08: U.S. NOTIFICATION IN RELATION TO DRAFT IUU LISTING OF A PRESUMED STATELESS VESSEL

Correspondence from the United States Head Delegate to ICCAT [ICCAT Entrada nº E20-04293 dated 19/05/2020] distributed as ICCAT Circular nº 3326/20 (21 May 2020)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

18 May 2020
Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel
Executive Secretary ICCAT
c/ Corazón de María 8, 6 floor
28002 Madrid (Spain)

Subject: U. S. Notification in Relation to Draft IUU Listing of a Presumed Stateless Vessel

Dear Mr. Executive Secretary:

In accordance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Establishing A List of Vessels Presumed To Have Carried Out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing* (Rec. 18-08) and the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Vessel Sightings* (Rec 19-09), the United States wishes to notify the Commission that it has collected evidence indicating that the following vessel has carried out illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities in the ICCAT Convention Area in 2020:

- **FV OCEAN STAR NO 2 (IMO 8665193)**

This presumed IUU activity meets the following elements of Rec. 18-08:

- 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 flag State is without quota, catch limit or effort allocation under relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures.
- c. Are without nationality and harvest tunas or tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention area.

The flag of the vessel is undetermined, and the vessel is presumed to be without nationality.

During a patrol carried out by the U.S. Coast Guard on April 8, 2020, the FV OCEAN STAR NO. 2 (IMO 8665193) was sighted on the high seas approximately 270 nautical miles east of Cape Lookout, North Carolina, United States. This location is on the high seas within the ICCAT Convention Area. The vessel operated at 8 knots and maneuvered various courses and speeds, before coming dead in the water, with six to eight individuals and longline gear observed on the vessel's deck. The Coast Guard made contact via VHF radio and vessel crew reported "fish" as the vessel's purpose and "Chinese Taipei" as its homeport. The name OCEAN STAR NO. 2 and Vanuatu are painted on the vessel's stern. The Coast Guard photographed the vessel and provided information collected to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Office of Law Enforcement (OLE). NMFS OLE conducted an investigation of the vessel during which it determined that the vessel is not on the ICCAT List of Authorized Vessels established per Rec. 13-13 and, through outreach with authorities in Vanuatu, that the vessel is not flagged to the Republic of Vanuatu. NMFS OLE further confirmed that the vessel was previously flagged to Vanuatu and authorized to fish in the Convention area as recently as 2016. Additional details of the investigation findings are included in the attachment.

The evidence submitted in the attached report meets the criteria for inclusion of the FV OCEAN STAR NO 2 on the IUU Vessel List as set out in paragraph 1 of Rec. 18-08, particularly paragraph 1(a), (b) and (i) as reproduced above. Pursuant to paragraph 2 of Rec. 18-08, this letter and report are provided so that the FV OCEAN STAR NO 2 may be included in the Draft IUU vessel list and considered by the Commission for inclusion on the Final IUU vessel list this fall.

We ask that you circulate this letter and the attached report, with photographs, to all CPCs. We also invite the Secretariat and CPCs to communicate any information available to them in respect of the FV OCEAN STAR NO 2, including current ownership, operators, flag State status, and its activities, including the landing, transshipment or shipments of catch harvested by this vessel since February 2016. We also take this opportunity to remind CPCs of their responsibilities regarding control of their nationals under *Recommendation by ICCAT to Promote Compliance by CPCs with ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* (Rec 06-14).

In closing, Mr. Executive Secretary, I would like to reaffirm the commitment of the United States to combating IUU fishing in all forms around the world. Please accept assurances of my highest consideration.

Best Regards,

Andrew Lawler
U.S. Commissioner to ICCAT

U.S. Report to ICCAT on Alleged IUU Fishing by FV OCEAN STAR NO. 2

Executive Summary

On April 8, 2020, a patrol carried by the U.S. Coast Guard identified a foreign longline fishing vessel operating 65-70 nautical miles outside the U.S. EEZ on the high seas within the ICCAT Convention Area. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) conducted an investigation and determined that the vessel is not on the ICCAT Vessel Record and, therefore, pursuant to Rec. 13-13, is not authorized to fish within the Convention Area. The activity of the vessel, observation of longline gear and crew onboard, and communications from the vessel that its purpose was fishing indicated that the vessel was engaged in fishing activities. The flag State of the vessel could not be determined and the vessel is presumed to be without nationality. Boarding and inspection of the vessel was not possible.

