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

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**R E P O R T  
for biennial period, 2020-21  
PART II (2021) - Vol. 1  
English version      COM**

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MADRID, SPAIN

2022

# INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

## CONTRACTING PARTIES

(at 31 December 2021)

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

E. PENAS LADO, EU  
(since 23 November 2021)

### First Vice Chair

Z. DRIOUICH, MOROCCO  
(since 23 November 2021)

### Second Vice Chair

R. CHONG, CURAÇAO  
(since 23 November 2021)

### 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.	Ghana
-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.	Algeria

## SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COMMISSION

	Chair
STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION (STACFAD)	D. WARNER-KRAMER, United States (since 23 November 2021)
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)	E. PENAS LADO, European Union. (since 23 November 2021)

## ICCAT SECRETARIAT

*Executive Secretary:* CAMILLE JEAN PIERRE MANEL  
*Assistant Executive Secretary:* MIGUEL NEVES DOS SANTOS  
*Address:* C/Corazón de María 8, Madrid 28002 (Spain)  
*Internet:* www.iccat.int - *E-mail:* info@iccat.int

## FOREWORD

The Chairman of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas presents his compliments to the Contracting Parties of the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (signed in Rio de Janeiro, May 14, 1966), as well as to the Delegates and Advisers that represent said Contracting Parties, and has the honor to transmit to them the ***Report for the Biennial Period, 2020-2021, Part II (2021)***, which describes the activities of the Commission during the second half of said biennial period.

This issue of the Biennial Report contains the Report of the 27th Regular Meeting of the Commission (online, 15-23 November 2021) 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.

*ERNESTO PENAS*  
*Commission Chairman*

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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 27TH REGULAR MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE  
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT)**  
*(Online, 15-23 November 2021)*

### **1. Opening of the meeting**

The 27th Regular Meeting of the Commission, held online, was opened by Mr. Raul Delgado, the Chair of the Commission. The Chair recalled the change in working procedures which had been forced upon the Commission and noted the loss of many friends and colleagues during the pandemic. He requested the Commission to mark the sad loss of Professor Dr Fabio Hazin by a minute of silence. This sentiment was echoed by the Executive Secretary, who noted that the challenges posed by the pandemic had affected everyone and had contributed further to the increasing workload of the Secretariat.

The Opening Addresses of the Commission Chairman and the Executive Secretary are contained in **ANNEX 3.1**.

### **2. Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements**

Following some clarification regarding item 5, the Agenda was adopted and is attached as **ANNEX 1**. The Chair introduced several relevant documents for the organisation of the online meeting.

### **3. Introduction of Contracting Party Delegations**

The Executive Secretary reported that fifty-one Contracting parties had registered for the meeting: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canada, China (P.R.), Côte d'Ivoire, Curacao, Egypt, El Salvador, European Union, France (St. Pierre and Miquelon), Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea Bissau, Guinea (Rep.), Honduras, Iceland, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Russian Federation, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

The list of participants is attached as **ANNEX 2**.

Statements were submitted to the plenary session by Brazil, the European Union, and Japan. In addition, a joint statement was submitted to the plenary by the European Union, Canada and the United States. These are attached in **ANNEX 3.2**. The Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States Bordering the Atlantic (ATLAFCO) also submitted a statement (**ANNEX 3.3**) to the plenary.

### **4. Introduction of Observers**

Five Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties were in attendance: Bolivia, Chinese Taipei, Costa Rica, Guyana and Suriname. One Non-Contracting Party (without cooperating status) was in attendance, Jamaica, as well as six international governmental bodies: Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC), Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), INFOPÊCHE, Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation Among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO), and United Nations Environment Programme - Convention on Migratory Species (UNEP-CMS).

The following twenty-six NGOs were also admitted as observers: Associação De Ciências Marinhas e Cooperação (SCIAENA), Asociación de Pesca, Comercio y Consumo Responsable del Atún Rojo (APCCR), Asociación Nacional de Acuicultura de Atún Rojo (ANATUN), Brazilian Association of Fish Industries (ABIPESCA), Defenders of Wildlife, Ecology Action Centre (EAC), European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD), EUROPÊCHE, Federation of Maltese Aquaculture Producers (FMAP), Fishery Improvement Plan (FIP), Global Tuna Alliance (GTA), Humane Society International (HIS), International



Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), OCEANA, Organization for Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries (OPRT), Organization For Regional And Inter-Regional Studies (ORIS), Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW), Pro Wildlife, Sea Shepherd Legal (SSL), Shark Guardian, SharkProject International, The International Pole & Line Foundation (IPNLF), The Ocean Foundation, The Shark Trust, and Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF).

These are included in the list of participants in **ANNEX 2**.

Statements were submitted to the plenary by the following NGOs: Associação De Ciências Marinhas e Cooperação (SCIAENA)\*, Defenders of Wildlife\*, International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW)\*, Pro Wildlife, SharkProject International\*, Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF)\*. A joint statement was also submitted to the plenary by The Shark Trust and Ecology Action Centre. These are attached in **ANNEX 3.4**.

## **5. Review of the Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)**

The SCRS Chair, Dr Gary Melvin, began by thanking SCRS members and the Secretariat for their work and dedication in bringing the work outlined in the SCRS Report on Research and Statistics to fruition. Secondly, he presented the work of the SCRS during the year which included many intersessional meetings, as well as the work carried out by the various research programmes. Dr Melvin indicated that more details relating to individual species would be presented to the various Panels, but at Plenary he would provide a summary of its activities during the last twelve months. These included SCRS accomplishments and challenges, Secretariat activities in research and statistics, the reports of intersessional SCRS meetings, an overview of the fish species stock status, large research programmes (i.e. GBYP, AOTTP) and smaller research programs (i.e. SMTYP, SRDCP, EPBR and the Albacore and Swordfish programmes), progress of work related to management strategy evaluation (MSE), recommendations to the Commission (including an overview of those with financial implications), and responses to the Commission.

Dr Melvin highlighted that given the Commission's recent decisions and recommendations, the 2022 calendar of intersessional meetings would have to include stock assessments for North and South Atlantic swordfish, eastern and western skipjack, eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, East and West Atlantic sailfish, and North and South Atlantic blue shark. This amounts to 9 stock assessments in a single year in addition to MSE activities on bluefin tuna, northern swordfish, northern albacore, and tropical tunas. Overall, this would represent 26 meetings and approximately 102 days of SCRS meetings in 2022. The SCRS noted that this is an impossible workload for the SCRS and the Secretariat. Given this, the SCRS prioritized its 2022 activities and recommended the following: stock assessments meetings for Atlantic swordfish and skipjack stocks as well as data preparatory meetings (swordfish, skipjack, blue shark and eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin) plus the 5 ongoing MSE processes (bluefin tuna, North Atlantic swordfish, North Atlantic albacore, West Atlantic skipjack and tropical tuna multi-stocks). This represents 22 meetings and approximately 70 days of SCRS meetings in 2022.

Finally, the SCRS Chair informed the Plenary of the request from the Committee to the Commission that interpretation be provided for all SCRS meetings. He also referred to the "Proposal for amendment of the rules and procedures for the protection, access to, and dissemination of data compiled by ICCAT", which was adopted by the SCRS in 2020 but which required consideration by the Commission.

CPCs expressed their gratitude to the SCRS and to the Secretariat for completing all the work to-date and offered their congratulations for excellent work despite the very difficult circumstances under which it was conducted. Several CPCs also expressed a common set of concerns. One of these was how to manage the increasing number of activities and meetings undertaken by the SCRS each year and the need to prioritize such activities. Another concern that was raised by many CPCs was the possible simultaneous interpretation during all SCRS Groups meetings. The Executive Secretary recalled that this would not only have financial implications but would also present logistical challenges given that several scientific meetings were held simultaneously at the Secretariat and would, therefore, require the same resources. It was agreed that this question would be further discussed at the STACFAD.

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\* Statement in excess of word limit and not provided in the three official languages of ICCAT, therefore included in original language only.

The delegates congratulated Dr Melvin, the Vice Chair Dr Rui Coelho as well as all the SCRS scientists for their work during the year.

The [Report of the 2021 Standing Committee on Research and Statistics](#) was adopted by the Commission.

### **5.1 Amendment to the Rules and procedures for the protection, access to, and dissemination of data by ICCAT**

Some CPCs raised concerns regarding the proposed amendment and requested some more time to review. In addition, one CPC had some questions that required further clarification from the Secretariat and resulted in a revised version of the document. The Commission agreed to implement the amended procedures on a provisional basis for a period of one year (**ANNEX 6.1**). This would provide CPCs with an opportunity to review and, where needed, provide input on the proposed amendments during 2022. The Commission agreed that the issue, including any further revisions to the rules based on intersessional review, should be considered at the 2022 ICCAT annual meeting.

### **5.2 Revised Roadmap of the ICCAT MSE processes**

As regards the MSE roadmap, which was initially adopted by the Commission in 2019, a revised proposal was provided by the SCRS for Commission consideration. It was agreed that more detailed discussions would be made during the meeting of concerned Panels (1, 2 and 4). Following discussions in the various Panels, some minor changes were introduced and the revised road map was agreed. It is attached as **ANNEX 6.2**.

## **6. Review of the reports of the 2021 Intersessional Meetings, and consideration of any necessary actions**

It was agreed that the various reports would be considered by the pertinent subsidiary bodies. [The Report of the First Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1](#), the [Report of the Second Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1](#), the [Report of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2](#), the [Report of the Second Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2](#), the [Chair's Summary of the Panel 2 Meeting on Atlantic Bluefin Tuna \(BFT\) Management Strategy Evaluation \(MSE\)](#), the [2021 Report of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4](#) and the [2021 Report of the 2nd Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4](#) were all referred to the respective Panels. The [Report of the 14th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures](#) and the [Report of the Technical Working Group on electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document Scheme \(eBCD-TWG\)](#) were referred to the PWG, and the [Report of the Meeting of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group](#) was referred to the Compliance Committee.

A 2-day special session of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee was held online from 13 to 14 November 2021, directly ahead of the 27th Regular Meeting of the Commission, and the report has been incorporated into the Report of the Meeting of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Commission, which is attached as **ANNEX 9**. It was agreed that these reports would be adopted by correspondence.

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

The Chair indicated that input from subsidiary bodies may be needed to update this review. There were no comments from the floor.

## **8. Assistance to developing coastal States and capacity building**

The Chair noted that information was available in the document "Meeting Participation Fund". There were no comments from the floor.

## 9. Cooperation with other organisations

### 9.1 Cooperation with other IGOs and consideration of draft MOUs

It was noted that discussion on the draft MoUs with the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) had been postponed due to the difficulties posed on the language required by FAO legal department, and that it had been agreed that Letters of Cooperation could be signed under the current cooperation agreement between ICCAT and FAO. The Executive Secretary explained that these letters had not yet been issued as assistance with drafting these was still awaited, but that work on this would be done as soon as possible.

A revised draft MoU with the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) was presented and received broad support. A few Contracting Parties indicated some concerns with the wording of some provisions and undertook to provide alternative wording to avoid any possible misunderstandings. With these modifications, the Commission approved the MoU with IAC. The ICCAT Executive Secretary was asked to liaise with the IAC Secretariat with a view to signing the MoU as soon as feasible. The Commission noted that it looked forward to furthering cooperation between these two organisations.

### 9.2 FAO-ABNJ2 process

The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that the requests, which had previously been circulated to the Commission, had been made to FAO-ABNJ for consideration under phase II. These requests will be later submitted to GEF for consideration. The Commission thanked the Secretariat for putting forward these proposals and believed that there could be great benefit to ICCAT under this new phase II.

### 9.3 Progress on BBNJ process

There was no discussion on this item.

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

The Chair of STACFAD, Mr. Hasan Alper Elekon (Turkey), informed that the Committee had adopted the 2021 Administrative Report, the 2021 Financial Report and the budget for the eBCD system for the period 2022/2023. These were all adopted by the Commission and the eBCD budget is contained in **eBCD Tables 1-7 in ANNEX 7**.

STACFAD presented various options for the ICCAT budget for the biennial period 2022/2023. Option A was approved which included hiring a Publications Editor as well as a Technical Officer for the Department of Compliance, strengthening the chapter related to specialist expert advice, and maintaining the chapters related to travel and meetings at 2021 levels. Regarding the request for simultaneous interpretation for SCRS intersessional meetings, which could not be accommodated this year, the Committee decided to request, before the next annual meeting, more information from the SCRS, including estimates for meetings aimed at certain regions or populations where there could be a greater need for interpretation so as to ensure broader and more significant participation by scientists who are non-native speakers of English. The budget, not including the request for simultaneous interpretation for intersessional meetings of the SCRS, was adopted and is contained in **Tables 1-7 of ANNEX 7**.

A review was carried out of the information on SCRS research activities that require financing in 2022 and the revised 2022 science budget proposal was adopted.

“Detailed information on the accumulated debt of the ICCAT Contracting Parties and review of the payment plans of past-due contributions” was also approved. Having expressed its concern regarding the level of outstanding contributions and given the lack of response to the special letters sent by the ICCAT Chair, which required presentation of a payment plan, the Committee strongly appealed to the Contracting Parties to send these plans as soon as possible and to meet the financial obligations.

Under the agenda item “Presentation of external reports on staff related matters”, STACFAD reviewed the “Diagnostic Report on Volume of Workload by Professional Profile of the Secretariat”, “Evolution of Some Indicators on the Secretariat’s Workload in Recent Years”, and “Secretariat Report on the Situation of the ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules Reform Project”. The Committee recognised the need for the Secretariat to carry out the necessary update of matters relating to staff and workload, with the available budgetary resources, gradually, and according to the priorities.

The Report of the Meeting of the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Finances for ICCAT (VWG-SF) is contained in **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 7**. As regards review of progress of this Working Group, the Committee discussed a proposal to strengthen language in Rec. 03-20 regarding contributions by cooperating non-members, which had been submitted by Japan. A revised version was endorsed by STACFAD and approved by the Commission. The adopted measure, *Recommendation by ICCAT to Replace Recommendation 03-20 on Criteria for Attaining the Status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity in ICCAT*, is contained in **ANNEX 4**.

As regards the agenda item “Consideration of financial implications of ICCAT conservation and management measures proposed”, the Committee was not able to carry out an in-depth review of the Cover Note Template contained in the document in “Financial Implications of Proposed Draft Recommendations”. It was agreed to address this matter in the intersessional meetings of the VWG-SF.

Lastly, the Committee elected Ms. Deirdre M. Warner-Kramer (United States) as STACFAD Chair for the 2022-23 biennial period.

It was agreed that the STACFAD report would be adopted by correspondence and is contained in **ANNEX 7**.

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

### **Panel 1**

The Chair of Panel 1, Mr Helguilè Shep (Côte d’Ivoire), informed the Commission that Panel 1 had held two intersessional meetings, one in July and a second in September. [The Report of the First Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1](#), held online from 1 to 2 July 2021, and the [Report of the Second Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1](#), held online from 1 to 3 September 2021, were approved by the Panel. Despite the additional intersessional work, the Panel had not managed to reach consensus on a long-term comprehensive management plan for tropical tunas and had therefore decided to carry forward the provisions of the previous measure to 2022. However, the Panel had not agreed on which of the provisions should be carried forward or to which year the reference should be made, as some believed that only those applied in 2021 should be used, while others believed that the carryover should relate to the original two-year period of 2020 and 2021, and hence the 2020 measures would apply to 2022 and 2021 measures to 2023. The Panel was therefore unable to agree on a proposal to forward to the Commission for adoption. As there was a strong interest by Panel members to avoid a lapse in management of the tropical tuna fishery in 2022, the Panel asked the Commission to consider the matter further in an effort to reach a consensus text.

After extensive discussion using the last version of the Chair’s proposal as a basis, the Commission finally agreed to adopt the *Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 19-02 replacing Recommendation 16-01 on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas*, attached as **ANNEX 4**. The measure reduced the length of the FAD closure period by 17 days and increased the TAC by 500 t in comparison to the 2021 level. It was recognised that this one-year measure was a compromise text intended to avoid tropical tuna stocks being unregulated in 2022. Many Panel members expressed their dissatisfaction with the measure. Several CPCs noted, in particular, that any reduction in the three-month FAD closure would lead to an increase in the catches of juveniles and go against SCRS advice. They indicated, however, that they could accept the proposed reduction as a temporary measure in the spirit of cooperation. Many CPCs urged that an in-person meeting take place as soon as possible to develop a more permanent solution. Toward that end, it was agreed that an intersessional meeting of Panel 1 would be scheduled in 2022 with a view to developing long-term, robust management measures acceptable to all Panel members.

The Panel elected Ghana as the Chair for the 2022-23 biennial period and thanked the outgoing Chair for his efforts.

It was agreed that the report of Panel 1 would be adopted by correspondence and is contained in **ANNEX 8**.

### **Panel 2**

Mr. Shingo Ota (Japan), Chair of Panel 2, informed the Commission that Panel 2 reviewed the outcomes of three intersessional meetings and endorsed the [Report of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2](#), held online from 2 to 5 March 2021, and the [Report of the Second Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2](#), held online from 13 to 15 September 2021. Regarding the Bluefin Tuna Management Strategy Evaluation (BFT MSE) meeting held just prior to the annual session on 12 November, Panel 2 endorsed the [Chair's Summary of the Panel 2 Meeting on Atlantic Bluefin Tuna \(BFT\) Management Strategy Evaluation \(MSE\)](#), discussed several pending issues coming out of that meeting, and agreed on them. Panel 2 decided to put forward its request to hold three intersessional meetings to facilitate the work of the BFT MSE in 2022. It is suggested that the first one be held in conjunction with the usual Panel 2 intersessional meeting in March.

Panel 2 had approved four draft Recommendations for consideration by the Commission as follows:

- *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 19-04 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Rebuilding Plan for Mediterranean Albacore*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 17-06 for an interim conservation and management plan for western Atlantic bluefin tuna*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT on conservation and management measures, including a management procedure and exceptional circumstances protocol, for North Atlantic albacore*

All these Recommendations were adopted, one following a very minor modification, and are attached in **ANNEX 4**.

Mr. Ota also informed the Commission that Panel 2 had decided to request the SCRS to conduct a new stock assessment of the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean BFT stock in 2022 as originally planned, and to request the SCRS to establish a length-weight relationship for fattened BFT in time for use at the end of the 2022 caging season.

Norway had requested clarification on how to handle short-term storage of live bluefin tuna, and Panel 2 requested Norway to submit a paper to the 2022 annual meeting for further consideration.

Japan had proposed requiring CPCs to submit the results of analysis on the growth rates in bluefin tuna farming, but there was no consensus and Panel 2 decided to continue discussion intersessionally in 2022.

Panel 2 re-elected Japan as Chair for the 2022-23 biennial period.

It was agreed that the report of Panel 2 would be adopted by correspondence, and is contained in **ANNEX 8**.

### **Panel 3**

The Chair of Panel 3, Mr. Qayiso Mketsu (South Africa) reported that the Compliance Tables (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9**) for southern albacore and the transfers of underage from 2020 to 2022 were reviewed by the Panel. Belize, Brazil, China (P.R.), the European Union, Japan, Korea, Namibia, South Africa, Uruguay and Chinese Taipei informed the Panel of their intention to transfer underage from 2020 to 2022 and the United Kingdom from 2021 to 2022. These adjustments were reflected in the compliance tables.

The Philippines' request to be included in the allocation table in paragraph 3 with a catch limit of 25 t, which would allow carryover of underage, was approved with the understanding that this would apply from 2022 and that this quota is to remain as bycatch. The table in paragraph 3 is also to be updated to change 'UK St Helena' to 'United Kingdom', as requested by the United Kingdom given the change to its membership status within ICCAT.

Given the technical difficulties in adopting new measures virtually, and taking into account the report of the SCRS, the Chair had proposed a rollover of the current Recommendation and to this end, a Chair's proposal was presented. Comments were received from the floor and amendments were included in a revised proposal, which was approved by the Panel and submitted for adoption by the Commission. *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 16-07 on South Atlantic albacore catch limits for the period 2017-2020* was adopted by the Commission and is included in **ANNEX 4**.

The Panel re-elected South Africa as Chair of Panel 3 for the 2022-23 biennial period.

The United States raised an additional point for consideration regarding southern albacore bycatch limits for vessels that are not included in the ICCAT record of vessels. The United States suggested that the Panel reconsider the derogation in Rec. 16-07 that allows retention of southern albacore taken as bycatch by unlisted vessels as soon as practicable, noting that a similar provision exists in recommendations for other species. It was noted that this was an issue of concern and should be discussed intersessionally. The United States agreed to draft a paper to facilitate further discussion in 2022.

It was agreed that the Report of Panel 3 would be adopted by correspondence and is contained in **ANNEX 8**.

#### **Panel 4**

Following the sad loss of Professor Dr Hazin and the inability of Brazil to provide an alternative delegate to Chair Panel 4 during 2021, the Commission Chair, Mr. Raul Delgado, chaired the meeting of Panel 4. The Panel adopted the [2021 Report of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4](#), an online meeting held from 6 to 8 July 2021, and the [2021 Report of the 2nd Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4](#), held online on 27 October 2021. Following these meetings, the Panel had made good progress and had arrived, finally, at a consensus on a *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of North Atlantic Stock of Shortfin Mako Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries*.

In addition, Panel 4 had adopted the following measures:

- *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT extending and amending Recommendation 17-02 amending the Recommendation 16-03 for the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 19-08 on management measures for the conservation of South Atlantic blue shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries*
- *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT on Recommendation 17-03 amending the Recommendation 16-04 for the conservation of South Atlantic swordfish*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 19-07 amending the Recommendation 16-12 on management measures for the conservation of the North Atlantic blue shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries*

The Commission adopted all five measures put forward by the Panel, and these are included in **ANNEX 4**.

The Chair reported that Panel 4 had elected Algeria to Chair the Panel for the next biennial period, and thanked the Commission Chair for his work.

Egypt reiterated its request for a quota for Mediterranean swordfish (see **Appendix 9 to ANNEX 8**). This request was noted, but as no proposal for Mediterranean swordfish had been put forward, the issue could not be considered until the next annual meeting.

It was agreed that the report of Panel 4 would be adopted by correspondence (**ANNEX 8**).

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

The Chair of the Compliance Committee (COC), Mr. Derek Campbell, reported that the COC had approved and forwarded to the Commission for adoption the proposal submitted by the Chair of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group. The *Recommendation by ICCAT to Continue the Development of an Integrated Online Reporting System* was adopted by the Commission and is contained in **ANNEX 4**. The COC Chair thanked the Secretariat staff and Chair of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group, for all of the work done on this important tool to facilitate and enhance CPC compliance, hoping that all CPCs would be able to report through this system for the next annual meeting. The intersessional [Report of the Meeting of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group](#), which was held virtually from 16 to 18 February 2021, was endorsed by the Committee.

The Committee recommended that the COC Chair send letters on compliance matters to 31 CPCs, and that the Commission maintain the identification of 5 CPCs under Recommendation 06-13. While many CPCs have recurring compliance issues, the number here represents improvement from previous years, and Mr. Campbell commended the CPCs individually and collectively for the efforts that have led to this outcome. The Commission endorsed the COC recommendation to send letters to the 31 CPCs and to maintain the five identifications, as reflected in the “Actions taken in 2021” column of the Compliance Summary Tables (**Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9**).

The COC recommended that the Commission renew cooperating status for all current cooperating non-parties (Bolivia, Chinese Taipei, Costa Rica, Guyana and Suriname), and the Commission agreed.

For non-Contracting non-Cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (NCPs), the Committee recommended sending letters, as appropriate, to those NCPs that previously received letters, depending on the current status of the circumstances that formed the basis for sending a letter after the 2020 annual meeting.

The COC approved all compliance tables except for two left open due to pending work: southern albacore and bigeye tuna. Minor updates to these tables are reflected in **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9** to reflect the conclusion of the work of Panel 3 work and to add a note to one CPC’s entry for bigeye. The Commission agreed to endorse the Compliance Tables, noting that some adjustments may be needed in relation to carry forward of under-harvest of bigeye tuna and pending resolution of species identification issues in the future.

The COC took note of the automatic application, on 1 January 2022, of a prohibition on retention of ICCAT species, pursuant to Rec. 11-15, for CPCs that have neither submitted Task 1 data nor confirmed zero catch for the species. At the end of the 2021 ICCAT annual meeting, CPCs subject to prohibition for some or all species were: Angola, Costa Rica, Cote d’Ivoire, EU, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Equatorial and Sierra Leone.

The COC identified a number of other future actions to improve compliance, including:

- Progressive implementation of previous COC recommendations for a process to facilitate capacity building and technical assistance to improve compliance, noting the importance of this type of tool for advancing the COC’s work.
- Development, with input from the CPCs, Chair, and Secretariat, of a methodology for the COC to conduct effective in-depth reviews of measures that are prioritized by the Commission and enhancing opportunities for members of the Friends of the COC Chair group and other CPCs to play a role in helping to lead the analysis and discussion of priority items.

The COC had a constructive discussion of the document “Working Paper on Draft Schedule of Actions: Severity of Types of Non-Compliance with Specific ICCAT Provisions”, which had been submitted by the Secretariat in conjunction with the Chair to enhance ICCAT’s progressive implementation of Res. 16-17 and to improve compliance with ICCAT measures. After receiving CPC input, the working paper was revised, and along with additional written comments submitted by CPCs, it has been appended as **Appendix 7 to ANNEX 9**. The Chair suggested that further correspondence on this document could continue in advance of the 2022 ICCAT Annual Meeting in order to ensure progress towards adoption.



The Commission thanked the Committee for its work and noted that, since the election of Chair had not taken place during the COC meeting, it should be carried out in Plenary. El Salvador nominated Mr. Derek Campbell (USA) to continue as Chair for the 2022-23 biennial period given his excellent work to date. Mr. Campbell was re-elected by acclamation.

It was agreed that the report of the Compliance Committee would be adopted by correspondence (ANNEX 9).

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

The Chair of the PWG, Mr. Neil Ansell (EU), reported to the Commission that much progress had been made during the meeting following on from discussion held at the intersessional meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures. The [Report of the 14th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures](#) (IMM), which was held online from 14 to 17 June 2021, had been approved.

The Chair further noted that the PWG had adopted no fewer than eleven measures in total (seven Recommendations and four Resolutions), which were being forwarded to the Commission for adoption, as follows:

- *Recommendation on Vessels without Nationality*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 18-08 on establishing a List of Vessels Presumed to have Carried out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 20-08 on the Application of the eBCD System*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 18-13 replacing Recommendation 11-20 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT on Transshipment*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 13-13 Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 metres in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to Operate in the Convention Area*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 07-08 concerning Data Exchange Format and Protocol in Relation to the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for the Bluefin Tuna Fishery in the ICCAT Convention area*
- *Resolution by ICCAT establishing an ICCAT Working Group on Catch Document Scheme*
- *Resolution by ICCAT Establishing a Process to Address Labor Standards in ICCAT Fisheries*
- *Resolution by ICCAT Establishing a Pilot Project for the Implementation of Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) on Bluefin Tuna Processing Vessels*
- *Resolution by ICCAT for the Establishment of an ICCAT Working Group on the Use of Electronic Monitoring systems (EMS)*

The Commission adopted all of the foregoing measures. They are contained in **ANNEXES 4 and 5**.

The PWG Chair reported that two additional measures had been put forward for discussion by the PWG. Consensus could not be reached on a “Draft Recommendation to Promote Compliance by nationals of Contracting Parties, Cooperation non-contracting Parties, Entities or Fisheries Entities with ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures repealing and replacing Recommendation 06-14” despite extensive discussion. Following some useful direction on interpretation issues and clarifications including



those coming from the Compliance Committee on the submission of sightings and inspection information coming from Rec. 19-09 and Rec. 19-04, respectively, the PWG had discussions on a proposal for a “Draft recommendation for a Joint International Scheme in the Western Atlantic” but consensus could not be reached on this proposal either. These measures may be reconsidered in the future.

The PWG approved the [Report of the eBCD Technical Working Group, which was held online from 8 to 9 June 2021](#), and recommended that the work of this group should continue. The Commission concurred with this recommendation.

For the IUU vessel list, the PWG noted some small changes to the provisional IUU list, and the Commission endorsed the final IUU vessel list, which is included in **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**.

The PWG re-elected Mr. Ansell as Chair of the PWG for the 2022-23 biennial period.

It was agreed that the Report of the PWG would be adopted by correspondence (**ANNEX 10**).

#### **14. Intersessional meetings in 2022**

It was observed that many of the Recommendations adopted at this 27th Regular Meeting called for holding intersessional meetings both of existing Panels and Working Groups and of newly created Working Groups. It was agreed that the Secretariat, in consultation with the Officers, would circulate a proposed schedule of these meetings as early as possible. The Commission noted that, while all the SCRS-related meetings will be scheduled as taking place online, they will be changed to in-person meetings if conditions allow.

#### **15. Election of Chair and Vice Chairs**

Mr. Ernesto Penas Lado (EU) was unanimously elected Chair of the Commission. Ms. Zakia Driouch (Morocco) was elected first Vice Chair and Mr. Ramon Chong (Curaçao) was elected second Vice Chair.

The Commission thanked the outgoing Chair, Mr. Raul Delgado, for his excellent work over the last four years, and welcomed the new Chair who thanked the Commission for the trust placed in him and remarked that he was confident that his experience of 30 years in the international sphere would assist him in this new role.

#### **16. Streamlining of conservation and management measures**

The Commission agreed to the removal of Rec. 13-16 from the Active Compendium, given that it amended a Recommendation which was no longer in force. The Delegation of Ghana indicated that more consideration may need to be given to the overarching issue of outdated measures in the future.

#### **17. Other matters**

The Delegate of Uruguay recalled that the issue regarding reactivation of the Council remained pending. The Chair agreed that strictly speaking, the Council was required by the Basic Texts. Although there was some support for the proposal from Uruguay, several CPCs indicated the impracticalities inherent in constituting a Council under the terms of the Convention adopted 50 years ago, and hence there was no consensus to take any action at this time.

#### **18. Date and place of the next meeting of the Commission**

The Executive Secretary informed the Commission that no offers to host the next ICCAT annual meeting had been received to date. Although many CPCs had highlighted the importance of in-person meetings, it was agreed that such a possibility would depend on the development of the pandemic. In addition, the possibility of hybrid meetings remained an option. It was expected that the meeting, in whichever format, would be held 14-21 November 2022, and it was confirmed that the Secretariat would work with CPCs to identify potential hosts for an in-person or hybrid meeting.

**19. Adoption of the report and adjournment**

It was agreed that the report would be adopted by correspondence. Thanks were extended to the Chair, the Secretariat and the interpreters. As a token of appreciation for his excellent work, the Executive Secretary presented the outgoing Chair, Mr. Raul Delgado, with an ICCAT themed painting, and informed all the other outgoing Officers that they would be receiving similar tokens of appreciation by post.

The meeting was adjourned.

**COMMISSION AGENDA**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
3. Introduction of Contracting Party Delegations
4. Introduction of Observers
5. Review of the report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
  - 5.1 Amendment to the Rules and procedures for the protection, access to, and dissemination of data by ICCAT
  - 5.2 Revised Roadmap of the ICCAT MSE processes
6. Review of the reports of the 2021 Intersessional Meetings, and consideration of any necessary actions
7. Review of progress on follow up on the Second Performance Review and consideration of any necessary actions
8. Assistance to developing coastal States and capacity building
9. Cooperation with other organisations
  - 9.1 Cooperation with other IGOs and consideration of draft MOUs
  - 9.2 FAO-ABNJ2 process
  - 9.3 Progress on BBNJ process
10. Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
11. Reports of Panels 1 to 4 and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
12. Report of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
13. Report of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
14. Intersessional meetings in 2022
15. Election of Chair and Vice Chairs
16. Streamlining of conservation and management measures
17. Other matters
18. Date and place of the next meeting of the Commission
19. Adoption of the report and adjournment

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**Gzour**, Aomar  
**Herrero Grandgirard**, Patricia  
**Hof**, Michelle Renée  
**Konstantinidi-Levenheck**, Melpomene  
**Liberas**, Christine  
**Linaae**, Cristina  
**Sánchez del Villar**, Lucía



## OPENING ADDRESSES & STATEMENTS TO THE PLENARY SESSIONS

### 3.1 OPENING ADDRESSES

#### By Mr. Raúl Delgado, Commission Chairman

Good morning, good afternoon or good evening!

Honourable Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel, ICCAT Executive Secretary and his distinguished staff of the Commission Secretariat.

Distinguished colleagues, First and Second Vice Chairs of the Commission, Chairs of STACFAD, COC, PWG, Chairs of the Panels, distinguished Members of the Commission, NGOs, guests, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends.

As Commission Chair, it is an honour for me, on my own behalf and that of all the team at the Secretariat, to take this brief opportunity to extend to you a warm and cordial welcome to this 27th Regular Meeting of the Commission, which, given the global situation that we are suffering due to the COVID-19 pandemic, once again, this year has had to be held virtually.

We have not seen each other in-person since our Commission meeting that was held in Palma de Mallorca, I admit that personally, I find it strange to see you physically, but I remain hopeful that we will meet again in-person very soon. In the meanwhile, and following a full year in a correspondence process, I can only express satisfaction at the fact that even in adverse situations, we have continued with the important work of this Commission.

We have left aside our daily tasks, and made great efforts and sacrifices to adapt to a virtual environment and relentless schedules, and all that with the common objective of participating in this important meeting, which shows solid conviction with the commitments assumed, and carrying out our work as Members.

With great honour, I welcome you all to the 27th Regular Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. As to be expected, this will be a challenging meeting; we have many issues to address and it is our responsibility to discuss them and find common ground that will lead us to take better decisions for all. Therefore, I encourage all members to make our best collaboration efforts to achieve the proposed goals through consensus.

We hope to have a high level of participation in this meeting reflecting the interest of all the parties in the items of the agenda.

The world is watching us, we have major conservation challenges.

Friends, I remind you that it is very important to be aware of the priority of this meeting, which will enable us to adopt consistent, balanced, as well as effective measures.

For this 27th meeting of the Commission, we are also tasked with choosing a new body of officers. I therefore urge you that the process be carried out in a smooth, adequate manner, without much delay.

Based on the above, I invite you to take up the challenge of working together very closely to address all the issues and achieve all the objectives of the Agenda of this 27th Meeting of the Commission.

I thank you all for participating and special thanks to the Secretariat for all the support and efforts made to hold this meeting.

Before I conclude, I should mention that the consequences of the pandemic have been very significant, and it has made us vulnerable, individually and socially; we have all suffered. But we must now mention those who have lost family members, friends and collaborators; this pandemic has affected us all. And the

Commission is no exception with the irreparable physical passing of our friend Fabio Hazin, which took us all by surprise. Before addressing the items on the agenda, we will honour, with a minute's silence, all the friends and family members that we have lost during this pandemic within the ICCAT community.

In accordance with the ICCAT rules of procedure, through my words, I formally declare open the 27th Regular Meeting of the Commission.

Many thanks.

**By Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel, ICCAT Executive Secretary**

ICCAT Chair,  
 ICCAT Vice Chairs,  
 Commission Officers,  
 Honourable Delegates,  
 Partners,  
 Interpreters,  
 Colleagues,  
 Ladies and gentlemen,

Duly respecting your ranks and capacities,

Good morning, good afternoon,

Wishing you a warm virtual welcome, it is my honour and pleasure to stand before you again on the occasion of this 27th Regular Meeting of the Commission which is being held in an unprecedented format, and in a context which, regrettably, is further marked by the terrible COVID-19 pandemic with its many impacts. Among these, in addition to the numerous constraints that it has imposed, the pandemic has estranged people who are dear to us.

On behalf of the Secretariat, I would like to pay a heartfelt tribute to all our colleagues who have passed, with a special thought for Prof Dr Fabio Hissa Vieira Hazin of Brazil, who has made a lasting impression on the Commission and who we will always remember.

These unique times that we are experiencing are also marked by a suite of challenges and the Commission bodies, and, consequently, the Secretariat, have not been spared of the associated work. However, despite this situation, together we have been able to make significant progress, without losing sight of the important projects ahead of us.

Also, Chair, Honourable Delegates, allow me, with all humility, to highlight that the upward trend, which became structural several years ago, in the numerous elements that increase pressure on the Secretariat, is becoming unsustainable in the absence of an adjustment of Secretariat resources; indeed, this trend poses a threat to the staff and to the quality of the service provided by the Secretariat. At the same time, the Secretariat has started an essential transformation that is required by the dynamics of our work environment, so as to strengthen its pillars with the revision of the staff Regulations and Rules, development of the IT security policy, personal data protection policy, and remote work guidelines, among others. Therefore, I firmly believe you will continue to provide adequate accompaniment so that we can remain on the positive slope of performance improvement.

Before finishing, and even more than usual, I thank all the Secretariat staff who have shown great ability to adapt to the context dictated to us by the COVID-19 pandemic, and their constant commitment and availability are renewed for achievement of the Commission objectives.

I also thank all the partners for their valuable contributions.

Hoping that we will meet in-person in our upcoming meetings, I thank you for your time and your very kind attention!

Stay healthy!

### **3.2 STATEMENTS BY CONTRACTING PARTIES**

#### **Brazil**

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to convey the great satisfaction of the Brazilian delegation to participate in the 27th Regular Meeting of the Commission and give our contribution to a successful event.

We would like to thank the ICCAT Secretariat for the hard work not only in preparation for the present online meetings, but also for all the work done since 2020 during these extraordinary times. Brazilian experts in the panels have been able to participate in excellent intersessional meetings and we reach today's 27th Regular Meeting of the Commission ready for productive discussions.

Mr. Chair, Colleagues of the ICCAT community,

Brazil wants to take the opportunity of our Opening Statement to express our deep appreciation for the messages and eulogies regarding our respected dear Professor Fabio Hazin. We feel that his passing was a great loss for the ICCAT community, for Brazil and for us as friends.

This year the Commission starts the present Meeting with challenges ahead, if we want to fulfill our obligations under the Convention. First, the negotiations of the TAC and quotas of the bigeye tuna stock. Regarding this challenge, Brazil supports the need to adopt TACs and catch limits in conformity with advice provided by the Scientific Committee on Research and Statistics for all target species, so that we can prevent overharvesting. Brazil is of the opinion that quota allocations must be decided in a fair, transparent and equitable manner, taking also into account existing agreements under other multilateral fora that set especial provisions for developing coastal States, that is to say the United Nation Convention on the Law of the Sea, the United Nations Fish Stock Agreement and, adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization, the Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries and, also, the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

In that light, for the purposes of the allocation of quotas, Brazil underscores the fact that it is developing its fisheries for tropical tunas, mainly by giving opportunity to the expansion of small-scale fishery with handline, in a progressive and gradual manner, in conformity with international rules and regulations.

Another issue that is very important for Brazil is the urgent need to reduce by-catch in all fisheries for tuna and tuna-like species. We recognize progress achieved by this Commission, with marked improvements in the implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management and the observance of the precautionary approach. We understand that such improvements, with the consequent reduction of the bycatch of species such as sharks, billfishes, turtles and seabirds, results from the work of this Commission with the adoption of several recommendations over the last years.

In recent years, Brazil also has achieved significant progress in reducing bycatch and mortality of sea turtles by longline fishing. Brazilian regulations make it mandatory the use of circle hooks by all longline fishing vessels. For seabirds there's also specific regulations to mitigate their incidental catch and mortality, which is stricter than the Commission's recommendation.

We also want to inform that in the year 2021 Brazil has advanced in the implementation of its integrated electronic monitoring system, which will soon include the use of cameras onboard, and the developing of a new scientific observer project. In 2021 Brazil and the Global Fishing Watch signed an Agreement to improve the Brazilian National Vessel Monitoring System Program, strengthening transparency, good governance, and the actions against IUU fishing.

To conclude our Statement, Mr. Chairman, Brazil would like to reaffirm our commitment with the duly implementation of all management and conservation measures adopted by ICCAT. We are open to cooperate with you and all delegations, this time in the virtual format, to make this a successful meeting and to help us fulfil this Commission's mandate.

## European Union

The European Union is looking forward to the 27th Regular Meeting of ICCAT. Although we are not yet able to meet in person, the European Union welcomes this year's virtual meeting as an opportunity to address the most urgent issues and prepare the ground for discussions that will need to take place in the coming months. While there are challenges linked to the virtual format of the meeting this year, the European Union stands ready to work with all CPCs to further strengthen ICCAT's governance through better science-based decisions, stronger control and enforcement measures and better compliance by its members. Having in mind the difficult conditions that have existed since the start of the pandemic, we would also like to thank the ICCAT Secretariat for the preparation of the 27th Regular meeting and their hard work throughout the year.

With respect to stocks management measures, the European Union considers that there are several priorities which need decisions to be taken this year.

After several years of discussions between the ICCAT CPCs, the European Union believes that it is high time for ICCAT to reach, at this meeting, a consensus on more effective measures for the North Atlantic stock of shortfin mako shark. In order to facilitate an outcome, the European Union has shown considerable flexibility and was encouraged by the constructive discussions that took place during the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4 in October and in the lead-up to this annual meeting. The European Union has been engaged in intense discussions with several CPCs to prepare the ground for a possible compromise and we believe that considerable progress has been achieved. The European Union would urge all CPCs to show flexibility and a willingness to compromise, so we can build on the momentum that has been achieved, so that new effective measures for shortfin mako can be adopted at this meeting.

The management of tropical tuna stocks remains one of the greatest challenges and should be an ICCAT priority. While gradual improvements have been made over recent years, further and much needed progress has been hampered since the start of the pandemic. Therefore, it is necessary to adopt a realistic, yet ambitious approach and to address the most pressing issues regarding the management of these resources. With this in mind, the European Union decided to table a proposal this year. The positive outcome of the stock assessment for bigeye tuna presents a unique opportunity to address the issue of a certain degree of reallocation of the fishing opportunities to developing coastal states. Although we are supportive of the Chair's efforts, our proposal aims to further draw on the intersessional exchanges we had this year, and to provide possible solutions to a range of issues for which action can no longer be postponed. Our proposal is articulated around key elements such as the setting of fishing opportunities which are sustainable and manageable in the long term; the establishment of a process to better manage fishing capacity; consolidation of the measures adopted in 2019 for the management of FADs, and addressing the relative weakness of the control regime currently in place for tropical tuna fisheries.

This year, the SCRS conducted an evaluation of the Mediterranean albacore stock based on data available until 2019 and concluded that this stock is overfished and experiencing overfishing. Recognising the current situation of the stock, the European Union is tabling a proposal for a rebuilding plan for Mediterranean albacore. This plan contains the management and technical measures required to stop the overfishing and to start rebuilding this stock.

Following on from ICCAT's commitment to consolidate measures concerning North Atlantic albacore, the European Union has also tabled a proposal, which recasts existing recommendations and establishes all the elements needed for a long-term management procedure.

The European Union is pleased with the continuous developments towards better science, including the critical Management Strategy Evaluation process being undertaken, but also efficient management of very significant research programs, such as the GBYP and the AOTTP programmes for which the EU continues to provide substantial contributions. In order to secure the long-term future of these two crucial programmes, we would urge ICCAT CPCs to identify sustainable financing mechanisms, not relying on voluntary contributions. Moreover, in view of the increasing workload of the ICCAT Secretariat, in particular since the start of the pandemic, we are of the view that there is a need for the STACFAD to discuss and to take a serious look at the Secretariat's workload.

As in the past, the European Union continues to attach a great importance to the compliance process. This process is crucial to ensure that the conservation measures adopted in ICCAT deliver efficiently on their objectives. We are committed to ensuring that ICCAT maintains a strong commitment to the compliance review and assessment, and we are confident that this process will continue to be guided by a solution-oriented and pragmatic approach in order to further enable ICCAT to live up to its global mission.

Finally, the 27th ICCAT Regular Meeting will provide an opportunity to take an important decision on new Chairs for the various ICCAT bodies that are essential for the smooth running of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies in the coming months. While we welcome the fact that several candidates have been put forward, it is the European Union's hope that a balanced and acceptable package can be agreed by consensus. The European Union is looking forward to working constructively with all CPCs in order to achieve these ambitious goals at the 27th Regular Meeting of ICCAT.

## **Japan**

On behalf of the Japanese Delegation, I extend my deepest gratitude to the ICCAT Secretariat for wonderful arrangement of the 27th Regular Meeting of the Commission.

Last year, the Commission could not hold a physical meeting, and most of the existing conservation and management measures have been rolled over.

Though the Commission Members cannot meet face-to-face this year, it should not be an excuse for delaying important decision makings. There are many important issues to be discussed this year. Japan wishes cooperate with the respective Chairpersons and other CPCs to produce good outcomes for these issues.

Among other things, Japan attaches great importance to management of tropical tuna stocks, particularly Bigeye tuna. Introduction of effective management measures on this stock has been a great challenge for ICCAT. While the latest stock assessment by the SCRS shows somewhat optimistic result including potential increase of the TAC, the necessity to introduce a management scheme that keeps the total catch below the TAC remains urgent. Furthermore, we must consider how to accommodate the growing aspirations of developing CPCs. The potential increase of the TAC can be used for this purpose.

Conservation of shortfin mako is another important issue. While we recognize the divergent views on possible measures on this stock among different CPCs, sticking to their respective positions would produce nothing, thereby further risking this stock. That is why Japan provided a new idea at the Panel 4 intersessional meeting in September. Japan welcomes CPCs discussing a possible compromise text, which contains this idea and hopes that the Commission can reach a consensus at this meeting.

Western BFT was one of the most controversial issues last year. While the last year's discussion revolved around whether to reduce the TAC, the latest stock assessment conducted this year indicates the possibility of increasing the TAC. Though careful consideration is necessary in interpreting the SCRS advice, Japan expects a constructive discussion on the TAC in 2022.

With regard to BFT farming, Japan has been expressing concern about very high growth ratios. Though Japan appreciates active cooperation from several farming CPCs on this issue including exchange of farming information, we believe that more work should and could be done to address such concern. We will provide updates of our investigation as well as some ideas for improving the management of farming.

Last but not least, we are honoured to announce that Japan deposited with the Director-General of FAO its instrument of acceptance of the Protocol to amend the ICCAT Convention on July 30th this year. We strongly hope that other CPCs will expedite their respective internal acceptance procedures so that this Protocol may enter into force as soon as possible.

Japan is ready to work together with other delegations and sincerely wishes successful and fruitful conclusion of this meeting.

### **Joint statement by the European Union, Canada and the United States on bluefin tuna MSE**

The European Union, Canada, and the United States wish to note for the record their understanding that SCRS work to carry out a stock assessment of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna in 2022 would be conducted in a way that does not negatively affect the other work of the SCRS, particularly the ongoing MSE process for bluefin tuna. This MSE work, including the three planned Panel 2-SCRS dialogue meetings in 2022, is essential to ensure candidate management procedures can be presented to the Commission at its 2022 Annual Meeting and that the Commission can select a management procedure for adoption and implementation at that meeting.

### **3.3 STATEMENT BY OBSERVERS FROM INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION**

**Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO)** (*Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Morocco, Mauritania, Nigeria, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Sierra Leone and Senegal*)

WE, ATLAFCO Member States gathered in Tangier on the occasion of the virtual 27th Regular Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT),

*RECOGNIZING* the need for adherence to safety protocols against the rapid spread of the COVID-19 pandemic from the first quarter of 2020, leading to the use of virtual meetings within ICCAT;

*RECALLING* the interest of developing States in active participation in ICCAT meetings;

*CONCERNED* by the low participation of developing States in the various virtual meetings organized over the past two years;

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the technological challenges encountered by the majority of developing States in accessing online meetings;

*CONSIDERING* the containment measures that have resulted in the improved health situation observed in recent months throughout the world;

*NOTING* the resumption of international face-to-face meetings;

#### **EXHORT**

The ICCAT Commission to resume gradually face-to-face meetings for sessions where important decisions need to be made.

### **3.4 STATEMENTS BY OBSERVERS FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

#### **Associação de Ciências Marinhas e Cooperação (Sciaena)**

Sciaena is thankful for the possibility to attend the 2021 Annual Meeting of ICCAT as an observer. We would like to acknowledge the Secretariat, Chair and CPCs for their continuous work to convene meetings during the year and the 27th regular meeting of the Commission, particularly noteworthy in the context of the Covid-19 health crisis.

It is our belief at Sciaena that the health pandemic has only highlighted the urgency of ensuring resilient marine ecosystems, capable of performing their crucial role in sustaining life on Earth, but also of supporting sustainable economies and thriving coastal communities. Sustainable, science-based and long-term fisheries management is therefore more important than ever before and we encourage ICCAT, and its CPCs in particular, to show decisive leadership in this year's meeting in order to reach positive decisions in this regard.

While there are several important issues that will be discussed and many opportunities to adopt strong and urgent measures, Sciaena would like to call your attention to a set of vital decisions that must be made.

On tropical tunas, we are pleased that the bigeye tuna stock is showing signs of recovery and we hope that this is the result of improvements to the FAD fishery. Nevertheless, we hope that in this annual meeting ICCAT adopts a TAC for this stock that follows the SCRS advice for sustainable catches but also takes positive steps in order to reach an agreement on the allocation key. While it is a complicated discussion, we believe it is key to ensure that total catches do not go over sustainable levels and to ensure sustainable management of bigeye in the future. We are confident that CPCs will be able to define a new allocation key that takes into account historical catches and also the aspirations of developing countries, but also criteria such as reducing juvenile mortality and other factors that have negative impacts on the stock and the ecosystem it depends on.

Additionally, we would like to stress that the three species of tropical tunas are closely connected and that any long-term management should have this connectivity in sight. In this regard, it is with concern that we see the situation of yellowfin tuna, a stock for which ICCAT currently adopts a catch level but no allocation key, which resulted in landing of 40.000 tonnes above the TAC advice in 2020. Therefore, it is crucial that YFT management is prioritized in the near future in order to ensure catch levels are respected going forward.

Finally, we hope that positive steps are made and language is adopted that ensures that the Management Procedures for the multi-species complex of bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack in the eastern Atlantic is adopted by 2024, in line with the current MSE roadmap.

Even more concerning is the situation of shortfin mako, for which the SCRS has repeatedly recommended the adoption of a total retention ban without exceptions, combined with by-catch mitigation measures. While the SCRS Kobe matrices indicate that overfishing would end at a 500t mortality level, it has been repeatedly confirmed that all sources of mortality would have to be taken into account when reading these tables. As post-release mortality alone is considerable, a continued commercialization of this species is no longer sustainable.

The Panel 4 intersessional meeting of October 27th ended on a note of optimism, and we believe ICCAT is closer than ever to finalize a measure that finally sets shortfin mako on the path to recovery. We urge CPCs to adopt a measure that ensures a full retention ban for the upcoming years but also includes additional conservation measures. Anything less than that will not only determine a very grim outlook for this important shark species, but also raise questions about the true capacity of ICCAT to deliver on its objectives.

We also encourage CPCs to take positive steps in order to adopt a management procedure for Atlantic swordfish in the upcoming years.

Regarding Panel 2, we hope that a Management Procedure for Northern Albacore, is finally adopted. On bluefin, Sciaena expects that CPCs adopt the SCRS recommendation and workplan for 2022 in order to finalize the MSE. In addition, taking into account the link between the two stocks, we call on the CPCs to adopt a precautionary TAC for western bluefin.

Finally, regarding PWG, Sciaena fully supports the joint statement submitted by Oceana, The Pew Charitable Trusts and WWF (PWG-421) and urge CPCs to adopt proposals PWG-414, PWG-415, PWG-416, as these are essential to enhance the control and monitoring of fishing activities at ICCAT level, by closing existing loopholes that allow IUU to continue. We also strongly encourage CPCs to adopt proposal PWG-418, as Sciaena considers the development of remote electronic monitoring must be a priority for the near future of ICCAT.

In conclusion, we look forward to fruitful discussions and strong decisions by ICCAT and its CPCs in order to demonstrate that the organization is committed to protecting the ecosystems and managing the stocks under its stewardship to the benefit of all humankind.

## **Defenders of Wildlife**

### ***North Atlantic shortfin mako***

ICCAT CPCs face two broad choices when it comes to the North Atlantic shortfin mako. They can support a complete ban on the retention of the species, which would align with the core recommendation of the SCRS, or they can support an alternative approach that will fail to facilitate the recovery of mako sharks within an acceptable time frame and poses too much risk to the survival of the species.

While we acknowledge that the adoption of any approach that would reduce mortality rates for shortfin makos would be a step in the right direction, we must keep in mind that just because a measure may reduce mortality does not make it adequate. After years of inaction and failure to act, now is the time to listen to the recommendations that have been made to ICCAT for five straight years and unite for the long-term conservation of the species and the marine environment.

There are important reasons the SCRS is recommending prohibiting the retention of shortfin makos rather than saying it would be sufficient to reduce mako mortality. One of the reasons a total ban on retention is needed is because it's simple to understand and enforce and it completely eliminates the incentive to catch the species, which is essential to minimize mortality. To the contrary, the alternative approaches being discussed are complicated and difficult to enforce.

In addition to its simplicity, the adoption of a non-retention policy is the option that is most likely to lead to a favorable outcome for the stock within a reasonable amount of time. According to SCRS, prohibiting the retention of shortfin makos will allow the overfished stock to be rebuilt by 2045 with a 53% probability. While this still represents a long recovery period, every year matters, and that's decades earlier than the stock would be rebuilt under other scenarios provided by SCRS. We also emphasize that anything less than a 70% probability of recovery for the species is completely unacceptable.

Finally, we must also keep in mind that, as SCRS itself has noted, there are many uncertainties associated with the fishery and the biology of the species when projecting 50 years out. This means that the eventual outcomes for the species, particularly when considering measures that would aim to rebuild the stock by 2070, could be much worse than SCRS has projected.

Given the endangered status of the shortfin mako and the importance of adopting an approach that provides the greatest chance of successfully rebuilding the stock within an acceptable time frame, an immediate and complete ban on retention is the only appropriate measure; and now is the time to adopt it.

### ***Fins naturally attached***

PA4-807/2021 includes a requirement that sharks be landed with fins naturally attached, the only sure way to enforce a ban on finning.

Shark finning was banned at ICCAT in 2010. However, the status quo would improve if fins were required to be naturally attached because the existing rules are complicated and difficult to enforce. Currently, fins are allowed to be separated from carcasses at sea, but when landed, they must weigh no more than 5% of the "dressed" weight of the shark - that is, the carcass without its head or guts. The problem with this is that it is difficult to identify individual shark species just by looking at detached carcasses or their fins.

The adoption of a fins-attached policy would address this by providing the optimum conditions for the collection of accurate, species-specific data on catches and simplifying enforcement, thereby contributing to the conservation of sharks.

While some have expressed concern about technical difficulties that they believe may arise if a fins-attached policy were adopted, such difficulties can easily be overcome with practice, following the example of countries in Central America and other countries that have successfully implemented these regulations for years.



Defenders of Wildlife urges ICCAT members to adopt the draft Recommendation to land sharks with fins naturally attached.

### **International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF)**

The impacts of COVID-19 continue to present challenges to RFMOs in conducting meetings. Even under these challenging circumstances, ICCAT must ensure the uninterrupted, sustainable management of the tuna stocks and marine ecosystems under its purview. 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 2021, which align with the ISSF global priorities for tuna RFMOs.

#### **Our top tasks for ICCAT:**

1. Revise Rec. 19-02 to ensure that the bigeye and yellowfin tuna stocks are maintained at sustainable levels and catches are maintained within the TACs.
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, a marking scheme and ownership rules; and require FAD position and acoustic data.
3. Accelerate the adoption of harvest strategies for tropical tunas.
4. Adopt minimum standards for electronic monitoring and require 100% observer coverage (human and/or electronic) for all major ICCAT fisheries, and all vessels engaged in at-sea transshipment by 2024.
5. Request the Compliance Committee to address non-compliance with FAD data reporting requirements and develop audit points for ICCAT measures.

### **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?***

The bigeye stock was reassessed in 2021 and resulted in a more optimistic picture of stock status than the previous (2018) assessment, due in part to changes in data inputs and model assumptions. Although in 2020 the estimated catches of bigeye decreased by 24% relative to 2019 and was below the Total Allowable Catch (TAC), in the previous several years, the catches of bigeye exceeded the TAC. The catches of yellowfin have also exceeded the TAC for years, including in 2020. The TACs need to be completely allocated so that CPC-specific non-compliances can be identified. In addition, ISSF continues to be concerned with the growth of fishing capacity in the ICCAT region. Fishing fleet overcapacity increases pressure to weaken management measures, and eventually it leads to stock overexploitation.

#### ***What is ISSF asking ICCAT to do?***

1. Revise Rec. 19-02 to ensure that the bigeye and yellowfin stocks are maintained at sustainable levels and their catches are maintained within the TACs by:
  - (i) Maintaining the bigeye TAC at 61,500 tonnes in line with SCRS advice.
  - (ii) Adopting a precautionary yellowfin TAC that is aligned with the existing SCRS advice to be below 120,000 tonnes.

- (iii) Maintaining the current three-month Atlantic-wide FAD closure and adopting additional measures to better monitor and manage FADs.
  - (iv) Agreeing on management objectives for managing the fishing mortality of juvenile vs. adult yellowfin and bigeye tunas.
  - (v) Developing and adopting procedures to identify and sanction non-compliance with TAC allocations.
2. Fully allocate the TACs by fishing gear and/or CPC.
  3. Establish limited entry through closed vessel registries, and develop a common currency to measure fishing capacity, such as cubic meters of well volume.

### **Fish Aggregating 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 the 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 needs to be reinforced.

#### ***What is ISSF asking ICCAT to do?***

1. Revise Rec. 19-02 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 2023.
  - (iv) Require vessels to provide complete FAD position data and acoustic records from echosounder buoys for scientific use.
  - (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; and
  - (vi) Require observer coverage on supply and tender vessels.
2. That the Compliance Committee 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.
4. Develop FAD ownership rules and definitions by 2023 to ensure FAD accountability is maintained through the end of their lifetime.
5. Develop clearer rules for activation and deactivation of FAD buoys.

## **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. The urgent adoption of harvest strategies is necessary to achieve precautionary management of Atlantic tuna stocks.

### ***Why are we concerned?***

ICCAT has been developing harvest strategies and testing them through MSE so 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.

### ***What is ISSF asking ICCAT to do?***

Accelerate the development of management strategy evaluation (MSE) for all tropical tuna stocks and adopt a harvest strategy for western Atlantic skipjack.

## **Bycatch and sharks**

### ***What are the issues?***

Shortfin 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 the shortfin mako shark stock 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 aimed to rebuild the North Atlantic shortfin mako shark stock that: (i) immediately prohibits all shortfin mako retentions; and (ii) ensures specific scientific advice for minimizing incidental mortality is developed and implemented by 2022.

## **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, even before the pandemic. This coverage rate should increase to 10% by 2022 for longline 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?***

1. By 2022, develop minimum standards for an electronic monitoring (EM) program and a workplan and timeline for implementation of a comprehensive EM and electronic reporting program, including for logbooks, with emphasis on longline vessels.
2. Develop an ICCAT regional Observer Program (per Rec. 19-02).
3. Require 100% observer coverage (human and/or electronic) for all industrial ICCAT fisheries, and all vessels engaged in at-sea transshipment, by 2024.

**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?***

Adopt a workplan for the Compliance Committee 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 also offers guidelines for implementing non-entangling and biodegradable FADs.

Three ISSF conservation measures focus on shark and bycatch mitigation.

Two ISSF conservation measures focus on FAD management.

## Pew Charitable Trusts

The Pew Charitable Trusts welcomes the opportunity to participate in the 27th Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. We appreciate the work of the Secretariat, Chair, and members to convene a virtual meeting due to the continuing extraordinary situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic. As ICCAT did not hold a formal, virtual meeting of the Commission in 2020, there is a very busy agenda with many CPC proposals that Pew encourages the Commission to adopt. There are substantial opportunities to advance conservation and management of Atlantic tunas and reduce any remaining opportunities for illegal operators at this meeting. As such, Pew urges ICCAT to address the following items:

- ***Adopt a shortfin mako rebuilding program with a high probability of recovering the north Atlantic population over the already long timelines identified by the SCRS*** – A north Atlantic shortfin mako recovery plan must be agreed this year to slow and eventually reverse the highly concerning decline expected for this population over the next several years. There was substantial progress made at the October intersessional meeting of Panel 4 towards development of more effective management, and Pew urges CPCs to build on that momentum to adopt a new measure that reduces total mortality to a sustainable level.
- ***Adopt proposal PWG-414 to close remaining loopholes in ICCAT’s management of transshipment activity*** – ICCAT has the opportunity to be the first of the tuna RFMOs to improve its original transshipment measure by addressing weaknesses that may be allowing illegally-caught tuna, shark, and swordfish products to continue to enter the supply chain. Transshipment reform has been on ICCAT’s agenda since 2019, and PWG-414 incorporates feedback received at IMM and in consultations that have taken place since then. The proposal should be supported by all CPCs and adopted without delay.
- ***Adopt a west Atlantic bluefin tuna TAC no higher than 2,444 t*** – Based on this year’s stock assessment, the SCRS has concluded that a rollover over from the current TAC of 2350 t or a slight increase would be acceptable. However, the SCRS and an independent reviewer cautioned managers about using the assessment as a basis for management due to a variety of concerns. Thus, we urge managers to exercise restraint in setting a TAC for 2022, and if allowing for a quota increase, to cap that at 4%, as supported by an analysis conducted by the SCRS in response to the independent reviewer’s concerns.
- ***Adopt proposal PWG-416 that would expand ICCAT’s requirement to obtain unique vessel identification numbers from the International Maritime Organization to additional vessels*** – In 2017, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) increased the number of vessels that are eligible to obtain an IMO number, providing compliance and enforcement officers with a key tool to correctly identify vessels. While ICCAT requires IMO numbers for some vessels, it is critical that it takes the step of extending that requirement to all eligible vessels. This would not only support ICCAT’s oversight and enforcement efforts, but would align it with international best practice, including measures in force by all other major tuna RFMOs.
- ***Adopt proposal PWG-415 that would require CPCs to prevent their nationals from benefitting from or supporting IUU fishing activities*** – To successfully prevent IUU fishing, it is important that governments have the ability to prevent their nationals, natural or legal persons subject to their jurisdiction, from not only engaging in IUU fishing but also from benefitting from or supporting such activities, even if they fish under another State’s flag or do not fish at all. Illegal fishing should not be something that bad actors can find ways to continue doing by changing their flag, ownership, or vessel registration, and associated institutions should be held to a high standard to prevent this activity from threatening sustainability or encroaching on the livelihoods of law-abiding fishing operations. ICCAT managers should be supporting this proposal as an important step to preventing illegal ICCAT products from reaching consumers around the world.

- ***Adopt a full management procedure for north Atlantic albacore that includes an exceptional circumstances protocol, marking a first for ICCAT*** – The north Atlantic albacore harvest control rule was the first adopted by ICCAT and has already proven to be successful, with the Commission able to implement the rule and raise the TAC in 2020, despite the cancellation of the Commission meeting. But implementation of an HCR is just one step of a comprehensive, effective management procedure. ICCAT now needs to convert the HCR to a full management procedure, complete with an exceptional circumstances protocol, in order to ensure this approach leads to tested, effective management over the long term. CPCs should submit or support a proposal to combine existing north Atlantic albacore measures into a single, complete management procedure.
- ***Adopt PWG-418 that would establish a working group to develop an electronic monitoring program for ICCAT fisheries*** – There is an increasing recognition among CPCs that electronic monitoring can be an important component of observer coverage for both science and compliance purposes. Development of a successful EM program will require drafting minimum standards and consultations among CPCs, between scientists and managers, and with stakeholders. Pew urges the Commission to support the efforts to establish an ad hoc working group to complete these tasks, which were included in multiple recommendations in 2019 and were originally due for Commission consideration this year.
- ***Advance the development of management strategy evaluation (MSE) for the Atlantic bluefin stocks, the tropical tunas, and other priority stocks*** – MSE continues to be an important tool to ensure that management procedures under consideration by ICCAT Panels have been properly tested and are robust to uncertainties. The MSE process for Atlantic bluefin has been ongoing for seven years and is now nearing an end. However, to conduct the series of meetings in 2022 necessary to finalize the bluefin MSE, the Commission must adopt the workplan and calendar as recommended by the SCRS. It is also an appropriate time to increase support for MSE development for western skipjack, the other tropical tunas, and north Atlantic swordfish – all efforts that are underway at the SCRS. 2022 will be a big year for the consideration and adoption of management procedures, and it is important to endorse this work at the meeting this year.

Additionally, there are other items that ICCAT must address this year, including bigeye tuna management, yellowfin tuna TAC overages, and a variety of additional strong proposals at the Permanent Working Group. While this makes for an extensive list of priorities due to a backlog of items from last year, there has been substantial intersessional work completed on all of these items. Pew urges the Commission and member governments to capitalize on the significant intersessional progress this year and address all necessary business. As each Panel and Working Group begins its work, please refer to our opening statements for more information about the issues highlighted above.

### **Pro Wildlife**

Pro Wildlife regrets that Recommendation PA4-807 has not been accepted, as only a fins-naturally-attached policy enables proper enforcement in shark fisheries.

With regards to Recommendation PA4-809D:

Pro Wildlife applauds Canada, Gabon, Senegal and the UK for their engagement to finally achieve measures to enable a rebuilding of the North Atlantic shortfin mako shark. This is a huge step forward into the right direction – after years of controversial debates.

While a maximum landing quota of 250 tons is an impressive achievement, compared to catch volumes in the past, we are, however, disappointed that Panel 4 did not follow the scientific advice for an immediate retention ban or at least a maximum catch quota, which would ensure a 70% probability of success by 2070.

We fear that a maximum total catch of 250 tons per year is hardly to enforce. However, we welcome an interim retention ban for 2022, especially as the CITES Authorities of the European Union since January 2021 already have banned a landing of North Atlantic mako sharks introduced from the Sea, in the absence of solid Non-Detriment Finding.

We also wish to highlight that without a proper reporting of discards any future sustainable management of the mako shark will fail. Accordingly, the main mako fishing CPCs in the North Atlantic, Morocco and the EU (for Spain and Portugal) are urged to report their discard data.

Finally, we urge CPCs to continue efforts to achieve a science-based TAC for South Atlantic mako sharks.

### **SharkProject International**

We acknowledge the current and past challenges for the Commission in face of the COVID pandemic to fulfil its mission for a sustainable management of ICCAT stocks and for driving urgently needed improvements over these last two years. However, as recognised at UNFCCC COP26 the ocean crisis has to be in the centre of the discussion when talking about the climate crisis and therefore actions to restore ocean resilience are indeed vital. Healthy marine ecosystems are inevitable for long-term food security from sustainable use of marine resources. Therefore, we sincerely hope seeing major improvements and agreements at this year's Meeting, setting a path forward for restoring ocean health and ending the loss of biodiversity.

At the start of this 27th Commission Meeting we therefore call to all delegations and nations to stop protecting the economic interests of their national fishing industries but to jointly work towards a common vision to stop overfishing, to reduce the bycatch of threatened species, to restore overfished stocks as quickly as possible, to improve transparency and monitoring, and to combat IUU, forced labour and all kinds of unsustainable exploitation; applying a precautionary approach in face of existing or upcoming uncertainties and consistently following scientific advice, using best available science for decision making, and swift implementation of improved management and conservation measures are needed.

SHARKPROJECT specifically would like to highlight the following topics calling for urgent attention:

**Shortfin mako:** The Commission must urgently implement a retention ban in the North Atlantic and a TAC in the South Atlantic applying a precautionary approach in line with scientific advice from SCRS. Despite the clear scientific advice from the SCRS for an immediate retention ban for Northern Shortfin Mako as an immediate measure followed by additional measures to avoid interaction and reduce mortality, ICCAT has failed since 2017 to implement effective measures to stop overfishing and start the rebuilding of this stock. A recently published legal opinion concludes: "a precautionary approach in line with the UNFSA would require a temporary retention ban at least until 2035, preferably until 2045. Such a measure would account for many of the current uncertainties and increase the chances for successful implementation and rebuilding of the NA-SMA stock in accordance with the best available scientific information."

The new proposal PA4-809 demonstrates the willingness of CPCs to work towards a solution but it still falls substantially short of a workable plan for rebuilding of this stock to BMSY by 2070 with a high probability of success and at least a probability of 50% by 2045, the shortest possible timeframe projected by SCRS. Planning for retention and calculating potential allocation scenarios via complicated equations as suggested by one of the CPCs instead of focusing on improved data collection, effective measures to reduce total total mortality and improved monitoring for compliance with a temporary retention ban will not deliver on the required outcome. Therefore, the proposed alternative from another CPC proposing a complete retention ban for 2022 and 2023 and to restart discussions based on verified total mortalities in 2024 is certainly the better alternative, but still falls short of the precautionary approach needed for a stock that will continue to decline at least until 2035 even at a fishing mortality of zero. Only by then will we be able to really evaluate whether the implemented measures have been effective and will allow rebuilding of this stock within our lifetime or within the next 50 years at all.

Landings from the South Atlantic have increased by more than 500 t in 2020 compared to 2019 figures and almost no data on discards have been provided by CPCs for the South Atlantic. Therefore, the Commission should at least agree on a TAC of not more than 2001 t as advised by the SCRS to stop overfishing in order to avoid a similar development as in the North Atlantic.

**Blue sharks:** In 2019 Rec 19-08 for the first time has defined a TAC for blue sharks at ICCAT. However, in 2020 landings exceeded the defined TAC for the South Atlantic by more than 4500 t. Therefore, we do not consider the postponement to 2023 for the review of a new TAC and the discussion on the development of HCRs as proposed in PA4-805 to be sufficiently precautionary for this shark species; especially since blue sharks are one of the major target species in the Atlantic and have been exploited massively over the last decades by many of ICCAT's CPCs without appropriate management measures in place.

**Fins naturally attached:** SHARKPROJECT requests that all sharks and all other cartilaginous fish (rays, chimaeras) should be landed with Fins Naturally Attached and that all at sea trans-shipment of sharks in full or parts should be prohibited with all trans-shipment activities always requiring 100% monitoring by observers and an established electronic monitoring system.

We welcome proposal PA4-807 and urge the Commission to adopt this call for CPCs "to prohibit the removal of shark fins at sea and require that all sharks be landed with their fins naturally attached (fully or partially) through the point of first landing of the shark." We support the proposed ban of trans-shipment or landing of separate fins and the request for improved gear specificity to avoid shark bycatch and improved data recording on shark bycatch, but would appreciate a more detailed requirement including increased observer coverage at ICCAT and at increased scrutiny for at port inspections. ICCAT should finally introduce the globally acknowledged best practice and only effective measure to stop finning. This step has been long time overdue especially in view of the dramatic conservation situation of sharks at a global level and the major shark fishing activities of many CPCs in the ICCAT convention.

**Improvements in monitoring and transparency:** SHARKPROJECT expects that all industrial fishing fleets should demonstrate high to very high levels of transparency and monitoring. This could be accomplished by a combination of human observers and a functional and proven electronic monitoring system to document both, catch and bycatch, the condition of the bycatch upon release, and to ensure compliance with all conservation measures and regulations without putting observers at risk when seen as law enforcement bodies instead of scientific observers. Furthermore, all fishing activities should be transparently traceable at all times and all vessels must transmit their position via AIS and VMS systems at all times in line with existing regulations. Also artisanal fisheries should be supported to provide more data and transparency.

Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing must be effectively combated via international cooperation between all Regional Fisheries Management Organisations by imposing severe penalties for violations and increasing transparency and data exchange between RFMOs. The submitted proposals PWG-415, PWG-408, PWG-411, PWF-416, and especially proposal PWG-418 are a welcome start into this direction and should therefore be adopted by the Commission.

**Transformation towards improved Selectivity of Fishing Gear and continuous Bycatch Reduction:** SHARKPROJECT considers the progressive reduction of all bycatch, whether observed or unobserved bycatch, as well as the impacts from ghost fishing, via improved bycatch avoidance strategies and by testing and subsequent implementation of technical improvements as an essential improvement step. All fishing gear and practices should demonstrate improved selectivity and to reduce any negative impact on the marine ecosystem to the absolute minimum possible. PA4-811 recommends the introduction of large circle hooks and/or finfish bait to reduce the bycatch and increase post release survival of sea turtles in surface longline. We welcome these technical improvements especially as they may also be able to reduce shark bycatch and increase the post release survival of sharks. For all bycatch classified as threatened and/or protected by national, international, or multilateral agreements, effective management plans should be established to maintain or if already overfished, to rebuild these populations at least to pre-1970 population levels. The adopted measures should allow the recovery of the stock with a high probability and within the shortest possible period of time, accounting for species-specific characteristics and uncertainties. In the absence of scientific reference points or significant projection models, the precautionary principle should always be applied assuming a "worst case" scenario for the species and mandating the most effective measures. Maximum mortality limits should be defined for each of these species when caught as bycatch in an ICCAT fishery. Appropriate management regulations need to be in place to ensure such mortality limits are not exceeded including but not limited to timely or spatial closures of the fishery or the suspension of certain fishing gear to ensure agreed mortality limits are not exceeded.



**Improvements for Purse Seine Fisheries using drifting FADs** are outlined in the joint statement PA1-408 from IPNLF. SHARKPROJECT re-emphasises the importance of a swift transition to lifetime non-entangling and biodegradable FAD designs without further delays and to intensify research and implementation of improved avoidance measures. The high bycatch rates of juvenile silky sharks are of great concern due to the association patterns of these animals with dFADs and can't be resolved by improved release handling alone. Due to the high vulnerability and high post release mortality rates of these juvenile sharks measures to avoid setting on them in the first place are urgently required.

### **World Wildlife Fund for Nature**

The COVID-19 pandemic still determines considerable challenges to fisheries management in all Oceans. The current circumstances required that all ICCAT meetings scheduled in 2020 and 2021 be held virtually. WWF acknowledges the increased effort of the ICCAT Secretariat and CPCs to manage this situation and understands the need to prioritize interventions and the agenda of the 27th Regular meeting of the Commission. Below, the issues that WWF considers most critical, and that Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties (CPCs) should urgently address.

#### **Shortfin mako shark**

The status of shortfin mako shark in the North Atlantic requires acting with no further delay. Reported catches in 2020 were significantly higher than the level recommended by the SCRS and inconsistent with the targets to recover the stock. ICCAT CPCs repeatedly failed to adopt a recovery plan for the North Atlantic stock of shortfin mako shark, while the state of the stock continues to be critical.

WWF believes that a holistic approach that would consider and tackle the different elements and threats, would result in being effective in the long term. This would include setting catch limits aiming at gradually achieving a zero-retention policy, while at the same time introducing mechanism to improve data collection, adopt area/time-based management, technical measures on fishing gears, safe handling and best practices for the release of live specimens. We consider all those elements to be crucial for an effective and comprehensive rebuilding plan aiming at mitigating bycatch, reducing all kinds of mortalities and increasing post-release survival. To this end, it is essential that any conservation measure is supported by robust monitoring, investments in research, effective control, surveillance and reliable reporting from CPCs.

#### *Key asks*

- WWF urges all CPCs to spare no efforts adopting with no further delay a comprehensive recovery plan for shortfin mako shark, to immediately start reverting the declining trend of the stock in the North Atlantic.
- In addition and for all sharks species, WWF asks all CPCs to make further efforts to finally progress on the adoption of a fins naturally attached policy, following the remarkable steps forward already undertaken by NAFO (2017), GFCM (2018) and partially IOTC (2018) in this direction.

#### **Tropical tuna stocks**

The 2021 stock assessment of Bigeye tuna (*Thunnus obesus*) included significant changes in natural mortality assumptions, abundance indices and fleet structure, resulting in more optimistic estimations than the ones provided by the SCRS in 2018. Although the trend of the Bigeye stock status in the Atlantic Ocean seems to be encouraging, the existing sources of uncertainty that still undermine the stock assessment, call for a precautionary approach in changing the management measures currently in place for this stock.

Annual catches of Yellowfin tuna (*Thunnus albacares*) continue to be repeatedly above the TAC, including in 2020. In order to prevent overfishing of this stock, precautionary catch limits should be maintained, and a solid allocation of the TAC, adopted.

For both the East and Western Atlantic stocks of Skipjack (*Katsuwonus pelamis*), the last available scientific assessment dates back to 2014, showing the stocks to be likely not overfished, nor in overfishing. The unavailability of updated scientific information prevents managers from taking any decision for the management of these stocks.

#### *Key asks*

- WWF fully supports the management recommendation of the SCRS to adopt a precautionary TAC that would shift the stock status of Bigeye tuna towards the green zone of the Kobe plot with a high probability. Maintaining a TAC of 61,500 t is considered to be a level that allows meeting this objective with 97% of probability by 2034.
- WWF calls on CPCs to adopt a precautionary catch limit below 110,000 t and to urgently agree on an allocation scheme for the Yellowfin tuna stock in the Atlantic to ensure an effective monitoring system that prevents overfishing.
- WWF urges the Commission to mandate the SCRS to update the Skipjack stock assessment in 2022.
- WWF supports the development of a management strategy evaluation (MSE) for stocks managed under ICCAT and urges the Commission to devote resources to fast track this process for tropical tuna, following the path already undertaken for other temperate tuna.

#### ***FADs management***

Fishing Aggregating Devices (FADs) deployed by the Atlantic purse seine fisheries, significantly contribute to the overfished state of Bigeye tuna due to its high catch of juveniles of both Bigeye and Yellowfin tuna. WWF strongly believes that the use of FADs in the Atlantic needs to be further regulated, besides the provisions of ICCAT Recommendation 19-02, to limit their impact on stocks and ecosystems.

Improved management, monitoring, compliance and transparency should include:

#### *Key asks*

- Science-based limits on FADs use (number, deployments and/or FAD sets) that are consistent with management objectives for tropical tunas.
- Investigation of the impact of FAD fishing mortality on juvenile Yellowfin/Bigeye tuna using Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) as an indicator.
- The requirement that all FADs be marked in accordance with the FAO Guidelines on the marking of fishing gears for all new FAD deployments to ensure that a FAD is tracked for its entire lifetime.
- The development and implementation of FADs ownership rules and definitions, to ensure FADs accountability is maintained through the end of their lifetime.
- The requirement for the fleets to develop a fully transparent FAD recovery and retrieval policy that reduces marine debris and stranding, including through systems to alert coastal countries of derelict FADs.
- Investments in research to identify deployment areas that are highly likely to result in stranding on sensitive habitats and to identify areas of high incidence of stranding events and positional data on stranded FADs to enable targeted recovery.
- The requirement that the activation of operational buoys, as defined by the joint tuna RFMO FAD meeting in 2019, occur exclusively onboard, prior to deployment and development of clear rules for deactivation of FAD buoys at sea.

- The requirement of near-real time reporting of electronic data on FADs (buoy tracks and echosounders estimates of biomass) and reporting of FAD use in a standardized format to the ICCAT Secretariat and fishery authorities, ensuring independent verification and public reporting of these metrics.
- The extension of FAD management measures to all vessels engaged in supply and tender activities, with specific identification on the List of Authorized Vessels of what activities supply and tender vessels are engaged in, whether they are acting as bait boats, servicing FADs, or engaging in fishing.
- 100% observer coverage (human and/or electronic), including for vessels engaged in supply and tender activities.
- Measures to limit interactions with Endangered Threatened and Protected (ETP) species (such as avoiding hotspots) and conduct research to develop and implement further avoidance measures on non-target species (including sea turtles) impacted by FAD fishing, including banning the use of nets in non-entangling FADs.

### ***Mediterranean albacore***

The outcome of the stock assessment for Mediterranean albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*) in 2021, flagged that the stock is overfished and subject to overfishing (in the red zone of the Kobe plot with 73,8% of probability).

#### *Key asks*

- WWF calls on CPCs to take action to revert the declining trend of the stock of Mediterranean albacore in time, following the scientific advice and introduce catch limits to reduce fishing mortality and allow the stock to recover with at least 60% of probability by 2029.

### ***Atlantic bluefin tuna***

WWF acknowledges the effort of the SCRS to advance on Bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) management strategy evaluation (MSE) development process in ICCAT. This is a fundamental tool to manage both stocks of the Atlantic and Mediterranean in the long term, that should be adopted with no delay.

Proposals to improve control measures for the trade of live bluefin tuna were delayed in 2020 due to the impact that Covid-19 had on the Commission meeting last year. Considering the progress made in the intersessional work this year, we call on CPCs to agree on key additional measures to strengthen controls for the trade of live bluefin tuna, especially regarding farming activities.

#### *Key asks*

- WWF urges the Commission to allocate all the needed resources to ensure the adoption of an interim Management Procedure (MP) at the annual meeting of the Commission in 2022, according to the roadmap of the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) discussed this year.
- WWF urges CPCs to agree on additional control measures to strengthen Recommendation 19-04, especially regarding the trade of live bluefin tuna and farming activities.

### ***Mediterranean swordfish***

The first stock assessment run in June 2020, after the implementation of Recommendation 16-05, highlighted the concerning picture of significant gaps in catch reports, especially for juveniles that are caught below the minimum catch size and are largely discarded dead at sea, with very limited information returned to the system for effective management. Despite the scarcity of data, the estimation that scientists provided is that the mortality of undersized fish is about 24% of the total catches, representing a real threat to the effectiveness of the rebuilding plan itself.

*Key asks*

- WWF urges ICCAT CPCs to take action to effectively minimize juvenile mortality, improve fisheries' traceability and reporting, to secure the recovery of this stock.

**Transparency and anti-IUU measures**

WWF calls on ICCAT CPCs to support the following measures to foster transparency, improve monitoring and tackle IUU fishing for all ICCAT fisheries.

*Key asks*

- Strengthen the implementation of Recommendation 06-14, in order to prevent CPCs nationals from deriving benefits from or supporting IUU fishing.
- Targeted amendment of Recommendation 13-13, to ensure that all eligible fishing vessels above 12 meters have an IMO number in line with international best practices and with the latest IMO eligibility criteria.
- Strengthen transshipments oversight and management through amending Recommendation 16-15, to clarify reporting requirements, mandating centralized VMS reporting, and strengthening controls on supply and non-CPC carrier vessels.
- Increase observer coverage on longlines by at least 10% of active vessels by 2022, with the target to increase to at least 20% by 2024, in accordance with the SCRS advice to reach this level to adequately monitor longline fisheries for scientific purposes.
- Develop a Regional Observer Program for tropical tuna fisheries.

**The Shark Trust and Ecology Action Centre**

The Shark Trust and Ecology Action Centre congratulate Canada, the UK, Senegal, and Gabon for their leadership in securing a truly historic measure for rebuilding North Atlantic shortfin mako sharks. We are also pleased that the US has accepted the scientific advice for a full North Atlantic prohibition and has introduced critical elements necessary for safeguarding similarly vulnerable longfin makos. We strongly urge Parties to now focus on augmenting rather than relaxing this critical new recovery initiative.

We remind Parties that slow growing makos need many decades to recover from overfishing. Their life history characteristics warrant a precautionary management approach, including the incorporation of a 70% probability of success (at least). The new North Atlantic retention ban must be given ample time to work. Resuming landings from an exceptionally vulnerable and depleted shark population before rebuilding even begins would be particularly egregious.

We look forward to the development and implementation of more specific scientific advice for reducing mako bycatch and associated mortality, across the Atlantic. We also urge Parties to promptly continue efforts to establish a science-based catch limit for South Atlantic shortfin makos, allocate the South Atlantic TAC for blue sharks, and strengthen the finning ban with a requirement that all sharks be landed with their fins still naturally attached.

Last, as a foundational matter for future negotiations, we object to the suggestion (made in Panel 4) that the conservation positions of Parties with high mako catches (particularly when due to the lack of basic fishing limits) should somehow carry more weight than those of Parties that have followed science unilaterally or, for another reason, decided not to exploit a population. We cannot agree that ICCAT's consequential decisions (often affecting the health of entire ocean ecosystems) should be left primarily to vested interests, or that fishing without limit, especially when scientists advise cutting back, should be rewarded with added negotiating clout.

## RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY ICCAT IN 2021

21-01

TRO

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT REPLACING RECOMMENDATION 19-02 REPLACING RECOMMENDATION 16-01 ON A MULTI-ANNUAL CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME FOR TROPICAL TUNAS**

*RECALLING* the current multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas;

*NOTING* that the stocks of bigeye and yellowfin tuna are currently overfished, and that bigeye tuna is also subject to overfishing;

*RECOGNISING* that the TAC for bigeye tuna for 2017 was exceeded by more than 20% and that this level of catch is projected to reduce the probability to reach the Convention objectives by 2028 is less than 10%;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* that the TAC for yellowfin tuna was also exceeded in 2016 by 37% and by 26% in 2017;

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* that Recommendation 11-13 on the Principles for Decision Making on Conservation and Management Measures of ICCAT mandates that for stocks that are overfished and subject to overfishing (i.e., stocks in the red quadrant of the Kobe plot), the Commission shall immediately adopt management measures, taking into account, *inter alia*, the biology of the stock and SCRS advice, designed to result in a high probability of ending overfishing in as short a period as possible. In addition, the Commission shall adopt a plan to rebuild these stocks taking into account, *inter alia*, the biology of the stock and SCRS advice;

*TAKING FURTHER INTO ACCOUNT* that it is necessary to explore alternative and more effective systems or regimes for the management of tropical tunas and for this the SCRS' recommendation is required;

*CONSIDERING* that the SCRS continues to recommend that effective measures be found to reduce FAD-related and other fishing mortality of small yellowfin and bigeye tuna;

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the recommendations made by the Panel on the Second ICCAT Performance Review regarding the carryover of underage of catches from one year to another;

*FURTHER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the recommendations made by the first meeting of the Joint Tuna RFMO FAD Working Group and the third meeting of ICCAT's *Ad Hoc* Working Group on FADs, on FAD management objectives and the availability of FAD management measures to reduce juvenile tuna mortality;

*NOTING* that the SCRS has advised that increased harvests on FADs as well as other fisheries as well as development of new fisheries could have had negative consequences for the productivity of bigeye and yellowfin tuna fisheries (e.g. reduced yield at MSY);

*FURTHER NOTING* that support vessels contribute to the increase in efficiency and capacity of purse seiner vessels using FADs and that the number of support vessels has increased significantly over the years;

*RECALLING* the significant body of international law that recognizes the rights and special requirements of developing States, including but not limited to, as applicable, Article 119 of UNCLOS and Article 25 and Part VII of UNFSA;

*RECOGNISING* the interests of developing coastal States to develop their fishing opportunities, and committing to achieve a more equitable distribution of fishing opportunities to developing coastal States over time;

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

**PART I**  
**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

***Interim conservation and management measures***

1. Without prejudice to the allocation of fishing rights and opportunities to be adopted in the future, for the year 2022, the Contracting Parties and the Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as CPCs) with vessels that have been actively fishing for tropical tunas in the Atlantic will apply the following interim management measures with the objective of reducing current levels of fishing mortality of tropical tunas, in particular small bigeye and yellowfin, while the Commission obtains additional scientific advice to adopt a long-term multi-annual management and rebuilding programme.

***Multi-annual Management, Conservation, and Rebuilding Programme***

2. CPCs whose vessels have been actively fishing for tropical tunas in the Atlantic shall implement a 15-year rebuilding programme for bigeye tuna starting in 2020 and continuing through 2034, with the goal of achieving  $B_{MSY}$  with a probability of more than 50%. CPCs shall also implement management measures with the objectives of ensuring that the stocks of yellowfin and skipjack tuna continue to be exploited sustainably.