Details of Vessel Pursuant to Addendum 1A of Recommendation 18-08

Name of Vessel	Ocean Star No 2
Previous names	Wang FA (2006-2012)
Flag	Unclassified
Previous Flag	Vanuatu (2016) / Bolivia (2012)
(Last Known) Owner	Ming Shun Fishery Co LTD
Owner's Place of Registration	Port Vila, Vanuatu
Operator	unknown
Call Sign	YJRU6
IMO number	8665193
Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI) or other vessel identifier	ICCAT number AT000VUT00017
Length Overall	23.5 M
Photographs	(07) Attached
Date First included in ICCAT IUU list	N/A
Date of alleged IUU fishing activities	8-Apr-2020
Position of alleged IUU fishing activities	32° 18.350 N 071° 27.934 W
Summary of alleged IUU activities	USA - sighting of tuna longline vessel in the Convention Area; not on ICCAT Record of Vessels; No valid Flag. Communicated via radio, vessel stated purpose was fishing.
Summary of any actions known to have been taken in response to activities	None. Vessel's current location is unknown.
Other relevant information, as appropriate	ICCAT authorization expired 09 February 2016 No AIS signals transmitted by vessel at time of detection and contact by the USCG.

Details of the alleged IUU activity pursuant to Addendum 1B of Recommendation 18-08

- 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 flag State is without quota, catch limit or effort allocation under relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures.
- c. Are without nationality and harvest tunas or tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention area.

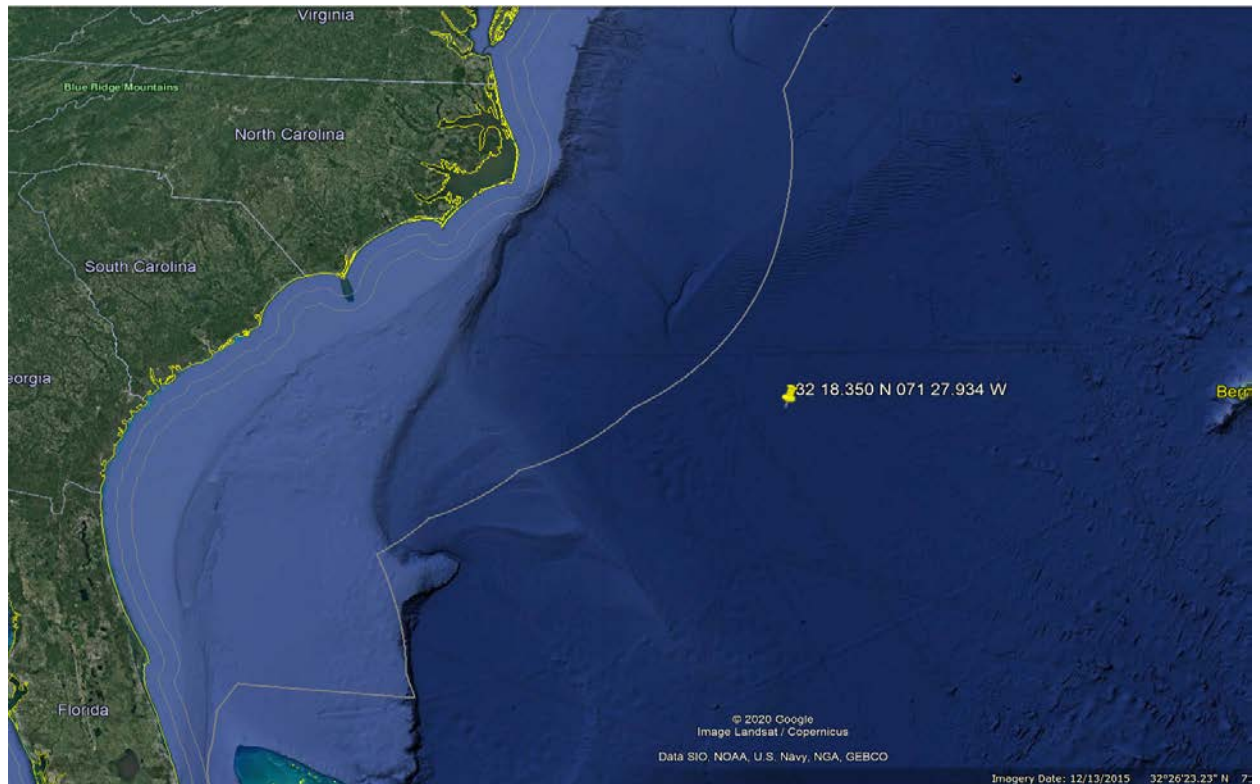


Figure (A). USCG sighting location of FV OCEAN STAR NO 2 during the patrol on 8 Apr 2020.