**PART II**  
**CATCH LIMITS**

***Catch limits for bigeye tuna***

3. The Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for bigeye tuna shall be 62,000 t in 2022. The TAC for 2023 and future years shall be considered in 2022 on the basis of SCRS advice.
4. As an interim measure for 2022, the following provisions shall apply:
  - a) CPCs with catch limits greater than 10,000 t in para. 3 of Rec. 16-01, shall apply a 21% reduction to those catch limits.
  - b) CPCs that are not captured by (a) that have a recent average catch<sup>1</sup> of greater than 3,500 t, shall apply a catch limit that is 17% less than their recent average catch or their catch limit in para. 3 of Rec. 16-01.
  - c) CPCs that have a recent average catch of between 1,000 and 3,500 t shall apply a catch limit that is 10% less than their recent average catch.
  - d) Those CPCs with recent average catch of less than 1,000 t are encouraged to maintain catch and effort at recent levels.
5. The provisions of paragraph 4 of this Recommendation shall not prejudice the rights and obligations under international law of those developing coastal CPCs in the Convention Area whose current fishing activity for bigeye tuna is limited or non-existent, but that have a real interest in fishing for the species, that may wish to develop their own fisheries targeting bigeye tuna in the future. CPCs shall implement robust monitoring, control and surveillance measures, as applicable in relation to their capacity and resources.

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<sup>1</sup> Recent average catch for the purposes of paragraph 4 means the annual average catch for the 4-year period 2014-2017 or the average of real catches for the 5-year period 2014-2018 if in that period the catch was equal to zero in any of those years.

6. Small scale artisanal fishers shall be given special consideration to their specificities and needs.
7. The annual quotas and catch limits described in this Recommendation do not constitute long term rights and are without prejudice to any future process of allocation.
8. Korea may transfer up to 223 t of its bigeye tuna fishing possibilities to Chinese Taipei in 2022<sup>2</sup>.
9. If the total catch exceeds in any year the relevant TAC specified in paragraph 3, the Commission shall review these measures.

***Underage or overage of catch of bigeye tuna***

10. Overage of an annual catch limit for CPCs listed in paragraph 4 for bigeye tuna shall be deducted from the annual catch limit of the following year:

<i>Year of catch</i>	<i>Adjustment Year</i>
2018	2020
2019	2021
2020	2022
2021	2023
2022	2024

11. Notwithstanding paragraph 10, if any CPC exceeds its annual catch limit:
  - a) In one year, then the amount deducted in the adjustment year shall be determined as 100% of the overage; and
  - b) During any two consecutive years, the Commission will recommend appropriate measures, which shall include reduction in the catch limit equal to 125% of the excess harvest.
12. 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 of Rec. 16-01.

***Monitoring of catch***

13. CPCs shall report quarterly to the Secretariat the amount of tropical tunas (by species) caught by vessels flying their flag, within 30 days of the end of the period during which the catches were made.
14. For purse seiners and large longline vessels (LOA 20m or greater), CPCs shall report on a monthly basis, increasing to weekly when 80% of their catch limits have been caught.
15. The Secretariat shall notify all CPCs once 80% of the TAC has been caught.
16. CPCs shall report to the ICCAT Secretariat the dates when their entire catch limit of bigeye tuna has been utilized. The ICCAT Secretariat shall promptly circulate this information to all CPCs.

***TAC for yellowfin tuna***

17. The annual TAC for 2020 and subsequent years of the Multi-annual Programme is 110,000 t for yellowfin tuna and shall remain in place until changed based on scientific advice.
18. Based on the stock assessment and SCRS advice, the Commission shall adopt additional conservation measures for yellowfin tuna at the 2022 annual meeting, which may include a revised TAC, closures or allocated catch limits.

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<sup>2</sup> Japan may transfer up to 600 t of bigeye tuna fishing possibilities to China and up to 300 t of bigeye tuna fishing possibilities to the European Union.

19. If the total catch exceeds in any year the TAC in paragraph 17, the Commission shall consider additional management measures for yellowfin tuna. Any other measures shall recognise the obligations of international law and the rights of CPC developing coastal States.

### **Fishing Plans**

20. CPCs should provide ICCAT with a fishing and capacity management plan on how they will implement any catch reductions necessary as a result of paragraph 4.
21. Any developing CPC intending to increase its participation in ICCAT fisheries for tropical tunas shall endeavor to prepare a statement of its development intentions for tropical tuna with the purpose of informing other CPCs of potential changes in the fishery over time. These statements should include details of proposed/potential fleet additions, including vessel size and gear type. The statements shall be submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat and be made available to all CPCs. Those CPCs may amend their statement as their situation and opportunities change.

## **PART III CAPACITY MANAGEMENT MEASURES**

### ***Capacity limitation for tropical tunas***

22. A capacity limitation shall be applied for the duration of the Multi-annual Programme, in accordance with the following provisions:
- a) By 31 January each year, each CPC fishing with recent average catches of more than 1,000 t for tropical tuna shall produce an annual capacity/fishing plan that outlines how that CPC will ensure that its overall longline and purse seine fleet capacity will be managed to ensure that the CPC can meet its obligation to limit the catch of bigeye, and its yellowfin and skipjack catches, consistent with the catch limit established under paragraph 4.
  - b) Any CPCs with recent average catches of less than 1,000 t that have planned an expansion of capacity in 2022, will provide a declaration by 31 January 2022.
  - c) The Compliance Committee shall annually review CPCs' compliance with capacity management measures.
23. Any CPC having vessels that operate, part-time or full-time, in support of purse seiners shall report the names and characteristics of all of their vessels to the ICCAT Secretariat, including which of those vessels were active in 2019 in the ICCAT Convention area, and the names of the purse seiner(s) that received the support of each support vessel. This information shall be reported no later than 31 January 2020. The Secretariat shall prepare a report for the Commission to be able to consider the type of limitation that support vessels shall be subject to in the future, including a phasing-out plan, where required. Notwithstanding this, CPCs shall not increase the number of support vessels from the numbers recorded by the time of adoption of this measure.
24. For the purposes of this measure, a support vessel is defined as any vessel that carries out activities in support of purse seine vessels that increases the efficiency of their operations including, but not limited to deploying, servicing and retrieving FADs.



## **PART IV MANAGEMENT OF FADs**

### ***FAD management objectives***

25. The general objectives for management of FADs and support vessels in the Convention area are defined as follows:
- a) To minimize potential impacts that high FAD density may have on purse seine fishing efficiency, while minimizing disproportionate impacts to the fishing opportunities of fleets that use other gear or other fishing strategies while also targeting tropical tunas;
  - b) To minimize the impact of FAD fishing on the productivity of bigeye and yellowfin stocks that result from the capture of high numbers of juveniles that aggregate with skipjack on FADs;
  - c) To minimize the impact of FAD fishing on non-target species, where appropriate, including entanglement of marine species, particularly those of conservation concern;
  - d) To minimize the impact of FADs and FAD fishing on pelagic and coastal ecosystems, including by preventing the beaching, stranding or grounding of FADs in sensitive habitats or the alteration of pelagic habitat.

### ***FAD closure***

26. For the purpose of this Recommendation, the following definitions shall apply:
- i. Floating object (FOB): Any natural or artificial floating (i.e. surface or subsurface) object with no capability of moving on its own. FADs are those FOBs that are man-made and intentionally deployed and/or tracked. Logs are those FOBs that are accidentally lost from anthropic and natural sources.
  - ii. Fish-Aggregating device (FAD): Permanent, semi-permanent or temporary object, structure or device of any material, man-made or natural, which is deployed and/or tracked, and used to aggregate fish for subsequent capture. FADs can either be anchored (aFADs) or drifting (dFADs).
  - iii. FAD set: Setting a fishing gear around a tuna school associated with a FAD.
  - iv. Operational buoy: Any instrumented buoy, previously activated, switched on and deployed at sea, which transmits position and any other available information such as eco-sounder estimates.
  - v. Activation: The act of enabling satellite communication services by the buoy supplier company at the request of the buoy owner. The owner then starts paying fees for communication services. The buoy can be transmitting or not, depending if it has been manually switched on.
27. In order to reduce the fishing mortality of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tunas, purse seine and baitboat vessels fishing for, or vessels supporting activities to fish for, bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas in association with FADs in the high seas or EEZs shall be prohibited during a seventy-two-day period in 2022, as indicated in paragraph 28 below.
28. 1 January to 13 March 2022, throughout the Convention area. This should be reviewed and, if necessary, revised based on advice by the SCRS taking into account monthly trends in free school and FAD-associated catches and the monthly variability in the proportion of juvenile tuna in catches. SCRS should provide this advice to the Commission in 2022.
29. In addition, each CPC shall ensure its vessels do not deploy drifting FADs during a period of 15 days prior to the start of the closure period.

***FAD limitations***

30. CPCs shall ensure that, for vessels flying their flag, the following limits shall apply on the number of FADs with operational buoys at any one time according to definitions given in paragraph 26. The number of FADs with operational buoys will be verified through the verification of telecommunication bills. Such verifications shall be conducted by the competent authorities of the CPCs:

- 2022: 300 FADs per vessel

31. With a view to establishing FAD set limits to keep the catches of juvenile tropical tunas at sustainable levels, in 2022 SCRS should inform the Commission about the maximum number of FAD sets which should be established per vessel or per CPC. To support this analysis, CPCs with purse seine vessels shall urgently undertake to report to the SCRS by 31 July 2022 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.

In addition, each CPC with purse seine fishing vessels is encouraged not to increase its total fishing effort on FADs from its 2018 level. CPCs shall report the difference between the 2018 level and the 2020 level to the 2021 Commission meeting.

32. CPCs may authorize their purse seine vessels to set on floating objects provided that the fishing vessel has either an observer or a functioning electronic monitoring system on board which is capable of verifying set type, species composition, and providing information on fishing activities to the SCRS.
33. Further analysis shall be conducted by the SCRS on the impact of support vessels on the catches of juvenile yellowfin and bigeye tuna to be considered in 2022.

***FAD Management Plans***

34. CPCs with purse seine and/or baitboat vessels fishing for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas in association with FADs, shall submit to the Executive Secretary Management Plans for the use of aggregating devices by vessels flying their flag by 31 January each year.

35. The objective of the FAD Management Plans shall be the following:

- i. improve the knowledge about FAD characteristics, buoy characteristics, FAD fishing, including fishing effort of purse seiners and associated support vessels, and related impacts on target and non-target species;
- ii. effectively manage the deployment and recovery of FADs, the activation of buoys and their potential loss;
- iii. reduce and limit the impacts of FADs and FAD fishing on the ecosystem, including, where appropriate, by acting on the different components of the fishing mortality (e.g. number of deployed FADs, including number of FADs set by purse seiners, fishing capacity, number of support vessels).

36. The Plans shall be drawn up by following the Guidelines for Preparation of FAD Management Plans as provided in **Annex 1**.

***FAD logbook and list of deployed FADs***

37. CPCs shall ensure that all purse seine and baitboat fishing vessels and all support vessels (including supply vessels) flying their flag, and/or authorized by CPCs to fish in areas under their jurisdiction, when fishing in association with or deploying FADs, collect and report, for each deployment of a FAD, each visit on a FAD, whether followed or not by a set, or each loss of a FAD, the following information and data:

- a) Deployment of any FAD
  - i. Position
  - ii. Date
  - iii. FAD type (anchored FAD, drifting artificial FAD)
  - iv. FAD identifier (i.e., FAD marking and buoy ID, type of buoy – e.g. simple buoy or associated with echo-sounder)
  - v. FAD design characteristics (material of the floating part and of the underwater hanging structure and the entangling or non-entangling feature of the underwater hanging structure)
  
- b) Visit on any FAD
  - i. Type of the visit (deployment of a FAD and/or buoy<sup>3</sup>, retrieving FAD and/or buoy, strengthening/consolidation of FAD, intervention on electronic equipment, random encounter (without fishing) of a log or a FAD belonging to another vessel, visit (without fishing) of a FAD belonging to the vessel, fishing set on a FAD<sup>4</sup>)
  - ii. Position
  - iii. Date
  - iv. FAD type (anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD, drifting artificial FAD)
  - v. Log description or FAD identifier (i.e., FAD Marking and buoy ID or any information allowing to identify the owner)
  - vi. Buoy ID
  - vii. If the visit is followed by a set, the results of the set in terms of catch and by-catch, whether retained or discarded dead or alive. If the visit is not followed by a set, note the reason (e.g. not enough fish, fish too small, etc.)
  
- c) Loss of any FAD
  - i. Last registered position
  - ii. Date of the last registered position
  - iii. FAD identifier (i.e., FAD Marking and buoy ID)

For the purpose of the collection and reporting of the information referred to above and where paper or electronic logbooks already in place do not allow it, CPCs shall either update their reporting system or establish FAD logbooks. In establishing FAD logbooks, CPCs should consider using the template laid down in **Annex 2** as reporting format. When using paper logbooks, CPCs may seek, with the support of the Executive Secretary, harmonized formats. In both cases, CPCs shall use the minimum standards recommended by SCRS in **Annex 3**.

38. CPCs shall also ensure that all vessels referred to in paragraph 30 keep updated on a monthly basis and per 1°x1° statistical rectangles a list of deployed FADs and buoys, containing at least the information as laid down in **Annex 4**.

***Reporting obligations on FADs and on support vessels***

39. CPCs shall ensure that the following information is submitted every year to the Executive Secretary in a format provided by the ICCAT Secretariat. This information shall be made available to the SCRS and to the Ad Hoc Working Group on FADs in a database developed by the ICCAT Secretariat:
  - i. the number of FADs actually deployed on a monthly basis per 1°x1° statistical rectangles, by FAD type, indicating the presence or absence of a beacon/buoy or of an echo-sounder associated to the FAD and specifying the number of FADs deployed by associated support vessels, irrespective of their flag;
  - ii. the number and type of beacons/buoys (e.g. radio, sonar only, sonar with echo-sounder) deployed on a monthly basis per 1°x1° statistical rectangles;
  - iii. the average numbers of beacons/buoys activated and deactivated on a monthly basis that have been followed by each vessel;
  - iv. average numbers of lost FADs with active buoys on a monthly basis;

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<sup>3</sup> Deploying a buoy on a FAD includes three aspects: deploying a buoy on a foreign FAD, transferring a buoy (which changes the FAD's owner) and changing the buoy on the same FAD (which does not change the FADs owner).

<sup>4</sup> A fishing set on a FAD includes two aspects: fishing after a visit to a vessel's own FAD (targeted) or fishing after a random encounter with a FAD (opportunistic).

- v. for each support vessel, the number of days spent at sea, per 1° grid area, month and flag State;
- vi. purse seine and baitboat catches, efforts and number of sets (for purse seines) by fishing mode (floating-object associated schools and free school fisheries) in line with Task 2 data requirements (i.e. per 1°x1° statistical rectangles and per month);
- vii. when the activities of purse seine are carried out in association with baitboat, report catches and effort in line with Task 2 and Task 2 requirements as “purse seine associated to baitboats” (PS+BB).

***Non-entangling and biodegradable FADs***

- 40. In order to minimize the ecological impact of FADs, in particular the entanglement of sharks, turtles and other non-targeted species, and the release of synthetic persistent marine debris, CPCs shall:
  - i. Ensure that all FADs deployed are non-entangling in line with the guidelines under **Annex 5** of this Recommendation, in accordance with previous ICCAT Recommendations;
  - ii. Endeavour that as of January 2021 all FADs deployed are non-entangling, and constructed from biodegradable materials, including non-plastics, with the exception of materials used in the construction of FAD tracking buoys;
  - iii. Report on an annual basis on the steps undertaken to comply with these provisions in their FADs Management Plans.

**PART V  
CONTROL MEASURES**

***Specific authorization to fish for tropical tunas***

- 41. CPCs shall issue specific authorizations to vessels 20 meters LOA or greater flying their flag allowed to fish bigeye and/or yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas in the Convention area, and to vessels flying their flag used for any kind of support of this fishing activity (hereafter referred to as "authorized vessels").

***ICCAT Record of authorized tropical tuna vessels***

- 42. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of authorized tropical tuna vessels, including support vessels. Fishing vessels 20 meters LOA or greater not entered into this record are deemed not to be authorized to fish, retain on board, tranship, transport, transfer, process or land bigeye and/or yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas from the Convention area or to carry out any kind of support to those activities, including deploying and retrieving FADs and/or buoys.
- 43. A CPC may allow by-catch of tropical tunas by vessels not authorized to fish for tropical tunas pursuant to paragraph 41 and 42, if this CPC establishes a maximum onboard by-catch limit for such vessels and the by-catch in question is accounted for within the CPC's quota or catch limit. Each CPC shall provide in its Annual Report the maximum by-catch limit it allows for such vessels and information about how the CPC ensures compliance with the limit. That information shall be compiled by the ICCAT Secretariat and made available to CPCs.
- 44. CPCs shall notify the list of authorized vessels to the Executive Secretary in an electronic form and in accordance with the format set in the *Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by ICCAT*.
- 45. CPCs shall, without delay, notify the Executive Secretary of any addition to, deletion from and/or modifications of the initial list. Periods of authorization for modifications or additions to the list shall not include dates more than 45 days prior to the date of submission of the changes to the ICCAT Secretariat. The ICCAT Secretariat shall remove from the ICCAT Record of Vessels any vessel for which the periods of authorization have expired.

46. The Executive Secretary shall, without delay, post the record of authorized vessels on the ICCAT website, including any additions, deletions and/or modifications so notified by CPCs.
47. Conditions and procedures referred to in the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 13-13 concerning the establishment of an ICCAT record of vessels 20 metres in length overall or greater authorized to operate in the Convention area* (Rec. 21-14) shall apply mutatis mutandis to the ICCAT record of authorized tropical tuna vessels.

#### ***Vessels actively fishing tropical tunas in a given year***

48. Each CPC shall, by 31 July each year, notify to the Executive Secretary the list of authorized vessels flying their flag which have fished bigeye and/or yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas in the Convention area or have offered any kind of support to the fishing activity (support vessels) in the previous calendar year. For purse seines this list shall also include the support vessels that have supported the fishing activity, irrespective of their flag.

The Executive Secretary shall report each year these lists of vessels to the Compliance Committee and to the SCRS.

49. The provisions of paragraphs 41 to 47 do not apply to recreational vessels.

#### ***Recording of catch and fishing activities***

50. Each CPC shall ensure that its vessels 20 meters LOA or greater fishing bigeye and/or yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas in the Convention area record their catch in accordance with the requirements set out in **Annex 6** and in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Recording of Catch by Fishing Vessels in the ICCAT Convention Area* (Rec. 03-13).

#### ***Identification IUU activity***

51. The Executive Secretary shall, without delay, verify that any vessel identified or reported in the context of this Multi-annual Programme is on the ICCAT record of authorized vessels. If a possible violation is detected, the Executive Secretary shall, without delay, notify the flag CPC. The flag CPC shall immediately investigate the situation and, if the vessel is fishing in relation to objects that could affect fish aggregation, including FADs, during the period of closure request the vessel to stop fishing and, if necessary, leave the area. The flag CPC shall, without delay, report to the Executive Secretary the results of its investigation and the corresponding measures taken.
52. The Executive Secretary shall report to the Compliance Committee at each annual meeting of the Commission on any issue related to identification of unauthorized vessels, the implementation of the VMS, the observer provisions, and the results of the relevant investigation made as well as any relevant measures taken by the flag CPCs concerned.
53. The Executive Secretary shall propose to include any vessels identified in accordance with paragraph 52, or vessels for which the flag CPC has not carried out the required investigation and taken, if necessary, adequate measures in accordance with paragraph 51, on the provisional IUU list.

#### ***Observers***

54. For observers on board vessels targeting bigeye, yellowfin and/or skipjack tunas in the area east of meridian 20°/West longitude and North of parallel 28°/ South latitude, the following shall apply:
  - Observers shall automatically be recognized by all CPCs. Such recognition shall allow the scientific observer to continue the collection of information throughout the EEZ visited by the vessel observed. The coastal CPCs concerned shall receive from the flag CPC which mandated the observer the information collected by the observer and related to fishing activities on ICCAT species in their EEZ.

55. For longline vessels flying their flag 20 meters length overall (LOA) or greater targeting bigeye, yellowfin and/or skipjack in the Convention area, CPCs shall ensure a minimum of 10% observer coverage of fishing effort by 2022, through the presence of a human observer on board in accordance with **Annex 7** and/or an electronic monitoring system. For this purpose, the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM WG), in cooperation with the SCRS, shall make a recommendation to the Commission for endorsement at its 2021 Annual meeting on the following:
- a) Minimum standards for an electronic monitoring system such as:
    - i) the minimum specifications of the recording equipment (e.g. resolution, recording time capacity), data storage type, data protection
    - ii) the number of cameras to be installed at which points on board
  - b) What shall be recorded
  - c) Data analysis standards, e.g., converting video footage into actionable data by the use of artificial intelligence
  - d) Data to be analyzed, e.g., species, length, estimated weight, fishing operation details
  - e) Reporting format to the ICCAT Secretariat

In 2020 CPCs are encouraged to conduct trials on electronic monitoring and report the results back to the IMM and the SCRS in 2021 for their review.

CPCs shall report the information collected by the observers or the electronic monitoring system from the previous year by 30 April to the ICCAT Secretariat and to SCRS taking into account CPC confidentiality requirements.

56. CPCs shall submit all relevant data and administer scientific observer programs for tropical tunas in accordance with *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Minimum Standards for Fishing Vessel Scientific Observers* (Rec. 16-14). In 2023, the SCRS shall provide advice on the improvements to observer programs including how coverage should be stratified across vessels, seasons and areas to achieve maximum effectiveness.
57. CPCs shall endeavour to further increase observer coverage rates for longline vessels, including through trials and implementation of electronic monitoring to supplement human observers. CPCs that trial electronic monitoring shall share technical specifications and standards with the Commission towards the development of agreed ICCAT standards.
58. For purse seine vessels flying their flag and targeting bigeye, yellowfin and/or skipjack in the Convention area, CPCs shall ensure 100% observer coverage of fishing effort, through the presence of an observer on board in accordance with **Annex 7** or through an approved electronic monitoring system. CPCs shall report the information collected by the observers from the previous year by 30 April to the ICCAT Secretariat and to SCRS.
59. Each year, the ICCAT Secretariat shall compile the information collected under observer programs, including on the observer coverage for each tropical tuna fishery, and make it available to the Commission before the annual meeting for further deliberation, taking into account CPC confidentiality requirements.
60. In 2020, IMM shall explore the possible scope and benefits of ICCAT adopting a regional Observer Program for tropical tuna fisheries taking into account the need for harmonization and coordination of national observer programs for tropical tuna fisheries.

### ***Port Sampling Programme***

61. The port sampling programme developed by the SCRS in 2012 shall be continued for landing or transshipment ports. Data and information collected from this sampling programme shall be reported to ICCAT each year, describing, at a minimum, the following by country of landing and quarter: species composition, landings by species, length composition, and weights. Biological samples suitable for determining life history should be collected as practicable.

## **PART VI MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES/MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION**

### ***Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) and Candidate Harvest Control Rules***

62. The SCRS shall refine the MSE process in line with the SCRS roadmap and continue testing the candidate management procedures. On this basis, the Commission shall review the candidate management procedures, including pre-agreed management actions to be taken under various stock conditions. These shall take into account the differential impacts of fishing operations (e.g. purse seine, longline and baitboat) on juvenile mortality and the yield at MSY.

## **PART VII FINAL PROVISIONS**

### ***Availability of data to SCRS and to national scientists***

63. CPCs shall ensure that:
- a) Both paper and electronic fishing logbooks and the FAD-logbooks referred to in paragraph 37, where applicable, are promptly collected and made available to national scientists;
  - b) The Task 2 data include the information collected from the fishing or FAD logbooks, where applicable, and is submitted every year to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, to be made available to the SCRS.
64. CPCs should encourage their national scientists to undertake collaborative work with their national industry to analyse data related to FADs (e.g. logbooks, buoy data) and to present the outcomes of that analysis to the SCRS. CPCs should take steps to facilitate making the data available for such collaborative work, subject to relevant confidentiality constraints.

### ***Confidentiality***

65. All data submitted in accordance with this Recommendation shall be treated in a manner consistent with ICCAT's data confidentiality guidelines and solely for the purposes of this Recommendation and in accordance with the requirements and procedures developed by the Commission.

### ***Final Provisions***

66. Actions required from the SCRS and the Secretariat:
- a) The SCRS shall explore the efficacy that full fishery closures along the lines of those proposed in PA1\_505A/2019<sup>5</sup> might have to reduce the catches of tropical tunas to the agreed levels; and the potential of such scheme to reduce the catches of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tunas, in line with recommendations from the SCRS;

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<sup>5</sup> Available upon request from the ICCAT Secretariat or on the 2019 Commission meeting documents webpage (<https://www.iccat.int/com2019/index.htm#en>).

- b) The ICCAT Secretariat shall work with the SCRS in preparing an estimate of capacity in the Convention area, to include at least all the fishing units that are large-scale or operate outside the EEZ of the CPC they are registered in. All CPCs shall cooperate with this work, providing estimates of the number of fishing units fishing for tuna and tuna-like species under their flag, and the species or species groups each fishing unit targets (e.g. tropical tunas, temperate tunas, swordfish, other billfish, small tunas, sharks, etc.); this work shall be presented to the next meeting of the SCRS in 2020 and forwarded to the Commission for consideration;
  - c) The ICCAT Secretariat shall identify a Consultant to carry out an evaluation of the monitoring, control and surveillance mechanisms in place in ICCAT CPCs. This work shall primarily focus on the evaluation of data collection and processing systems in each CPC, and the ability to produce estimates of catch and effort, and length frequency for all stocks under ICCAT management, with a focus on stocks for which input and/or output measures are in place; in preparing this work the Consultant shall evaluate how efficient the catch monitoring systems that each CPC has implemented are to achieve robust estimates of catches for the stocks subject to a TAC; the ICCAT Secretariat shall work with SCRS scientists to prepare a TOR for this work as soon as possible.
67. An intersessional meeting of Panel 1 will be held in 2022 to review existing measures and *inter alia* develop catch limits and associated catch verification mechanisms for 2023.
68. This Recommendation replaces Rec. 19-02 and 20-01 and shall be reviewed by the Commission in 2022.
69. All CPCs commit to implement the present Recommendation on a voluntary basis as of 1 January 2022.



### Guidelines for Preparation of FAD Management Plans

The FAD Management Plan for a CPC purse seine and baitboat fleets must include the following:

1. Description
  - a) FAD types: AFAD = anchored; DFAD = drifting
  - b) Type of beacon/buoy
  - c) Maximum number of FAD to be deployed per purse seine and per FAD type and active at any one time per vessel
  - d) Minimum distance between AFADs
  - e) Incidental by-catch reduction and utilization policy
  - f) Consideration of interaction with other gear types
  - g) Statement or policy on "FAD ownership"
  - h) Use of support vessels, including from other flag CPCs
2. Institutional arrangements
  - a) Institutional responsibilities for the FAD Management plan
  - b) Application processes for FAD deployment approval
  - c) Obligations of vessel owners and masters in respect of FAD deployment and use
  - d) FAD replacement policy
  - e) Additional reporting obligations beyond this Recommendation
  - f) Conflict resolution policy in respect of FADs
  - g) Details of any closed areas or periods e.g. territorial waters, shipping lanes, proximity to artisanal fisheries, etc.
3. FAD construction specifications and requirements
  - a) FAD design characteristics (a description)
  - b) Lighting requirements
  - c) Radar reflectors
  - d) Visible distance
  - e) FAD markings and identifier
  - f) Radio buoys markings and identifier (requirement for serial numbers)
  - g) Echo-sounder buoys markings and identifier (requirement for serial numbers)
  - h) Satellite transceivers
  - i) Research undertaken on biodegradable FADs
  - j) Prevention of loss or abandonment of FADs
  - k) Management of FADs recovery.
4. Applicable period for the FAD Management Plan
5. Means for monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the FAD Management Plan

## FAD logbook

FAD marking	Buoys ID	FAD type	Type of visit	Date	Time	Position		Estimated catches			By-catch			Observations	
						Latitude	Longitude	SKJ	YFT	BET	Taxonomic group	Estimated catches	Unit		Specimen released alive
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(7)	(8)	(8)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

(1,2) If FAD marking and associated beacon/buoy ID are absent or unreadable, report it in this section. However, if FAD marking and associated beacon/buoy ID are absent or unreadable, the FAD shall not be deployed.

(3) Anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD or drifting artificial FAD.

(4) i.e., deployment, hauling, strengthening/consolidation, removing/retrieving, changing the beacon, loss and mention if the visit has been followed by a set.

(5) dd/mm/yy

(6) hh:mm

(7) N/S/(in degrees and minutes) or E/W/(in degrees and minutes).

(8) Estimated catches expressed in metric tons.

(9) Use a line per taxonomic group.

(10) Estimated catches expressed in weight or in number.

(11) Unit used.

(12) Expressed as number of specimen.

(13) If no FAD marking or associated beacon ID is available, report all available information in this section which may help to describe the FAD and to identify the owner of the FAD.

**Table 1.** Codes, names and examples of different types of floating object that should be collected in the fishing logbook as a minimum data requirement. Table from 2016 SCRS report (section 18.2, Table 7).

<i>Code</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Example</i>
DFAD	Drifting FAD	Bamboo or metal raft
AFAD	Anchored FAD	Very large buoy
FALOG	Artificial log resulting from human activity (and related to fishing activities)	Nets, wreck, ropes
HALOG	Artificial log resulting from human activity (not related to fishing activities)	Washing machine, oil tank
ANLOG	Natural log of animal origin	Carcasses, whale shark
VNLOG	Natural log of plant origin	Branches, trunk, palm leaf

**Table 2.** Names and description of the activities related to floating objects and buoys that should be collected in the fishing logbook as a minimum data requirement (codes are not listed here). Table from 2016 SCRS report (section 18.2, Table 8).

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Description</i>
FOB	Encounter	Random encounter (without fishing) of a log or a FAD belonging to another vessel (unknown position)
	Visit	Visit (without fishing) of a FOB (known position)
	Deployment	FAD deployed at sea
	Strengthening	Consolidation of a FOB
	Remove FAD	FAD retrieval
	Fishing	Fishing set on a FOB <sup>1</sup>
Buoy	Tagging	Deployment of a buoy on FOB <sup>2</sup>
	Remove BUOY	Retrieval of the buoy equipping the FOB
	Loss	Loss of the buoy/End of transmission of the buoy

<sup>1</sup> A fishing set on a Fishing Object (FOB) includes two aspects: fishing after a visit to a vessel's own FOB (targeted) or fishing after a random encounter of a FOB (opportunistic).

<sup>2</sup> Deploying a buoy on a FOB includes three aspects: deploying a buoy on a foreign FOB, transferring a buoy (which changes the FOB owner) and changing the buoy on the same FOB (which does not change the FOB owner).

## List of deployed FADs and buoys on a monthly basis

Month:

<i>FAD Identifier</i>		<i>FAD &amp; electronic equipment types</i>		<i>FAD</i>				<i>Observation</i>
<i>FAD Marking</i>	<i>Associated buoy ID</i>	<i>FAD Type</i>	<i>Type of the associated buoy and /or electronic devices</i>	<i>FAD floating part</i>	<i>FAD underwater hanging structure</i>			
(1)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)			(6)
...	...	...	...		...			...
...	...	...	...		...			...

(1) If FAD marking and associated beacon/buoy ID are absent or unreadable, the FAD shall not be deployed.

(2) Anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD or drifting artificial FAD.

(3) E.g. GPS, sounder, etc. If no electronic device is associated to the FAD, note this absence of equipment.

(4) Mention the material of the structure and of the cover and if biodegradable.

(5) E.g. nets, ropes, palms, etc., and mention the entangling and/or biodegradable features of the material.

(6) Lighting specifications, radar reflectors and visible distances shall be reported in this section.

**Guidelines for reducing the ecological impact of FADs in ICCAT fisheries**

1. The surface structure of the FAD should not be covered or only covered with material implying minimum risk of entangling by-catch species.
2. The sub-surface components should be exclusively composed of non-entangling material (e.g. ropes or canvas).
3. When designing FADs the use of biodegradable materials should be prioritised.

**Annex 6****Requirements for Catch Recording Minimum specification for paper or electronic logbooks:**

1. The logbook must be numbered by sheets
2. The logbook must be filled in every day (midnight) and before port arrival
3. One copy of the sheets must remain attached to the logbook
4. Logbooks must be kept on board to cover a period of one-trip operation

**Minimum standard information for logbooks:**

1. Master name and address
2. Dates and ports of departure, Dates and ports of arrival
3. Vessel name, registry number, ICCAT number and IMO number (if available)
4. Fishing gear:
  - a) Type FAO code
  - b) Dimension (length, mesh size, number of hooks...)
5. Operations at sea with one line (minimum) per day of trip, providing:
  - a) Activity (fishing, steaming...)
  - b) Position: Exact daily positions (in degree and minutes), recorded for each fishing operation or at noon when no fishing has been conducted during this day
  - c) Record of catches
6. Species identification:
  - a) By FAO code
  - b) Round (RWT) weight in t per set
  - c) Fishing mode (FAD, free school, etc.)
7. Master signature
8. Observer signature, if applicable
9. Means of weight measure: estimation, weighing on board and counting
10. The logbook is kept in equivalent live weight of fish and mentions the conversion factors used in the evaluation.

**Minimum information in case of landing, transhipments:**

1. Dates and port of landing/transhipments
2. Products: number of fish and quantity in kg
3. Signature of the Master or Vessel Agent

### Observer Programme

1. The observers referred to in paragraph 54-60 of this Recommendation shall have the following qualifications to accomplish their tasks:
  - Sufficient experience to identify species and fishing gear;
  - Satisfactory knowledge of the ICCAT conservation and management measures assessed by a certificate provided by the CPCs and based on ICCAT training guidelines;
  - The ability to observe and record accurately;
  - The ability to collect biological samples;
  - A satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag of the vessel observed.
2. The observers shall not be a crew member of the fishing vessel being observer and shall:
  - a) Be nationals of one of the CPCs;
  - b) Be capable of performing the duties set forth in point 3 below;
  - c) Not have current financial or beneficial interests in the tropical tuna fisheries.
3. The observer tasks shall be in particular:
  - a) To monitor the fishing vessels' compliance with the relevant conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission.

In particular the observers shall:

- i. Record and report upon the fishing activities carried out;
  - ii. Observe and estimate catches and verify entries made in the logbook;
  - iii. Sight and record vessels which may be fishing in contravention to ICCAT conservation and management measures;
  - iv. Verify the position of the vessel when engaged in catching activity;
  - v. Verify the number of instrumental buoys active at any one time;
  - vi. Carry out scientific work such as collecting Task 2 data when required by the Commission, based on the directives from the SCRS, observing and recording data on FAD properties in accordance with **Table 1** below.
- b) Establish general reports compiling the information collected in accordance with this paragraph and provide the master the opportunity to include therein any relevant information.

### Obligations of the observer

4. Observers shall treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing and transshipment operations of the fishing vessels and accept this requirement in writing as a condition of appointment as an observer.
5. Observers shall comply with requirements established in the laws and regulations of the flag State which exercises jurisdiction over the vessel to which the observer is assigned.
6. Observers shall respect the hierarchy and general rules of behaviour which apply to all vessel personnel, provided such rules do not interfere with the duties of the observer under this programme, and with the obligations of vessel personnel set forth in point 7 of this Annex.

**Obligations of the flag States of fishing vessels**

7. The responsibilities regarding observers of the flag States of the fishing vessels and their masters shall include the following, notably:
- a) Observers shall be allowed to access to the vessel personnel and to the gear and equipment;
  - b) Upon request, observers shall also be allowed access to the following equipment, if present on the vessels to which they are assigned, in order to facilitate the carrying out of their duties set forth in point 3 of this Annex:
    - i) satellite navigation equipment;
    - ii) radar display viewing screens when in use;
    - iii) electronic means of communication, including FAD/buoys signals.
  - c) Observers shall be provided accommodations, including lodging, food and adequate sanitary facilities, equal to those of officers;
  - d) Observers shall be provided with adequate space on the bridge or pilot house for clerical work, as well as space on deck adequate for carrying out observer duties; and
  - e) The flag States shall ensure that masters, crew and vessel owners do not obstruct, intimidate, interfere with, influence, bribe or attempt to bribe an observer in the performance of his/her duties.



**Table 1.** FOB/FAD information added to observer onboard form to comply with RFMOs recommendations. Table from 2016 SCRS report (section 18.2, Table 9).

<i>Properties</i>	<i>DFAD</i>	<i>AFAD</i>	<i>HALOG</i>	<i>FALOG</i>	<i>ANLOG</i>	<i>VNLOG</i>
FOB built using biodegradable materials (true/false/undefined)	X	X	X	X		
FOB is non-entangling (true/false/undefined)	X	X	X	X		
Meshed material (true/false/undefined) in FOB	X	X		X		
Size of largest mesh (in millimeters)	X	X		X		
Distance between the surface and the deepest part of the FOB (in meters)	X	X	X	X		
Approximate surface area of the FOB	X	X	X	X		
Specifies the FOB's ID whenever present	X	X	X	X		
Fleet owning the tracking device/echo sounder buoy	X	X	X	X	X	X
Vessel owning the tracking device/echosounder buoy	X	X	X	X	X	X
Anchorage type used for mooring (AFAD registry)		X				
Radar reflectors (presence or not) (AFAD registry)		X				
Lighting (presence or not) (AFAD registry)		X				
Visual range (in nautical miles) (AFAD registry)		X				
Materials used for the floating part of the FOB (list to be defined)	X	X	X	X		
Materials making up the FOB underwater structure (list to be defined)	X	X	X	X		
Tracking device TYPE+ID if possible, otherwise no or undefined.	X	X	X	X	X	X

21-02

SWO

**SUPPLEMENTAL RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT EXTENDING AND AMENDING  
RECOMMENDATION 17-02 AMENDING THE RECOMMENDATION 16-03 FOR  
THE CONSERVATION OF NORTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH**

*RECALLING* the Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish, Rec. 16-03 (Rec. 17-02) as previously amended by the Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 17-02 for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish (Rec. 19-03) and the Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 19-03 for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish (Rec. 20-02);

*NOTING* the need to continue with sound measures for the conservation and management of the North Atlantic swordfish stock;

*CONSIDERING* that the SCRS offered no new advice in 2021 for management measures for North Atlantic swordfish but aware that, according to the last assessment, continuing the current TAC for an additional year is expected to maintain the stock in the green zone of the Kobe plot in line with the ICCAT Convention objective;

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

*DESIRING* to give effect, for 2022, to the provisions of The Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the UK and the EU that established those two Parties' respective shares of certain ICCAT species, including North Atlantic swordfish;

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

1. The provisions of the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation for the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish, Rec. 16-03* (Rec. 17-02) shall be extended through 2022 with the following amendments:
  - A. Sub-paragraphs 2(a) and (b) shall be replaced with:
    - "2. TAC and catch limits
      - a) The total allowable catch (TAC) shall be 13,200 t for North Atlantic swordfish for the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022:
      - b) The annual catch limits as shown in the table below shall be applied for the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022:

	<i>Catch limit**</i> <i>13,200 (t)</i>
European Union ***	6,718*
United States***	3,907*
Canada	1,348*
Japan***	842*
Morocco	850
Mexico	200
Brazil	50
Barbados	45
Venezuela	85
Trinidad & Tobago	125
United Kingdom (OTs)	35
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)	40
China	100
Senegal	250
Korea***	50
Belize***	130
Côte d'Ivoire	50
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	75
Vanuatu	25
Chinese Taipei	270

\* Catch limits of these four CPCs are based upon quota allocation shown in 3.c) of the 2006 *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT to Amend the Rebuilding Program for North Atlantic Swordfish* (Rec. 06-02).

\*\* The following transfers of annual catch limits shall be authorized:

From Japan to Morocco: 100 t for each of 2018 and 2019; and 150 t for each of 2020, 2021, and 2022

From Japan to Canada: 35 t

From EU to France (St. Pierre et Miquelon): 40 t

From Venezuela to France (St. Pierre et Miquelon): 12.75 t

From Senegal to Canada: 125 t

From Trinidad & Tobago to Belize: 75 t

From Chinese Taipei to Canada: 35 t

From Brazil, Japan, and Senegal, to Mauritania: 25 t each for a total of 75 t for 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022, on the condition that Mauritania submit its development plan per paragraph 5 of this Recommendation. If a development plan is not submitted, these transfers are considered null. Future decisions regarding access to the North Atlantic swordfish fishery by Mauritania shall be contingent upon submission of its development plan.

From Trinidad and Tobago to Morocco: 25 t for each of 2020, 2021, and 2022

From Chinese Taipei to Morocco: 20 t for each of 2020, 2021, and 2022

From EU to UK: 0.67 t for 2022

These transfers do not change the relative shares of CPCs as reflected in the above catch limits.

\*\*\* Japan shall be allowed to count up to 400 t of its swordfish catch taken from the South Atlantic management area against its uncaught North Atlantic swordfish catch limits.

The European Union shall be allowed to count up to 200 t of its swordfish catch taken from the South Atlantic management area against its uncaught North Atlantic swordfish catch limits.

The US shall be allowed to count up to 200 t of its swordfish catch taken from the area between 5°N and 5°S, against its uncaught North Atlantic swordfish catch limit.

Belize shall be allowed to count up to 75 t of its swordfish catch taken from the area between 5°N and 5°S, against its uncaught North Atlantic swordfish catch limit.

Korea shall be allowed to count up to 25 t of swordfish catch taken from the South Atlantic management area in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 against its uncaught North Atlantic catch limit.”

B. Paragraph 3 shall be replaced with:

“3. Any unused portion or excess of the annual adjusted quota may be added to/shall be deducted from, according to the case, the respective quota/catch limit during or before the adjustment year, as follows:

<i>Catch year</i>	<i>Adjustment year</i>
2016	2018
2017	2019
2018	2020
2019	2021
2020	2022
2021	2023
2022	2024

However, the maximum underage that a Party may carryover in any given year shall not exceed 15% of its initial catch limit (as specified in paragraph 2(b) above and excluding quota transfers) for those CPCs holding catch limits more than 500 t, and 40% for other CPCs.”

C. Paragraph 4 shall be replaced with:

“4. If Japan’s landings exceed its catch limits in any year, the overage shall be deducted in subsequent years so that total landings for Japan shall not exceed its total catch limits for the five-year period commencing in 2018. When annual landings by Japan are less than its catch limits, the underage may be added to the subsequent years’ catch limits, so that total landings by Japan do not exceed its total for the same four-year period. Any underages or overages from the 2018-2022 management period shall be applied to the subsequent management period to be decided by the Commission in 2022.”

D. The first sentence of Paragraph 5 shall be replaced with:

“5. The Commission shall establish at its 2022 meeting conservation and management measures for North Atlantic swordfish on the basis of the SCRS advice resulting from a stock assessment that will be carried out by the SCRS in 2022 as well as the *Resolution by ICCAT on Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* (Res. 15-13).”

2. This Recommendation replaces and repeals the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 17-02 for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish* (Rec. 19-03) and the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 19-03 for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish* (Rec. 20-02).

**SUPPLEMENTAL RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON RECOMMENDATION 17-03  
AMENDING THE RECOMMENDATION 16-04 FOR  
THE CONSERVATION OF SOUTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH**

*NOTING* the need to continue with sound management for the conservation of the South Atlantic swordfish stock;

*CONSIDERING* that the SCRS noted that it offered no new advice for management measures for South Atlantic swordfish and that the current TAC is in line with the management objectives of ICCAT;

*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 *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation for the conservation of South Atlantic swordfish, Rec. 16-04 (Rec. 17-03)* shall be extended through 2022 with the following amendments:

A. Paragraph 1 shall be replaced with:

“1. For 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022, the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and the catch limits shall be as follows:

	<i>Catch Limit (Unit: t)</i>
TAC (1)	14,000
Brazil (2)	3,940
European Union	4,824
South Africa	1,001
Namibia	1,168
Uruguay	1,252
United States(3)	100
Cote d'Ivoire	125
China	313
Chinese Taipei(3)	459
United Kingdom	25
Japan(3)	901
Angola	100
Ghana	100
St. Tomé & Príncipe	100
Senegal	417
Korea	50
Belize	125

- (1) The total catch for the five-year management period of 2018-2022 shall not exceed 70,000 t (14,000 t x 5). If the yearly total catch of any of the five years exceeds 14,000 t, the TAC(s) for the following year(s) shall be adjusted to ensure that the five-year total will not exceed 70,000 t. In general, these adjustments shall be carried out through prorate reduction of the quota for each Contracting Party and Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity and Fishing Entity (CPC).
- (2) Brazil may harvest up to 200 t of its annual catch limit within the area between 5 degrees North latitude and 15 degrees North latitude.
- (3) Japan's, U.S.A's and Chinese Taipei's underage in 2016 may be carried over to 2018 up to 600 t, 100 t and 300 t, respectively, in addition to their quotas specified in this table. Those CPCs may also carry over unused portions during 2017-2022 but such carried over amounts each year shall not exceed the amounts specified here.

Transfers shall be authorized in accordance with paragraph 5.”

B. Paragraph 2 shall be replaced with:

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

<i>Catch Year</i>	<i>Adjustment Year</i>
2017	2019
2018	2020
2019	2021
2020	2022
2021	2023
2022	2024

However, the maximum underage that a party may carryover in any given year shall not exceed 20% of the quota of the previous year.”

2. The SCRS will carry out a stock assessment of South Atlantic swordfish in 2022 and report the results to the Commission.
3. On the basis of SCRS advice, the Commission shall review, and amend, if appropriate, the management measures for South Atlantic swordfish at the 2022 meeting of the Commission.

21-04

ALB

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES,  
INCLUDING A MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE AND EXCEPTIONAL  
CIRCUMSTANCES PROTOCOL, FOR NORTH ATLANTIC ALBACORE**

*NOTING* that the objective of the Convention is to maintain populations of tuna and tuna-like species at levels that will support maximum sustainable catch (usually referred to as Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY));

*RECOGNIZING* the intent of the Commission to adopt Harvest Control Rules (HCRs) and Management Procedures (MPs) developed using Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE), as established in *Recommendation by ICCAT on the development of harvest control rules and of management strategy evaluation* (Rec. 15-07);

*RECALLING* that paragraph 18 of *the Recommendation by ICCAT on a Harvest Control Rule for North Atlantic Albacore supplementing the multiannual conservation and management programme, Rec. 16-06 (Rec. 17-04)* called for the consolidation of its relevant provisions with those of *the Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Program for North Atlantic Albacore (Rec. 16-06)* into a single Recommendation;

*FURTHER RECALLING* that, in 2020, the Commission adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 16-06 establishing a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme for North Atlantic Albacore* (Rec. 20-03), and the *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* (Rec. 20-04);

*NOTING* that paragraph 17 of Rec. 16-06 was amended by paragraph 4 of Rec. 20-03 and established an obligation for the Commission to review the Rec. 16-06, including consolidation of relevant provisions into a single recommendation in 2021;

*NOTING* that paragraph 17 of Rec. 17-04 was amended by paragraph 3 of Rec. 20-04 and established an obligation for the Commission to review the interim Harvest Control Rules in 2021 with a view to adopting a long-term management procedure;

*RECALLING* the importance that all fleets participating in the northern albacore fishery submit the required data (catch, effort and catch-at-size) on their fisheries for transmission to the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS);

*RECOGNISING* that it is appropriate, as already applicable to other stocks under the purview of ICCAT, to maintain the ICCAT register of vessels authorized to fish North Atlantic albacore;

*CONSIDERING* that the 2020 SCRS stock assessment concluded that the relative abundance of North Atlantic albacore has continued to increase over the last years and that the probability of the stock being in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot (not overfished and not undergoing overfishing,  $F < F_{MSY}$  and  $B > B_{MSY}$ ) is 98.4%;

*RECOGNIZING* the positive external review of the MSE and that simulations conducted in 2017 and subsequent years allow the SCRS to provide robust advice for a wide range of uncertainties and meet the objectives for the North Atlantic albacore stock to be in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot with a probability higher than 60%;

*NOTING* that the Harvest Control Rule with the highest target fishing mortalities ( $F_{TAR} = F_{MSY}$ ) was associated with lower probabilities, although higher than 60%, of being in the Kobe green quadrant and higher probabilities of the stock being between  $B_{LIM}$  and  $B_{THRESH}$  with only slightly higher long-term yields;

*FURTHER NOTING* the desire for stability in the fishery;

*CONSIDERING* that the SCRS tested a minimum fishing mortality ( $F_{\text{MIN}}$ ) should the stock status fall below safe biological limits;

*FURTHER CONSIDERING* the work of the SCRS in 2018 and 2019 to test through MSE several HCR variants and the SCRS advice in 2019 that the Commission could adopt alternative harvest control rules to provide additional stability to the fisheries while meeting management objectives. These alternatives include, *inter alia*, applying the restriction of 20% maximum reduction in Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and 25% maximum TAC increase when B is estimated to be higher than  $B_{\text{LIM}}$ ;

*RECOGNISING* that after 5 years of implementation of the interim harvest control rule it is advisable to promote the testing of further refinements that will allow testing tradeoff of alternative Management Procedures with finer steps both for fishing mortality and biomass also including levels above those providing MSY;

*NOTING* the importance of identifying exceptional circumstances that would result in suspending or modifying the application of the HCR;

*FURTHER NOTING* that the SCRS is in the process of developing another MSE framework that may not be available before 2026;

*AWARE* that the application of the HCR in 2020 resulted in a TAC increase and that, under the difficult circumstances facing the organization last year, it was agreed to apply the increase on a pro-rata basis to the catch and other limits, but that this approach did not establish a precedent;

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

**PART I  
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) whose vessels fish North Atlantic albacore in the Convention area shall implement the following conservation and fishery management measures for North Atlantic albacore tuna, which include the Management Procedure (MP) set out in **Annex 1** for establishing annual Total Allowable Catches.

***Management objectives***

2. The management objectives for the Northern Atlantic albacore stock are:
  - (a) to maintain the stock in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot, with at least a 60% probability, while maximizing long-term yield from the fishery, and
  - (b) where the spawning stock biomass (SSB) has been assessed by the SCRS as below the level capable of producing MSY ( $SSB_{\text{MSY}}$ ), to rebuild SSB to or above  $SSB_{\text{MSY}}$ , with at least a 60% probability, and within as short a time as possible, while maximizing average catch and minimizing inter-annual fluctuations in TAC levels.

**PART II  
MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE AND EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

3. The components of the MP are set out in **Annex 1** and related **Appendices** therein.
4. The SCRS shall assess the occurrence of exceptional circumstances (ECs) and the Commission shall act in accordance with the Exceptional Circumstances Protocol sets out in **Annex 2**.



**PART III  
CATCH LIMITS**

***Total Allowable Catch and catch limits***

5. The procedure for the establishment of the 3-year constant annual TAC is set out in **Annex 3**.
6. Pursuant to the application of the procedures established in **Annex 1** and **Annex 3**, constant annual TAC of 37,801 t is established for the management period 2022-2023. This annual TAC shall be allocated as follows:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Quota (t) for the period 2022-2023</i>
European Union	29,095.1
Chinese Taipei	4,416.9
United States	711.5
Venezuela	337.5

\* Transfers:

- The European Union is authorized to transfer 442.25 t from its quota in 2022 and 2023 to the United Kingdom.
- Chinese Taipei is authorized to transfer 200 t of North Atlantic albacore to Belize for 2022 and 2023.

7. CPCs other than those mentioned in paragraph 6 shall limit their annual catches to 242 t.
8. By way of derogation from paragraphs 6 and 7, Japan shall endeavor to limit the total weight of its North Atlantic albacore annual catches to a maximum of 4.5% of the weight of its total bigeye tuna longline catch in the Atlantic Ocean in 2022 and 2023.

***Underage or overage of catch***

9. 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
2022	2024
2023	2025

However, the maximum underage that a CPC may carryover 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 by more than 20%, the Commission will re-evaluate this Recommendation at its next Commission meeting, including taking into account any advice of the SCRS pursuant to its evaluation of the existence of exceptional circumstances as reflected in **Annex 2**, and may, as appropriate, recommend further measures.

**PART IV  
CAPACITY MANAGEMENT MEASURES**

10. CPCs fishing for North Atlantic albacore shall limit the fishing capacity of their vessels, excluding recreational vessels, fishing for this stock from 1999 onwards, by limiting the number vessels to the average number of vessels in the period 1993-1995.
11. Paragraph 10 does not apply to CPCs whose average catches are less than 200 t.

**PART V  
CONTROL MEASURES**

***Specific authorization to fish for North Atlantic albacore and ICCAT record of vessels***

12. CPCs shall issue specific authorizations to vessels 20 meters LOA or greater flying their flag that are authorized to fish North Atlantic albacore in the Convention area. Each CPC shall indicate which of such vessels it has so authorized on its vessel list submitted pursuant to the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 13-13 Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to Operate in the Convention Area* (Rec. 21-14). Such vessels not entered into this record or entered without the required indication that fishing for North Atlantic albacore is authorized are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, transship, transport, transfer, process or land North Atlantic albacore.
13. CPCs may allow bycatch of North Atlantic albacore by vessels not authorized to fish for North Atlantic albacore pursuant to paragraph 12, if the CPC establishes a maximum onboard bycatch limit for such vessels and the bycatch in question is accounted for within the CPC's quota or catch limit. Each CPC shall provide in its Annual Report the maximum bycatch limit it allows for such vessels. That information shall be compiled by the ICCAT Secretariat and made available to CPCs.

**PART VI  
FINAL PROVISIONS**

14. During 2022-2023, the SCRS should undertake the following analyses to:
  - (a) test further HCRs supporting the management objectives expressed in paragraph 2 above and associated with a range of control parameters wider than those explored for this Management Procedure and namely:
 
$$F_{TAR} = (0.8; 0.9; 1.0) * F_{MSY}$$

$$B_{THRESH} = (0.8; 0.9; 1.0; 1.1; 1.2) * B_{MSY}$$

The remaining control parameters shall remain as indicated by this Recommendation.
  - (b) evaluate the number of Catch per Unit of Effort (CPUE) series that need to be available and the percentage by which catch data are underreported, that would trigger an occurrence of exceptional circumstance.
15. When advising the Commission on the results of the testing requested in paragraphs 14 (a) and (b) the SCRS shall provide performance statistics to support decision-making in accordance with the performance indicators in **Annex 4**. Where necessary, for ease of communication the SCRS may limit the presentation to the underlined metrics therein.
16. In 2023, the Commission should review the MP established by this Recommendation to consider if any revision to it is needed, including to the HCR specified in **Annex 1**, taking into account any analyses carried out by the SCRS in accordance with paragraphs 14 and 15.
17. Beginning for the 2024-2026 management period, the Commission shall adopt a 3-year constant annual TAC. This TAC shall be based on the application of the current MP or possibly an amended MP pursuant to paragraph 16, unless other action is required in accordance with the Exceptional Circumstances Protocol (**Annex 2**) as set out in paragraph 4.
18. The SCRS shall continue the development of a new MSE framework to support the possible adoption of a new MP by the Commission no later than 2026 and the setting of a TAC for the management period 2027-2030.

In this respect, the SCRS is also requested to explore the possibility of defining potential additional CPUE indices, to complement those reported in **Appendix A of Annex 1**, as well as to advise on how possible environmental changes will be taken into account in the development of this framework.

19. This Recommendation repeals and replaces:

- the *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme for North Atlantic Albacore* (Rec. 16-06),
- the *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Harvest Control Rule for North Atlantic Albacore Supplementing the Multiannual Conservation and Management Programme, Rec. 16-06* (Rec. 17-04),
- the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 16-06 Establishing a Multi-Annual Conservation and Management Programme for North Atlantic Albacore* (Rec. 20-03),
- the *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* (Rec. 20-04).

**MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (MP)**

1. For the purpose of the MP for North Atlantic albacore, the following reference points are established:
  - a)  $B_{THRESH} = B_{MSY}$
  - b)  $B_{LIM} = 0.4 * B_{MSY}$
  - c)  $F_{TAR} = 0.8 * F_{MSY}$
  - d)  $F_{MIN} = 0.1 * F_{MSY}$
2. The North Atlantic albacore stock assessment shall be conducted every three (3) years according to the MP model specifications and data inputs as set out in **Appendix A** below. The next stock assessment shall occur in 2023.
3. The MP shall be applied to set a 3-year constant annual total allowable catch using the following three values estimated from each stock assessment. For each value the median values as reported in the summary table of the SCRS report shall be used:
  - a) The estimate of current stock biomass ( $B_{CURR}$ ).
  - b) The estimate of the stock biomass at Maximum Sustainable Yield ( $B_{MSY}$ ).
  - c) The estimate of the fishing mortality at MSY ( $F_{MSY}$ ).
4. The Harvest Control Rule within the MP shall have the form as set out in **Appendix B** below and the following control parameters set out in points (a) through (f) below:
  - a) The biomass threshold level ( $B_{THRESH}$ ) is equal to the biomass able to deliver the maximum sustainable yield ( $B_{THRESH} = B_{MSY}$ ).
  - b) A fishing mortality target corresponding to 80% of  $F_{MSY}$  ( $F_{TAR} = 0.8 * F_{MSY}$ ) will be applied when the stock status is at, or above, the threshold level ( $B_{THRESH}$ ).
  - c) If the current biomass ( $B_{CURR}$ ) is estimated to be below the threshold level ( $B_{THRESH}$ ) and higher than  $B_{LIM}$ , then fishing mortality will be reduced linearly for the next multiannual management period ( $F_{NEXT}$ ) on the following basis:
 
$$F_{NEXT} = (a + b * \frac{B_{CURR}}{B_{MSY}}) * F_{MSY} = (-0.367 + 1.167 * \frac{B_{CURR}}{B_{MSY}}) * F_{MSY}$$
 where  $a = \left[ \frac{F_{tar}}{F_{MSY}} \right] - \left[ \frac{\frac{F_{tar}}{F_{MSY}} - \frac{F_{min}}{F_{MSY}}}{\frac{B_{thresh}}{B_{MSY}} - \frac{B_{lim}}{B_{MSY}}} \right] * \frac{B_{thresh}}{B_{MSY}} = -0.367$ 

$$b = \left[ \frac{\frac{F_{tar}}{F_{MSY}} - \frac{F_{min}}{F_{MSY}}}{\frac{B_{thresh}}{B_{MSY}} - \frac{B_{lim}}{B_{MSY}}} \right] = 1.167$$
  - d) If the current biomass ( $B_{CURR}$ ) is estimated to be at, or below,  $B_{LIM}$ , then the fishing mortality shall be set at  $F_{MIN}$  with a view to ensure a level of catch for scientific monitoring.
  - e) The maximum catch limit ( $C_{MAX}$ ) recommended is 50,000 t in order to avoid adverse effects of potentially inaccurate stock assessments.
  - f) The maximum change in the catch limit ( $D_{MAX}$ ) shall not exceed 25% in case of increase or 20% in case of decrease of the previous recommended catch limit when  $B_{CURR} \geq B_{THRESH}$ .
5. The HCR described in paragraph 4. a)-d) produces a relationship between stock status and fishing mortality as shown in the graph of **Appendix B** below. The table of **Appendix C** reports the values of fishing mortality to be applied ( $F_{NEXT}$ ) for specific values of relative biomass ( $B_{CURR}/B_{MSY}$ ).

**Appendix A of Annex 1**

**Data and stock assessment specifications for the North Atlantic Albacore Management Procedure**

- CPUE indices and their starting years; where “t” is the year of the Management Procedure iteration for establishing the TAC for years t+1, t+2 and t+3.

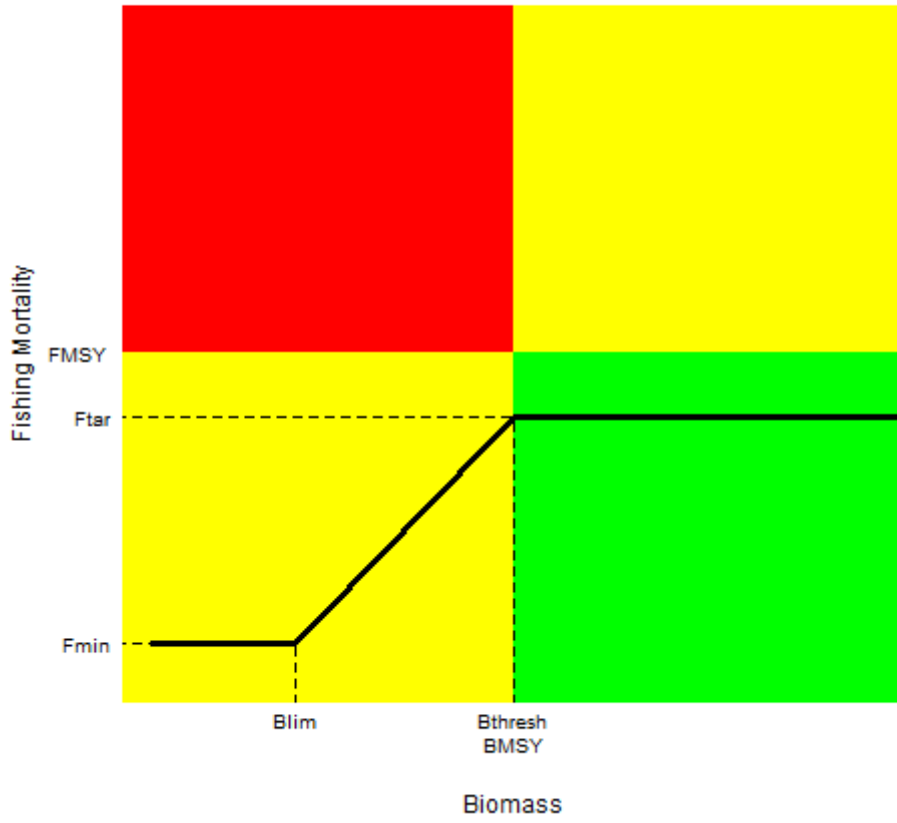
Index	First year	Final year
Chinese Taipei LL late	1999	t-1 preferably (t-2 otherwise)
Japan bycatch LL	1988	t-1 preferably (t-2 otherwise)
Spanish baitboat	1981	t-1 preferably (t-2 otherwise)
US LL	1987	t-1 preferably (t-2 otherwise)
Venezuelan LL	1991	t-1 preferably (t-2 otherwise)

- Specifications of the biomass dynamic model; where “t” is the year of the Management Procedure iteration for the establishing the TAC for the years t+1, t+2 and t+3.

Software	Model	Catch series	Starting Values
mpb	Fox (biomass dynamic)	Start 1930 Final year: t-1 preferably (t-2 otherwise)	Biomass at t=0 (fixed): 1x K Variance treatment for the CPUE indices: model weighted

Appendix B of Annex 1

Graphic form of the Harvest Control Rule



**Values of relative biomass and corresponding fishing mortality based on a sliding linear relationship between  $B_{LIM}$  and  $B_{THRESH}$  as produced by the HCR**

$B_{CURR}/B_{MSY}$	$F_{NEXT}$
1 or above	0.80* $F_{MSY}$
0.98	0.78* $F_{MSY}$
0.96	0.75* $F_{MSY}$
0.94	0.73* $F_{MSY}$
0.92	0.71* $F_{MSY}$
0.90	0.68* $F_{MSY}$
0.88	0.66* $F_{MSY}$
0.86	0.64* $F_{MSY}$
0.84	0.61* $F_{MSY}$
0.82	0.59* $F_{MSY}$
0.80	0.57* $F_{MSY}$
0.78	0.54* $F_{MSY}$
0.76	0.52* $F_{MSY}$
0.74	0.50* $F_{MSY}$
0.72	0.47* $F_{MSY}$
0.70	0.45* $F_{MSY}$
0.68	0.43* $F_{MSY}$
0.66	0.40* $F_{MSY}$
0.64	0.38* $F_{MSY}$
0.62	0.36* $F_{MSY}$
0.60	0.33* $F_{MSY}$
0.58	0.31* $F_{MSY}$
0.56	0.29* $F_{MSY}$
0.54	0.26* $F_{MSY}$
0.52	0.24* $F_{MSY}$
0.50	0.22* $F_{MSY}$
0.48	0.19* $F_{MSY}$
0.46	0.17* $F_{MSY}$
0.44	0.15* $F_{MSY}$
0.42	0.12* $F_{MSY}$
0.40	0.10* $F_{MSY}$

## Exceptional circumstances protocol for North Atlantic albacore

### 1. Principles of exceptional circumstances

The following three general principles should be considered as a signal indicating the possibility that exceptional circumstances (ECs) exist:

- a. When there is evidence that the stock is in a state not previously considered to be plausible in the context of the management strategy evaluation (MSE);
- b. When there is evidence that the data required to apply the management procedure (MP) are not available or are no longer appropriate; and/or,
- c. When there is evidence that total catch is above the TAC set using the MP.

### 2. Indicators for ECs

In light of the principles specified in Section 1, the SCRS should use the following table to judge whether ECs exist. Triggering an EC does not immediately result in TAC advice from the MP being rescinded; rather, it means that the SCRS needs to examine the indicators and determine if a change in advice is warranted.



<i>Principle</i>	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Frequency of evaluation of Exceptional Circumstances</i>
a. Stock dynamics	Relative stock biomass (B/B <sub>MSY</sub> ) <sup>1</sup>	Falls outside the 2.5% and 97.5% percentile range of values in any year from the OMs used in the MSE when the accepted MP was tested	Each benchmark stock assessment (every 6-7 years)
	Relative fishing mortality (F/F <sub>MSY</sub> ) <sup>1</sup>		
	Growth <sup>2</sup>	Are substantially different from the values from the OMs used in the MSE when the accepted MP was tested	After completion, presentation, and acceptance by the SCRS of a study as the new reference
	Maturity <sup>2</sup>		
	Natural mortality <sup>2</sup>		
CPUE <sup>3</sup>	Falls outside the 2.5% and 97.5% percentile range of values in any year from the OMs used in the MSE when the accepted MP was tested	Annually	
b. Application of the MP	CPUE	If two or more series have not been updated for two or more years. If two or more series are determined to no longer reflect abundance	Each MP iteration (every 3 years)
	Catch	Catch data are unavailable or substantially unreported	Each MP iteration (every 3 years)
	Relative stock biomass (B/B <sub>MSY</sub> ) <sup>4</sup>	Values from the production model in an iteration of the MP fall outside the 2.5% and 97.5% percentile range of values in any year produced by the accepted MP's production model during MSE testing	Each MP iteration (every 3 years)
	Relative fishing mortality (F/F <sub>MSY</sub> ) <sup>4</sup>		
c. Implementation of the TAC	Catch	Total catch is above by more than 20% the TAC set using the MP	Annually

<sup>1</sup> B/B<sub>MSY</sub> and F/F<sub>MSY</sub>: In every benchmark assessment, the estimated B/B<sub>MSY</sub> and F/F<sub>MSY</sub> trajectories are plotted (overlaid) on top of those used in the OMs (Figures 19 and 20 of the MSE Consolidated document (Merino *et al.* 2020)). The SCRS would compare the new estimated stock trajectory with the potential realities of the stock contemplated in the OMs. If the new trend falls within the trends considered in the OMs, there is no EC. The criteria, as written, implies that if in a single year, relative biomass or fishing mortality falls outside of the values considered in the OMs, then EC would be identified by the SCRS.

<sup>2</sup> Growth, Maturity and Natural Mortality values as in Consolidated document (Merino *et al.* 2020).

<sup>3</sup> CPUE (for the principle of stock dynamics only): Every year the SCRS would update the standardized CPUEs and plot the new time series on top of those used in the MSE (Figure 23 of the MSE Consolidated document (Merino *et al.* 2020)). The trend should be within the values considered in the OMs for every single year.

<sup>4</sup> B/B<sub>MSY</sub> and F/F<sub>MSY</sub>: Every 3 years (MP iteration), the relative B and F series estimated by the MP is plotted (overlaid), on top of those estimated by the MP in the iterations of the MSE (Figures 21-22 of the MSE Consolidated document (Merino *et al.* 2020)). The comparison is the “estimated trajectories” to the “estimated trajectories considered in the MSE”. The trend should be within the values considered in the OMs for every single year, and, if not, EC would be identified by the SCRS.

Merino G., Kell L.T., Arrizabalaga H., Santiago J. 2020. Updated consolidated report for North Atlantic albacore management strategy evaluation. Col. Vol. Sci. Pap. ICCAT 77 (7), 428-461.

### 3. Actions to be taken in light of ECs

If the SCRS determines that an EC exists that precludes the application of the MP or makes the application of the MP or the implementation of its results unadvisable based on the principles outlined in Section 1, the SCRS shall evaluate the nature of the EC and advise the Commission on:

- (A) alternative management options for the coming fishing year aimed at ensuring, at a minimum, stability in the status of the stock, including the implications of: (i) maintaining the status quo total allowable catch (TAC), (ii) reducing the TAC by **20%** or another appropriate percentage, in particular in light of indications of stock decline, and (iii) any other appropriate conservation and management actions;
- (B) whether the existing MP can and should be adjusted or whether development of a new MP is required; and
- (C) whether a stock assessment is needed for providing management advice in the interim.

Based on the SCRS advice, the Commission shall decide on the alternative management action(s) to be taken. Unless the SCRS advises that there is a sufficient scientific basis to deviate, the Commission shall reduce the TAC of North Atlantic albacore by **20%** for the following year. In addition, as needed and appropriate, the SCRS shall conduct a new stock assessment and/or provide advice on new candidate MPs as soon as possible.

See the flowchart below for a schematic representation of the above process:

The SCRS shall check if ECs exist using the indicators specified in the table in Section 2 above and according to the indicated frequency.

Year 1 & 2:

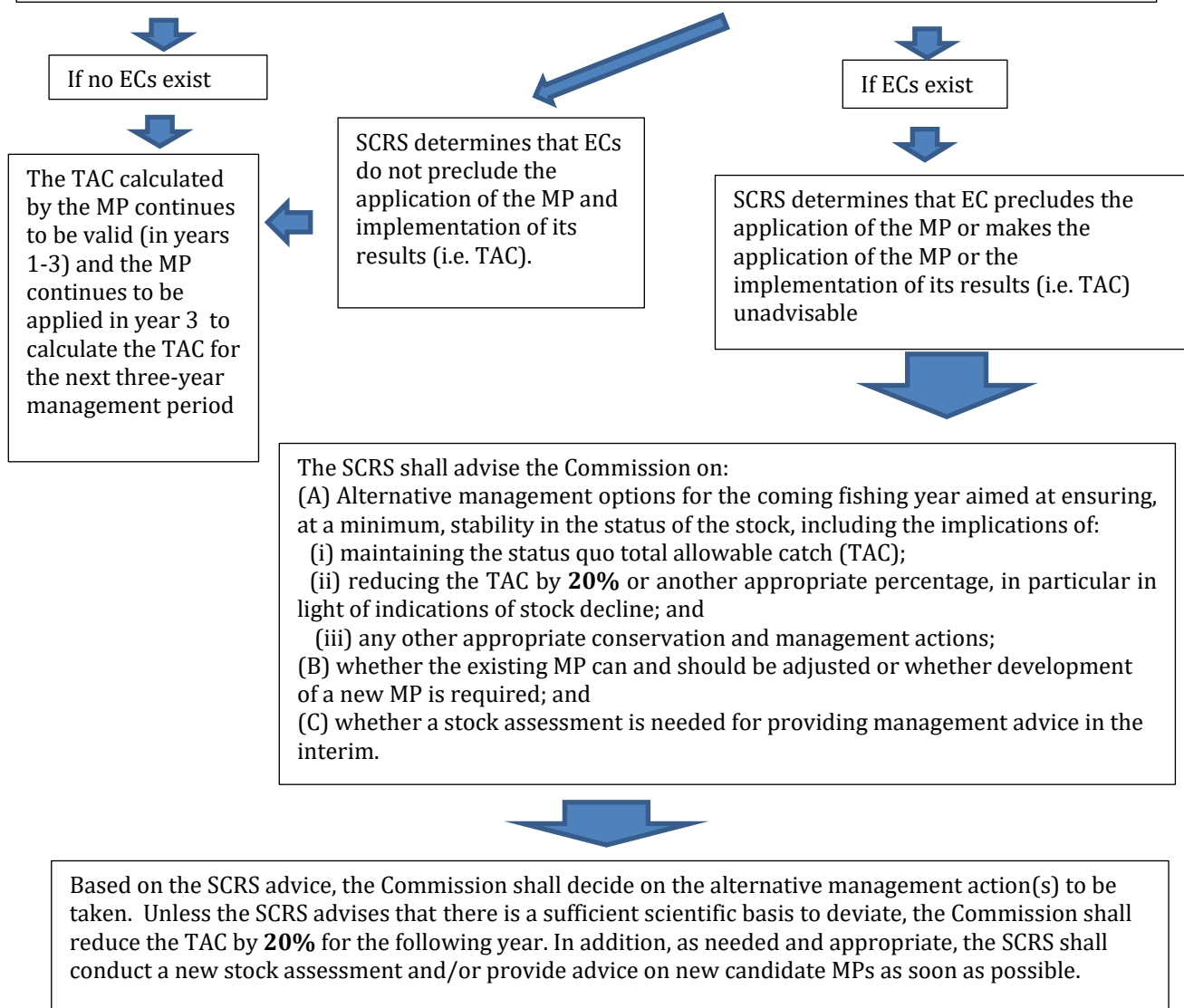
1. check for new studies of growth, maturity, and natural mortality;
2. update CPUE indices;
3. update catch.
  - checking that all three of these are within the range of values specified in the table in Section 2 above.

Year 3:

1. check that all datasets required in running the MP are available
2. re-run MP and check stock biomass and fishing mortality resulting from the MP's production model is within the 2.5% to 97.5% percentile range of values that occurred in the production model results when the accepted MP was tested by MSE;
3. same checks done in Year 1 & 2.

Any year:

- if a stock assessment has been conducted by the SCRS, check that the stock biomass and fishing mortality resulting from the stock assessment are within the 2.5% to 97.5% percentile range of values from the OMs used in the MSE when the accepted MP was tested.



**Annex 3****Procedure to establish the Total Allowable Catch for each management period**

The 3-year constant annual TAC shall be set as follows on the basis of reference points and management procedure set in **Annex 1** above:

- (a) if the current biomass ( $B_{CURR}$ ) is estimated to be at, or above, the threshold biomass (i.e.,  $B_{CURR} \geq B_{MSY}$ ), then the catch limit shall be set at

1.  $TAC = F_{TAR} * B_{CURR}$

- (b) if the current biomass ( $B_{CURR}$ ) is estimated to be below the threshold biomass but greater than  $B_{LIM}$  (i.e.,  $B_{CURR} > 0.4 * B_{MSY}$ ), then the catch limit shall be set at

1.  $TAC = F_{NEXT} * B_{CURR}$

Values for  $F_{NEXT}$  are reported in **Appendix C of Annex 1** and can also be calculated through the formula reported in paragraph 4.c therein.

- (c) if the current biomass ( $B_{CURR}$ ) is estimated to be at, or below, the  $B_{LIM}$  (i.e.,  $B_{CURR} \leq 0.4 * B_{MSY}$ ), then the catch limit shall be set at

1.  $TAC = F_{MIN} * B_{CURR}$

with a view to ensure a level of catch for scientific monitoring.

Where this occurs, the Commission shall immediately adopt severe management actions in order to reduce the fishing mortality rate to  $F_{MIN}$ , including measures to reduce the fishery to a level that would not exceed this level and to implement a scientific monitoring quota to be able to evaluate the stock status. The Commission shall not consider re-opening the fishery beyond this level until the current biomass ( $B_{CURR}$ ) exceeds  $B_{LIM}$  with a high probability. Furthermore, before reopening the fishery beyond this level, the Commission shall develop a rebuilding programme in order to ensure that the stock returns to the green quadrant of the Kobe plot consistent with the terms of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Principles of Decision Making for ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* (Rec. 11-13).

- (d) the catch limit resulting from the above calculations shall be below the maximum catch limit ( $C_{MAX}$ ) as reported in paragraph 4(e) of **Annex 1** and shall not increase by more than 25% or decrease by more than 20% from the previous catch limit except when  $B_{CURR} < B_{THRESH}$  or unless otherwise required pursuant to an agreed management response when exceptional circumstances are determined to have occurred by the SCRS pursuant to **Annex 2** of this Recommendation.
- (e) in the case of subparagraph (c) above, the catch limit could be set at a level lower than  $F_{MIN} * B_{CURR}$  if the SCRS considers it sufficient to ensure a level of catch proper for scientific monitoring.

**Performance metrics to be provided by SCRS to support decision-making**

Bold metrics are the subset to be regularly provided for easy communication.

ACRONYM	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND ASSOCIATED STATISTICS	UNIT OF MEASUREMENT	TYPE OF METRICS
	<b>1 Status</b>		
B <sub>MIN</sub>	1.1 Minimum spawner biomass relative to B <sub>MSY</sub>	B/ B <sub>MSY</sub>	Minimum over [x] years
B <sub>MEAN</sub>	1.2 Mean spawner biomass relative to B <sub>MSY</sub> <sup>1</sup>	B/ B <sub>MSY</sub>	Geometric mean over [x] years
F <sub>MEAN</sub>	1.3 Mean fishing mortality relative to F <sub>MSY</sub>	F/ F <sub>MSY</sub>	Geometric mean over [x] years
pGr%	<b>1.4 Probability of being in the Kobe green quadrant</b>	B, F	Proportion of years that B ≥ B <sub>MSY</sub> & F ≤ F <sub>MSY</sub>
pRed%	1.5 Probability of being in the Kobe red quadrant <sup>2</sup>	B, F	Proportion of years that B ≤ B <sub>MSY</sub> & F ≥ F <sub>MSY</sub>
	<b>2 Safety</b>		
pB <sub>LIM</sub> %	2.1 Probability that spawner biomass is above B <sub>LIM</sub> (0.4B <sub>MSY</sub> ) <sup>3</sup>	B/ B <sub>MSY</sub>	Proportion of years that B > B <sub>LIM</sub>
pB <sub>INT</sub> %	<b>2.2 Probability of B<sub>LIM</sub> &lt; B &lt; B<sub>THRESH</sub></b>	B/ B <sub>MSY</sub>	Proportion of years that B <sub>LIM</sub> < B < B <sub>THRESH</sub>
	<b>3 Yield</b>		
ShortY (kt)	3.1 Mean catch – short term	Catch	Mean over 1-3 years
MediumY (kt)	3.2 Mean catch – medium term	Catch	Mean over 5-10 years
LongY (kt)	<b>3.3 Mean catch – long term</b>	Catch	Mean in 15 and 30 years
	<b>4 Stability</b>		
MAP%	<b>4.1 Mean absolute proportional change in catch</b>	Catch (C)	Mean over [x] years of (C <sub>n</sub> -C <sub>n-1</sub> ) / C <sub>n-1</sub>
var	4.2 Variance in catch	Catch (C)	Variance over [x] years
Pshut	4.3 Probability of shutdown	TAC	Proportion of years that TAC=0
P10%	4.4 Probability of TAC change over a certain level <sup>4</sup>	TAC	Proportion of management cycles when the ratio of change <sup>5</sup> (TAC <sub>n</sub> -TAC <sub>n-1</sub> )/TAC <sub>n-1</sub> > X%
MaxTACc	4.5 Maximum amount of TAC change between management periods	TAC	Maximum ratio of change <sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This indicator provides an indication of the expected CPUE of adult fish because CPUE is assumed to track biomass.

<sup>2</sup> This indicator is only useful to distinguish the performance of strategies which fulfil the objective represented by 1.4.

<sup>3</sup> This differs slightly from being equal to 1- Probability of a shutdown (4.3), because of the choice of having a management cycle of 3 years. In the next management cycle after B has been determined to be less than B<sub>LIM</sub> the TAC is fixed during three years to the level corresponding to F<sub>LIM</sub>, and the catch will stay at such minimum level for three years. The biomass, however, may react quickly to the lowering of F and increase rapidly so that one or more of the three years of the cycle will have B > B<sub>LIM</sub>.

<sup>4</sup> Useful in the absence of TAC-related constraints in the harvest control rule.

<sup>5</sup> Positive and negative changes to be reported separately.

<sup>6</sup> Positive and negative changes to be reported separately.

21-05

ALB

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

*NOTING* that the extraordinary circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic which led to the cancellation of the 22nd Special Meeting of the Commission resulted in the continuation of the previous measure for South Atlantic albacore;

*CONSIDERING* that the SCRS noted that catches of South albacore are well below the current TAC but that some catch reporting may be incomplete and not in full conformity with SCRS requirements;

*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 2022, with the following modifications:
  - a) The table in paragraph 3 shall be modified to include the Republic of the Philippines, with a catch limit of 25 t.
  - b) Paragraph 6 is amended as follows:
 

*“Notwithstanding the Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding the Temporary Adjustment of Quotas (Rec. 01-12),”* all CPCs specifically referred to in paragraph 3 may transfer a portion of their quota to another CPC subject to both CPCs agreeing and providing prior notification to the ICCAT Secretariat in terms of the quantity to be transferred. The Secretariat shall disseminate this notification to all CPCs.
2. CPCs are urged to fully implement the requirements of paragraph 7 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Southern Albacore Catch Limits for the Period 2017-2020* (Rec. 16-07) and report to the Secretariat as appropriate.
3. The Recommendation amends *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Southern Albacore Catch Limits for the Period 2017 to 2020* (Rec. 16-07) and repeals and replaces the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT to amend the Recommendation 16-07 on South Atlantic Albacore Catch Limits for the Period 2017-2020* (Rec. 20-05).

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO ESTABLISH  
A REBUILDING PLAN FOR MEDITERRANEAN ALBACORE**

*RECALLING* the 2017 Recommendation by ICCAT establishing management measures for the stock of Mediterranean albacore (Rec. 17-05);

*NOTING* the provisions of ICCAT Recommendation 11-13 and the need to rebuild the stock and to reduce the fishing mortality for stocks overfished and subject to overfishing;

*CONSIDERING* that the 2021 stock assessment of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) concluded that the Mediterranean albacore stock is overfished and overfishing is occurring, and recommended a level of catch of 2,500 t to meet the Convention management objective to allow the biomass to recover to the  $B_{MSY}$  level with 60% probability by 2034;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* that following the 2021 stock assessment for Mediterranean albacore, the SCRS noted in its advice that there is high uncertainty regarding the characterization of stock status, in particular for fishing mortality;

*HIGHLIGHTING* that, according to the latest scientific advice, and consistent with the precautionary approach, the SCRS recommends preventing an increase of catches;

*CONSIDERING* that to prevent an increase of the fishing effort and of catches it is important to ensure that the fishing capacity does not increase;

*CONSIDERING* that the obligation set out in paragraph 12 of Recommendation by ICCAT replacing the Recommendation 13-04 and establishing a multi-annual recovery plan for Mediterranean swordfish (Rec. 16-05) introducing a closure period from 1 October to 30 November for the longline fisheries targeting Mediterranean albacore (*Thunnus alalunga*), with the aim of protecting juveniles of Mediterranean swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*), should continue to be implemented by all CPCs;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* that paragraph 11 of ICCAT Recommendation 16-05 on Mediterranean swordfish foresees two alternative closure periods for this fishery and these closures also affect albacore fisheries in the Mediterranean;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* the socio-economic dimension of small-scale Mediterranean fisheries and the need for a gradual approach and flexibility in managing these fisheries;

*RECALLING* the importance that all fleets participating in Mediterranean albacore fisheries submit the required data (catch, effort and catch-at-size) on their fisheries for transmission to the SCRS;

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

1. Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) whose vessels have been actively fishing for albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) in the Mediterranean shall implement a 15-year rebuilding plan starting in 2022 and continuing through 2036 with the goal of achieving  $B_{MSY}$  with at least 60% probability.
2. For 2022, a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) shall be set at 2,500 t for albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) in the Mediterranean. This shall not prejudice the discussions set to take place in the context of the Working Group referred to under paragraph 3 of this Recommendation.

3. An ICCAT Working Group shall be established in February 2022 in order to establish:
  - a) a fair and equitable allocation scheme of the TAC of Mediterranean albacore;
  - b) a 2022 CPC quota, without prejudice to the allocation scheme referred to in point a);
  - c) the mechanism to manage the TAC.

The Working Group shall, in the context of the establishment of the allocation key, use transparent and objective criteria, including those of an environmental, social and economic nature, and notably take into account *Resolution by ICCAT on Criteria for the allocation of fishing possibilities* (Res. 15-13).

4. A mutually agreed TAC allocation shall be adopted through a supplementary Recommendation at the 2022 Annual Meeting.
5. Each CPC shall limit the number of their fishing vessels authorised to fish for Mediterranean albacore to the number of vessels that were authorized to fish for Mediterranean albacore in 2017 under paragraph 28 of Recommendation 16-05; alternatively, in 2018 for CPCs which started to issue licenses for their fishing vessels in 2018 following the adoption of Recommendation 17-05. The CPCs shall communicate to the Commission, by 15 January 2022, the year of reference applying to them. CPCs, which used 2017 as the year of reference, may apply a tolerance of 10% to this capacity limit.
6. CPCs shall provide to the ICCAT Secretariat the list of all sport and recreational vessels authorized to catch albacore in the Mediterranean Sea, at least 15 days before the exercise of the activities. Vessels not introduced on this list shall not be authorized to catch Mediterranean albacore.
7. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the catch and retention on board, transshipment or landing of more than three Mediterranean albacore specimens per vessel per day for sport and recreational fisheries.
8. The marketing of Mediterranean albacore caught in sport and recreational fishing shall be prohibited.
9. Without prejudice to the obligation set out in paragraph 12 of *Recommendation by ICCAT replacing the Recommendation 13-04 and establishing a multi-annual recovery plan for Mediterranean swordfish* (Rec. 16-05), Mediterranean albacore shall not be caught (either as a targeted species or as bycatch), retained on board, transhipped or landed during either:
  - a) the period from 1 October to 30 November and during an additional period of one month between 15 February and 31 March;
  - b) or, alternatively, during the period from 1 January to 31 March each year.

The CPCs shall communicate to the Commission, by 15 January 2022, the closure periods of their choice.

10. CPCs shall monitor the Mediterranean albacore stock and shall submit to the Commission, at least two months before the Annual Meeting of the Commission, all relevant scientific information on catch, size and age at maturity, habitat, impact of longline fisheries in terms of catch composition, CPUE series, size distribution of the catches, and monthly estimation of spawner and recruit proportion in the catches. These data shall be submitted to the SCRS in the format required by ICCAT.
11. In 2023, the SCRS shall provide an updated assessment of the state of the stock on the basis of the most recent data available. It shall assess the effectiveness of this rebuilding plan and provide advice on possible amendments to the various measures within this plan. The SCRS shall advise the Commission on the appropriate characteristics of the fishing gear, the closure period in paragraph 9, as well as the minimum size to be implemented for Mediterranean albacore.
12. By the end of 2023, based on this scientific advice, ICCAT shall adopt, where necessary to comply with the management objectives, amendments to the management framework for Mediterranean albacore, including the revision of the catch limits and alternative management scenarios.



13. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 2 of the Convention, CPCs are strongly encouraged to implement, in accordance with their regulatory procedures, this Recommendation as soon as possible and before the date of its entry into force.
14. This Recommendation repeals and replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT establishing management measures for the stock of Mediterranean albacore* (Rec. 17-05).