Figure (B). USCG Photograph of FV OCEAN STAR NO 2 during the patrol on 8 April 2020. The red circle identifies longline fishing gear observed on the decks of the vessel.



Figure (C). USCG Photograph of FV OCEAN STAR NO 2 during the patrol 8 April 2020. The red circle highlights the name of the vessel and flag State painted on the vessel's stern.

Vessel's activities

- On April 08, 2020, at 1656Z, while conducting a surveillance patrol, the U.S. Coast Guard detected the FV OCEAN STAR NO 2 (IMO 8665193) approximately 65-70 nautical miles east of the seaward boundary of the U. S. Exclusive Economic Zone.
- The FV OCEAN STAR NO 2 was initially detected transiting to the east at 8 knots, maneuvered various courses and speeds as the Coast Guard Cutter approached before coming dead in the water. The vessel was not transmitting an AIS signal.
- The position of the FV OCEAN STAR NO 2 was confirmed at 32° 18.350 N / 071° 27.934 W. This location is on the high seas within the ICCAT Convention Area.
- The Coast Guard attempted to communicate with the vessel by VHS radio and loudhailer over a 20-minute period, at which time between six and eight individuals were identified on the deck of the vessel.
- The FV OCEAN STAR NO 2 radio operator repeated "FISH", implying the vessels purpose was fishing, and replied "Taiwan" when asked where was home.
- Seven photographs of the FV OCEAN STAR NO 2, showing the bow, stern, port, starboard and superstructure profiles of the vessel, taken by the U.S. Coast Guard patrol vessel are attached.
- No high seas boarding was conducted, but information collected was referred to the National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Law Enforcement (NMFS OLE) for further examination.

Vessel Permitting and Flag State Status

- The FV OCEAN STAR NO 2 is not on the current ICCAT Vessel Record. The vessel had previously been on the ICCAT Record of Authorized vessels, under the flag of the Republic of Vanuatu, and under vessel number AT000VUT00017, until such authorization expired on 09 February 2016.
- Pursuant to the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 Meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to Operate in the Convention Area* [Rec. 13-13], the FV OCEAN STAR NO 2, documented as 23.5 M, is not authorized to fish within the ICCAT Convention Area.
- The FV OCEAN STAR NO 2 had also been on the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission Vessel Record, under Vanuatu Flag, with IOTC identifier 13986, until its authorization expired on 14 August 2015. The vessel owner was documented as Tuna Fishing (Vanuatu) Ltd, located at P.O. Box 1640 Port Vila, Republic of Vanuatu. However, other sources list Ming Shun Fishery as the owner and provide the same company address as Tuna Fishing Ltd.
- NMFS OLE examined the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) public website, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department (Source: [FAO Flagging](#)), which documented that the FV OCEAN STAR NO 2 is currently flagged by the Republic of Vanuatu since 2012. Prior to 2012, the vessel operated under the name WANG FA and was flagged by Bolivia.
- NMFS OLE contacted the Vanuatu Maritime Services to request current and historical flagging information related to the FV OCEAN STAR NO 2. Vanuatu responded that the vessel was deleted from the Vanuatu registry on 20 June 2016 and that she was transferred to St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
- NMFS OLE contacted the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Maritime Administration (SVG) to request current and historical flagging information related to the FV OCEAN STAR NO 2. SVG responded that the vessel seemed to be registered under the Vanuatu flag.
- The IHS Markit Sea-web database reports that Ming Shun Fishery Co Ltd is the vessel's beneficial owner, manager, operator and registered owner in Chinese Taipei with the following address: 7th Floor, 87, Houping Road, Qianzhen District, Kaohsiung City, 80666
- Based on the above information, NMFS OLE presumes the vessel to be without nationality.



Fishing Vessel MARIO 11

INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY THE US FOR THE INCLUSION OF ONE VESSEL ON THE DRAFT IUU LIST

Information submitted by the USA [ICCAT Entrada nº 8757 of 15 September 2020] distributed as Circular nº 6488 dated 21 September 2020)

Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel
Executive Secretary
ICCAT
c/ Corazón de María 8, 6 floor
28002 Madrid (Spain)

Subject: U. S. Notification in Relation to Draft IUU Listing of a Presumed Stateless Vessel

Dear Mr. Executive Secretary:

In accordance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Establishing A List of Vessels Presumed To Have Carried Out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing* (Rec 18-08) and the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Vessel Sightings* (Rec 19-09), the United States wishes to notify the Commission that it has collected evidence indicating that the presumed stateless vessel *F/V MARIO No 11* has carried out illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities in the ICCAT Convention Area in 2020.

During a patrol carried out by the U.S. Coast Guard on May 6, 2020, the *FV MARIO No 11* was sighted approximately 343 nautical miles north of the British Virgin Islands at position 24 28.0 N 063 40.0 W. This location is on the high seas within the ICCAT Convention area. The Coast Guard made contact via VHF radio, but, due to language barriers, was not able to discern any pertinent information from the vessel concerning its activities. The U.S. Coast Guard observed approximately 250 shark fins strung from lines throughout the vessel's decks. Details of the sighting, including photographs of the vessel and shark fins taken by the Coast Guard, may be found in the attached report. Based upon photographic evidence, our experts believe there could be fins from both silky sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*) and shortfin or longfin mako (*Isurus* spp.). The *FV MARIO No 11* was not boarded by the U.S. Coast Guard. At the time of sighting, records indicated the vessel was registered to Senegal and authorized to fish for ICCAT species.

In accordance with *Recommendation by ICCAT on Vessel Sightings* (Rec 19-09), in June 2020 I wrote to Senegal as the reported flag State of the vessel to provide all relevant information. Senegal responded, explaining that at that time, the *FV MARIO No 11*, as well as the *FV MARIO No 7* were not authorized to remain on Senegal's registry nor authorized to fish for ICCAT species. Therefore, the United States presumes the vessel to be stateless. The United States and Senegal provided information on the vessel to the listed ICCAT points of contact for inspection reports and infringements in Circulars 3977 and 4085.

In closing, Mr. Executive Secretary, I would like to reaffirm the commitment of the United States to combating IUU fishing in all forms around the world, and to thank Senegal for being an important partner in those efforts. Please accept assurances of my highest consideration.

Best Regards,

Andrew Lawler
U.S. Commissioner to ICCAT

U.S. Report to Senegal regarding harvest of shark fins by the fishing vessel MARIO NO. 11

Executive Summary

On May 6, 2020, at 1515Z, a patrol carried by the U.S. Coast Guard sighted the FV “MARIO NO 11” (IMO 8529533) in position 24° 28.0 N 063° 40.0W, which is located on the high seas within the ICCAT Convention Area. The U.S. Coast Guard patrol vessel made contact with the FV MARIO NO 11 via VHF radio but, due to language barriers, was unable to discern any pertinent information. A person onboard the FV MARIO NO 11 held up a frozen tuna, indicating the vessel was engaged in fishing. The Coast Guard patrol vessel observed 16 persons on the deck of the FV MARIO NO 11 and approximately 250 shark fins, which were strung from lines throughout the vessel’s decks.

Due to the quantity of shark fins observed, and recognizing Senegal’s previous stated positions in support of a ban of shark finning at-sea, information on this vessel sighting is being provided in support of inspection and compliance monitoring, specifically *The Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association With Fisheries Managed by ICCAT* [Recommendation 04-10], which requires:

1. CPCs to take the necessary measures to require that their fishermen fully utilize their entire catch of sharks
2. CPC’s to require their vessels not to have onboard fins that total more than 5% of the weight of the sharks onboard, up to the first point of landing.
3. Prohibitions for retaining onboard, transshipping or landing any fins harvested in contravention of this recommendation.