21-07

BFT

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

*AWARE* that the *Recommendation by ICCAT for an Interim Conservation and Management Plan for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* (Rec. 17-06) was amended and extended only through 2021 by the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Rec. 17-06 for an Interim Conservation and Management Plan for Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna* (Rec. 20-06);

*RECALLING* the commitment of the Commission in Recommendation 20-06 to take actions that would address overfishing in 2022 with at least a 50% probability;

*NOTING* the positive results of the 2021 western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock assessment, which estimates that the total biomass has increased by 9% over the time period 2017-2020, indicates that the current TAC is not likely to have led to overfishing relative to  $F_{0.1}$  with a high probability, and shows clear signs of several strong subsequent recruitment years;

*RECOGNIZING*, however, that the results of the 2021 stock assessment and projections, including the Kobe matrix, do not capture the full degree of uncertainty with regard to the spawner-recruit relationship, the effects of stock mixing, and other aspects, and mindful as well of the conclusions of the external review of that assessment;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* the SCRS advice that, in light of the uncertainties and conclusions of the external review, the current scientific advice should be used with caution and, toward that end, only two years (2022 and 2023) were included in the Kobe II Strategy Matrix, and the SCRS advised the Commission could implement a moderate increase to the current TAC of 2,350 t;

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the additional advice provided by the SCRS on alternative approaches to assist the Commission in determining the level of a moderate increase in TAC, specifically the empirical approach looking at both western area and western spawning stock abundance, and the management strategy evaluation (MSE) approach;

*SUPPORTING* the Commission's work toward the development of MSE for bluefin tuna to manage fisheries more effectively in the face of identified uncertainties, including efforts to develop operational management objectives, in particular, *Resolution by ICCAT on Development of Initial Management Objectives for Eastern and Western Bluefin Tuna* (Res. 18-03), and efforts to finalize these management objectives consistent with the Convention and *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Principles of Decision Making for ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* (Rec. 11-13) and *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Development of Harvest Control Rules and Management Strategy Evaluation* (Rec. 15-07);

*WELCOMING* the 2022 SCRS Bluefin Tuna Workplan, including several manager-scientist dialogue meetings with Panel 2, to ensure the MSE process can be completed on schedule and anticipating that the SCRS will complete the MSE, including providing Candidate Management Procedures to the Commission for consideration, in 2022, with a view to the adoption of a management procedure to set TACs for 2023 onward;

*COMMITTED* in the interim, therefore, to the establishment of a precautionary TAC that prevents overfishing with a high probability, prioritizes continued stock growth, including into the long-term, and ensures relative stability by avoiding a large fluctuation in catches;

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 2022 with the following amendments:

(A) 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 2022 period.”

(B) Paragraph 3 shall be replaced with:

- “3. The annual total allowable catch (TAC), inclusive of dead discards, of 2,726 t is established for 2022.”

(C) Paragraph 4 shall be replaced with:

- “4. Should the MSE process not be completed in order to allow adoption of a management procedure (MP) in 2022, the Commission shall establish a TAC for 2023 taking into account additional SCRS advice in 2022, which would include consideration of updates of the fishery indicators. In support of the development of this advice, CPCs shall make special efforts, *inter alia*, to update abundance indices and other fishery indicators in 2022 and provide them to the SCRS.”

(D) 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 (bycatch related to longline fisheries in vicinity of management area boundary)	25 t
Canada (bycatch 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 2022 results in the following CPC-specific quota allocations (not including bycatch allowances listed in 6(a)):

<i>TAC for 2022: 2,726 t</i>	
United States	1,316.14 t
Canada	543.65 t
Japan	664.52 t
United Kingdom (in respect of Bermuda)	6.18 t
France (in respect of St. Pierre & Miquelon)	6.18 t
Mexico	149.34 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 149.34 t of its adjusted 2022 quota 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 2022 quota 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 2022 quota 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."

- (E) Paragraph 16 shall be replaced with:

"16. The SCRS shall continue to refine the MSE and test candidate MPs in 2022. In support of this effort, the SCRS and Panel 2 shall hold three MSE dialogue meetings in 2022. At the 2022 ICCAT Annual Meeting, the Commission shall review the final candidate MPs and, select one for adoption and application to establish the TAC for 2023 and future years, including pre-agreed management actions to be taken under various stock conditions."

- (F) 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."

- (G) Paragraph 20 shall be replaced with:

"20. CPCs that harvest Atlantic bluefin tuna should make every effort to contribute to priority research and other scientific activities, including that being undertaken through or in collaboration with the ICCAT 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. An area of particular focus should be to support and provide samples for genetic close-kin mark recapture and stock of origin analyses. The SCRS will report annually to the Commission 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 2022, the Commission shall review and amend, as appropriate, Recommendation 17-06 as amended by this Recommendation.
3. This Recommendation amends Recommendation 17-06 and repeals and replaces Recommendation 20-06.

21-08

BFT

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING THE RECOMMENDATION 19-04  
AMENDING RECOMMENDATION 18-02 ESTABLISHING A MULTI-ANNUAL  
CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR BLUEFIN TUNA IN THE  
EASTERN ATLANTIC AND THE MEDITERRANEAN**

*ACKNOWLEDGING* that the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) recommended in its 2020 advice that a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) be maintained at 36,000 t for 2022 and this figure be reviewed in 2021 based on updates of the abundance indicator;

*NOTING* that the SCRS confirmed in its 2021 advice that the examination of updated eastern abundance indicators and the projections of 2017 assessment did not provide any evidence to alter the current TAC advice of 36,000 t for 2022.

*ACKNOWLEDGING* the advice from SCRS to consider moving from the current recovery plan to a management plan and that the current status of the stock no longer appears to require the emergency measures introduced under the Recovery Plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean (Recommendation 17-07 by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 14-04);

*CONSIDERING* that the SCRS is conducting a management strategy evaluation (MSE) to establish a management procedure (MP), which includes harvest control rules (HCR), and the Commission is expected to decide on the MP at its 2022 annual meeting to establish TACs for 2023 and thereafter;

*FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING* the impacts of the Recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean on the small-scale fleets, in particular with regards to the reduction of fishing capacity;

*CONSIDERING* the capability of the stock to respond to several consecutive years of low recruitment, it will be paramount to ensure that fishing capacity remains within sustainable limits and that the control of capacity remains effective;

*TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION* the importance of maintaining the scope and integrity of the control measures, and reinforcing traceability of the catches, in particular with regards to the transport of live fish and farming activities;

*CONSIDERING* that the ICCAT Working Group on Bluefin Tuna Control and Traceability Measures of 2-4 March 2020 identified various provisions in Recommendation 19-04 that would benefit from being clarified, combined, streamlined, or otherwise improved and reinforced, and that the recommendations of the Working Group were endorsed by the March 2020 ICCAT Panel 2;

*CONSIDERING* that the Working Group also identified provisions in other recommendations, including Recs. 06-07, 18-13 and 20-07, related to the bluefin tuna activity, which would benefit from being imported into this Recommendation;

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

**Part I:  
General Provisions and Objectives**

1. The Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities hereinafter referred to as CPCs, whose vessels have been fishing actively for bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean shall implement a management plan for bluefin tuna in that geographic area starting in 2019 with the goal of maintaining the biomass around  $B_{0.1}$ , achieved by fishing at or less than  $F_{0.1}$ , which the SCRS considers to be reasonable proxy for  $F_{MSY}$ .

This objective shall be revisited and modified, if necessary, once the MSE has made sufficient progress, when alternative management objectives can be considered, and Reference Points, HCR and/or MP can be adopted.

2. When the SCRS stock evaluation indicates that the status and development of the stock (in terms of biomass and/or fishing mortality) is diverting from this objective, safeguards and review clauses as defined in the final provisions of this plan shall apply.

## Definitions

3. For purposes of this Recommendation:
  - a) “fishing vessel” means any powered vessel used for the purposes of the commercial exploitation of bluefin tuna resources, including catching vessels, fish processing vessels, support vessels, towing vessels, vessels engaged in transshipment, and transport vessels equipped for the transportation of tuna products and auxiliary vessels, except container vessels.
  - b) “catching vessel” means a vessel used for the purposes of the commercial capture of bluefin tuna resources.
  - c) “processing vessel” means a vessel on board of which fisheries products are subject to one or more of the following operations, prior to their packaging: filleting or slicing, freezing and/or processing.
  - d) “auxiliary vessel” means any vessel used to transport dead bluefin tuna (not processed) from a transport/farm cage, a purse seine vessel or a trap to a designated port and/or to a processing vessel.
  - e) “towing vessel” means any vessel used for towing live bluefin tuna cages.
  - f) “support vessel” means any other vessel authorised to operate in the bluefin tuna fishery to perform support tasks, which does not fall into any of the other categories mentioned in paragraph a, above. Support vessels may not retain on board or transport bluefin tuna.
  - g) “fishing actively” means, for any catching vessel, the fact that it targets bluefin tuna during a given fishing season.
  - h) “joint fishing operation” (hereinafter referred to in the text as JFO) means any operation between two or more bluefin tuna purse seine vessels where the catch of one bluefin tuna purse seine vessel is attributed to one or more other bluefin tuna purse seine vessels in accordance with a previously agreed allocation key. The JFO may or may not involve the active participation in bluefin tuna catching of all the purse seiners that make up the JFO.
  - i) “transfer operations” means:
    - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the catching vessel's net to the transport cage;
    - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the trap to the transport cage, independent of the presence of a towing vessel;
    - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the transport cage to another transport cage;
    - any transfer of a cage containing live bluefin tuna from a towing vessel to another towing vessel;
    - any transfer of live bluefin tuna between different cages in the same farm (Intra-farm transfer)
    - any transfer of live bluefin tuna from a farm cage to a transport cage
  - j) “inter farm transfer” means relocation of live bluefin tuna from one farm to another farm composed of two phases, a transfer from the donor farm cage to a transport cage and a caging from the transport cage to the receiving farm cage.
  - k) “first transfer” means a transfer of live bluefin tuna from a purse seine net or a trap to a transport cage.

- l) “further transfer” means any transfer operation that is conducted after the first transfer and before caging at the destination farm, such as splitting or merging of the contents of two transport cages but that does not include voluntary or control transfers.
- m) “donor operator” means the master of the catching or the towing vessel or its representative, or the representative of a farm or a trap, from which a transfer operation originates.
- n) “CPC of the donor operator” means the CPC that exercises its jurisdiction on the donor operator.
- o) “voluntary transfer” means the repetition of any transfer being voluntarily implemented by the donor operator, for the purpose of satisfying the requirements of **Annex 8**.
- p) “control transfer” means the repetition of any transfer being implemented at the request of control authorities.
- q) “control caging” means a repetition of the caging operation being implemented at the request of the control authorities, for the purpose of verifying the number and or the average weight of fish being caged.
- r) “trap” means fixed gear anchored to the bottom, usually containing a guide net that leads bluefin tuna into an enclosure or series of enclosures where it is kept prior to harvesting or farming.
- s) “caging” means the relocation of live bluefin tuna from the transport cage or trap to the farming or fattening cages.
- t) “fattening” or “farming” means caging of bluefin tuna in farms and subsequent feeding aiming to fatten and increase their total biomass.
- u) “farm” means a marine site clearly defined by geographical coordinates, used for the fattening or farming of bluefin caught by traps and/or purse seine vessels. A farm could have several farming locations, all of them defined by geographical coordinates (with a clear definition of longitude and latitude for each one of the points of the polygon).
- v) “harvesting” means the killing of bluefin tuna in farms or traps.
- w) “transshipment” means the unloading of all or any of the fish on board a fishing vessel to another fishing vessel. However, unloading of dead bluefin tuna from the purse seine, the trap or the towing vessel to an auxiliary vessel shall not be considered as transshipment.
- x) “sport fishery” means non-commercial fisheries whose members adhere to a national sport organization or are issued with a national sport license.
- y) “recreational fishery” means non-commercial fisheries whose members do not adhere to a national sport organization or are not issued with a national sport license.
- z) “stereoscopic camera” means a camera with two or more lenses, with a separate image sensor or film frame for each lens, enabling the taking of three-dimensional images for the purpose of measuring the length of the fish and assisting in refining the number and weight of bluefin tuna.
- aa) “control camera” means a stereoscopic camera and/or conventional video camera for the purpose of the controls foreseen in this Recommendation.
- bb) “BCD or electronic BCD (eBCD)” means a bluefin catch document.
- cc) “lengths of vessels” means overall lengths.
- dd) “small-scale coastal vessel” is a catching vessel with at least three of the five following characteristics: (a) length overall <12 m; (b) the vessel is fishing exclusively inside the territorial waters of the flag CPC (c) fishing trips have a duration of less than 24 hours (d) the maximum crew number is established at four persons, or (e) the vessel is fishing using techniques which are selective and have a reduced environmental impact.
- ee) “farm CPC” means the CPC under whose jurisdiction the bluefin tuna farm is located.
- ff) “flag CPC” means the CPC where the fishing vessel is flagged.
- gg) “trap CPC” means the CPC under whose jurisdiction the trap is located.
- hh) “input farming capacity” means the maximum amount of wild bluefin tuna in tons that a farm is allowed to cage during a fishing season.



**Part II:  
Management measures**

**TAC and quotas and conditions associated with the allocation of quotas to CPCs**

4. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the fishing effort of its catching vessels and its traps are commensurate with the bluefin tuna fishing opportunities available to that CPC in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, including by establishing individual quotas for its catching vessels over 24 m included in the list referred to in paragraph 48 a) of this Recommendation.
5. The total allowable catches (TACs), inclusive of dead discards, for 2022 shall be set at 36,000 t, in accordance with the SCRS advice. The TACs for 2023 and thereafter shall be decided at the 2022 Commission annual meeting in accordance with an MP or based on new SCRS advice in 2022 if the MP is not available yet.

36,000 t shall be allocated in 2022 in accordance with the following scheme:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Quota 2022 (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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36,000</b>

\* Notwithstanding the provision of this Part, Iceland may catch beyond 180 t in 2022 by 25% while its total catch for 2020, 2021 and 2022 combined shall not exceed 540 t (180 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.

The European Union is authorised to transfer 48.40 t from its quota in 2022 to the United Kingdom.

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 2022.

6. The flag CPC may require a catching vessel to proceed immediately to a port designated by it when the individual quota of the vessel is deemed to be exhausted.

7. Automatic carry-over of any unused quota is not authorized. A CPC may request to transfer a maximum of 5% of its 2021 quota to 2022. The CPC shall include this request in its annual fishing/capacity plans for endorsement by the Commission.
8. No chartering operation for the bluefin tuna fishery is permitted.
9. Notwithstanding the provision of Recommendation 01-12, all CPCs specifically referred to in the table in paragraph 5, may transfer a portion of their quota to another CPC subject to both CPCs agreeing and providing prior notification to the ICCAT Secretariat in terms of the quantity to be transferred. The Secretariat shall disseminate this notification to all CPCs.
10. If the catch of a CPC in any given year exceeds its allocation, the CPC shall pay back in the next subsequent management period in accordance with the provisions in paragraphs 2 and 3 of ICCAT Recommendation 96-14.
11. In line with the MSE Roadmap, the SCRS shall continue its MSE work, testing candidate management procedures, including HCRs, which would support management objectives to be agreed by the Commission. Based on the SCRS inputs and advice, and a dialogue process between scientists and managers, the Commission shall select in 2022 a management procedure for Atlantic bluefin, including pre-agreed management actions to be taken under various stock conditions for the provision of the TAC advice starting for 2023.

**Submission of annual fishing plans, fishing and farming capacity management and inspection plans and farming management plans**

12. By 15 February each year, each CPC with an allocated eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna quota shall submit to the ICCAT Secretariat:
  - a) An annual fishing plan for the catching vessels and traps fishing bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean drawn up in accordance with paragraphs 14-15.
  - b) An annual fishing capacity management plan ensuring that the CPC authorized fishing capacity is commensurate with the allocated quota drawn up to include the information set forth in paragraphs 16-21.
  - c) monitoring, control and inspection plan with a view to ensuring compliance with the provisions of this Recommendation. This plan shall also designate the CPC control competent authority and the list of contact points nominated as responsible for the implementation of this monitoring, control and inspection plan.
  - d) An annual farming management plan as appropriate, that is in line with the requirements set out in paragraphs 22-25, including the authorized maximum input per farm and the maximum capacity per farm and the total amount of fish by farm carried over from the previous year, in accordance with paragraphs 199 to 205.
13. For 2022, prior to 31 March 2022 and in line with paragraph 235 of this Recommendation, the Commission shall convene an intersessional meeting of Panel 2 to analyze and, as appropriate, endorse the plans referred to under paragraph 12. This obligation may be revised after 2022 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.

**Annual fishing plans**

14. The annual fishing plan shall identify, *inter alia*, the quotas allocated to each gear group, when applicable, the method used to allocate and manage quotas as well as the measures to ensure the respect of the individual quotas, the open fishing seasons for each gear category and the rules on by-catch.

15. Any subsequent modification to the annual fishing plan shall be transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat at least one working day before the exercise of the activity corresponding to that modification. Notwithstanding this provision, quota transfers between different gear groups and transfers between by-catch quota and directed quotas from the same CPC shall be allowed, provided that information on the transfers is transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat at the latest when the transfer enters into force.

## **Capacity management measures**

### **Fishing capacity**

#### **Adjustment of fishing capacity**

16. 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 2022 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.
17. The annual fishing capacity management plan as referred to in paragraph 12. b) shall adjust the number of catching vessels to demonstrate that the fishing capacity is commensurate with the fishing opportunities allocated to the catching vessels for the same quota period. Regarding small-scale coastal vessels, the minimum quota requirement of 5 t (catch rate defined by the SCRS in 2009) shall no longer be applicable and sectorial quotas may alternatively be applied to those vessels as follows:
  - a) If a CPC has small-scale coastal vessels authorized to fish for bluefin tuna, it shall allocate a specific sectorial quota for those vessels and indicate in its fishing, and monitoring, control and inspection plans which additional measures it will put in place to closely monitor the quota consumption of this fleet segment.
  - b) For the vessels from the archipelagos of Azores, Canary Islands and Madeira, a sectorial quota may be established for baitboats. Such sectorial quota and the additional conditions to monitor it shall be clearly defined in the fishing plan submitted pursuant to paragraph 12 above.
18. The adjustment of fishing capacity for purse-seine vessels shall be limited to a maximum variation of 20% compared to the baseline fishing capacity of 2018. When calculating the number of vessels using 20%, CPCs can eventually round up the figure to the next whole number.
19. For 2022, CPCs may authorize the number of their traps engaged in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery which allows the full exploitation of their fishing opportunities.
20. The requirements for adjustments and for the number of traps defined in paragraphs 17, 18 and 19 shall not apply:
  - a) if developing CPCs can demonstrate that they need to develop their fishing capacity so as to fully use their quota, by using relevant yearly catch rates by fleet segment and gear proposed by the SCRS, and if such adjustments are included in their annual fishing plan in accordance to paragraph 12;
  - b) in the Northeast Atlantic, to those CPCs that are fishing mainly in their own economic zones (the Norwegian Economic Zone and the Icelandic Economic Zone).
21. Any calculation to establish adjustments of fishing capacity shall be made in accordance with the methodology approved at the 2009 Annual meeting and with the conditions set in paragraphs 17 and 19, except when the CPCs concerned fish mainly in the Exclusive Economic Zones of Norway or Iceland.

### **Farming capacity**

22. Each farm CPC shall establish an annual farming management plan. Such plan shall demonstrate that the total input capacity and the total farming capacity is commensurate with the estimated amount of bluefin tuna available for farming including the information referred to in paragraphs 23 and 25. The Commission shall ensure that the total farming capacity in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean is commensurate with the total amount of bluefin tuna available for farming in the area.
23. Each CPC shall limit its tuna farming capacity to the total farming capacity of the farms that were registered in the ICCAT list or authorized and declared to ICCAT in 2018.
24. 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 12 of this Recommendation. This clause should be reviewed as from 2022.
25. Each CPC shall establish an annual maximum input of wild caught bluefin tuna into its farms at the level of the input quantities registered with ICCAT by its farms in 2005, 2006, 2007 or 2008. If a CPC needs to increase the maximum input of wild caught tuna in one or several of its tuna farms, that increase shall be commensurate with the fishing opportunities allocated to that CPC, including live bluefin tuna imports.
26. The ICCAT Secretariat shall compile statistics on the annual amount of caging (input of wild caught fish), harvesting, and export, by farm CPC, using the data in the eBCD system. The eBCD-TWG shall consider the development of such a data extraction functionality, and until such functionality becomes available each farm CPC shall report these statistics to the ICCAT Secretariat. These statistics shall be made available on the ICCAT website subject to confidentiality requirements.

### **Growth rates**

27. 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 34 (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.

## **Part III: Technical measures**

### **Open seasons**

28. Purse seine fishing for bluefin tuna shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean during the period from 26 May to 1 July.

By way of derogation, the season in the eastern Mediterranean Sea (FAO fishing areas 37.3.1 Aegean; 37.3.2 Levant), may be open 15 May if a CPC requests it in its fishing plan.

By way of derogation, the season in the Adriatic Sea (FAO fishing area 37.2.1) may be open from 26 May until 15 July, for fish farmed in the Adriatic Sea.

By way of derogation the purse seine fishing season in the Norwegian Economic Zone and in the Icelandic Economic Zone shall be from 25 June to 15 November.

By way of derogation, the purse seine fishing season in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean fishing zones limited to the waters under the sovereignty or jurisdiction of the Kingdom of Morocco may be open from 1 May to 15 June if a CPC requests it in its fishing plan.

29. If weather conditions prevent fishing operations, CPCs may decide that the fishing seasons referred under paragraph 28 be expanded by an equivalent number of lost days up to 10 days.
30. The catching of bluefin tuna shall be permitted in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean by large-scale pelagic longlines catching vessels over 24 m during the period from 1 January to 31 May with the exception of the area delimited by West of 10°W and North of 42°N, as well as in the Norwegian Economic Zone, where such fishing shall be permitted from 1 August to 31 January.
31. CPCs shall establish open fishing seasons for their fleets other than purse seine vessels and vessels referred to in paragraph 30, and shall provide this information in their fishing plan defined in paragraph 14 to be analysed and, as appropriate, endorsed by Panel 2 intersessionally.
32. 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.

#### **Minimum size**

33. The minimum size for bluefin tuna caught in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean shall be 30 kg or 115 cm fork length. Therefore, CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit catching, retaining on board, transshipping, transferring, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg or with fork length of less than 115 cm.
34. By derogation from paragraph 33, a minimum size for bluefin tuna of 8 kg or 75 cm fork length shall apply to the following situations (see **Annex 1**):
  - a) Bluefin tuna caught in the eastern Atlantic by baitboats and trolling boats;
  - b) Bluefin tuna caught in the Mediterranean by the small-scale coastal fleet fishery for fresh fish by baitboats, longliners and handliners;
  - c) Bluefin tuna caught in the Adriatic Sea for farming purposes.

Notwithstanding the above, for bluefin tuna caught in the Adriatic Sea by Croatian flag vessels for the purpose of farming, the relevant CPC may grant tolerances to capture bluefin tuna having a minimum weight of 6.4 kg or, in the alternative, having a minimum fork length of 66 cm, provided they limit the take of these fish to a maximum of 7% by weight of the total quantities of bluefin tuna caught by those Croatian vessels. In addition, for bluefin tuna caught by French baitboat vessels with an overall length of less than 17 m operating in the Bay of Biscay, CPCs may grant tolerances to capture up to a maximum of 100 t of bluefin tuna having a minimum weight of 6.4 kg or, in the alternative, having a minimum fork length of 70 cm.

35. CPCs concerned shall issue specific authorizations to vessels fishing under the derogations referred to in paragraph 34. In addition, fish below these minimum sizes that are discarded dead shall be counted against the CPC quota.

#### **Incidental catches of fish below minimum size**

36. For catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna and tuna traps, CPCs may authorize an incidental catch of no more than 5% by number of bluefin tuna weighing between 8 kg and 30 kg or, in the alternative, with fork length between 75 and 115 cm.

This percentage shall be calculated in relation to the total catches in number of bluefin tuna retained on board a vessel at any time after each fishing operation in the above-mentioned weight or length categories.

### **General rules on by-catches**

37. All CPCs shall allocate a specific quota for by-catch of bluefin tuna. The levels of authorized by-catches as well as the methodology to calculate those by-catches in relation with the total catches on board (in weight or number of specimens) shall be clearly defined in the annual fishing plans submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat under paragraph 12 of this Recommendation and shall never exceed 20% of the total catches on board at the end of each fishing trip. Calculation in number of pieces shall only apply to tuna and tuna-like species managed by ICCAT. For the small-scale coastal vessel fleet the amount of by-catch can be calculated on an annual basis.

All by-catches of dead bluefin tuna, whether retained or discarded, shall be deducted from the quota of the flag CPC and reported to ICCAT. If by-catch of bluefin tuna occurs in waters under the fishery jurisdiction of CPCs whose current domestic legislation requires that all dead or dying fish must be landed, this landing obligation shall be complied with also by vessels flying foreign flags.

If no quota has been allocated to the CPC of the catching vessel or trap concerned or if it has already been consumed, the catching of bluefin tuna as by-catch is not permitted and CPCs shall take the necessary measures to ensure their release. If however, such bluefin tuna is dead it shall be landed, and the appropriate follow-up action taken in accordance with the national law. CPCs shall report information on such quantities on an annual basis to the ICCAT Secretariat who shall make it available to the SCRS.

The procedures referred to in paragraphs 89 to 94 and 227 shall apply to by-catch.

For vessels not actively fishing for bluefin tuna, any quantity of bluefin tuna kept on board shall be clearly separated from other fish species to allow control authorities to monitor the respect of this rule. The procedures for non-authorized vessels with regard to the eBCD shall follow as laid down in the relevant provision of Recommendation 20-08.

### **Recreational fisheries and sport fisheries**

38. When CPCs allocate, where appropriate, a specific quota to sport and recreational fisheries; that allocated quota should be set even if catch and release is compulsory for bluefin tuna caught in sport and recreational fisheries to account for possible dead fish. Each CPC shall regulate recreational and sport fisheries by issuing fishing authorizations to vessels for the purpose of sport and recreational fishing.

39. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the catch and retention on board, transshipment or landing of more than one bluefin tuna per vessel per day for recreational fisheries.

This prohibition does not apply to CPCs whose domestic legislation requires that all dead fish, including those caught by sport and recreational, shall be landed.

40. The marketing of bluefin tuna caught in recreational and sport fishing shall be prohibited.
41. Each CPC shall take measures to record catch data including weight of each bluefin tuna caught during sport and recreational fishing and communicate to the ICCAT Secretariat the data for the preceding year by 31 July each year.
42. Dead catches from sport and recreational fisheries shall be counted against the quota allocated to the CPC in accordance with paragraph 5.
43. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, the release of bluefin tuna, especially juveniles, caught alive, in the framework of recreational and sport fishing. Any bluefin tuna landed shall be whole, gilled and/or gutted.

44. Any CPC wishing to conduct a sport catch-and-release fishery in the North East Atlantic may allow a limited number of sport vessels to target bluefin tuna with the purpose of “tag and release” without the need to allocate them a specific quota. This applies to those vessels operating in the context of a scientific project of a research institute integrated in a scientific research program results of which shall be communicated to the SCRS. In this context the CPC shall have the obligation to: (a) submit the description and associated measures applicable to this fishery as integral part of their fishing and control plans as referred under paragraph 12 of this Recommendation; (b) closely monitor the activities of the vessels concerned to ensure their compliance with the existing provisions of this Recommendation; (c) ensure that the tagging and releasing operations are performed by trained personnel to ensure high survival of the specimens; and (d) annually submit a report on the scientific activities conducted, at least 60 days before the SCRS meeting of the following year. Any bluefin tuna that die during tag and release activities shall be reported and deducted from the CPC’s quota.
45. CPCs shall make available upon request from ICCAT the list of sport and recreational vessels which have received an authorization.
46. The format for such list referred to in paragraph 45 shall include the following information:
  - a) Name of vessel, register number;
  - b) ICCAT Record Number (if any);
  - c) Previous name (if any);
  - d) Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s).

#### **Use of aerial means**

47. The use of any aerial means, including aircraft, helicopters or any types of unmanned aerial vehicles to search for bluefin tuna shall be prohibited.

### **Part IV: Control measures**

#### **Section A – Records of vessels, traps and farms**

##### **ICCAT Record of fishing vessels**

48. CPCs shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of all fishing vessels as defined in paragraph 3 a). That record shall consist of the following lists:
  - a) catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna, as per paragraph 3 g) of this Recommendation; and
  - b) other vessels engaged in bluefin tuna related activities, other than catching vessels.
49. Each list shall include the following information:
  - a) name and registry number of the vessel;
  - b) specification of the type of vessel differentiating at least between: catching vessels, towing vessels, auxiliary vessels, support vessels, processing vessels;
  - c) length and gross registered tonnage (GRT) or, where possible, Gross Tonnage (GT);
  - d) IMO number (if any);
  - e) gear used (if any);
  - f) previous flag (if any);
  - g) previous name (if any);
  - h) previous details of deletion for other registers (if any);
  - i) international radio call sign (if any);
  - j) name and address of owner(s) and operator(s); and
  - k) time period authorized for fishing, operating and/or transporting bluefin tuna for farming.

50. For vessels over 24 metres (independently of the gear used, excluding for bottom trawlers,) and for all purse seine vessels, CPCs shall indicate the number of vessels to the ICCAT Secretariat as part of their fishing plan defined in paragraph 12 of this Recommendation.
51. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall establish and maintain the ICCAT Record of all catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna and all other vessels authorized to operate for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean and take any measure to ensure availability of the record through electronic means, including by placing it on the ICCAT website in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements noted by CPCs.
52. Each flag CPC shall submit electronically each year to the ICCAT Secretariat: (i) at the latest 15 days before the beginning of the fishing activity the list of its catching vessels referred to in paragraph 48 (a); and (ii) at the latest 15 days before the start of their operation the list of other fishing vessels referred to in paragraph 48 (b). Submissions shall be undertaken in accordance with the format set out in the *Guidelines for submitting data and information required by ICCAT*.
53. No retroactive submissions shall be accepted. Subsequent changes shall only be accepted if the notified fishing vessel is prevented from participation due to legitimate operational reasons or *force majeure*. In such circumstances, the CPC concerned shall immediately inform the ICCAT Secretariat, providing:
- a) full details of the fishing vessel(s) intended to replace a vessel or vessels, included on the record referred to in paragraph 48; CPCs with less than 5 vessels on either list referred to in paragraph 48, may replace a vessel with another vessel not previously included on the record, provided that the CPC concerned submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat a request for an ICCAT number to be given to the vessel, and the requested number has been provided;
  - b) a comprehensive account of the reasons justifying the replacement and any relevant supporting evidence or references.

The ICCAT Secretariat will circulate such cases among CPCs. If any CPC notifies that the case is not sufficiently justified or incomplete, it shall be brought to the Compliance Committee for further review and the case shall remain pending approval of the Compliance Committee.

54. Without prejudice to paragraph 37 for the purposes of this Recommendation, fishing vessels not entered into one of the ICCAT records referred to in paragraph 48 (a) and (b) are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, tranship, transport, transfer, process or land eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna. The prohibition against retention on board does not apply to CPCs whose domestic legislation requires that all dead fish must be landed, providing that the value of the catch is subject to confiscation.
55. Conditions and procedures referred in the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 13-13 concerning the establishment of an ICCAT Record of vessels 20 metres in length overall or greater authorized to operate in the Convention area* (Rec. 21-14) (except paragraph 3) shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

#### **Fishing authorizations for vessels and traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna**

56. CPCs shall issue special authorizations and/or national fishing licenses to vessels and traps included in one of the lists described in paragraphs 45, 48 and 58. Fishing authorizations shall contain as a minimum the information set out in **Annex 13**. The Flag CPC shall ensure that the information contained in the fishing authorization is accurate and consistent with the rules of ICCAT. The Flag CPC shall take the necessary enforcement measures in accordance with their legislation and may require the vessel to proceed immediately to a designated port when the individual quota is deemed to be exhausted.



### **ICCAT record of tuna traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna**

57. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT Record of all tuna traps authorized to fish for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean. For the purposes of this Recommendation, tuna traps not entered into the record are deemed not to be authorized to be used to fish for, retain, and participate in any operation to catch, transfer, harvest or land bluefin tuna.
58. Each CPC shall submit electronically to the ICCAT Secretariat, as part of their fishing plan defined in paragraphs 14 to 15, the list (including the name of the traps, register number and geographical coordinates of the trap polygon) of its authorized tuna traps referred to in paragraph 56.
59. Each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat, after the establishment of the ICCAT record of traps, of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the ICCAT record of traps at any time such changes occur.
60. The ICCAT Secretariat shall take any measure to ensure availability of the record through electronic means, including placing it on the ICCAT website, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements noted by CPCs.

### **ICCAT record of farms authorized to operate for bluefin tuna**

61. The ICCAT Secretariat shall maintain an ICCAT Record of all tuna farms authorized to operate for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean. For the purposes of this Recommendation, tuna farms not entered into the Record are deemed not to be authorized to operate for bluefin tuna.
62. Each farm CPC shall submit electronically to the ICCAT Secretariat, as part of their farming plan defined in paragraph 12 (d), the list of its authorized bluefin tuna farms, including:
  - i. the name of the farm
  - ii. register number
  - iii. names and addresses of owner(s) and operator(s)
  - iv. the input and total farming capacity allocated to each farm
  - v. the geographical coordinates of the areas authorized for farming activities, and
  - vi. the status of the farm (active or inactive).
63. No farming activities, including feeding for fattening purposes or harvesting of bluefin tuna, shall be authorized outside of the geographical coordinates approved for farming activities.
64. Each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the ICCAT Record of farms at any time such changes occur.
65. The ICCAT Secretariat shall take any measure to ensure availability of the record through electronic means, including placing it on the ICCAT website, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements noted by CPCs.
66. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that no bluefin tuna is placed into a farm not authorized by the CPC or listed in the ICCAT Record and that the farms do not receive bluefin tuna from vessels that are not included in the ICCAT Record of vessels referred to in paragraph 48. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures, under their applicable legislation, to prohibit any operation on farms not registered in the ICCAT Record of farms.

### **Information on fishing activities**

67. By 31 July each year, or within 7 months of the completion of the fishing season for those CPCs that end their fishing campaign in July, each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat detailed information on bluefin tuna catches in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean in the preceding quota allocation period. This information should include:

- a) the name and ICCAT number of each catching vessel;
  - b) the period of authorization(s) for each catching vessel;
  - c) the total catches of each catching vessel including nil returns throughout the period of authorization(s);
  - d) the total number of days each catching vessel fished in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean throughout the period of authorization(s); and
  - e) the total catch outside their period of authorization (by-catch).
68. For all vessels that were not authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean but that caught bluefin tuna as by-catch, the following information shall be provided to the ICCAT Secretariat:
- a) the name and ICCAT number or national registry number of the vessel, if not registered with ICCAT;
  - b) the total catches of bluefin tuna.
69. Each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Secretariat of any information concerning vessels not covered in paragraphs 67 and 68 but known or presumed to have fished for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean. The ICCAT Secretariat shall forward such information without delay to the flag CPC for appropriate action, with a copy to other CPCs for information.

### **Joint fishing operations**

70. Any joint fishing operation for bluefin tuna shall only be authorized with the express written consent of the CPCs concerned. To be authorized, each purse seine vessel shall be equipped to fish for bluefin tuna, to have a specific individual quota allocation, and to operate in accordance with the requirements defined in paragraphs 71 and 73. The quota allocated to a given JFO, shall be equal to the total of all the quotas allocated to purse seine vessels participating in the concerned JFO. Furthermore, the duration of the JFO shall not be longer than the duration of the fishing season for purse seine vessels, as referred to under paragraph 28 of this Recommendation.
71. At the moment of the application for the authorization, following the format set in **Annex 5**, each CPC shall take the necessary measures to obtain from its purse seine vessel(s) participating in the joint fishing operation the following information:
- the period of authorization of the JFO,
  - the identity of the operators involved,
  - the individual vessels' quotas,
  - the allocation key between the vessels for the catches involved, and
  - information on the farms of destination.

Each CPC shall transmit all the information referred above to the ICCAT Secretariat at least five working days before the start of the purse seine vessels fishing season as defined in paragraph 28.

In the case of *force majeure*, the deadline set out in this paragraph shall not apply regarding the information on the farms of destination. In such cases, CPCs shall provide the ICCAT Secretariat with an update of that information as soon as possible, together with a description of the events constituting *force majeure*. The ICCAT Secretariat shall compile the information referred under this paragraph provided by CPCs for the review by the Compliance Committee.

72. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of all joint fishing operations authorized by the CPCs in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean.
73. No JFOs between purse seine vessels from different CPCs shall be permitted. However, a CPC with less than five authorized purse seine vessels may authorize joint fishing operations with any other CPC. Each CPC conducting a JFO shall be responsible and accountable for the catches made under this JFO.

**Part IV:  
Control measures**

**Section B - Catches and transhipments**

**Recording requirements**

74. The masters of catching vessels shall maintain a bound or electronic fishing logbook of their operations in accordance with the requirements set out in Section A of **Annex 2**.
75. The masters of towing vessels, auxiliary vessels and processing vessels shall record their activities in accordance with the requirements set out in Sections B, C and D of **Annex 2**.

**Catch reports sent by masters and trap operators**

76. Each CPC shall ensure that its catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna shall communicate to their authorities during the whole period in which they are authorized to fish bluefin tuna by electronic or any other effective means daily information from logbooks, including the date, time, location (latitude and longitude), the weight and number of bluefin tuna caught in the area covered by this plan, including releases and discards of dead fish under the minimum size referred to in paragraph 33. Masters shall send that information in the format set out in **Annex 2** or through the CPCs reporting requirement.
77. Masters of purse seine vessels shall produce reports referred to in paragraph 76 on a fishing operation by fishing operation basis, including operations where the catch was zero. The reports shall be transmitted by the operator to its flag CPC authorities by 9.00 GMT for the preceding day.
78. Trap operators or their authorized representatives fishing actively for bluefin tuna shall send electronically a daily catch report, including the ICCAT register number, date, time, catches (weight and number of fish), including zero catches. They shall send that information within 48 hours electronically in the format set out in **Annex 2** to their flag CPC authorities during the whole period they are authorized to fish bluefin tuna.
79. For catching vessels other than purse seine vessels and traps, masters shall transmit to their control authorities, reports referred to in paragraph 76 by the latest Tuesday noon for the preceding week ending Sunday.

**Designated ports**

80. Each CPC who has been allocated a bluefin tuna quota shall designate ports where landing or transshipping operations of bluefin tuna are authorized. This list shall be communicated each year to the ICCAT Secretariat as part of the annual fishing plan communicated by each CPC. Any amendment shall be communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat. Other CPCs may designate ports in which landing or transshipping operations of bluefin tuna is authorized and communicate a list of these ports to the ICCAT Secretariat.
81. For a port to be determined as a designated port, the port State shall ensure that the following conditions are met:
  - a) established landing and transshipment times;
  - b) established landing and transshipment places; and
  - c) established inspection and surveillance procedures ensuring inspection coverage during all landing and transshipment times and at all landing and transshipment places in accordance with paragraph 85.

82. It shall be prohibited to land or tranship from catching vessels as well as processing vessels and auxiliary vessels any quantity of bluefin tuna fished in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean at any place other than ports designated by CPCs in accordance with paragraphs 80 and 81. However, exceptionally, the transport of dead bluefin tuna, harvested from a trap/cage, to a processing vessel using an auxiliary vessel, is not prohibited.
83. On the basis of the information received by CPCs under paragraph 80 the ICCAT Secretariat shall maintain a list of designated ports on the ICCAT website.
84. The provisions of this Recommendation shall not affect the entry of a CPC fishing vessel to port, in accordance with international law, for reasons of *force majeure* or distress.

#### **Prior notification of landings**

85. Prior to entry into any port, masters of catching vessels as well as processing vessels and auxiliary vessels or their representative shall provide the relevant authorities of the port, at least 4 hours before the estimated time of arrival, with the following:
- a) estimated time of arrival;
  - b) estimate of quantity of bluefin tuna retained on board;
  - c) the information on the geographic area where the catch was taken.

If the fishing grounds are less than four hours from the port of arrival, the estimated quantities of bluefin tuna retained on board may be modified at any time prior to arrival.

CPCs may decide to apply these provisions only to catches equal to or greater than three fish or one ton. They should provide this information in their monitoring, control, and inspection plan referred to in paragraph 12.

Port State authorities shall keep a record of all prior notices for the current year.

All landings shall be controlled by the relevant control authorities and a percentage shall be inspected based on a risk assessment system involving quota, fleet size and fishing effort. Full details of this control system adopted by each CPC including the target percentage of landings to be inspected shall be detailed in their annual inspection plan referred to in paragraph 12 of this Recommendation.

After each trip, Masters of catching vessels shall submit within 48 hours a landing declaration to the competent authorities of the CPC where the landing takes place and to its flag CPC. The master of the authorized catching vessel shall be responsible and certify its completeness and accuracy of the declaration, which shall indicate, as a minimum requirement, the quantities of bluefin tuna landed and the area where they were caught. All landed catches shall be weighed and not only estimated. The relevant authority shall send a record of the landing to the flag CPC authority of the catching vessel, within 48 hours after the landing has ended.

#### **Reporting of catches from CPCs to the Secretariat**

86. CPCs shall send bi-weekly catch reports by gear, without delay, to the ICCAT Secretariat, to ensure the data publication deadline specified below can be met. In the case of purse seine vessels and traps, the reports shall be as defined in paragraphs 76 to 78. Total reported catches will be published by the ICCAT Secretariat on a password protected area of the ICCAT web site during the second week of each month.
87. CPCs shall report to the ICCAT Secretariat the dates when their entire quota of bluefin tuna has been utilized. The ICCAT Secretariat shall promptly circulate this information to all CPCs.

### **Cross check**

88. CPCs shall verify inspection reports and observer reports, VMS data, and where appropriate eBCDs, as well as the timely submission of logbooks and required information recorded in the logbooks of their fishing vessels, in the transfer/transshipment document and in the catch documents.

The competent authorities shall carry out cross checks by species on all landings, transshipment, transfers and caging between the quantities recorded in the fishing vessel logbook or in the transshipment declaration and the quantities recorded in the landing declaration or caging declaration, and any other relevant documentation, such as invoice and/or sales notes.

### **Transshipment**

89. Transshipment operations of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean shall be allowed only at designated ports defined and conditioned in paragraphs 80 to 84.
90. Prior to entry into any port, the receiving fishing vessel, or its representative, shall provide the relevant authorities of the port State at least 72 h before the estimated time of arrival, with the information listed in **Annex 3**, according to the port State's domestic law. Any transshipment requires the prior authorization from the flag CPC of the transshipping fishing vessel concerned. Furthermore, the master of the transshipping fishing vessel shall, at the time of the transshipment, inform its flag CPC of the data required in **Annex 3**.
91. The relevant authority of the port State shall inspect the receiving vessel on arrival and check the cargo and documentation related to the transshipment operation.
92. The masters of fishing vessels shall complete and transmit to their flag CPC the ICCAT transshipment declaration no later than 15 days after the date of transshipment in port as per Recommendation 16-15. The masters of the transshipping fishing vessels shall complete the ICCAT transshipment declaration in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 3**. The transshipment declaration shall be linked with the eBCD to facilitate cross-checking of data contained thereof.
93. The relevant authority of the port State shall send a record of the transshipment to the flag CPC authority of the transshipping fishing vessel, within 5 days after the transshipment has ended.
94. All transshipments shall be inspected by the relevant authorities of the designated port CPC authorities.

## **Part IV: Control measures**

### **Section C - Observer Programmes**

#### **CPC Observer Programme**

95. Each CPC shall ensure that CPC observers, issued with an official identification document, are deployed on vessels flying its flag and on traps under its jurisdiction that are active in the bluefin tuna fishery, to achieve at least the following coverage rates:
- 20% of its active pelagic trawlers (over 15 m),
  - 20% of its active longline vessels (over 15 m),
  - 20% of its active baitboats (over 15 m),
  - 100% of its towing vessels,
  - 100% of harvesting operations from its traps.
96. CPCs with less than five catching vessels of the first three segments defined above shall ensure coverage by observers 20% of the time the vessels are active in the bluefin tuna fishery.
97. In implementing this CPC observer programme, CPCs shall ensure that:

- a) temporal and spatial coverage is representative to ensure that the Commission receives adequate and appropriate data and information on bluefin tuna catch, effort, and other related scientific and management aspects, taking into account characteristics of the fleets and fisheries;
  - b) robust data collection protocols are implemented;
  - c) the CPC observer is provided, before the start of his/her deployment, with a list of contacts within the CPC competent authority where to report observations;
  - d) each CPC observer is properly trained and qualified before deployment;
  - e) to the extent practicable, the operations of vessels and traps concerned suffer minimal disruption;
  - f) the master of the fishing vessel or the trap operator allows the CPC observer access to the electronic means of communication on board the fishing vessel or on the trap.
98. Data and information collected under each CPC's observer programme shall be provided to the SCRS and the Commission, as appropriate, in accordance with requirements and procedures to be developed by the Commission by 2023 taking into account CPC confidentiality requirements.
99. For the scientific aspects of the programme, the SCRS shall report on the coverage level achieved by each CPC, and provide a summary of the data collected and any relevant findings associated with that data. The SCRS shall also provide any recommendations to improve the effectiveness of CPC's observer programmes.
100. The obligations, responsibilities and tasks applicable to the CPC observers are detailed in **Annex 6**.

#### **ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (ROP)**

101. The ICCAT Regional Observer Programme referred to in **Annex 6** shall be implemented to ensure 100% observer coverage as follows:
- on all purse seine vessels authorized to fish for bluefin tuna;
  - during all transfers of bluefin tuna from purse seine vessels to transport cages;
  - during all transfers of bluefin tuna from traps to transport cages;
  - during all transfers from one farm cage to transport cages, which then are towed to another farm;
  - during all cagings of bluefin tuna in farms;
  - during all harvesting of bluefin tuna from farms; and
  - during the release of bluefin tuna from farms.

Notwithstanding the above, when, for reasons of force majeure (e.g., pandemic) duly notified to ICCAT, the deployment of a regional observer is not possible, the vessel, trap or farm may operate without the observer. In such cases, CPCs shall prioritize such vessels, farms, and traps for control and inspection.

In addition, CPCs shall implement a set of appropriate alternative measures aimed at achieving the objectives of the regional observer programme, including, where possible, deploying either a national inspector or a national observer to act in locum of the regional observer. The CPC concerned shall send all details of the alternative measures to the Secretariat. The Secretariat shall compile and circulate all the information received on the implementation of these procedures to the Commission. Such alternative measures and the actions taken will be examined by the Compliance Committee during each annual meeting.

102. By way of derogation from paragraph 101, harvesting from farms up to 1000 kg per day and up to a maximum of 50 tons per farm per year to supply the fresh bluefin tuna market may be authorized by the relevant CPC provided that an authorized inspector from the farm CPC is onsite for 100% of such harvests, and controls the entire operation. The authorized inspector shall also validate the harvested quantities in the eBCD system. In this case, the regional observer's signature should not be required in the harvest section of the eBCD. This derogation shall be reviewed, as appropriate, by the PWG, possibly through its IMM Working Group, by 2023 at the latest.
103. Purse seine vessels without an ICCAT regional observer on board shall not be authorized to fish or to operate in the bluefin tuna fishery.
104. One ICCAT regional observer shall be assigned to each farm for the entirety of caging operations. In cases of force majeure that have been confirmed by the farm CPC authority, an ICCAT regional observer may be shared by more than one farm to guarantee the continuity of farming operations if so authorized by the farm CPC competent authority and provided that the farm CPC competent authority shall immediately request the deployment of an additional ICCAT regional observer.
105. By way of derogation from paragraph 104, in case of transfer between two different farms under the competence of the same national authority, a single regional observer can be assigned to cover the entire process including the transfer of fish to a towing transport cage, the towing of the fish from the donor farm to the recipient farm and the caging of fish on the recipient farm. In this case, a regional observer should be deployed by the donor farm and the cost shall be shared by both the donor and receiving farms, unless otherwise determined by the farming companies.
106. As a matter of priority, the ICCAT regional observers should not be of the same nationality as the catching vessel, towing vessel, trap or farm, for which their services are required. In addition and to the extent possible, the ICCAT Secretariat and the provider responsible for the ROP shall ensure that the ICCAT regional observers deployed have a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag, fishing vessel, farm or trap CPC. If it is not possible to find foreign observers with proper language skills or in case of force majeure, the deployment of ICCAT regional observers of the same nationality may be allowed, provided that prior notification to the ICCAT Secretariat is made by the provider responsible for the ROP.
107. The obligations, responsibilities and tasks applicable to the ICCAT Regional Observer and the flag, trap, and farm CPCs are detailed in **Annex 6**.

#### **Part IV: Control measures**

##### **Section D – Transfers of Live Fish**

###### **General provision**

108. This section applies to all transfers as defined in paragraph 3.i of this Recommendation.
109. In accordance with paragraph 12 (c) of this Recommendation, each CPC shall nominate a single competent authority, hereafter referred to as the "CPC competent authority", that shall be responsible for coordinating the collection and verification of information for the control of transfers and related transports of bluefin tuna conducted under its jurisdiction, and for reporting to and cooperating with the CPCs whose farms will cage the fish.
110. Masters of catching and towing vessels carrying out transfer operations shall report their transfer activities in accordance with the requirements set out in **Annex 2** (logbook).

###### **Unique Number Assigned to Cages**

111. All cages used in transfer operations and associated transports shall be numbered in accordance with the unique numbering system referred to in paragraphs 147 to 150.

**Prior Transfer notification**

112. Before the start of a transfer operation, including voluntary transfers, the master of the catching or towing vessel or its representative, or the representative of the farm or trap, where the transfer in question originates shall send to its CPC competent authority a prior transfer notification indicating, where applicable:

- the number and the estimated weight of bluefin tuna to be transferred,
- the name of the catching vessel, towing vessel(s), farm or trap, with their respective ICCAT number record,
- the date and the location of the catch,
- the date and estimated time of transfer,
- the estimated position (latitude/longitude) where the transfer will take place and the donor and receiving cage numbers,
- farm of destination,
- the name and ICCAT number of the donor farm, in the case of a transfer from the farm cage to a transport cage,
- the numbers of the two farm cages and any transport cages involved, in the case of intra-farm transfers.

**Transfer authorization**

113. Within 48 hours following the submission of the prior transfer notification, the CPC competent authority of the donor operator shall assign and communicate to the donor operator concerned a transfer authorization number for each transfer operation. The transfer authorization number shall include the three CPC letters code, four numbers for the year and three letters to indicate either positive (AUT) or negative (NEG) authorization, followed by sequential numbers.

114. The transfer operation concerned shall not start before its specific transfer authorization number has been assigned and communicated to the donor operator.

115. The transfer authorization does not prejudice the confirmation of any subsequent transfer or caging operation.

116. Voluntary and control transfers shall not be subject to a new transfer authorization.

**Refusal of a transfer operation and consequent release of bluefin tuna**

117. A transfer operation shall not be authorized by the CPC competent authority of the donor operator if, on receipt of the prior transfer notification, it considers that:

- a) the catching vessel or the trap declared to have caught the fish does not have a valid authorization to fish for bluefin tuna, issued in accordance with paragraph 56 of this Recommendation;
- b) the number and weight of fish subject to the transfer has not been duly reported by the catching vessel or the trap;
- c) the catching vessel or the trap that has caught the fish does not have sufficient quota;
- d) the towing vessel declared to transfer and/or transport the fish is not registered in the ICCAT Record of all other fishing vessels referred to in paragraph 48 (b), or is not equipped with a fully functioning Vessel Monitoring System (VMS);



- e) the farm of destination is not reported as active in the ICCAT Record of farms referred to in paragraph 61 of this Recommendation.

118. In case of refusal, the CPC competent authority of the donor operator shall:

- a) immediately inform the donor operator of the refusal, as well as the catch, the trap or farm CPC competent authority, if different;
- b) where applicable, issue an order to release the fish concerned into the sea, in accordance with **Annex 10**.

### **Monitoring of Transfers operations by Video Camera**

119. Except for transfers of cages between two towing vessels, which do not involve the movement of live tuna between those cages, the donor operator shall ensure that the transfer operation is monitored by video camera in the water, in accordance with the minimum standards and procedures referred to in **Annex 8**, to determine the number of individuals of bluefin tuna being transferred.

120. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that identical copies of the relevant video records are provided without delay by the donor operator:

- a) for the first transfer operation and the eventual voluntary transfer, to the ICCAT regional observer and to the receiving towing vessel and, at the end of the fishing trip, to the flag or trap CPC competent authority of the donor operator;
- b) for further transfers, to the CPC observer on board the donor towing vessel, to the master of the receiving towing vessel and, at the end of the towing trip, to the flag CPC competent authority of the donor towing vessel;
- c) for transfers between two different farms, to the ICCAT regional observer, to the receiving towing vessel and to donor farm CPC competent authority, and
- d) if a national or ICCAT inspection authority is present during the transfer operation, the inspector(s) shall also receive a copy of the relevant video record.

121. The video footage concerned shall accompany the fish up to the destination farm. A copy shall be kept onboard the donor vessel(s), by the trap(s) or by the farm(s), and remain accessible for control purposes at any time during the fishing campaign.

122. Copies of the video records shall be provided by the CPC competent authority of the donor operator to the SCRS upon request. The SCRS shall keep confidentiality of commercial activities.

123. The CPC competent authority of the donor operator and the donor operator shall retain the video footages related to transfers for at least 3 years, and keep them as long as necessary for control and enforcement purposes.

### **Voluntary and Control Transfers**

124. If the video footage does not meet the minimum standards referred to in **Annex 8**, and in particular if its quality and clarity are not sufficient to determine the number of fish being transferred, the donor operator may conduct voluntary transfer(s).

125. If no voluntary transfer(s) has been carried out, or if the voluntary transfer(s) still does not permit a determination of the number of fish being transferred, the CPC competent authority of the donor operator shall order a control transfer, which shall be repeated until the quality of the video record allows the estimation of the number of bluefin tuna being transferred.

126. The voluntary and/or control transfer(s) shall be carried out into another cage which must be empty. The number of fish obtained from the valid voluntary or control transfer shall be used to complete the logbook, the ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD) and the relevant sections of the eBCD.
127. The separation of the transport cage from a purse seine, a trap, or a farm cage shall not occur before the ICCAT regional observer on board the purse seine, or present on the farm or trap, has carried out its tasks.
128. However, if after the voluntary transfer(s) the quality of the video still does not allow determination of the number of individuals being transferred, the CPC competent authority of the donor operator may allow the separation of the donor purse seine vessel, trap or farm from the transport cage(s). In such a case, the CPC competent authority of the donor operator shall order the door(s) of the transport cage(s) concerned, to be sealed in accordance with the procedure set out in **Annex 14**, and require a control transfer(s) to be carried out at a determined time and place, in the presence of the flag, trap or farm competent authority.
129. In the event that the flag, trap or farm competent authorities cannot be present at the control transfer, the control transfer shall take place in the presence of an ICCAT regional observer. In this case, the responsibility for the regional observer deployment shall lie with the farm operator owning the bluefin tuna transported, who shall ensure that the regional observer is deployed to verify the control transfer.

#### **ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD)**

130. At the end of a transfer operation, the donor operator shall complete an ITD in accordance with the format set out in **Annex 4**. The donor operator shall transmit or make available, without delay, the ITD to its CPC competent authority, to the ICCAT regional observer where its presence is mandatory and, where applicable, to the master of the towing vessel or the farm receiving the fish.
131. The CPC competent authority of the donor operator shall ensure that the ITD form is numbered, using the three letters CPC code, followed by the four numbers showing the year and three sequential numbers, followed by the three letters ITD (CPC- 20\*\*/xxx/ITD).
132. The original of the ITD shall accompany the fish transferred up to the destination farm(s) where the fish will be caged:
- a) at first transfer, the original of the ITD shall be duplicated by the donor operator when a single catch is transferred from the purse seine net or the trap to more than one transport cage;
  - b) in the case of a further transfer, the master of the donor towing vessel shall update the ITD by completing part 3 (further transfers), and provide the updated ITD to the receiving towing vessel.
133. A copy of the ITD shall be kept onboard the donor catching or towing vessel(s), or by the donor trap or the donor farm, and be accessible at any time for control purposes during the duration of the fishing campaign.

#### **Investigation by the CPC competent authority of the donor operator**

134. The CPC competent authority of the donor operator shall investigate all cases where:
- a) there is more than 10% difference between the number of fish reported in the ITD by the donor operator and the number of fish estimated by the ICCAT regional observer, or by the CPC national observer, as appropriate, or
  - b) when the ICCAT regional observer has not signed the ITD.

The margin of error of 10% referred above shall be expressed as a percentage of the donor operator's figures.

135. Where applicable, the investigation shall include the analysis of all the relevant video footages. Except in cases of force majeure, the investigation shall be concluded within 96 hours of its initiation, and in any case prior to the arrival of the transport cage to the destination farm.
136. At the initiation of an investigation, the CPC competent authority of the donor operator shall inform the flag CPC competent authority of the towing vessel(s) concerned about the investigation, and ensure that, until the investigation is concluded, no transfer is permitted from or to the transport cage in question.
137. For all transfer operations where a video is required, a difference equal to or greater than 10%, between the number of bluefin tuna reported by the donor operator in the ITD and the number determined by the CPC competent authority of the donor operator following an investigation, shall constitute a Potential Non-Compliance (PNC) of the fishing vessel, trap or farm concerned.

#### **Amendments to ITDs and eBCDs following inspections at sea or investigations**

138. If following an inspection at sea or an investigation, the number of fish is found to be more than 10% different to that declared in the ITD and eBCD, the eBCD shall be amended by the CPC competent authority of the donor operator to reflect the result of the investigation.

#### **Fish that die during transfer operations and associated transport**

139. The number of fish that die during a transfer operation, or during the transport of the fish to the destination farm, shall be reported by the donor operator in accordance with the procedures and template set out in **Annex 11**.

### **Part IV: Control measures**

#### **Section E - Caging**

##### **General provisions**

140. Each farm CPC shall nominate a single competent authority, hereafter referred to as the “farm CPC competent authority”. That authority shall be responsible for coordinating the collection and verification of information on national caging activities, for the control of farm activities conducted under its jurisdiction, and for reporting to and cooperating with the CPC competent authorities whose flag vessels or trap caught the caged tuna.
141. Where the farms are located beyond waters under the jurisdiction of a CPC, the provisions of this section shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the CPCs where the natural or legal persons responsible for the farm are located.
142. All farm activities shall be subject to the control described in the monitoring, control and inspection plan submitted under paragraph 12 of this Recommendation.
143. All CPCs involved in caging related activities shall exchange information and cooperate to ensure that the number and weight of bluefin tuna intended for caging are accurate, consistent with the catch amounts reported by the purse seine vessel or trap, and declared in the relevant sections of the eBCD.
144. Farm CPCs are encouraged to exchange experience and best practices on control and inspection related to farming activities using the pilot program for the voluntary exchange of inspection personnel established by the ICCAT Res. 19-17.
145. The farm CPC competent authority shall ensure that farm operators maintain at all times an accurate schematic plan of their farms, indicating the unique number of all cages and their individual position on the farm. The plan shall be made available at all times to the farm CPC competent authority for control purposes. Any modification to the schematic plan is subject to prior notification to the farm CPC competent authority. The schematic farming plan shall be adapted any time the number and/or distribution of farm cages is modified.

146. The farm CPC competent authority and the farm operator shall retain all the information, documentation and material related to caging activities conducted in farms under its jurisdiction for at least 3 years, and keep the information as long as necessary for enforcement purposes.

#### **Unique Number Assigned to Cages**

147. Before the start of the bluefin tuna fishing campaign, the farm CPC competent authority shall assign a unique and identifiable number to each cage associated to farms under its jurisdiction, including those cages used to transport the fish to the farm.

148. Each cage shall be identified with a unique numbering system that includes at least the three letters CPC code, followed by three numbers. The unique cage numbers shall be stamped or painted on two opposite sides of the ring of the cage and above the water line, in a color contrasting with the background on which they are painted or stamped, and must be visible and legible at any time for control purposes.

149. The height of the letters and numbers shall be at least 20 centimeters with a line thickness of at least 4 centimeters.

150. Alternative methods to mark the unique number on the cage are allowed, providing they offer the same guarantee of visibility, legibility and inviolability.

#### **Caging authorization**

151. Each caging operation is subject to a caging authorization issued by the farm CPC competent authority. The following procedure shall apply:

- a) the farm operator requests a caging authorization to the farm CPC competent authority, specifying in particular the number and weight (as referred to in the ITD) of fish to be caged. This request shall be accompanied by:
  - i. the relevant ITDs;
  - ii. the eBCD(s) reference concerned, as confirmed and validated by the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority;
  - iii. all the reports of fish that die during transport, duly recorded in accordance with **Annex 11**.
- b) the farm CPC competent authority notifies the information under subparagraph (a) to the relevant catching flag or trap CPC(s) competent authority(ies), and asks for confirmation that the caging operation can be authorized;
- c) within 3 working days, the catching flag or trap CPC(s) competent authority(ies) notifies the farm CPC competent authority that the caging operation concerned can be authorized or must be refused. In the case of refusal, the flag or trap CPC competent authority shall specify the reason(s) for the refusal, and the refusal shall include the consequent release order;
- d) the farm CPC competent authority issues the caging authorization immediately after receipt of the confirmation by the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority concerned. The caging operation shall not be authorized by the farm CPC competent authority in the absence of this confirmation.

152. No caging shall be authorized if the complete set of documentation required under paragraph 151. a) does not accompany the fish subject to the caging authorization.

153. Pending the results of the investigation referred to in paragraphs 134 to 137 conducted by the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority, the caging operation shall not be authorized and the relevant catch and live trade sections of the eBCD shall not be validated.

154. If the caging authorization has not been issued by the farm CPC competent authority within 1 month after the request for a caging authorization by the farm operator, the farm CPC competent authority shall order and proceed to release all the fish contained in the transport cage concerned, in accordance with **Annex 10**. The farm CPC competent authority shall accordingly inform without delay the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority concerned, and the ICCAT Secretariat of the release.

#### **Refusal of a caging authorization by the flag or trap CPC**

155. If, on receipt of the information referred to in paragraph 151 (a) the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority considers that:

- a) the catching vessel or trap declared to have caught the fish had insufficient quota to cover the bluefin tuna to be caged;
- b) the fish to be caged has not been duly reported by the catching vessel or trap, and has not been taken into account for the calculation of any quota uptake that may be applicable;
- c) the catching vessel or trap declared to have caught the fish does not have a valid authorization to fish for bluefin tuna, issued in accordance with paragraph 56 of this Recommendation;

it shall determine the number of fish for which caging is refused and request without delay the farm CPC competent authority to proceed to seize the fish concerned and immediately release them into the sea, in accordance with **Annex 10**.

#### **Caging operations**

156. At arrival of the towing vessel in the vicinity of the farm, the farm CPC competent authority shall ensure that:

- a) the towing vessel concerned is maintained at a distance of minimum 1 nautical mile from any facility of the farm until the farm CPC competent authority is physically present; and
- b) the position and activity of the relevant towing vessels is monitored at all times.

157. No caging operation shall start:

- a) before it has been duly authorized by the farm CPC competent authority;
- b) without the presence of the farm CPC competent authority and the ICCAT regional observer;
- c) before the catch and live trade sections of the eBCD have been completed and validated by the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority(ies).

158. The anchoring of transport cages as farm cages, without movement of fish to allow stereoscopic camera recording is prohibited.

159. After transfer of the bluefin tuna from the towing cage to the farm cage, the farm CPC control authority shall ensure that farm cages containing bluefin tuna are sealed at all times. Unsealing will only be possible in the presence of the farm CPC competent authority and following its authorization. The farm CPC control authority shall establish protocols for the sealing of farm cages, ensuring the use of official seals and that these seals are placed in such a way that they prevent the opening of doors without the seals being broken.

160. Farm CPCs shall ensure that the bluefin tuna catches are placed in separate cages, or series of cages, and partitioned on the basis of flag CPC of origin and catch year. By derogation, if the bluefin tuna has been caught in the context of a joint fishing operation (JFO), the catches concerned shall be placed in separate cages or series of cages and partitioned on the basis of the JFOs and catch year.

161. All the caging operations shall be completed before 22 August of each year, unless the farm CPC receiving the fish provides valid reasons, including *force majeure*. Those reasons shall be documented and reported in the caging report referred to in paragraph 186. In any case, no bluefin tuna shall be caged after 7 September. The above deadlines do not apply in case of inter-farm transfers.

#### **Recording of the caging operation by control cameras**

162. The farm CPC competent authority shall ensure that each bluefin tuna caging operation in its farms is recorded by the farm operator using both conventional and stereoscopic cameras. All video footages shall comply with the minimum standards set out in **Annex 8**, except point 1 (d) for stereoscopic camera footages.

163. If the quality of the control camera video footage used to determine the number and/or weight of the bluefin tuna caged does not comply with the minimum standards of **Annex 8**, the farm CPC competent authority shall order a control caging until the determination of the number and/or weight is possible. The repetition of the caging operation shall not be subject to a new caging authorization.

164. In the case of control caging, the farm CPC competent authority shall ensure that the donor farm cage is sealed and that the cage cannot be manipulated prior to the new caging operation. The receiving farm cage(s) used in the control caging shall be empty.

165. At the completion of the caging operation, the farm CPC competent authority shall ensure that the ICCAT regional observer has immediate access to all stereoscopic and conventional camera video footage(s), and is allowed to make a copy if it intends to complete its task of analysing the footage at another time or place.

166. CPCs with active bluefin tuna farms and the SCRS are encouraged to participate in trials using Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the analysis of stereoscopic camera footages, with a view to automating the determination of the number and/or weight of caged tuna, in order to reduce workloads and avoid possible human bias.

#### **Fish that die during a caging operation**

167. All bluefin tuna that die during a caging operation shall be reported by the farm operator, in accordance with the procedures and template set out in **Annex 11**.

#### **Caging declaration**

168. Each farm CPC competent authority shall ensure that, for each caging operation, the farm operator submits a caging declaration within 1 week after the actual caging operation has taken place, using the form set out in **Annex 12**.

#### **Analysis of the stereoscopic video footage by the farm CPC competent authority**

169. The farm CPC competent authority shall determine the number and weight of bluefin tuna being caged, by analyzing the video footage of each caging operation provided by the farm operator. To carry out this analysis, the authorities shall follow the procedures set out in point 1 of **Annex 9**.

170. When there is a difference of more than 10% between the number and/or the weight determined by the farm CPC competent authority and the corresponding figures reported in the caging declaration, the farm CPC competent authority shall launch an investigation to identify the reasons for the discrepancy, and make the eventual adjustment to the number and/or weight of fish that has been caged.

171. The margin of error of 10% referred to above shall be expressed as a percentage of the farm operator's figures.

### **Communication of caging results to the catching flag or trap CPC**

172. After the completion of a caging operation or, in the case of a JFO or traps of a same CPC/EU Member State, of the last caging operation associated to that JFO or those traps, the farm CPC competent authority shall send to the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority the results of the caging operations referred to in **Annex 9**, point 2 under a and b.
173. Each farm CPC competent authority shall submit the procedures and results related to the stereoscopic camera programme (or alternative methods) to the SCRS by 31 October annually. The SCRS should evaluate such procedures and results and report to the Commission at the next Annual meeting.

### **Investigation conducted by the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority**

174. When, for a single catching operation, the number of bluefin tuna being caged as communicated by the farm CPC competent authority in accordance with paragraph 172, differs by 10% or more from those reported in the ITD or eBCD as caught and/or transferred, the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority shall initiate an investigation to determine the accurate catch weight that shall be deducted from the national bluefin tuna quota, in accordance with paragraphs 180 to 182 (quota uptake).
175. In support of this investigation, the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority shall request all the complementary information and the results of the relevant video footage analysis conducted in accordance with this Recommendation by the flag and farm CPCs competent authority(ies) that have been involved in the transport and the caging operation concerned.
176. All CPCs competent authorities, including those whose vessels have been involved in the transport of the fish, shall cooperate actively, including through the exchange of all information and documentation at their disposal.
177. The catching flag or trap CPC competent authority shall conclude the investigation within 1 month from the communication of the caging results by the competent authority of the farm CPC.
178. A difference equal to or greater than 10% between the number of bluefin tuna reported caught by the vessel or trap concerned and the number determined by the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority as result of the investigation shall constitute a Potential Non-Compliance (PNC) of the vessel or trap concerned.
179. The margin of error of 10% referred to above shall be expressed as a percentage of the figures reported by the fishing vessel master or trap representative and shall be applicable at the level of individual caging operation.

### **Quota uptake**

180. The catching flag or trap CPC competent authority shall determine the weight of bluefin tuna to be deducted from its national quota taking into account the quantities caged, calculated in accordance with the provisions of **Annex 9**, which ensures that weight at caging is calculated based on the length-weight relationship for wild fish, and the reported mortalities, in accordance with the provisions of **Annex 11**.
181. However, for those cases where the investigation referred to in paragraph 174 concludes that bluefin tuna individuals were missing within the meaning of paragraph 2 of **Annex 11**, the weight of the missing fish shall be deducted from the national quota in accordance with **Annex 11**, by applying the average individual weight at caging communicated by the farm CPC competent authority, to the number of bluefin tuna in the catch as determined by the flag or trap CPC competent authority resulting from its analysis of the first transfer video footage in the context of the investigation.

182. Notwithstanding paragraph 181, after the consultation of the CPC competent authority(ies) involved in the transport of fish up to the destination farm, the flag or trap CPC competent authorities may decide not to deduct from the national quota the fish determined in the investigation as having been lost, when the losses have been duly documented as “*force majeure*” by the operator (i.e., pictures of the damaged cage, meteorological reports), the relevant information has been communicated to its CPC competent authority immediately after the event and the losses did not result in known mortalities.

### **Releases associated to caging operations**

183. The determination of the fish to be released shall be done in accordance with the provisions of **Annex 9** paragraph 4.

184. If the weight of bluefin tuna being caged is in excess of what had been declared as caught and/or transferred, the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority shall issue a release order and communicate it without delay to the farm CPC competent authority concerned. The release order shall follow the provisions of **Annex 9** paragraph 4, taking into account the possible compensation at the JFO or trap level, in accordance with **Annex 9** paragraph 5.

185. The release operation shall be conducted in accordance with the protocol set out in **Annex 10**.

### **Caging report**

186. Within 15 days after the completion of the release orders, the farm CPC competent authority shall issue a caging report for each single caging operation, or in the case of a JFO or traps of the same CPC/EU Member State, for the complete set of caging operations related to that JFO or those traps. The caging report shall include the information referred to in **Annex 9** paragraph 3, and be communicated to the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority and to the ICCAT Secretariat.

## **Part IV: Control measures**

### **Section F. Harvesting**

187. Processing vessels intending to operate in farms or traps shall send a prior notification to the farm or trap CPC competent authorities at least 48 hours before arrival of the vessel to the farm/trap area. The prior notification shall at least include the date and estimated time of arrival and information as to whether the processing vessel already has bluefin tuna on board, and, if so, provide details on the cargo, including quantities in processed weight and live weight and details of the origin of the bluefin tuna on board (farm/trap and CPC).

188. Any harvesting operation in farms or traps shall be subject to an authorisation by the farm or trap CPC competent authority. To this end, the farm or trap operator intending to harvest bluefin tuna shall submit to its CPC competent authority a request, which shall include at least the following information:

- date or period of harvesting;
- estimated quantities to be harvested in number of individuals and kg;
- eBCD number associated with the bluefin tuna to be harvested;
- details of auxiliary vessels involved in the operation;
- destination of harvested tuna (processing vessel, export, local market, etc.).

189. Except for individuals of bluefin tuna which are close to dying, no harvesting operation shall be authorized before the results of the quota uptake in accordance with paragraphs 180 to 182 has been determined, and the associated releases have been conducted.

190. Harvesting operations shall not take place without the presence of a CPC observer in the case of traps, or an ICCAT Regional observer in the case of harvesting on farms. For fish delivered to a processing vessel, the CPC or ICCAT regional observer may conduct its relevant tasks from the processing vessel.



191. Farm or trap CPC control authorities shall verify and cross-check the results of all harvesting operations taking place in farms and traps under its authority, using all relevant information in its possession. Farm or trap CPC control authorities shall inspect all harvesting operations of bluefin tuna destined for processing vessels and a percentage of the rest of harvesting operations based on risk analysis.
192. When the destination of the bluefin tuna is a processing vessel, the master or representative of the processing vessel shall complete a processing declaration. When the harvested bluefin tuna is to be landed directly into port, the farm or trap operator shall complete a harvesting declaration. The processing and harvesting declarations shall be validated by the ICCAT regional or CPC observer present at the harvesting operation.
193. The processing declaration and harvesting declaration shall contain at least the following information:
- date of harvesting;
  - farm or trap;
  - cage(s) number(s);
  - number of individuals harvested;
  - live weight and processed weight in Kg of the harvested bluefin tuna;
  - eBCD number(s) associated with the bluefin tuna harvested;
  - details of auxiliary vessels involved in the operation;
  - destination of the harvested tuna (i.e., export, local market, or other);
  - validation by the ICCAT regional observer or CPC observer, as appropriate.
194. The processing and harvesting declarations shall be sent by e-mail to the farm CPC competent authorities within 48 hours of the harvesting operation.

#### **Part IV: Control measures**

##### **Section F – Control activities in farms after caging**

###### **Intra-farm transfers**

195. Intra-farm transfer shall not take place without the authorization and the presence of the farm CPC competent authority. Each transfer shall be recorded by control cameras to confirm the number of bluefin tuna individuals transferred. The video footage shall comply with the minimum standards as laid down in **Annex 8**. The farm CPC competent authority shall monitor and control those transfers, including ensuring that each intra-farm transfer is recorded in the eBCD system.
196. Notwithstanding the definition of caging in paragraph 3 (s), the relocation of bluefin tuna between two different locations on the same farm (intra-farm transfer) using a transport cage, shall not be considered caging for the purposes of the requirements set out in Section E.
197. During intra-farm transfers, regrouping fish of the same flag origin and the same JFO, may be authorised by the farm CPC competent authority, providing that traceability, as established in paragraph 5 of Recommendation 18-13, and the applicability of SCRS's growth rates, are maintained.
198. The farm CPC competent authority and the farm operator shall retain the video footages from intra-farm transfers undertaken in farms under their jurisdiction for a minimum of 3 years and keep the information as long as necessary for enforcement purposes.

###### **Carry-over**

199. Prior to the beginning of the next purse seiner and trap fishing seasons, the farm CPCs competent authority shall thoroughly assess the live bluefin tuna carried-over in the farms under their jurisdiction. To this end, the live bluefin tuna concerned shall be transferred to an empty cage and monitored using control camera(s), to determine the number and the weight of fish transferred.

200. By way of derogation, the carry-over of bluefin tuna from years and cages where no harvest occurred shall be controlled annually by applying the random control procedure referred to in paragraphs 207 to 214.
201. The live bluefin tuna carried-over shall be placed in separate cages or series of cages in the farm, on the basis of the catch year and JFO/same CPC trap of origin.
202. The farm CPC competent authority shall ensure that the control camera video footage from the carry-over assessment transfers comply with the relevant requirements of **Annex 8**, and the determination of the number and weight of carried-over fish is in accordance with **Annex 9** point 1 of this Recommendation.
203. Until the SCRS develops an algorithm to convert length into weight for fattened and/or farmed fish, the determination of the weight of the carried-over fish shall be estimated using the most updated growth rates tables produced by the SCRS.
204. A difference by number of bluefin tuna individuals between the number resulting from the carry-over assessment and the expected number after harvest shall be duly investigated by the farm CPC competent authority and recorded in the eBCD system. In the case of excess number, the farm CPC competent authority shall order the release of the corresponding number of fish. The release operation shall be conducted in accordance with **Annex 10**. Compensation for differences between different cages on the farm shall not be allowed. A margin of error of up to 5% between the number of individuals resulting from the carry-over assessment and the expected number in the cage, may be allowed by the CPC competent authority. This percentage shall be reviewed, as appropriate, by the IMM by 2023 at the latest. The Commission shall consider revising the percentage based on the recommendation from the IMM.
205. The farm CPC competent authority shall retain the video footage and all the relevant documentation from carry-over assessments undertaken in farms under their jurisdiction for a minimum of 3 years, and keep this information as long as necessary for enforcement purposes.

#### **Carry-over declaration**

206. Farm CPCs shall complete and transmit, as an annex to the revised farming management plan, an annual carry-over declaration to the ICCAT Secretariat within 15 days after the end of the assessment operation. Such declaration shall include:
- a) Flag CPC;
  - b) Name and ICCAT number of the farm;
  - c) Year of catch;
  - d) References of the eBCD corresponding to the catches carried over;
  - e) Cage numbers;
  - f) Quantities (expressed in kg) and number of fish carried over;
  - g) Average weight;
  - h) Information of each of the carry-over assessment operations: date and cage numbers;
  - i) Information on previous intra-farm transfers, when applicable.

The stereoscopic camera report, when applicable, shall be attached to the carry-over declaration.

#### **Random controls**

207. The farm CPC competent authority shall carry out random controls in farms under their jurisdiction. Random controls shall take place in farms between the time of completion of the caging operations and the first caging of the following year. Such controls shall involve the compulsory transfers of all fish from farm cage(s) to other farm cage(s) in order that the number of bluefin tuna individuals can be counted by way of control video record(s).

208. Each farm CPC shall set a minimum number of random controls to be performed on each farm under its sovereignty. The number of random controls shall cover at least 10% of the number of cages in each farm after completion of caging operations, always involving at least one control per farm and rounded up where needed. The selection of cages to be controlled shall be based on risk analysis. The planning for random controls to be carried out shall be reflected in the CPC control plan referred to under paragraph 12 of this Recommendation.
209. Although not required, the farm(s) concerned may be informed by the farm CPC competent authority with a maximum prior notice of two calendar days that random control(s) shall take place. The selected cage(s) shall only be communicated by the farm CPC competent authority to the farm operator upon arrival at the farm concerned.
210. Where prior notice is given, farm operators shall ensure that all means are in place in order that random controls can be carried out by the farm CPC competent authority at any time, and in any cage on the farm. If prior notice is not provided, farm operators must still take all appropriate steps to facilitate the random control operations.
211. The farm CPC competent authority shall strive to reduce the timeframe between the ordering of the random controls and when the control operations is carried out. The farm CPC competent authority shall ensure that all necessary measures are taken to ensure that the operator does not have the possibility to manipulate the cages concerned until the random control takes place.
212. Following the random control, any difference between the number of bluefin tuna determined by the random controls and the number expected to be present in the cage shall be duly investigated and recorded in the eBCD system. In the case of excess number, the farm CPC competent authority shall order the release of the corresponding number(s). The release operation shall be conducted in accordance with **Annex 10**. Compensation for differences between different cages on the farm shall not be allowed. A margin of error of 5% between the number of individuals resulting from the control transfer and the expected number in the cage, may be allowed by the CPC competent authority. This percentage shall be reviewed, as appropriate, by the IMM at the latest by 2023. The Commission shall consider revising the percentage based on the recommendation from the IMM.
213. The farm CPC competent authority shall retain all video footage from random controls undertaken in farms under their jurisdiction for a minimum of 3 years, and keep this information as long as necessary for enforcement purposes.
214. The results of the random controls shall be communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat before the start of the new purse seine fishing season applicable to each CPC in accordance with paragraph 28, for transmission to the Compliance Committee.

### **Inter-farm transfers**

215. The transfer of live bluefin between two different farms shall not take place without the prior written authorisation by the CPC competent authorities of both farms.
216. The transfer from the donor farm cage to the transport cage shall comply with the requirements of Section D (Transfers of live fish), of this Recommendation, including a video record to confirm the number of bluefin tuna individuals transferred, the completion of an ITD and the verification of the operation by an ICCAT Regional Observer. Notwithstanding the above, in cases where the entire farm cage is to be moved to the receiving farm, it shall not be necessary to video record the operation and the cage shall be transported sealed to the destination farm.
217. The caging of the bluefin tuna at the farm of destination shall be subject to the requirements for caging operations laid down in paragraphs 156 to 171, including a video record to confirm the number and weight of the bluefin tuna caged and the verification of the operation by an ICCAT Regional Observer. The determination of the weight for caged fish from another farm, shall not apply until the SCRS has developed an algorithm to convert length into weight for fattened and/or farmed fish.

**Part IV:  
Control measures**

**Section G – Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)**

218. CPCs shall implement a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for their fishing vessels with a length equal to or greater than 15m referred to in paragraph 3 (a) of this Recommendation, in accordance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for Vessel Monitoring Systems in the ICCAT Convention Area* (Rec. 18-10), including the obligation to transmit at least once every hour for purse seine vessels and at least once every two hours for all other fishing vessels.
219. Notwithstanding the above, all towing vessels used to transport live bluefin tuna shall, irrespective of their length, install and operate a VMS, in accordance with Rec. 18-10, and transmit messages at least once every hour.
220. The transmission of VMS data to the ICCAT Secretariat by each authorized fishing vessel subject to VMS under this Recommendation shall:
- a) start at least 5 days before and continue at least 5 days after their period of authorization, unless the vessel is removed from the lists of authorized vessels by the flag CPC competent authority; and
  - b) not be interrupted when the vessel is in port, for control purposes, unless there is a system of hailing in and out of port.
221. The ICCAT Secretariat shall immediately inform the flag CPC of any delays or non-receipt of VMS transmissions, and distribute monthly reports to all CPCs with specific information on the nature and the scope of these delays. Such reports shall be sent weekly during the period 1 May to 30 July.
222. Referring to towing vessels during the transport of bluefin tuna to a farm, in the event of a technical failure of its VMS, the towing vessel concerned shall be replaced by another towing vessel with a fully functioning VMS. If no other towing vessel is available, a new operative VMS system shall be installed on board or used if already installed, as soon as feasible and not later than 72 hours, except in case of *force majeure*, that should be communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat. In the meantime, the master or his representative shall, starting from the time that the event was detected and/or informed, communicate to the control authorities of the flag CPC every 1 hour the up-to-date geographical coordinates of the towing vessel by appropriate telecommunication means.

**Use of VMS data for control and inspection purposes**

223. The ICCAT Secretariat shall make available without delay the information received under this section G to CPCs with an active inspection presence in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean and to the SCRS, at its request.
224. On request from CPCs engaged in inspection at sea operations in the Convention area in accordance with the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection referred to in paragraphs 228 to 231 of this Recommendation, the ICCAT Secretariat shall make available the messages received from all fishing vessels under paragraph 3 of *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 07-08 concerning data exchange format and protocol in relation to the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for the bluefin tuna fishery in the ICCAT Convention area* (Rec. 21-16).

**Part IV:  
Control measures**

**Section H - Enforcement**

**Enforcement**

225. CPCs shall take appropriate enforcement measures with respect to a fishing vessel, where it has been established, in accordance with its law that the fishing vessel flying its flag does not comply with the provisions of this Recommendation.

The measures shall be commensurate with the gravity of the offence and in accordance with the pertinent provisions of national law in such a way as to make sure that they effectively deprive those responsible of the economic benefit derived from their infringement without prejudice to the exercise of their profession. Those sanctions shall also be capable of producing results proportionate to the seriousness of such infringement, thereby effectively discouraging further offences of the same kind.

226. The farm CPC shall take appropriate enforcement measures with respect to a farm, where it has been established, in accordance with its law, that the farm does not comply with the provisions of this Recommendation.

Depending on the gravity of the offence and in accordance with the pertinent provisions of national law such measures may include, in particular, suspension of the authorization or withdrawal from the ICCAT Record of Bluefin Tuna Farming Facilities established in accordance with paragraph 61 of Recommendation 21-08 and/or fines.

**Part IV:  
Control measures**

**Section I - Market measures**

**Market measures**

227. Consistent with their rights and obligations under international law, exporting and importing CPCs shall take the necessary measures:

- to prohibit domestic trade, landing, imports, exports, placing in cages for farming, re-exports and transshipments of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna that are not accompanied by accurate, complete, and validated documentation required by this Recommendation, the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 18-13 replacing Recommendation 11-20 on an ICCAT bluefin tuna catch documentation program* (Rec. 21-19) and the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Rec. 20-08 on the application of the eBCD System* (Rec. 21-18) on the Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programme.
- to prohibit domestic trade, imports, landings, placing in cages for farming, processing, exports, re-exports and the transshipment within their jurisdiction, of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna caught by fishing vessels or traps whose CPC does not have a quota or catch limit for that species, under the terms of ICCAT management and conservation measures, or when the CPC's fishing possibilities are exhausted, or when the individual quotas of catching vessels referred to in paragraph 4 are exhausted.
- to prohibit domestic trade, imports, landings, processing, and exports of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna from farms that do not comply with the provisions related to farming specified in this Recommendation.

**Part V:  
ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection**

228. In the framework of the Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna, each Contracting Party agrees, in accordance with Article IX, paragraph 3, of the ICCAT Convention, to apply the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection adopted during its 4th Regular Meeting, held in November 1975 in Madrid, as modified in **Annex 7**.
229. The Scheme referred to in paragraph 228 shall apply until ICCAT adopts a monitoring, control and surveillance scheme which will include an ICCAT scheme for joint international inspection, based on the results of the Integrated Monitoring Measures Working Group, established by the Resolution by ICCAT for Integrated Monitoring Measures (Res. 00-20).
230. When at any time, more than 15 fishing vessels of any one Contracting Party are engaged in eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishing activities in the Convention area, the Contracting Party shall, on the basis of risk assessment have an inspection vessel in the Convention area, or shall cooperate with another Contracting Party to jointly operate an inspection vessel. If a Contracting Party does not deploy its inspection vessel or conducting joint operations, the Contracting Party shall report the result of the risk assessment and its alternative measures in its inspection plan referred to in paragraph 12.
231. In cases where enforcement measures need to be taken as a result of an inspection, the enforcement powers of the flag Contracting Party inspectors of the fishing vessel, farm or trap subject to inspection shall always prevail in their territory, in their jurisdictional waters and on board their inspection platform.

**Part VI:  
Final provisions**

**Availability of data to the SCRS**

232. The ICCAT Secretariat shall make available to the SCRS all data received in accordance with this Recommendation. All data shall be treated in a confidential manner.

**Safeguards**

233. When, as a result of a scientific evaluation, the goal of maintaining the biomass around  $B_{0.1}$  (to be achieved by fishing at or less than  $F_{0.1}$ ) is not achieved and the objectives of this plan are in danger, the SCRS shall provide new advice on the TAC for the following year.

**Review clause**

234. For the first time in 2023 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.
235. Notwithstanding paragraph 234, ICCAT will hold an intersessional meeting of Panel 2 each year in March in order to:
- a) review, and if appropriate, endorse the annual fishing, capacity management, farming and inspection plans sent to ICCAT under paragraph 12 of this Recommendation;
  - b) discuss any possible doubts about the interpretation of this Recommendation and, as appropriate, propose draft amendments to it for consideration at the Annual meeting.