Positive identification of the species of shark has not yet been determined based on the photographs although our experts believe there could be fins from both silky sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*), blue sharks, and shortfin or longfin mako (*Isurus spp.*). Inspection of the catch and parts would be best confirmed through inspection of the fins to ensure activities were conducted in accordance with:

- Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of Thresher Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries in the ICCAT Convention Area [Rec. 09-07]
- Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of Oceanic Whitetip Shark Caught in Association with Fisheries in the ICCAT Convention Area [Rec. 10-07]
- Recommendation by ICCAT on Hammerhead Sharks (FAMILY SPHYRNIDAE) Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT [Rec. 10-08]
- Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of Silky Sharks Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries [Rec. 11-08]
- Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of the North Atlantic Stock of Shortfin Mako Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries [Rec. 19-06]
- Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 16-12 on Management Measures for the Conservation of Atlantic Blue Shark Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries [Rec. 19-07]

Details of Vessel

Name of Vessel	FV MARIO 11
Flag	Senegal
IMO number	8529533
Call Sign	6WMR
Registry Number	DAK1273
Owner/Operator	HSIN FEI Trading Investment Co. Ltd
Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI) or other vessel identifier	ICCAT No AT000SEN00031
ICCAT Authorization Date	2019-12-13 to 2020-04-30

Photographs



Figure (A). USCG sighting location of FV MARIO NO 11 during the patrol on 6 May 2020.



Figure (B). USCG Photograph of FV MARIO NO 11 during the patrol on 6 May 2020.



Figure (C). USCG Photograph of FV MARIO NO 11 during the patrol 6 May 2020. The red circle highlights the shark fins hanging above the decks.



Figure (D). USCG Photograph of FV MARIO NO 11 during the patrol 6 May 2020 showing a close up of the shark fins hanging above the deck.

ICCAT SIGHTING INFORMATION SHEET		
1. Date of Sighting:	May 6, 2020 at 1515Z	
2. Position of Vessel Sighted:	Latitude 24° 28.0 N Longitude 063° 40.0W	
3. Name of the Vessel Sighted:	FV MARIO NO 11	
4. Flag Country:	Senegal	
5. Port (and Country) of Registry:	Senegal	
6. Type of Vessel:	longline	
7. International Radio Call Sign:	6WMR	
8. Registration Number:	DAK1273	
9. ICCAT Serial Number:	AT000SEN00031	
10. IMO Number:	8529533	
11. Estimated Length Overall and Gross Tonnage:	23.8 m	93 GT
12. Fishing Gear Description (if applicable):	Type: longline Estimated quantity (units) unknown	
13. Nationality of Captain:	unknown	Officer: Crew:
14. Vessel Situation (Please check):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fishing <input type="checkbox"/> Cruising <input type="checkbox"/> Drifting <input type="checkbox"/> Supplying <input type="checkbox"/> Transshipping <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
15. Type of Activities of the Vessel Sighted (Please describe):	The U.S. Coast Guard observed approximately 250 shark fins strung from lines throughout the vessel's decks. See attached photos.	
16. Description of vessel:	See attached photos	
17. Other Relevant Information:	The U.S. Coast Guard made contact via VHF radio, but, due to language barriers, was not able to discern any pertinent information from the vessel concerning its activities. The FV MARIO No 11 was not boarded by the U.S. Coast Guard.	
18. THE ABOVE INFORMATION WAS COLLECTED BY:	NAME: US Coast Guard Cutter MEANS OF SIGHTING (including vessel/aircraft name, where appropriate): vessel patrol	

Fishing Vessel HALELUYA

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

International Ocean Governance and Sustainable Fisheries
Regional Fisheries Management Organisations The Head of Unit

Brussels Mare.B2/

Mr Camille Manel Executive Secretary ICCAT
Corazón de María, 8 28002 Madrid Spain

Subject: Proposal for inclusion of a vessel on the draft ICCAT IUU list

Dear Mr Manel,

Please find attached a request for inclusion of the fishing vessel *Haleluya* on the ICCAT IUU vessel list. According to the information provided in page 6 of Doc. No. COC_307/ 2019, this vessel is a 24.5 meters longliner flagged to Tanzania and fishing for ICCAT species, despite the fact that it cannot be found on any of the relevant ICCAT lists of vessels authorized to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention.

The European Union is aware that as a follow-up to the 26th Regular meeting of ICCAT (18-26 November 2019, Spain) further information has been requested from Tanzania, and we understand that this information may not be available before the 21 October 2020.