## Evaluation

236. All CPCs shall submit at the request of the ICCAT Secretariat regulations and other related documents adopted by them to implement this Recommendation. In order to have greater transparency in implementing this Recommendation, the ICCAT Secretariat shall elaborate biennially a report on the implementation of this Recommendation.

## Exemptions for CPCs with a landing obligation for bluefin tuna

237. The provisions in this Recommendation prohibiting retention on board, transshipping, transferring, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale of bluefin tuna do not apply to CPCs with a domestic legislation introduced before 2013 requiring that all dead or dying fish be landed, provided that the value of such fish is confiscated in order to prevent the fishermen from drawing any commercial profit from such fish. The CPCs concerned shall take necessary measures to prevent the confiscated fish from being exported to other CPCs. The quantities of bluefin tuna in excess of the quota allocated to the CPC, in accordance with this derogation shall be deducted the following year from the CPC quota in accordance with paragraph 10.

## Transitional period for the implementation of sealing of bluefin tuna cages

238. For the implementation of the measures related to the sealing of bluefin tuna cages set out in paragraphs 128, 159, 164, 216, **Annex 4**, **Annex 6** and **Annex 14**, a transitional period until 2023 may be granted to those CPCs that indicate in their fishing plans such need to ensure proper implementation of the measures. An assessment of the implementation of this measure during the 2022 fishing season will be carried out by the affected CPCs, with a view to discuss their implementation and possible revision or update, at the March 2023 Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 and, if agreed by the Commission, the 15th Meeting of the IMM Working Group in 2023.

## Repeals

239. This Recommendation:

- repeals and replaces *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);
- repeals *Recommendation by ICCAT on bluefin tuna farming* (Rec. 06-07);
- repeals paragraphs 5, 7 and 8 of *Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 11-20 on an ICCAT bluefin tuna catch documentation programme* (Rec. 18-13);
- repeals *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).

**Annex 1****Specific Conditions Applying to the Catching Vessels fishing under paragraph 34**

1. CPCs shall limit:
  - The maximum number of its baitboats and trolling boats authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna to the number of the vessels participating in directed fishery for bluefin tuna in 2006.
  - The maximum number of its small-scale coastal vessels authorized to fish actively bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean to the number of its vessels participating in the fishery for bluefin tuna in 2008.
  - The maximum number of its catching vessels authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the Adriatic to the number of the vessel participating in the fishery for bluefin tuna in 2008. Each CPC shall allocate individual quotas to the concerned vessels.

CPCs shall issue specific authorizations to the vessels referred to in paragraph 1 of this **Annex**. Such vessels shall be indicated in the list of catching vessels referred to in paragraph 48 (a) of this Recommendation, where the conditions for changes shall also apply.

2. Each CPC may allocate no more than 7% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its baitboats and trolling boats.
3. Each CPC may allocate no more than 2% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its small-scale coastal vessels for fresh fish in the Mediterranean.

Each CPC may allocate no more than 90% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its catching vessels in the Adriatic for farming purposes.

4. CPCs whose baitboats, longliners, hand liners and trolling boats are authorized to fish for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean shall institute tail tag requirements as follows:
  - a) Tail tags must be affixed on each bluefin tuna immediately upon offloading.
  - b) Each tail tag shall have a unique identification number, which shall be included on bluefin tuna catch documents and written legibly and indelibly on the outside of any package containing tuna.



## Logbook requirements

### A - Catching Vessels

#### Minimum specification for fishing logbooks:

1. The logbook must be numbered by sheets.
2. The logbook must be filled in every day (by midnight) or before port arrival.
3. The logbook must be completed in case of at sea inspections.
4. One copy of the sheets must remain attached to the logbook.
5. Logbooks must be kept on board to cover a period of one-year operation.

#### Minimum standard information for fishing logbooks:

1. Master name and address
2. Dates and ports of departure, dates and ports of arrival
3. Vessel name, register number, ICCAT number, international radio call sign and IMO number (if available)
4. Fishing gear:
  - a) Type by FAO code
  - b) Dimension (length, number of hooks...)
5. Operations at sea with one line (minimum) per day of trip, providing:
  - a) Activity (fishing, steaming)
  - b) Position: Exact daily positions (in degree and minutes), recorded for each fishing operation or at noon when no fishing has been conducted during this day
  - c) Record of catches including:
    - i) FAO code
    - ii) round (RWT) weight in kg per day
    - iii) number of pieces per day

For purse seine vessels this should be recorded by fishing operation including nil returns
6. Master signature
7. Means of weight measure: estimation, weighing on board and counting
8. The logbook is kept in equivalent live weight of fish and mentions the conversion factors used in the evaluation.

**Minimum information for fishing logbooks in case of landing or transshipment:**

1. Dates and port of landing/transshipment
2. Products
  - a) species and presentation by FAO code
  - b) number of fish or boxes and quantity in kg
3. Signature of the Master or Vessel Agent
4. In case of transshipment: receiving vessel name, its flag and ICCAT number

**Minimum information for fishing logbooks in case of transfer into cages:**

1. Date, time and position (latitude/longitude) of transfer
2. Products:
  - a) Species identification by FAO code
  - b) Number of fish and quantity in kg transferred into cages
3. Name of towing vessel, its flag and ICCAT number
4. Name of the farm of destination and its ICCAT number
5. In case of joint fishing operation, in complement of information laid down in points 1 to 4, the masters shall record in their logbook:
  - a) as regards the catching vessel transferring the fish into cages:
    - amount of catches taken on board,
    - amount of catches counted against its individual quota,
    - the names of the other vessels involved in the JFO.
  - b) as regards the other catching vessels not involved in the transfer of the fish:
    - the name of the other vessels involved in the JFO, their international radio call signs and ICCAT numbers,
    - that no catches have been taken on board or transferred into cages,
    - amount of catches counted against their individual quotas,
    - the name and the ICCAT number of the catching vessel referred to in a).

### **B - Towing Vessels**

1. Masters of towing vessels shall record on their daily logbook, the date, time and position of transfer, the quantities transferred (number of fish and quantity in kg), the cage number, as well as the catching vessel name, flag and ICCAT number, the name of the other vessel(s) involved and their ICCAT number, the farm of destination and its ICCAT number, and the ICCAT transfer declaration number.
2. Further transfers to auxiliary vessels or to other towing vessels shall be reported including the same information as in point 1 as well as the auxiliary or towing vessel name, flag and ICCAT number and the ICCAT transfer declaration number.
3. The daily logbook shall contain the details of all transfers carried out during the fishing season. The daily logbook shall be kept on board and be accessible at any time for control purposes.

### **C - Auxiliary Vessels**

1. Masters of auxiliary vessels shall record their activities daily in their logbook including the date, time and positions, the quantities of bluefin tuna taken onboard, and the fishing vessel, farm or trap name they are operating in association with.
2. The daily logbook shall contain the details of all activities carried out during the fishing season. The daily logbook shall be kept on board and be accessible at any time for control purposes.

### **D - Processing Vessels**

1. Masters of processing vessels shall report on their daily logbook, the date, time and position of the activities and the quantities transhipped and the number and weight of bluefin tuna received from farms, traps or catching vessel where applicable. They should also report the names and ICCAT numbers of those farms, traps or catching vessel.
2. Masters of processing vessels shall maintain a daily processing logbook specifying the round weight and number of fish transferred or transhipped, the conversion factor used, the weights and quantities by product presentation.
3. Masters of processing vessels shall maintain a stowage plan that shows the location and the quantities of each species and presentation.
4. The daily logbook shall contain the details of all transhipments carried out during the fishing season. The daily logbook, processing logbook, stowage plan, original of ICCAT transhipment declarations shall be kept on board and be accessible at any time for control purposes.

## Annex 3

## No. Document

## ICCAT Transhipment Declaration

Carrier vessel		Fishing Vessel	Final destination:
Name of vessel and radio call sign:		Name of the vessel and radio call sign:	Port:
Flag:		Flag:	Country:
Flag CPC authorization No.		Flag CPC authorization No.	State:
National Register No.		National Register No.	
ICCAT Register No.		ICCAT Register No.	
IMO No.		External identification: Fishing logbook sheet No.	

	Day	Month	Hour	Year	2_ 0_	F.V Master's name:	Carrier vessel Master's name:
Departure					From:    To:		
Return						Signature:	Signature:
Tranship.							

TRANSHIPMENT 30

LOCATION OF TRANSHIPMENT

For transhipment, indicate the weight in kg or the unit used (e.g. box, basket) and the landed weight in kilograms of this unit | | Kg.

<i>Port</i>	<i>Lat.</i>	<i>Sea Long.</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Number of unit of fishes</i>	<i>Type of product live</i>	<i>Type of product whole</i>	<i>Type of product gutted</i>	<i>Type of product head off</i>	<i>Type of product filleted</i>	<i>Type of product</i>	Further transhipments
											Date: _____ Place/Position: _____ Authorization CPC No. _____ Transfer vessel Master signature: _____
											Name of receiver vessel: _____ Flag _____ ICCAT Register No. _____ IMO No. _____ Master's signature _____
											Date: _____ Place/Position: _____ Authorization CPC No. _____ Transfer vessel Master's signature: _____
											Name of receiver vessel: _____ Flag _____ ICCAT Register No. _____ IMO No. _____ Master's signature _____

Obligations in case of transhipment:

1. The original of the transhipment declaration must be provided to the recipient vessel (processing/transport).
2. The copy of the transhipment declaration must be kept by the correspondent catching vessel or trap.
3. Further transshipping operations shall be authorized by the relevant CPC which authorized the vessel to operate.
4. The original of the transhipment declaration has to be kept by the recipient vessel which holds the fish, up to the landing place.
5. The transshipping operation shall be recorded in the logbook of any vessel involved in the operation.

## ICCAT Transfer Declaration

Document No.		ICCAT Transfer Declaration	
<b>1 - TRANSFER OF LIVE BFT DESTINATED FOR FARMING</b>			
Fishing vessel name:  Call sign: Flag: ICCAT Register No.: External identification: Transfer authorization No.: Fishing logbook No.: JFO No.: eBCD No.:	Trap name:  ICCAT Register No.	1 <sup>st</sup> towing vessel name: Flag: ICCAT Register No.: External identification: Transport cage number:	Name destination farm:  ICCAT Register No:
	Donor farm name (1)  ICCAT Register No.	2 <sup>nd</sup> towing vessel name (2): Flag: ICCAT Register No.: External identification: Transport cage number:	Name destination farm (3):  ICCAT Register No:
		3 <sup>th</sup> towing vessel name (2): Flag: ICCAT Register No.: External identification: Transport cage number:	Name destination farm (3):  ICCAT Register No:
<b>2 - FIRST TRANSFER INFORMATION</b>			
Date: __ / __ / ____		Place or position:	Port:                      Lat:                      Long:
No. individuals and estimated weight (Kg) in first cage (4): First transfer: Voluntary transfer: Control transfer: BFT dead during the transfer (5)	No. individuals and estimated weight (Kg) in second cage: First transfer: Voluntary transfer: Control transfer: BFT dead during the transfer (5)	No. individuals and estimated weight (Kg) in third cage: First transfer: Voluntary transfer: Control transfer: BFT dead during the transfer (5)	
Master of fishing vessel / trap operator / farm operator name and signature:	Master of receiving vessel name and signature: 1 <sup>st</sup> receiving vessel: 2 <sup>nd</sup> receiving vessel: 3 <sup>th</sup> receiving vessel:		Observer Name, ICCAT No. and signature:

Presence of Observer: (Y/N)	Reasons for disagreement:	Rules or procedure not respected:	
Estimated No. of individuals Regional Obs:			
Seals Numbers (6)			
<b>3 - FURTHER TRANSFERS (7)</b>			
<b>FURTHER TRANSFER 1</b>			
Date: __/__/____ ITD number:	Place or position: Port:	Lat:	Long:
Donor towing vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register No.:
Receiving towing vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register No.:
Transfer authorization No.:	External identification:	Cage No.:	Master of donor vessel name and signature: Master of receiving vessel name and signature:
No. individuals and estimated weight (Kg):		Number of BFT that died during transfer:	
<b>FURTHER TRANSFER 2</b>			
Date: __/__/____ ITD number	Place or position: Port:	Lat:	Long:
Donor towing vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.
Receiving towing vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register no.
Transfer authorization no:	External identification:	Cage No.:	Master of donor vessel name and signature: Master of receiving vessel name and signature:
N° individuals and estimated weight (Kg)		Number of BFT that died during transfer	
<b>FURTHER TRANSFER 3</b>			
Date: __/__/____ ITD number	Place or position: Port:	Lat:	Long:
Donor towing vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register No.:
Receiving towing vessel name:	Call sign:	Flag:	ICCAT Register No.:

Transfer authorization No.:	External identification:	Cage No.:	Master of donor vessel name and signature: Master of receiving vessel name and signature:
No. individuals and estimated weight (Kg)		Number of BFT that died during transfer	

- (1) To be completed in case of transfers between two different farms
- (2) To be completed if the catch is transferred to more than one transport cage
- (3) To be completed in case the transport cages are destined for more than one farm
- (4) Number of individuals and weight estimated by the donor operator for the transfer considered valid. In case the operation has to be repeated, indicate as N/A in the relevant row (e.g. in case the first transfer and voluntary transfer did not provide an adequate video: First transfer: N/A, voluntary transfer: N/A, control transfer: 1030 pieces, 123,600 kg)
- (5) Number of individuals that died and estimated weight
- (6) To be completed by the ICCAT Regional Observer in case the transport cage is to be sealed in accordance with paragraph 128 and **Annex 14**
- (7) To be completed by the donor operator for each of the transfers between towing vessels, which take place after the first transfer





## Observer Programmes

### CPC Observer Programme

1. The CPC observer tasks shall be, in general, to monitor the compliance of fishing vessels and traps with this Recommendation;
2. When deployed on board a catching vessel, the CPC observer shall record and report upon the fishing activity, which shall include, inter alia, the following:
  - i. their own estimation of the number and weight of bluefin tuna catches (including by-catch);
  - ii. disposition of the catch, such as retained on board, discarded dead or released alive;
  - iii. area of catch by latitude and longitude;
  - iv. measure of effort (e.g., number of sets, number of hooks, etc.), as defined in the ICCAT Manual for different gears;
  - v. date of catch;
  - vi. verify consistency of entries made in the logbook with its own catch estimation;
3. when deployed on a towing vessel :
  - a) in the event of a further transfer involving movement of fish between two transport cages:
    - i. without delay, analyze the video footage of the further transfer concerned, to estimate the number of individuals that have been transferred,
    - ii. communicate immediately to the flag CPC competent authority of the donor towing vessel his/her observations, including the number of individuals estimated by the CPC observer and the corresponding number reported on the ITD by the master of the donor towing vessel, and
    - iii. include the results of its analysis in its observer report to the flag CPC competent authority of the donor towing vessel.
  - b) record and report in its observer report all bluefin tuna observed dead during the transport trip;
  - c) sight and record vessels that may be fishing contrary to ICCAT conservation measures, and
  - d) communicate the observer report to the flag CPC competent authority of the donor towing vessel without delay at the end of the towing trip.
4. When deployed on a bluefin tuna trap:
  - a) verify the harvesting authorisation issued by the trap CPC competent authority;
  - b) validate the information in the processing and/or harvesting declarations made by the master or representative of the processing vessel or the trap operator.
5. In addition, the CPC observer shall carry out scientific work, such as collecting all the necessary data required by the Commission, based on recommendations of the SCRS.

### **ICCAT Regional Observer Programme**

- Each CPC shall require its farms, traps and purse seine vessels to deploy an ICCAT regional observer, as referred to in paragraph 101.
- The ICCAT Secretariat shall appoint the ICCAT regional observers before 1 April or as soon as practical each year, and shall place them on farms, traps and on board the purse seine vessels flying the flag of CPCs that implement the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme. An ICCAT regional observer card shall be issued for each observer.
- The ICCAT Secretariat shall issue a contract listing the rights and duties of the ICCAT regional observer and the master of the vessel, farm, or trap operator. This contract shall be signed by both parties involved.
- The ICCAT Secretariat shall establish an ICCAT Observer Programme Manual.

### **Qualification of the ICCAT regional observers**

- The ICCAT regional observers shall have the following qualifications to accomplish their tasks:
  - sufficient experience to identify species and fishing gear;
  - satisfactory knowledge of the ICCAT conservation and management measures and based on ICCAT training guidelines;
  - the ability to observe and record accurately;
  - the ability to analyze video record footage;
  - to the extent possible, a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag, the vessel, the farm or the trap observed.

### **Obligations of the ICCAT regional observer**

- The ICCAT regional observers shall:
  - a) have completed the technical training required by the guidelines established by ICCAT;
  - b) be nationals of one of the CPCs and, to the extent possible, not of the farm CPC, trap CPC or flag CPC of the purse seine vessel;
  - c) be capable of performing the duties set forth in point 7 below;
  - d) be included in the list of observers maintained by the ICCAT Secretariat;
  - e) not have current financial or beneficial interests in the bluefin tuna fishery.
- The ICCAT regional observers shall treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing and transfer operations conducted by the purse seine vessels, the farms and the traps, and accept this requirement in writing as a condition to be appointed as an ICCAT regional observer.
- The ICCAT regional observers shall comply with requirements established in the laws and regulations of the flag or farm CPC which exercises jurisdiction over the vessel, farm or trap to which the ICCAT regional observer is assigned.

- The ICCAT regional observers shall respect the hierarchy and general rules of behavior which apply to all vessel, farm and trap personnel, provided such rules do not interfere with the duties of the ICCAT regional observer under this program, and with the obligations of vessel, farm and trap personnel set forth in this Annex.

#### **Tasks of the ICCAT Regional observer**

- The ICCAT regional observer tasks shall be, in particular, to:

##### ***General tasks***

- i. observe and monitor compliance of the bluefin tuna fishing and farming operations with the relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures;
- ii. carry out such scientific work, such as collecting samples or Task 2 data, as required by the Commission, based on the recommendations of the SCRS;
- iii. sight and record vessels which may be fishing in contravention to ICCAT conservation and management measures;
- iv. verify and record the name of the fishing vessel concerned and its ICCAT number;
- v. exercise any other functions as defined by the Commission;

##### ***As regards purse seine vessels or trap catching activity***

- vi. observe and report upon the fishing activities carried out;
- vii. observe and estimate catches and verify entries made in the logbook;

##### ***As regards first transfers from a purse seine vessel or trap to transport cage(s)***

- viii. record and report upon the transfer activities carried out;
- ix. verify the position of the vessel when engaged in a transfer;
- x. review and analyze all the video footages related to the transfer operation concerned, where applicable;
- xi. estimate the number of fish transferred and record the result in the ITD;
- xii. issue a daily report of the transfer activities of purse seine vessels;
- xiii. record and report upon the result of such analysis;
- xiv. verify entries made in the prior transfer authorization referred to in paragraph 112, in the ITD referred to in paragraphs 130 to 133, and in the eBCD;
- xv. verify that the ITD referred to in paragraphs 130 to 133 is transmitted to the master of the towing vessel or to the representative of the farm or trap;
- xvi. in relation to control transfers, verify the seals identification number and ensure that the seals are placed in such a way to prevent the opening of the doors without the seals being broken;

***As regards caging operations***

- xvii. Review the camera video footages at caging to estimate the number of fish caged, in due time to allow the farm operator to complete the related caging declaration;

***As regards verification of data***

- xviii. verify and certify the data contained in the ITDs, the caging declarations and the eBCD, including through the analysis of video records;
- xix. issue a daily report of the purse seine vessels', farms' and traps' transfer activities;
- xx. sign the ITDs, the caging declarations and the eBCD, with clearly written name and ICCAT number, when the relevant operation is in accordance with the ICCAT conservation and management measures and the information contained within these documents is consistent with his/her observations. In case of disagreement, the ICCAT regional observer shall indicate his/her presence on the relevant ITD and caging declarations and/or the eBCD concerned, and the reasons of disagreement, quoting specifically the rule(s) or procedure(s) that in his/her view has(ve) not been respected;

***As regards releases***

- xxi. as regards releases before caging, observe and report on the release operation from the purse seine net or the transport cage, in accordance with the release protocol in **Annex 10**;
- xxii. as regards releases after caging, observe and report on the prior segregation of fish and the subsequent release operation, in accordance with the release protocol in **Annex 10**, including verifying that the quality of the video footage of the prior segregation satisfies the minimum standards of **Annex 8** and estimating the number of fish released;
- xxiii. in both cases, verify the release order issued by the competent authority and validate the information in the release declaration made by the donor or farm operator;

***As regards harvesting operation in farms***

- xxiv. verify the harvesting authorisation issued by the farm CPC competent authority;
- xxv. validate the information in the processing and harvesting declarations made by master or representative of the processing vessel or by the farm operator;

***As regards reporting***

- xxvi. register and verify the presence of any type of tag, including natural marks, and notify any sign of recent tag removals. For all individuals tagged with electronic tags, conduct full biological sampling (otoliths, spine and genetic sample) following guidelines by the SCRS;
- xxvii. establish general reports compiling the information collected in accordance with this paragraph and provide the master and farm operator the opportunity to include therein any relevant information;
- xxviii. submit the aforementioned general report to the provider responsible for the ROP, for subsequent transmission to the ICCAT Secretariat within 20 days from the end of the period of observation;
- xxix. in cases where the ICCAT regional observer observes a potential non-compliance with an ICCAT Recommendation, he/she shall submit this information without delay to the provider responsible for the ROP who shall forward it without delay to the flag, trap or farm CPC competent authority concerned, and to the ICCAT Secretariat. For this purpose, the provider responsible for the ROP shall set up a system through which this information can be securely communicated;

- xxx. obtain, as far as possible, evidence (i.e. photos, videos) of potential non-compliance detected and attach them to his/her report.

### **Obligations of the flag, trap and farm CPCs**

- The flag, farm and trap CPCs shall ensure that, notably, the ICCAT regional observer:
  - a) is allowed access to the purse seine vessel, farm and trap personnel and to the gear, cages equipment, and stereoscopic camera and conventional video camera footage;
  - b) upon request and in order to carry out their duties set forth in this Programme, is allowed access to the following equipment, if present on the vessels to which they are assigned:
    - i. Satellite navigation equipment,
    - ii. Radar display screens when in use,
    - iii. Electronic means of communication;
  - c) is provided accommodations, including lodging, food and adequate sanitary facilities, equal to those of officers;
  - d) is provided with adequate space on the bridge or pilot house for clerical work, as well as space on deck adequate for carrying out observer duties; and
- The flag, trap and farm CPCs shall ensure that masters, crew, farm, trap and vessel owners do not obstruct, intimidate, interfere with, influence, bribe or attempt to bribe an ICCAT regional observer in the performance of his/her duties.
- The ICCAT Secretariat, in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality requirements, is requested to provide to the flag, trap or farm CPC, copies of all raw data, summaries, and reports pertaining to the trip. The ICCAT Secretariat shall submit the ICCAT regional observer reports to the Compliance Committee and to the SCRS.
- The flag, farm or trap CPC competent authority where the ICCAT regional observer is providing his/her services, may request that the observer be replaced if they have evidence that the ICCAT regional observer does not meet its obligations or adequately carry out the tasks set out in this Recommendation. Any such cases shall be reported to Panel 2.

### **Fees and organization**

- The costs of implementing this program shall be financed by the farm and trap operators and the purse seine vessel owners. The fee shall be calculated on the basis of the total costs of the Program, and paid into a special account of the ICCAT Secretariat. The ICCAT Secretariat shall manage the account for implementing the program;

No ICCAT regional observer shall be assigned to a vessel, trap or farm for which the fees, as required under this Annex, have not been paid.

### ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Article IX of the Convention, the Commission recommends the establishment of the following arrangements for international control outside the waters under national jurisdiction for the purpose of ensuring the application of the Convention and the measures in force thereunder:

#### I. Serious violations

1. For the purposes of these procedures, a serious violation means the following violations of the provisions of the ICCAT conservation and management measures adopted by the Commission:
  - a) fishing without a license, permit or authorization issued by the flag CPC;
  - b) failure to maintain sufficient records of catch and catch-related data in accordance with the Commission's reporting requirements or significant misreporting of such catch and/or catch-related data;
  - c) fishing in a closed area;
  - d) fishing during a closed season;
  - e) intentional taking or retention of species in contravention of any applicable conservation and management measure adopted by the ICCAT;
  - f) significant violation of catch limits or quotas in force pursuant to the ICCAT rules;
  - g) using prohibited fishing gear;
  - h) falsifying or intentionally concealing the markings, identity or registration of a fishing vessel;
  - i) concealing, tampering with or disposing of evidence relating to investigation of a violation;
  - j) multiple violations which taken together constitute a serious disregard of measures in force pursuant to the ICCAT;
  - k) assault, resist, intimidate, sexually harass, interfere with, or unduly obstruct or delay an authorized inspector or observer;
  - l) intentionally tampering with or disabling the vessel monitoring system;
  - m) such other violations as may be determined by the ICCAT, once these are included and circulated in a revised version of these procedures;
  - n) fishing with the assistance of spotter planes;
  - o) interference with the satellite monitoring system and/or operation of a vessel without a VMS system;
  - p) transfer activity without transfer declaration;
  - q) transshipment at sea.

2. In the case of any boarding and inspection of a fishing vessel during which the authorized inspectors observe an activity or condition that would constitute a serious violation, as defined in paragraph 1, the authorities of the flag CPC of the inspection vessel shall immediately notify the flag CPC of the fishing vessel, directly as well as through the ICCAT Secretariat. In such situations, the inspector should also inform any inspection ship of the flag CPC of the fishing vessel known to be in the vicinity.
3. ICCAT inspectors should register the inspections undertaken and the infringements detected (if any) in the fishing vessel logbook.
4. The flag CPC shall ensure that, following the inspection referred to in paragraph 2 of this Annex, the fishing vessel concerned ceases all fishing activities. The flag CPC shall require the fishing vessel to proceed within 72 hours to a port designated by it, where an investigation shall be initiated.
5. In the case where an inspection has detected an activity or condition that would constitute a serious violation, the vessel should be reviewed under the procedures described in the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Establishing a List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried Out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities* (Rec. 18-08), taking into account any response actions and other follow up.

## II. Conduct of inspections

6. Inspections shall be carried out by inspectors designated by the Contracting Governments. The names of the authorized government agencies and individual inspectors designated for that purpose by their respective governments shall be notified to the Commission.
7. Ships carrying out international boarding and inspection duties in accordance with this Annex shall fly a special flag or pennant approved by the Commission and issued by the ICCAT Secretariat. The names of the ships so used shall be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat as soon as practical in advance of the commencement of inspection activities. The Secretariat shall make information regarding designated inspection vessels available to all CPCs, including by posting on its password-protected website.
8. Inspectors shall carry appropriate identity documentation issued by the authorities of the flag CPC, which shall be in the form shown in paragraph 20 of this Annex.
9. Subject to the arrangements agreed under paragraph 15 of this Annex, a vessel flagged to a Contracting Government and fishing for tuna or tuna-like fishes in the Convention area outside waters under national jurisdiction shall stop when given the appropriate signal in the International Code of Signals by a ship flying the ICCAT pennant described in paragraph 7 and carrying an inspector unless the vessel is actually carrying out fishing operations, in which case it shall stop immediately once it has finished such operations. The master<sup>1</sup> of the vessel shall permit the inspection party, as specified in paragraph 10 of this Annex, to board it and must provide a boarding ladder. The master shall enable the inspection party to make such examination of equipment, catch or gear and any relevant documents as an inspector deems necessary to verify compliance with the ICCAT Commission's Recommendations in force in relation to the flag CPC of the vessel being inspected. Further, an inspector may ask for any explanations that he or she deems necessary.
10. The size of the inspection party shall be determined by the commanding officer of the inspection vessel taking into account relevant circumstances. The inspection party should be as small as possible to accomplish the duties set out in this Annex safely and securely.
11. Upon boarding the vessel, inspectors shall produce the identity documentation described in paragraph 8 of this Annex. Inspectors shall observe generally accepted international regulations, procedures and practices relating to the safety of the vessel being inspected and its crew, and shall minimize interference with fishing activities or stowage of product and, to the extent practicable, avoid action which would adversely affect the quality of the catch on board; Inspectors shall limit their enquiries to the ascertainment of the observance of the Commission's Recommendations in force in relation to the

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<sup>1</sup> Master refers to the individual in charge of the vessel.





flag CPC of the vessel concerned. In making the inspection, inspectors may ask the master of the fishing vessel for any assistance he/she may require. Inspectors shall draw up a report of the inspection in a form approved by the Commission. Inspectors shall sign the report in the presence of the master of the vessel who shall be entitled to add or have added to the report any observations which he or she may think suitable and must sign such observations.

12. Copies of the report shall be given to the master of the vessel and to the government of the inspection party, which shall transmit copies to the appropriate authorities of the flag CPC of the inspected vessel and to the ICCAT Commission. Where any infringement of ICCAT Recommendations is discovered, the inspector should, where possible, also inform any inspection ship of the flag CPC of the fishing vessel known to be in the vicinity.
13. Resistance to inspectors or failure to comply with their directions shall be treated by the flag CPC of the inspected vessel in a manner similar to such conduct committed with respect to a national inspector.
14. Inspectors shall carry out their duties under these arrangements in accordance with the rules set out in this Recommendation, but they shall remain under the operational control of their national authorities and shall be responsible to them.
15. Contracting Governments shall consider and act on inspection reports, sighting information sheets as per Rec. 19-09 and statements resulting from documentary inspections of foreign inspectors under these arrangements on a similar basis in accordance with their national legislation to the reports of national inspectors. The provisions of this paragraph shall not impose any obligation on a Contracting Government to give the report of a foreign inspector a higher evidential value than it would possess in the inspector's own country. Contracting Governments shall collaborate in order to facilitate judicial or other proceedings arising from a report of an inspector under these arrangements.
  - a) Contracting Governments shall inform the Commission by 15 February each year of their provisional plans for conducting inspection activities under this Recommendation in that calendar year and the Commission may make suggestions to Contracting Governments for the coordination of national operations in this field including the number of inspectors and ships carrying inspectors;
  - b) the arrangements set out in this Recommendation and the plans for participation shall apply between Contracting Governments unless otherwise agreed between them, and such agreement shall be notified to the ICCAT Commission. Provided, however, that implementation of the scheme shall be suspended between any two Contracting Governments if either of them has notified the ICCAT Commission to that effect, pending completion of such an agreement.
16.
  - a) the fishing gear shall be inspected in accordance with the regulations in force for the subarea for which the inspection takes place. Inspectors will state the subarea for which the inspection took place, and a description of any violations found, in the inspection report;
  - b) inspectors shall have the authority to inspect all fishing gear in use or on board.
17. Inspectors shall affix an identification mark approved by the ICCAT Commission to any fishing gear inspected which appears to be in contravention of the ICCAT Commission's Recommendations in force in relation to the flag CPC of the vessel concerned and shall record this fact in his/her report.
18. The inspector may photograph the gears, equipment, documentation and any other element he/she considers necessary in such a way as to reveal those features which in their opinion are not in conformity with the regulation in force, in which case the subjects photographed should be listed in the report and copies of the photographs should be attached to the copy of the report to the flag CPC.
19. Inspectors shall, as necessary, inspect all catch on board to determine compliance with ICCAT Recommendations.

20. The model Identity Card for inspectors is as follows:

*Dimensions: Width 10.4cm, Height 7cm*

 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNA</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ICCAT</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>INSPECTOR IDENTITY CARD</b></p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin: 10px auto;"/> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin-bottom: 10px;"></div> <div style="width: 80%;"> <p><b>Contracting Party:</b></p> <p><b>Inspector Name:</b></p> <p><b>Card No.:</b></p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><b>Issue Date:</b></p> <p>Validity five years</p> </div>	 <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 1.2em;"><b>ICCAT</b></p> <p>The holder of this document is an ICCAT inspector duly appointed under the terms of the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection and has the authority to act under the provision of the ICCAT Control and Enforcement measures</p> <hr style="width: 80%; margin: 10px auto;"/> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>CPC Authority</p> <p>Inspector</p> </div>
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**Minimum standards for video recording procedures  
applicable to transfer, caging and/or release operations**

1. Each flag, trap and farm CPC concerned shall ensure that the following procedures apply to all video recordings of transfer, caging and/or release operations referred to in this Recommendation:
  - a) At the beginning and/or the end of each video, where requested, the ICCAT transfer or caging authorization number or release order shall be displayed;
  - b) The time and the date of the video shall be continuously displayed throughout each video record;
  - c) The video record shall be continuous without any interruptions and cuts, and cover the entire transfer, caging and/or release operation;
  - d) Before the start of the transfer, caging and/or release operation, the video record shall include the opening and closing of the net/door and, for transfers and caging operations, show whether the receiving and donor cage(s) already contain bluefin tuna;
  - e) The video record shall be of sufficient quality to determine the number and, where appropriate the weight, of bluefin tuna being transferred, caged and/or released;
  - f) The original video record shall be kept on board the donor vessel, or by the farm or trap operator where appropriate, during their entire period of authorization to operate;
  - g) The distribution of copies of the video records shall follow the provisions referred to in paragraphs 120 to 123 of this Recommendation;
  - h) The electronic storage device containing the original video record shall be immediately provided to the ICCAT regional and/or CPC national observer after the end of the transfer, caging and/or release operation. The ICCAT regional observer and/or CPC observer shall immediately initialize it to avoid any further manipulation.
  
2. Each flag, trap and farm CPC concerned shall establish the necessary measures to avoid any replacement, edition or manipulation of the original video records.

**Insufficient quality of the video record**

3. If the video record is of insufficient quality to determine the number and, where appropriate the weight, of bluefin tuna being transferred, caged and/or released, the operation shall be repeated until the quality of the video is adequate, following the procedures below:
  - a) for a transfer, the transfer operation concerned shall be repeated in accordance with the provisions set out in paragraphs 124 to 129 of this Recommendation (voluntary and control transfers). This voluntary or control transfer shall be carried out into another cage which must be empty.
 

For those transfers where the origin of the fish is a trap, the bluefin tuna already transferred from the trap to the receiving cage could be sent back to the trap and the voluntary transfer is cancelled under the supervision of the ICCAT regional observer;
  - b) for a caging operation, the caging operation concerned shall be repeated in accordance with the provisions set out in paragraphs 163 to 164 of this Recommendation.

The new caging operation must include movement of all the bluefin tuna from the receiving farm cage into another farm cage, which must be empty;

- c) for releases, the segregation of the fish to be released shall be repeated in accordance with the release Protocol set out in **Annex 10** of this Recommendation.

## Standards and procedures for stereoscopic cameras systems in the context of caging operations

### 1. Use of stereoscopic cameras systems

The use of stereoscopic cameras systems in the context of caging operations shall be conducted in accordance with the following provisions:

- i. The sampling intensity of live fish for length measurement shall not be below 20% of the number of fish being caged. When technically possible, the sampling of live fish shall be sequential, by measuring one in every five specimens. Such a sample shall be made up of fish measured at a distance between 2 and 8 meters from the camera.
- ii. The dimensions of the transfer gate connecting the donor cage and the receiving cage shall be set at maximum width of 8 to 10 meters and maximum height of 8 to 10 meters.
- iii. Validation of the stereoscopic individual length measurements shall be undertaken prior to each caging operation using a scale bar at a distance of 2 and 8 m.
- iv. When the length measurements of the fish present a multi-modal distribution (two or more cohorts of distinct sizes), it shall be possible to use more than one conversion algorithm for the same caging operation.
- v. The most up to date algorithm(s) established by SCRS using the length-weight relationship for wild fish shall be used to convert the fork length into weight, according to the size category of the fish measured during the caging operation.
- vi. The margin of error for determining weight, inherent to the technical specifications of the stereoscopic camera system, shall not exceed a range of +/- 5 percent.
- vii. The report on the results of the stereoscopic program should include details on all the technical specifications above, including the sampling intensity, the way of sampling methodology, the distance from the camera, the dimensions of the transfer gate, and the algorithms (length-weight relationship). The SCRS shall review these specifications, and if necessary provide recommendations to modify them.

### 2. Caging results

At the completion of a caging operation, or the complete set of caging operations under a JFO or under the traps of the same CPC/EU Member State, the farm CPC competent authority shall communicate the following information to the catching flag or trap CPC competent authority:

- a) a technical report related to the stereoscopic camera system, which shall contain in particular:
  - general information: species, site, cage, date, algorithm;
  - sizing statistical information: average weight and length, minimum weight and length, maximum weight and length, number of fish sampled, weight distribution, size distribution;
  - the algorithm used to convert length into weight;
  - the margin of error of the stereoscopic camera system used. In the case where the camera software does not have an automatic method to calculate this margin of error, it shall be calculated as detailed in points 1 to 4 of the **Appendix** to this **Annex**.
- b) a factual report related to the caging operation, which shall contain in particular:
  - detailed results of the sampling programme, with the total number and weight of bluefin tuna being caged, and the size and weight of every fish that was sampled;
  - the relevant caging declarations;

- indication of cases where discrepancies of more than 10% between the number of individuals being caged and the number reported as caught on the ITD require investigation by the flag or trap CPC competent authority in accordance with paragraph 174, and cases where the caging results indicate that catch is not in line with paragraphs 33 to 35;
- general information on the caging operation: number of the caging operation, name of the farm, cage number, eBCD number, ITD number, name and flag of the catching vessel, name and flag of the towing vessel, date of the stereoscopic camera system operation and footage filename;
- comparison between the amounts declared in the eBCD and the amounts found with the stereoscopic camera system, in number of fish, average weight and total weight (the formula used to calculate the difference shall be:  $(\text{Stereoscopic System}-\text{eBCD})/\text{Stereoscopic System} \times 100$ ).

### 3. Caging Report

The caging report referred to in paragraph 186 of this Recommendation shall include:

- a) the caging results referred to in point 2;
- b) the relevant reports of the release operations, conducted in accordance with **Annex 10**;

### 4. Use of the outcome of the stereoscopic camera systems

By applying the margin of error inherent to the technical specifications of the stereoscopic camera system used, the farm CPC competent authority shall determine the range (lowest and higher value) of the total weight of the bluefin tuna being caged, in accordance with point 5 of the Appendix to this Annex. The implementation of the appendix is subject to SCRS review of the proposed method.

When receiving the results of the analysis of the stereoscopic camera video footage and the range (lower and higher value) of the total weight of the bluefin tuna being caged, communicated by the farm CPC competent authority, the catching flag or trap CPC/EU Member State competent authority shall take the following measures:

- a) apply the following measures as regards releases and adaptation of the eBCD sections for catching vessels operating within the framework of an individual fishing operation (outside a JFO);
  - i. when the total weight declared by the catching vessel in the eBCD is within the range of the stereoscopic camera system results:
    - no release shall be ordered;
    - the eBCD shall be modified both in number (using the number of fish resulting from the use of the stereoscopic camera system and average weight, while the total weight shall not be modified).
  - ii. when the total weight declared by the catching vessel in the catching section of the eBCD is below the lowest figure of the range of the stereoscopic camera system results:
    - a release shall be ordered using the lowest figure in the range of the stereoscopic camera system results;
    - the release operations shall be carried out in accordance with the procedure laid down in **Annex 10**;

- after the release operations took place, the eBCD shall be modified both in number (using the number of fish resulting from the use of the stereoscopic camera system minus the number of fish released) and average weight, while the total weight shall not be modified.
- iii. when the total weight declared by the catching vessel in the catching section of the eBCD exceeds the highest figure of the range of the stereoscopic camera system results:
- no release shall be ordered;
  - the eBCD shall be modified for the total weight (using the highest figure in the range of the stereoscopic camera system results), for the number of fish (using the results from the stereoscopic camera system, and average weight accordingly).
- b) ensure that for any relevant modification of the eBCD, the values (number and weight) entered in Section 2 shall be consistent with those in Section 6 and the values in Sections 3, 4 and 6, shall not be higher to those in Section 2.

## **5. Provisions applicable to JFO and traps**

1. Decisions consequent to differences between the catch report and the results from the stereoscopic camera system programme shall be taken by the flag or trap CPC competent authority:
  - a) based on comparison between the total of the weights resulting from the stereoscopic camera system programme of all the bluefin tuna caging operations from a JFO / traps, with the total of the weights of catches declared by vessels participating in that JFO or by those traps and, in the case of JFOs and traps involving a single CPC and/or EU Member State;
  - b) at the level of the caging operations for JFO's involving more than one CPC and/or EU Member State, unless otherwise agreed by all the flag CPC/EU Member State competent authorities of the catching vessels involved in the JFO.
2. In case of compensation of differences in weight between what has been determined by the stereoscopic camera and the correspondent catch found in individual caging reports across all cagings from a JFO or traps of a same CPC/EU Member State, whether or not a release operation is required, all relevant eBCD shall be modified on the basis of the lowest range of the stereoscopic camera system results.
3. The eBCD related to the quantities of bluefin tuna released shall also be modified to reflect the weight and the corresponding number of fish released. The eBCD related to bluefin tuna not released but for which the results from the stereoscopic camera systems or alternative techniques differ from those reported caught and transferred shall also be amended to reflect these differences.
4. The eBCD relating to the catches from where the release operation took place shall also be modified to reflect the weight/number released.

## Appendix to Annex 9

**Method for the calculation of a margin of error  
and range of the stereoscopic camera system**

In accordance with what was agreed at the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 (March 2020) «Clarify section 2 of Annex 9 of Rec. 19-04, paragraph iii concerning the determination of the percentage range», the following method is applied for the calculation of the margin of error and the range of the stereoscopic camera system:

1. Calculation of the fork length (FLi) range for each sample (i) taking into account the margin of error FL provided by the system (error%):

The length range is identified for each sample (i) by **[FL<sub>min,i</sub> , FL<sub>max,i</sub>]**

**FL<sub>min,i</sub> = FLi - (FLi \* error%)**: is the minimum value for the fork length range for each sample (i)

**FL<sub>max,i</sub> = FLi + (FLi \* error%)**: is the maximum value for the fork length range for each sample (i)

2. Conversion of the length range to a round weight (RTW) range for each sample (i) applying the algorithm used to convert length into weight:

The round weight range is identified for each sample (i) by **[RTW<sub>min,i</sub> , RTW<sub>max,i</sub>]**

**RTW<sub>min,i</sub>**: is the minimum value of the round weight range for each sample (i)

**RTW<sub>max,i</sub>**: is the maximum value of the round weight range for each sample (i)

3. Calculation of the average round weight range:

the average round weight range for «n» samples is identified by

**[RTWaverage<sub>min</sub>, RTWaverage<sub>max</sub>]**

**RTWaverage<sub>min</sub>** =  $\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n RTW_{min,i}$ , i : is the minimum value for the average round weight range

**RTWaverage<sub>max</sub>** =  $\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n RTW_{max,i}$ , i : is the maximum value for the average round weight range

4. Calculation of the margin of error percentage (%) of the system:

$$\frac{(RTWaverage_{max} - RTWaverage_{min})/2}{RTWaverage} * 100$$

**RTWaverage**: is the average weight provided by the stereoscopic camera

5. Deduction of the stereoscopic camera system range:

The range of the stereoscopic camera system is defined by:

**[The lowest figure of the range, The highest figure of the range]**

Previously, the total weight is calculated by multiplying the average weight provided by the stereoscopic camera by the number of fish resulting from the use of the stereoscopic camera, i.e. **RTWtotal = (RTWaverage \* Number BFT)**

Thus, the range limits are calculated as follows:

**The lowest range figure = RTWtotal - (margin of error system \* RTWtotal / 100)**

**The highest range figure = totalRTW + (margin of error system \* RTW total / 100)**



## Release Protocol

### Issuing of release orders

1. Release orders before caging shall be issued:
  - a) by competent authority of the donor operator when, on the basis of the prior transfer notification, the CPC competent authority of the donor operator refuses the transfer operation as per paragraph 117; or
  - b) by the farm CPC competent authority when, in accordance with paragraph 154, the caging authorization has not been issued by the farm CPC competent authority within 1 month after the request for a caging authorization.
2. Release orders after caging shall be issued:
  - a) by the flag or trap CPC competent authority when, following procedures in paragraph 180 to 182 it is established that the weight caged exceed that reported caught. The release order shall be notified to the farm CPC competent authority, which shall transmit it to the farm operator concerned; or
  - b) by the farm CPC competent authority when, after harvest, the remaining fish is not covered by an eBCD, or when a carry-over assessment or control transfer has identified an excess of fish.