Nevertheless the European Union is also of the view that if the examination of the information provided by Tanzania does not provide satisfactory explanations regarding the suspicions that the vessel engaged in fishing activities which conform to the definition of IUU activities provided in ICCAT Recommendation [18-08], the Commission should then be in a position to take the necessary actions during the correspondence process envisaged to replace this year's annual meeting, including through consideration of the vessel's inclusion on the ICCAT IUU list.

I remain available should you need any additional information or clarifications.

Sincerely yours,

Anders C. JESSEN
Head of the EU Delegation to ICCAT

c.c.: Mmes Alaez Pons E., Arena F., Focquet B., Harford F., Marot L., Moya-Diaz M., Messrs Ansell N.,
Campbell D., Caruana R., Cesari R., Molledo L., Peyronnet A., Serna M., Kerherve L., Vazquez Alvarez X.

Electronically signed on 25/09/2020 12:05 (UTC+02) in accordance with article 4.2 (Validity of electronic documents) of Commission Decision 2004/563

ICCAT reporting form for IUU activity

Pursuant to paragraph 2 of Recommendation 18-08, attached are the details of the alleged IUU activity and the available vessel information.

A. Details of vessel

Item		Available Information
A	Name of vessel and previous names	Haleluya
B	Flag and previous flags	Tanzania
C	Owner and previous owners, including beneficial owner	IMANELY S.A.S. Barrio Bosque Transv, 52, No 21A -62 Cartagena de Indias Colombia Beneficial owner as per http://uviolombia.org/# Chem Chin Tien (Chin Tien Chen as per https://redprensaverde.org/2019/11/12/ocho-toneladas-de-aleta-de-tiburón-están-almacenadas-en-cartagena/) Taiwan
D	Owner's place of registration	IMANELY SAS : Colombia Beneficial owner as per http://uviolombia.org/# : Taiwan
E	Operator and previous operators	IMANELY S.A.S. Barrio Bosque Transv, 52, No 21A -62 Cartagena de Indias COLOMBIA
F	Call sign and previous call signs	5-IM 615
G	IMO number	
H	Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI), or, if not applicable, any other vessel identifier	As per http://uviolombia.org/# : 4000354 Hull marking CP-050284-A (see attachment)
I	Length overall	24.5 m (Doc. No. COC_307/ 2019) 26 m as per http://uviolombia.org/#
J	Photographs	See attachment
K	Date first included on the ICCAT IUU list	
L	Date of alleged IUU fishing activities	2019-2020 (Doc. No. COC_307/ 2019)
M	Position of alleged IUU fishing activities	Colombian waters and waters of other countries in the ICCAT Convention area (Doc. No. COC_307/ 2019)
N	Summary of alleged IUU activities (see also section B)	Harvest tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention area and is not registered on the relevant ICCAT list of vessels authorized to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention area
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	X (see details below)
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	

- 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 (Rec.18-08, para 1.a and Rec. 13-13, para 1)

Information provided by Colombia in page 6 of Doc. No. COC_307/ 2019 states that the vessel is a 24.5 meters longliner flagged to Tanzania that catches species covered by ICCAT and operates both in Colombian waters and waters of other countries. According to the same information the vessel was authorised to fish for tuna and other fish in Colombian waters until 26 July 2020 at least.

ICCAT Recommendation 13-13 paragraph 1 states that *"The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of fishing vessels 20 meters in length overall or greater (hereinafter referred to as "large scale fishing vessels" or "LSFVs") authorized to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention Area. For the purpose of this recommendation, LSFVs not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, transship or land tuna and tuna-like species"*.

Nonetheless the vessel cannot be found on the relevant ICCAT list of vessels authorized to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention.

VESSEL PICTURES



From

<https://redprensaverde.org/2019/11/12/ocho-toneladas-de-aleta-de-tiburon-estan-almacenadas-en-cartagena/>

Date unknown



From <https://redprensaverde.org/2019/11/12/ocho-toneladas-de-aleta-de-tiburon-estan-almacenadas-en-cartagena/>

Date unknown



From <http://www.shipspotting.com/gallery/photo.php?lid=2659540>

Picture reportedly taken in Cartagena, Colombia, on 30 March 2017

**Information relevant to the IUU vessel list process
received through the 2020 Decision Making Process**

Further to Circulars n° 3977/20 and 4085/20, the communications exchanged between Japan and Senegal regarding the Senegal-flagged vessel “MARIO 11/ IMO 8529533 / AT000SEN00031” were circulated on 19/06/2020, 13/07/2020, and 22/07/2020 by ICCAT Circulars n° 4211/20, 4826/20, and 5127/20, respectively.

Further to ICCAT Circulars n° 3326/20 and n° 6707/20, and in accordance with paragraph 3 of Rec. 18-08, Chinese Taipei communicated its support for the inclusion of the Stateless vessel “Ocean Star No. 2 / IMO 8665193 (former ICCAT Register Number AT000VUT00017)” on the draft IUU list. This communication at its annexes were circulated on 30 September 2020 by ICCAT Circular n° 6741/20.

Further to ICCAT Circular n° 6707/20, Bolivia communicated a notification regarding possible illegal, unregulated, and unreported activities by the vessel COBIJA / IMO 7330399 (previous name: Cape Flower) operating illegally under a Bolivian flag without the authorisation of Bolivia. This communication and its statement were circulated on 21 October 2020 by ICCAT Circular n° 7197/20.

Further to ICCAT Circular n° 6707/20, St. Vincent and the Grenadines communicated a notification regarding the Equatorial Guinea-flagged vessel “ASIAN WARRIOR / IMO 7322897” presumed to have carried out Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported fishing activities (Rec. 18-08) and informed that this vessel was deleted from the Registry of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in February 2016. This communication and its annexes were circulated on 21 October 2020 by ICCAT Circular n° 7206/20.

Further to ICCAT Circular n° 6707/20, and in accordance with paragraph 3 of Rec. 18-08, Chinese Taipei communicated its support for the inclusion of the Stateless vessel “HALELUYA / IRCS: 5IM615” on the draft IUU list. This communication at its annexes were circulated on 23 October 2020 by ICCAT Circular n° 7250-20.

Further to Circulars n° 6707/20 and n° 7197/20, and in accordance with paragraph 3 of Rec. 18-08, the United States communicated new information with regard to vessels “SAGE / IMO 7825215” and “COBIJA / IMO 7330399”. This communication was circulated on 26 October 2020 by ICCAT Circular n° 7275/20.

In accordance with paragraph 11 of Rec. 18-08, the United States communicated on 10/11/2020 (ICCAT Entrada n° 10724) its objection to cross-listing IUU vessels from the RFMOs which are not listed in the footnote of paragraph 11 of Rec. 18-08. This information was circulated through Circular n° 7726/20 of 11/11/2020. Therefore, the 30 IUU vessels cross-listed through the 2020 IOTC IUU List were removed in the version “B” of PWG-405/2020” document.

In accordance with paragraph 2, 3 and 5 of Rec. 18-08, on 24/11/2020 (ICCAT Entrada n° 11111), Colombia reported supplementary information concerning the stateless vessel *Haleluya*/IRCS: 5IM615, further to ICCAT Circular n° 7250/20, through which Chinese Taipei communicated its support to the inclusion of this vessel in the 2020 draft list of IUU vessels. This additional information was circulated through Circular n° 8131/20 on 26 November 2020.

Additional information was received from The Gambia, regarding the Gambian flagged fishing vessel “SAGE / IMO 7825215”. Specifically, The Gambia noted that currently the vessel has no authorization to fish in The Gambia. The vessel was last licensed to fish in The Gambia waters from 09-10-2019 to 08-01-2020 and operated for only seven days. During the above-mentioned period a fisheries observer was posted on board but after the seven days the fishing vessel left for Dakar Port. However, the Department of Fisheries is in contact with The Gambia Maritime Administration (GMA) as the competent authority for registration of vessels for the procedural measures to delete SAGE from The Gambian Register. This deletion certificate will serve internationally for the arrest and prosecution of the vessel in conduct of IUU fishing. Currently, there are no Gambian flag fishing vessels authorized to fish in the ICCAT region.

BIENNIAL REPORTS OF THE COMMISSION

Report of the First Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (Rome, December 1-6, 1969). FAO Fisheries Report (84).

Report of the First Special Meeting of the Council (Madrid, April 17-18, 1970). No. 1. – Report for Biennial Period, 1970-71, Part I, 1970.

Report for Biennial Period, 1970-71, Part II,	1971.
Report for Biennial Period, 1970-71, Part III,	1972.
Report for Biennial Period, 1972-73, Part I,	1973.
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