For cases under section 2 (a) above, the total weight of bluefin tuna to be released shall be converted into a corresponding number of individuals by applying the average weight resulting from the analysis of the stereoscopic camera video footages related to the relevant caging operation, made by the farm CPC competent authority in accordance with paragraph 169 of the Recommendation.

### Segregation of fish prior to the release operation

3. Prior to the release from a farm cage, the farm CPC competent authority shall ensure that:
  - the fish to be released is segregated and moved to an empty transport cage, and the transfer of the fish to the transport cage is monitored by control camera in the water, in accordance with the minimum standards set out in **Annex 8**;
  - the number of fish segregated for release corresponds to the release order.
4. The prior segregation of the fish shall be conducted in the presence of an ICCAT regional observer.

### Record of the release operation by video camera

5. The release of bluefin tuna from transport or farm cages into the sea shall be recorded by control camera. All release operations into the sea shall be observed by an ICCAT regional observer.

### Reporting

6. For each release operation performed, the donor or farm operator responsible for the release shall complete a release report, using the template attached to this Annex.
7. The ICCAT regional observer shall validate the information in the release declaration. The donor or farm operator shall submit the release declaration to its authorities within 48 hours of the release operation taking place for transmission to the ICCAT Secretariat.

**General provisions**

8. Release operations from purse seine nets, traps or transport cages must be executed immediately after receipt of the release order.
9. Release operations from farms must be executed within 3 months of the last caging operation of the fish concerned and at a minimum distance of 10 miles from the farm. For releases of less than 5 tonnes of bluefin tuna, the farm CPC competent authority may set a shorter distance, of minimum 5 miles, for the release.
10. The master of the towing vessel or the farm operator shall be responsible for the fish survival until the release operation has taken place.
11. The farm CPC competent authority might implement any additional measures they feel necessary to guarantee that the release operations take place at the most appropriate time and place in order to increase the probability of the fish going back to the stock.

<b>ICCAT Release Report</b>		<b>Document No:</b>
<b>1 - CATCHING/CAGING DETAILS</b>		
Farm/catching vessel/trap/towing vessel carrying out the release:		
ICCAT Register number:		
Release order reference:		
Catching vessel(s)/trap (1):		
JFO number:		
Caging authorisation(s) number (1):		
Release cage(s) number:		
eBCD(s) reference(s)		
Release authorization number:		
<b>2 - DETAILS OF THE RELEASE OPERATION</b>		
Type of release (3):		
Date of the operation:		
Towing vessel name:		
ICCAT Register number:		
Flag:		
Segregation of fish prior to the release operation:		
Verification cage number:		
Release cage number:		
Number of BFT individuals released:		
Weight of BFT released (Kg):		
Operator name, date and signature (2):		Observer Name, ICCAT No, date and signature:

- (1) Only for releases from farms
- (2) Signature of the farm operator for releases from farms, or of the fishing vessel master for releases ordered to catching vessels or towing vessels
- (3) Release after completion of caging reports (Annex 9, paragraph 4); BFT remaining after harvesting that is not covered by an eBCD; excess of BFT found following a control transfer or carry-over assessment.

**Annex 11****Treatment of dead and/or lost fish****Record of dead or lost bluefin tuna**

1. The number of bluefin tuna that die during any operation regulated in this Recommendation shall be reported by the donor operator in the case of a transfer operations and associated transport, or the farm operator in the case of a caging operation or farming activities, and deducted from the relevant CPC's quota.
2. For the purposes of this Annex, lost fish refers to the missing bluefin tuna individuals that, after the potential differences detected during the investigation referred to in paragraph 174, have not been justified as mortalities.

**Treatment of fish that die during first transfer**

3. The bluefin tuna that die during the first transfer from a purse seine vessel or trap shall be recorded in the purse seine vessel logbook or the trap daily catch report, and reported on the ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD) and on the transfer section of the eBCD.
4. The eBCD shall be provided to the towing vessel(s) with Section 2 (Total Catch), Section 3 (Live fish trade) and Section 4 (Transfer - including "dead" fish) completed.
5. The total quantities reported in Sections 3 and 4 shall be equal to the quantities reported in Section 2, after deductions of all the mortalities observed between the catch and completion of the transfer.
6. The eBCD shall be accompanied by the ITD in accordance with the provisions of this Recommendation. The number of bluefin tuna reported in the ITD (transferred live), must equal the number reported in Section 3 in the associated eBCD.
7. A split of the eBCD with Section 8 (Trade information) shall be completed and given to the auxiliary vessel which will transport the dead bluefin tuna to shore (or retained on the catching vessel or the trap if landed directly to shore). This dead fish and split eBCD must be accompanied with a copy of the ITD.
8. With regard to eBCD, the dead fish shall be allocated to the catching vessel which made the catch or, in the case of JFOs, either to participating catching vessels or flags.

**Treatment of fish that die and/or are lost during further transfers and transport operations**

9. Towing vessels shall report, using the template attached to this Annex, all bluefin tuna dead during transport. Individual lines shall be completed by the master each time the dead or lost event has been detected.
10. In case of further transfers, the master of the donor towing vessel must provide the original of the report to the master of the towing vessel receiving the bluefin tuna, keeping a copy on board for the duration of the campaign.
11. At arrival of a transport cage to the destination farm, the master of the towing vessel shall deliver the complete set of reports of dead fish using the template attached to this Annex to the farm CPC competent authority.

12. For the purpose of the quota uptake to be determined by the flag or trap CPC, the weight of fish that die or are lost during transport shall be evaluated as follows:
  - a) for dead fish
    - i. in the case of landing, the effective weight at landing shall be applied;
    - ii. in the case that the dead fish is discarded, the average weight established at the time of caging shall be applied to the number of individuals discarded;
  - b) for fish otherwise considered as lost at the moment of the investigation referred to in paragraph 174, the average individual weight established at the time of caging shall be applied to the number of individuals considered as being lost, as determined by the flag or trap CPC competent authority resulting from its analysis of the first transfer video footage in the context of the investigation.

#### **Treatment of fish that die during caging operations**

13. The fish that die during caging operations shall be reported by the operator on the caging declaration. The farm CPC competent authority shall ensure that the number and weight of the fish that die is reported in the relevant field of Section 6 of the eBCD.

#### **Treatment of fish that die and/or are lost during farming activities**

14. Dead or lost fish in farms or those that disappear from farms, including allegedly stolen or escaped fish, shall be reported by the farm operator to the farm CPC competent authority immediately after the event has been detected. The farm operator's report shall be accompanied by the necessary supporting evidence (complaint filed about the stolen fish, damage report in case of damage to the cage, etc.). After receipt of such report, the farm CPC competent authority shall apply the necessary changes or cancellation of the eBCD concerned (following the necessary developments in the eBCD system).

<b>Reporting of fish that die during further transfers and towing operations</b>		
Towing vessel	Name	
	ICCAT N° and Flag	
	ITD N° and Cage N°	
	Master's name	
Catching vessel(s)/trap	Name of vessel(s)/trap	
	ICCAT number and JFO N°	
	eBCDs number(s)	
Previous towing vessel (if any)	Name	
	ICCAT N° and Flag	
	ITD N° and Cage N°	
	Total number of BFT reported dead (*)	
Farm of destination	CPC / Name / ICCAT N°	
Date	N° of dead BFT	Master's signature
<b>TOTAL</b>		

(\*) In case of further transfers, the Master of the donor towing vessel shall deliver the original of the mortalities report to the Master of the receiving towing vessel.

**ICCAT Caging Declaration**

<b>ICCAT Caging Declaration</b>		<b>Document No:</b>	
<b>1 - CAGING OF BLUEFIN TUNA</b>			
Farm name:		Towing vessel name:	
ICCAT Register number:		ICCAT Register number:	
Caging authorization number:		Flag:	
Transport cage number:		JFO number:	
Farm cage number:		eBCD number(s):	
Date of caging:		Transfer declaration (ITD) number(s):	
Bluefin tuna that die during transport (1):			
<b>2 - CAGING INFORMATION - FARM OPERATOR AND ICCAT OBSERVER (2)</b>			
	Farm Operator		ICCAT Observer
Number individuals:			
Quantities in Kg:			Not applicable
Number and weight (Kg) of BFT dead during caging:			
Farm operator name, date and signature:		Observer Name, ICCAT No, date and signature:	
Presence of Observer: (Y/N)	Reasons for disagreement:		Rules or procedure not respected:
<b>3 - CAGING INFORMATION - CPC FARM AUTHORITIES* (3)</b>			
Number individuals:		Quantities in Kg:	
CPC authorities officer, date and signature:			

- (1) Total number and weight (Kg) of BFT reported dead by the master(s) of the towing vessel(s) which have transported the caged fish.
- (2) Quantities determined by the farm operator and ICCAT observer after analysing the stereoscopic camera footage of the caging operation.
- (3) Quantities established by the CPC farm authorities for the actual caging operation when data are available.

**Minimum Information for Fishing Authorizations**

## A. IDENTIFICATION

1. ICCAT registration number
2. Name of fishing vessel
3. External registration number (letters and numbers)
4. IMO number, if any

## B. FISHING CONDITIONS

1. Date of issue
2. Period of validity
3. Conditions of fishing authorization, including when appropriate species, zone, fishing gear and any other conditions applicable derived from this Recommendation and/or from national legislation.

	<b>From... to...</b>	<b>From... to</b>	<b>From... to</b>	<b>From... to</b>	<b>From... to</b>
<b>Zones</b>					
<b>Species</b>					
<b>Fishing gear</b>					
<b>Other conditions</b>					



### Procedure for sealing operations of transport cages

Prior to their deployment on a purse seine vessel, a trap, or a towing vessel, the provider responsible for the ROP and national competent authorities shall provide a minimum of 25 ICCAT seals to each ICCAT regional and national observers under their responsibility and maintain a record of the seals provided and used.

The donor operator shall be responsible for sealing the cages. For this purpose, a minimum of three seals, placed in such a way that they prevent the opening of doors without breaking the seals, shall be put on each cage door.

The sealing operation shall be video recorded by the donor operator and shall allow the identification of the seals and verification that the seals have been properly placed. The video shall comply with paragraph 1. a), b), c) of **Annex 8**. A copy of the video footage shall be made available to the ICCAT regional observer on board the purse seine or on the trap, or to the national observer on the receiving towing vessel, for transmission to the CPC competent authority or regional observer present at the subsequent control transfer.

The video footage of the subsequent control transfer shall include the unsealing operation, which shall be undertaken in such a way as to allow the identification of the seals and verification that the seals have not been tampered with.

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**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON THE CONSERVATION OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC STOCK OF SHORTFIN MAKO CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH ICCAT FISHERIES**

*RECOGNIZING* that North Atlantic shortfin mako sharks are primarily caught in association with ICCAT fisheries and that the Commission has adopted management measures for shark species considered vulnerable to overfishing in ICCAT fisheries;

*NOTING* that the 2017 and 2019 SCRS assessments concluded that there is a 90% probability of the North Atlantic shortfin mako stock being overfished and experiencing overfishing;

*RECALLING* that according to its Convention, the stated objective of ICCAT is to maintain the stocks at levels which will permit the maximum sustainable catch;

*RECALLING* measures adopted by the Commission to improve the status of North Atlantic shortfin mako sharks, including the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of North Atlantic Stock of Shortfin Mako Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries* (Rec. 17-08 and 19-06), which implemented measures aimed at ending overfishing of the North Atlantic shortfin mako stock with a high probability, as the first step in the development of a rebuilding program;

*CONSIDERING* that the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Principles of Decision Making for ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* (Rec. 11-13) calls for the Commission to immediately adopt management measures designed to result in a high probability of ending overfishing in as short a period as possible and adopt a plan to rebuild the stock taking into account, *inter alia*, the biology of the stock and SCRS advice;

*RECALLING* the ecological risk assessments carried out by the SCRS in 2008 and 2012 which indicate that shortfin mako ranks third in the vulnerability table;

*FURTHER NOTING* that the updated projections conducted by the SCRS in 2019 outline several scenarios, including the scenario where a certain degree of mortality would still allow the recovery of the stock by 2070 with a probability that is within an appropriate range for elasmobranchs;

*FURTHER RECALLING* the SCRS advice that regardless of the TAC (including a TAC of 0 t), the spawning stock biomass will continue to decline until 2035 before any increase can occur, owing to the time it takes juveniles to reach maturity and that even a zero TAC will only allow the stock to be rebuilt and without overfishing (in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot) by 2045 and that consequently due to the biology of the stock the recovery period will in any event be long;

*AWARE* that the SCRS has emphasized that reporting all sources of mortality is an essential element to decrease the uncertainty in stock assessment results, and particularly the reporting of estimated dead discards for all fisheries;

*ALSO RECOGNIZING* SCRS advice on the need for Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as CPCs) to strengthen their monitoring and data collection efforts in support of future stock assessments, including but not limited to total estimated dead discards and, live releases and the estimation of CPUE using observer data;

*FURTHER RESPONDING* to the need for additional research on methods to reduce shortfin mako interactions in ICCAT fisheries, including identifying areas with high interactions;

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

**Rebuilding programme objectives**

1. The Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as “CPCs”), shall implement a rebuilding programme for North Atlantic shortfin mako shark starting in 2022 to end overfishing immediately and gradually achieve biomass levels sufficient to support maximum sustainable yield (MSY) by 2070 with a probability of a range of between 60 and 70% at least.
2. Toward that end, the rules set out in this Recommendation shall be applied by CPCs with the aim to reduce total fishing mortality (the sum of any retention, dead discards, and post-release mortality of live discards), to maintain mortality at sustainable levels to rebuild the stock, and to establish a process to determine whether in any given year there is a possibility for retention.

**First step in rebuilding the stock and process to determine future permissible retention**

3. CPCs shall implement a prohibition on retaining on board, transshipping and landing, whole or in part, North Atlantic shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries in 2022 and 2023 as a first step in rebuilding the stock.
4. The total fishing mortality tonnage associated with the probability level established in paragraph 1 shall be based on the most recent Kobe II strategy matrix provided by the SCRS for North Atlantic shortfin mako (the probability of both  $F < F_{MSY}$  and  $SSF^1 > SSF_{MSY}$ ). Following every stock assessment, the SCRS shall update the Kobe II strategy matrix consistent with the objectives established by paragraph 1 for endorsement by the Commission.
  - a) Consistent with the objectives established under paragraph 1 and the 2019 SCRS Kobe II strategy matrix the total fishing mortality for North Atlantic shortfin mako shall be no more than 250 tonnes until new SCRS advice is provided to the Commission.
5. Future permissible retention shall be pursuant to the following process:
  - a) During 2022 and 2023 the SCRS and Panel 4 shall work together to test and confirm the appropriateness of the approach in **Annex 1**, or alternative approaches, for determining the amount of permissible retention of North Atlantic shortfin mako in the future. Any alternative approaches shall take into consideration, among other factors, the relative contributions made by CPCs to conserve, manage, and rebuild the stock (including a CPC's performance in reducing its mortality in line with the objectives of previous ICCAT Recommendations 17-08 and 19-06) and other criteria as set out in Resolution 15-13, as well as the need to continue to incentivize individual CPC accountability to achieve fishing mortality reductions in line with the objectives of this rebuilding program. To assist with this work, the SCRS shall, as appropriate, provide to the Commission estimates of post release mortality and, where needed, estimates of dead discards, taking into account data submitted by CPCs and other relevant information and analyses.
  - b) Notwithstanding paragraph 3, in 2022, the SCRS will use **Annex 1** to calculate possible retention allowed in 2023 and provide the results to the Commission, which shall then validate the amount of any permissible retention in 2023.
  - c) Starting in 2023 and annually thereafter, the SCRS will use **Annex 1**, unless an alternative approach to calculating future permissible retention is agreed (as per paragraph 5(a)), to calculate a possible level of retention, including eligible CPCs' individual retention allowances, allowed in the subsequent year, and provide the results to the Commission.

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<sup>1</sup> SSF is Spawning stock fecundity, which is used for Kobe II risk matrix for North Atlantic shortfin mako.

- d) Starting in 2023 and annually thereafter, the Commission shall validate the amount of permissible retention in the subsequent year, based on advice from the SCRS in accordance with paragraph 5(c).
6. CPCs whose fishing vessels retain North Atlantic shortfin mako shall prohibit transshipping, whole or in part, North Atlantic shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries.
  7. Any retention permissible in accordance with paragraph 5 shall be allowed only when the fish is dead on haulback and the vessel has an observer or a functioning electronic monitoring system (EMS) on board to verify the condition of the sharks.
    - a) For vessels of 12 meters or less, no more than one specimen of North Atlantic shortfin mako shall be retained by a vessel for any fishing trip.
    - b) For the purposes of this paragraph, a fishing trip is defined as the time period that begins when a fishing vessel departs from a dock, berth, beach, seawall, ramp, or port to carry out fishing operations and that terminates with a return to a dock, berth, beach, seawall, ramp, or port.
  8. Paragraphs 3 to 7 shall not apply to Iceland and Norway whose domestic law requires that any dead fish be landed, provided that:
    - a) The fish is dead on haulback;
    - b) Directed fishing for shortfin mako sharks is prohibited;
    - c) The amount of landed North Atlantic shortfin mako is reported in the CPC's Shark Implementation Check Sheet, as required by Recommendation 18-06 and any future successor or revision thereto;
    - d) North Atlantic shortfin mako be landed with their fins naturally attached; and
    - e) Fishermen are prohibited from drawing any commercial value from such fish.

#### **Safe handling and release**

9. Upon entry into force of this Recommendation, CPCs shall require vessels flying their flag to implement, while giving due consideration to the safety of the crew, the minimum standards for safe handling and release procedures of North Atlantic shortfin mako shark, as provided under **Annex 2** of this Recommendation, in order to promptly release unharmed, to the extent practicable, and to improve survivability of live North Atlantic shortfin mako shark when brought alongside the vessel. Revisions to **Annex 2** may be considered by the Commission as new information from the SCRS becomes available.

#### **Requirements for reporting on implementation**

10. In accordance with Rec. 18-06, CPCs shall submit a Shark Implementation Check Sheet to provide information on how this Recommendation is being implemented. If the Compliance Committee determines that any CPC fails to report as required by Rec. 18-06, that CPC shall immediately require its fishing vessels to refrain from retaining or landing North Atlantic shortfin mako sharks until the required reporting is made to ICCAT.
11. CPCs shall report to the ICCAT Secretariat, in accordance with ICCAT data reporting requirements, total catches, including any landings, dead discards and live releases, of North Atlantic shortfin mako. The frequency of reporting shall be monthly for any permissible landings in order to closely monitor the uptake of the retention allowance, and annually for dead discards, live releases and total catches. The Secretariat shall notify all CPCs when a CPC has reached its limit in retention based on monthly reported landings.
12. Any retention by a CPC in excess of its retention allowance calculated in paragraph 5 will result in a reduction of that CPC's allowance the following year by an amount equal to the excess. Retention by that CPC shall be prohibited until any overages are repaid in full.

13. No later than 31 July 2022, CPCs that reported annual average catches (landings and dead discards) of North Atlantic shortfin mako over 1 t between 2018-2020 shall present to the SCRS the statistical methodology used to estimate dead discards and live releases. CPCs with artisanal and small-scale fisheries shall also provide information about their data collection programs. The SCRS shall review and approve the methods and, if it determines that the methods are not scientifically sound, the SCRS shall provide relevant feedback to the CPCs in question to improve them.
14. As part of their annual Task 1 and 2 data submissions, CPCs shall provide all relevant data for North Atlantic shortfin mako, including estimates of dead discards and live releases using the methods approved by the SCRS in paragraph 13. If the Compliance Committee determines that CPCs that authorize their vessels to retain on board and land North Atlantic shortfin mako pursuant to paragraph 5 fail to report their catch data, including dead discards and live releases, the CPCs concerned shall require their fishing vessels to refrain from retaining any quantity of North Atlantic shortfin mako until such data have been reported.
15. The SCRS shall evaluate the completeness of Task 1 and 2 data submissions, including estimates of total dead discards and live releases. If, after conducting this evaluation, the SCRS determines that significant gaps in data reporting exist, or, following the review in paragraph 13, that the methodology used by one or more CPCs to estimate dead discards and live releases is not scientifically sound, the SCRS shall inform the Commission that the data for those CPCs are inappropriate for inclusion in the calculation of the retention allowance. In this case, the SCRS shall estimate dead discards and live releases for those CPCs for use in the retention allowance calculation.

#### **Biological sampling and observer coverage**

16. CPCs shall endeavor to gradually increase the observer coverage, including EMS, of all longline fishing vessels in ICCAT fisheries that may have potential interaction with North Atlantic shortfin mako sharks to 10%. This increase in the coverage should be implemented in accordance with provisions of Recommendation 16-14 either by means of the deployment of human observers on board vessels or through the use of EMS, taking into account minimum standards to be agreed by ICCAT, based on advice from SCRS and PWG.
17. Collection of biological samples during commercial fishing operations shall comply with the *Recommendation by ICCAT on biological sampling of prohibited shark species by scientific observers* (Rec. 13-10). CPCs should encourage the collection of biological data and biological samples of North Atlantic shortfin mako that are dead at haulback, such as muscle, vertebrae and reproductive tissues, consistent with the terms of this Recommendation and according to the recommendations of SCRS.
18. Notwithstanding paragraph 7, in the context of this Recommendation and only for vessels less than 15 meters, where an extraordinary safety concern exists that precludes deployment of an onboard observer, a CPC may exceptionally apply an alternative approach as set out in Recommendation 16-14. This derogation from paragraph 7, shall be without prejudice to the overall commitment of all CPCs as outlined in this measure to immediately end overfishing and to reduce mortality levels. Any CPC wishing to avail itself of this alternative approach must: 1) present the details of the approach to the SCRS based on the advice of the SCRS for evaluation and 2) obtain approval from the Commission (as stipulated in Recommendation 16-14).

#### **Scientific and research activities**

19. The SCRS shall continue to prioritize research into: identifying mating, pupping and nursery grounds, and other high concentration areas of North Atlantic shortfin mako; options for spatial-temporal measures; mitigation measures (*inter alia*, gear configuration and modification, deployment options), together with the benefits and disadvantages for the objectives of the rebuilding programme, aimed at further improving stock status; and other areas the SCRS deems helpful both to improving stock assessments and reducing shortfin mako mortality. In addition, CPCs are encouraged to investigate at-vessel and post-release mortality of shortfin mako including, but not exclusively through, the incorporation of hook-timers and of satellite tagging programs.
20. Taking into account that hotspots of incidental catches may occur in areas and periods with specific oceanographic conditions, the SCRS shall launch a pilot project to explore the benefits of installing mini data loggers on the mainline and on the branchlines of longline fishing vessels which participate in the project on a voluntary basis targeting ICCAT species that have potential interactions with shortfin

mako sharks. The SCRS shall provide guidance on the basic characteristics, minimum number and positions to install the mini data loggers with a view to have a better understanding of the effects of the soaking time, fishing depths and environmental characteristics underpinning higher incidental catches of shortfin mako.

21.
  - a) The SCRS shall provide to the Commission by 2023, and whenever new information becomes available, updated advice on mitigation measures aimed at further reducing shortfin mako mortality. For that purpose, by 30 April 2023, CPCs shall submit to the SCRS information by fishery on the technical and other management measures they have implemented for reducing total fishing mortality of North Atlantic shortfin mako sharks, except the CPCs that have already provided this information to the Secretariat. The SCRS shall review this information and advise the Commission on which tools and approaches have been most effective at reducing fishing mortality with a view to recommending specific measures that should be considered for adoption by the Commission.
  - b) Taking into account the information on the technical and other management measures submitted by CPCs in subparagraph a) above, the SCRS shall assess the potential benefits of both minimum and maximum size limits for live retention (applied separately or in combination), in particular sex specific sizes at maturity based on the best available science, particularly when considered in combination with other management measures, to meet required mortality reductions. The SCRS shall advise the Commission by 2024 whether size restrictions are effective tools, especially when used in combination with other measures, to meet required mortality reductions.
22. The SCRS shall review the reported landings and discards of longfin mako shark to identify any unexpected inconsistencies that could be the result of misidentification between the two mako species, for the purpose of formulating management advice.

#### **Next stock assessments and review of measures effectiveness**

23. The SCRS shall conduct a benchmark stock assessment, including producing a Kobe II strategy matrix that reflects the time frame for rebuilding up to 2070, of North Atlantic shortfin mako by 2024. Further assessments shall be carried out by 2029 and 2034, with a view to evaluate the stock status and trajectory as well as the effectiveness of actions taken pursuant to this Recommendation and subsequent amendments to achieve the objectives of the rebuilding programme.

#### **Implementation**

24. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article VIII, paragraph 2 of the Convention, CPCs are strongly encouraged to implement, in accordance with their regulatory procedures, this Recommendation as soon as possible and before the date of its entry into force.
25. In 2023, an intersessional meeting of Panel 4 shall take place to promote the sharing among CPCs of best practices, to reduce encounters with, and catches and fishing mortality of shortfin mako sharks. Panel 4 shall seek input from fishing operators, other relevant stakeholders, and scientists and shall encourage their participation in this meeting. Any recommendations from this meeting for effective technical measures that have the potential to reduce fishing mortality for shortfin mako sharks shall be referred to the SCRS for its review and consideration. Based on that review, in 2024 the SCRS shall advise the Commission on the most effective technical measures that should be implemented to reduce fishing mortality for shortfin mako while also providing information and advice on the trade-off for the catches of the target species by fishery.

#### **Review and repeal**

26. This Recommendation replaces and repeals the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of North Atlantic Stock of Shortfin Mako Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries* (Rec. 19-06).

27. At its 2024 annual meeting, the Commission shall review this measure against the objectives of the rebuilding programme, taking into account advice received from the SCRS, including advice relating to paragraphs 21 (a) and (b), as well as discussions at Panel 4.
28. The Commission shall review this measure no later than the annual meeting 2024 to consider additional measures to reduce total fishing mortality.

**Annex 1****Process to determine possible retention**

1. In order to determine whether any retention is permissible, the following rules shall apply when making management decisions in year Y:
  - a) All sources of fishing mortality for the previous year (Y-1) shall be estimated by the SCRS based on the data submitted by CPCs as well as updated scientific evidence. In the event that not all CPCs report all required data and full data sets for Y-1 (i.e., dead discards, live releases and where allowed, retentions) or if the SCRS determines that the data provided by a CPC are not scientifically sound, the SCRS shall provide estimates as appropriate to fill any known data gaps.
  - b) The total fishing mortality from all sources for year Y-1 as calculated in **Annex 1**, paragraph 1a) is subtracted from the figure established by paragraph 4. The resulting amount shall be referred to as the dead bycatch retention allowance (hereinafter 'retention allowance') for the following year Y+1.
  - c) If the retention allowance established by **Annex 1**, paragraph 1b) is equal to or less than zero, CPCs shall prohibit retaining onboard, transshipping and landing, whole or in part, North Atlantic shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries in year Y+1.
  - d) If the retention allowance established by **Annex 1**, paragraph 1b) is greater than zero, CPCs may be eligible to retain up to the amount resulting from **Annex 1**, paragraph 2 below.

**CPC retention allowance**

2. If, pursuant to **Annex 1**, paragraph 1d), retention is permissible, the retention allowance for each CPC will be calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{Individual CPC retention allowance (t)} = \frac{(\text{CPC average annual catches from 2013-2016}) \times (\text{Retention Allowance})}{\text{Average total ICCAT catches from 2013-2016}}$$

Where: "CPC average annual catches from 2013-2016" is the average annual catches (reported landings + dead discards, as verified by the SCRS pursuant to the data submitted and analysis undertaken pursuant to paragraphs 13 and 15) for an individual CPC for the four years covering 2013-2016; "Retention Allowance" is defined in **Annex 1**, paragraph 1; and, "Average total ICCAT catches from 2013-2016" is the average annual catches (reported landings + dead discards, as verified by the SCRS pursuant to the data submitted and analysis undertaken pursuant to paragraphs 13 and 15) across all CPCs 2013-2016.

3. CPCs must meet all the requirements within this measure in order to access any possible retention allowance.
4. Once the total amount retained by a CPC in a given year reaches that CPC's retention allowance, that CPC must immediately prohibit retention, transshipment, and landing for the remainder of that fishing year, and the CPC shall notify immediately the Secretariat that it has reached its retention allowance and has implemented the required prohibitions.



### **Minimum standards for safe handling and live release procedures**

The following provides minimum standards for safe handling practices of North Atlantic shortfin mako sharks (nSMA) and provides specific recommendations for both longline and purse seine fisheries.

These minimum standards are appropriate for live shortfin mako sharks when released whether under no-retention policies, or when released voluntarily. These basic guidelines do not replace any stricter safety rules that may have been established by the National Authorities of individual CPCs.

**Safety First:** These minimum standards should be considered in light of safety and practicability for crew. Crew safety should always come first. At a minimum, crew should wear suitable gloves and avoid working around the mouths of sharks.

**Training:** The Secretariat and SCRS should develop materials to support the training of fishing operators to implement this safe handling protocol. These materials should be made available to CPCs in the three ICCAT official languages.

To the greatest extent practicable, all sharks being released should remain in the water at all times unless it is necessary to lift sharks for species identification. This includes cutting the line to free the shark while it is still in the water, using bolt cutters or dehooking devices to remove the hook if possible, or cutting the line as close to the hook as possible (and so leaving as little trailing line as possible).

**Be prepared:** Tools should be prepared in advance (e.g., canvas or net slings, stretchers for carrying or lifting, large mesh net or grid to cover hatches/hoppers in purse seine fisheries, long handled cutters and de-hookers in longline fisheries, etc., listed at the end of this document).

#### **General recommendations for all fisheries:**

- If operationally safe to do so, stop the vessel or substantially reduce its speed.
- When entangled (in netting, fishing line, etc.), if safe to do so, carefully cut the net/line free from the animal and release to the sea as quickly as possible with no entanglements attached.
- Where feasible, and while keeping the shark in the water, try to measure the length of the shark.
- To prevent bites, place an object, such as a fish or big stick/wooden pole, in the jaw.
- If, for whatever reason, a shark must be brought on the deck then minimise the time it takes to return it to the water to increase survival and reduce risks to the crew.

#### **Longline fisheries specific safe-handling practices:**

- Bring the shark as close to the vessel as possible without putting too much tension on the branchline to avoid that a released hook or branchline break could shoot hook, weights and other parts toward the vessels and crew at high speed.
- Secure the far side of the longline mainline to the boat to avoid that any remaining gear in the water pulls on the line and the animal.
- If hooked, and the hook is visible in the body or mouth, use a dehooking device or long-handled bolt cutter to remove the hook barb, and then remove the hook.
- If it is not possible to remove the hook or the hook cannot be seen, cut the line of the trace (or snood, leader) as close to the hook as possible (ideally leaving as little line and/or leader material as possible and no weights attached to the animal).

**Purse seine fisheries specific safe-handling practices:**

- If in purse seine net: Scan the net as far ahead as possible to spot the sharks early to react quickly. Avoid lifting them up in the net towards the power block. Reduce vessel speed to slacken the tension of the net and allow the entangled animal to be removed from the net. If necessary, use clippers to cut the net.
- If in brail or on deck: Use a purpose-built large-mesh cargo net or canvas sling or similar device. If the vessel layout allows, these sharks could also be released by emptying the brail directly on a hopper and release ramp held up at an angle that connects to an opening on the top deck railing, without need to be lifted or handled by the crew.

**DO NOT (all fisheries):**

- To the greatest extent practicable, do not lift sharks from the water using the branchline, especially if hooked unless it is necessary to lift sharks for species identification.
- Lift sharks using thin wires or cables, or by the tail alone.
- Strike a shark against any surface to remove the animal from the line.
- Attempt to dislodge a hook that is deeply ingested and not visible.
- Try to remove a hook by pulling sharply on the branchline.
- Cut the tail or any other body part.
- Cut or punch holes through the shark.
- Gaff or kick a shark, or insert hands into the gill slits.
- Expose the shark to the sun for extended periods.
- Wrap your fingers, hands or arms in the line when bringing a shark or ray to the boat (may result in serious injury).

**Useful tools for safe handling and release:**

- Gloves (shark skin is rough; ensures safe handling of shark and protects crew's hands from bites)
- Towel or cloth (a towel or cloth soaked in seawater can be placed on the eyes of the shark; used to calm sharks down)
- Dehooking devices (e.g., pig tail dehooker, bolt or plier cutters)
- Shark harness or stretcher (if needed)
- Tail rope (to secure a hooked shark if it needs to be removed from the water)
- Saltwater hose (If anticipated that it may require more than 5 minutes to release a shark, then place a hose into its mouth so seawater is moderately flowing into it. Make sure deck pump has been running several minutes before placing it in a sharks mouth)
- Measuring device (e.g., mark a pole, leader and float, or a measuring tape)
- Data sheet for recording all catch
- Tagging gear (if applicable)

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING RECOMMENDATION 19-07 AMENDING THE RECOMMENDATION 16-12 ON MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC BLUE SHARK CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH ICCAT FISHERIES**

*CONSIDERING* the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the United Kingdom and the European Union which transfers a portion of the allocation of certain ICCAT species from the European Union to the United Kingdom following withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union;

*NOTING* that the total catch limits of these two CPCs combined remain unchanged;

*DESIROUS* of correctly reflecting the catch limits in the ICCAT Conservation and Management measures;

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

The following amendments shall be made to Rec. 19-07:

1. Paragraph 3 shall be replaced with:

“3. The following CPCs shall be subject to the following catch limits:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>t</i>
EU*	32,578
Japan	4,010
Morocco	1,644

\*The European Union is authorised to transfer 32.58 t from its catch limit in 2022 to the United Kingdom.

- a) All other CPCs shall endeavor to maintain their catches at recent levels.
- b) If in any year the total catches of the North Atlantic blue shark exceed the TAC, the Commission shall review the implementation of these measures. Based on the review and the results of the next stock assessment scheduled for 2021 or at an earlier stage if enough information is provided to the SCRS, the Commission shall consider introduction of additional measures.”

21-11

BYC

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING RECOMMENDATION 19-08 ON  
MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF  
SOUTH ATLANTIC BLUE SHARK CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH ICCAT FISHERIES**

*NOTING* the need to continue with sound management for the conservation of the South Atlantic blue shark;

*CONSIDERING* that the SCRS has offered no new advice for management measures for the South Atlantic blue shark;

*CONFIRMING* that additional time is needed in order for the SCRS to be able to assess the stock and provide sound advice;

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

The following amendments shall be made to Recommendation 19-08:

1. Paragraph 2 shall be replaced with:
  - “2. An annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 28,923 t for South Atlantic blue shark is established. The Annual TAC may be revised subject to a decision of the Commission based on the updated advice of the SCRS in 2023, or at an earlier stage if enough information is provided by the SCRS.”
2. Paragraph 3 shall be replaced with:
  - “3. An allocation of the future TAC shall be decided by the Commission, if possible in 2022 and not later than 2023.”

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON VESSELS WITHOUT NATIONALITY**

*RECOGNIZING* that, consistent with Article 92 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), any vessel not flying the flag of a CPC or non-CPC, or vessels flying the flag of two or more CPCs or non-CPCs shall be considered a vessel without nationality;

*FURTHER RECOGNIZING* that vessels without nationality operate without governance and oversight, contrary to international law;

*CONCERNED* that vessels without nationality fishing or supporting fishing activities in the ICCAT Convention area undermine the objective of the ICCAT Convention and the conservation and management work of the Commission;

*RECALLING* that the FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported (IUU) Fishing recommends that CPCs take measures consistent with international law in relation to fishing vessels without nationality involved in IUU fishing;

*NOTING* that paragraph 1 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on establishing a list of vessels presumed to have carried out IUU fishing activities* (Rec. 18-08) creates a presumption that vessels without nationality that harvest ICCAT species in the Convention area are engaging in IUU fishing activities;

*FURTHER NOTING* that *Recommendation by ICCAT on vessel sightings* (Rec. 19-09) establishes the reporting protocol for the sighting of suspicious vessels and steps that may be taken under international law to confirm a vessel's flag, if it is suspected to be without nationality;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* the obligations set forth in the *Recommendation by ICCAT to promote compliance by nationals of Contracting Parties, Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities with ICCAT conservation and management measures* (Rec. 06-14);

*DETERMINED* to continue to deter all facets of IUU fishing activities in the Convention area;

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

1. Vessels without nationality fishing or supporting fishing operations in the ICCAT Convention Area are deemed to be operating in contravention of the ICCAT Convention and undermining ICCAT's conservation and management measures.
2. Any fishing or related support activities in the ICCAT Convention area by vessels without nationality are deemed to be IUU fishing, are a serious violation of ICCAT conservation and management measures, and shall be subject to action consistent with relevant national and international law, including as provided for in Article IX of the ICCAT Convention and pursuant to measures adopted by the Commission.

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING RECOMMENDATION 18-08 ON  
ESTABLISHING A LIST OF VESSELS PRESUMED TO HAVE CARRIED OUT  
ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING ACTIVITIES**

*RECALLING* that the FAO Council adopted on 23 June 2001 an International Plan of Action to prevent, to deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IPOA-IUU). This plan stipulates that the identification of the vessels carrying out Illegal Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) activities should follow agreed procedures and be applied in an equitable, transparent and non-discriminatory way;

*CONCERNED* by the fact that IUU fishing activities in the ICCAT Convention area continue, and these activities diminish the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures;

*FURTHER CONCERNED* that there is evidence of a large number of vessel owners engaged in such fishing activities which have re-flagged their vessels to avoid compliance with ICCAT management and conservation measures, and to evade the ICCAT-adopted non-discriminatory trade measures;

*DETERMINED* to address the challenge of an increase in IUU fishing activities by way of counter-measures to be applied in respect to the vessels, without prejudice to further measures adopted in respect of flag States under the relevant ICCAT instruments;

*CONSIDERING* the results of the ICCAT *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Measures to Combat IUU Fishing, which was held in Tokyo from 27 to 31 May 2002;

*CONSCIOUS* of the urgent need to address the issue of large-scale fishing vessels as well as other vessels conducting IUU fishing and fishing related activities in support of IUU fishing;

*NOTING* that the situation must be addressed in the light of all relevant international fisheries instruments and in accordance with the relevant rights and obligations established in the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement, and

*DESIRING* to streamline and improve IUU listing procedures and requirements in previous ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions.

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

**Definition of IUU activities**

1. For the purposes of this Recommendation, vessels are presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities in the ICCAT Convention area when a Contracting Party or a Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity (hereinafter referred to as CPC), presents evidence that such vessels:
  - a) Harvest tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention area and are not registered on the relevant ICCAT list of vessels authorized to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention area;
  - b) Harvest tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention area, and the vessel's flag State is without quota, catch limit or effort allocation under relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures;
  - c) Do not record or report their catches made in the ICCAT Convention area, or make false reports;
  - d) Take or land undersized fish in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures;
  - e) Fish during closed fishing periods or in closed areas in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures;
  - f) Use prohibited fishing gear or fishing methods in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures;

- g) Transship or participate in other operations, such as re-supplying or re-fueling, with vessels included in the IUU vessels list;
- h) Harvest tuna or tuna-like species in the waters under the national jurisdiction of the coastal States in the Convention area without authorization or infringe on that State's laws and regulations, without prejudice to the sovereign rights of coastal States to take measures against such vessels;
- i) Are without nationality and fishing or supporting fishing operations in the ICCAT Convention area, and/or
- j) Engage in fishing or fishing related activities contrary to any other ICCAT conservation and management measures.

### **Information on alleged IUU activities**

2. CPCs shall transmit every year to the Executive Secretary, at least 70 days before the annual meeting, information on any vessels presumed to be carrying out IUU fishing activities within the last three years, accompanied by all available supporting evidence concerning the presumption of IUU fishing activity and vessel identification information.

This information on vessels shall be based on the information collected by CPCs, *inter alia*, under relevant ICCAT recommendations and resolutions. CPCs shall submit available information on the vessel and the IUU fishing activity in the format attached as **Addendum 1** of this Recommendation.

Upon receipt of such information, the Executive Secretary shall promptly send this information to all CPCs and to any non-CPC concerned and request that, where appropriate, CPCs and any such non-CPC investigate the alleged IUU activity and/or monitor the vessels.

The Executive Secretary shall request the flag State to notify the owner of the vessel regarding the CPC's submission of the vessel for its inclusion in the Draft IUU List and of the consequences that may result if they are included on the Final IUU Vessel List adopted by the Commission.

### **Development of Draft IUU List**

3. On the basis of the information received pursuant to paragraph 2, the ICCAT Executive Secretary shall draw up a Draft IUU List in conformity with **Addendum 2**. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall transmit the Draft IUU List, together with all the information provided, to all CPCs, and to non-CPCs whose vessels are included on these lists, at least 55 days before the annual meeting. CPCs and non-CPCs shall transmit any comments, including any evidence showing that the listed vessels did not engage in any activity described in paragraph 1, or any actions taken to address such activity, at least 30 days before the annual meeting of ICCAT.

Upon receipt of the Draft IUU List, CPCs shall closely monitor the vessels on that List and shall promptly submit to the Secretariat any information they may have related to the vessels' activities and possible changes of name, flag, call sign or registered owner.

### **Development and adoption of Final IUU List**

4. Two weeks in advance of the ICCAT annual meeting, the Executive Secretary shall recirculate to the CPCs and non-CPCs concerned the Draft IUU List, all information received pursuant to paragraphs 2 and 3, and any other information obtained by the Executive Secretary.
5. CPCs may at any time, and preferably before the annual meeting, submit to the Executive Secretary any additional information that might be relevant for the establishment of the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall promptly circulate any such additional information to all CPCs and to the non-CPCs concerned.
6. The Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) shall examine, each year, the Draft IUU List, as well as the information referred to in paragraphs 2, 3, 4, and 5. The results of this examination may, if necessary, be referred to the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee.

The PWG shall propose to remove a vessel from the Draft IUU List if it determines that:

- a) The vessel did not take part in any IUU fishing activities described in paragraph 1, or
  - b)
    - i) The flag CPC or non-CPC has adopted measures so that this vessel conforms with ICCAT conservation measures, and
    - ii) The flag CPC or non-CPC has and will continue to assume effectively its responsibilities with respect to this vessel in particular as regards the monitoring and control of the fishing activities executed by this vessel in the ICCAT Convention area, and
    - iii) Effective action has been taken in response to the IUU fishing activities in question, including, *inter alia*, prosecution and imposition of sanctions of adequate severity, or
  - c) The vessel has changed ownership and that the new owner can establish the previous owner no longer has any legal, financial or real interests in the vessel or exercises control over it and that the new owner has not participated in IUU fishing.
7. Following the examination referred to in paragraph 6, at each ICCAT annual meeting, the PWG shall develop a Proposed IUU Vessel List, noting which, if any, vessels are proposed for removal from the ICCAT IUU Vessel List adopted at the previous annual meeting and the reasons therefor, and submit it to the Commission for adoption as the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List.

#### **Actions following adoption of Final IUU Vessel List**

8. On adoption of the Final IUU Vessel List, the Executive Secretary shall request CPCs and non-CPCs whose vessels appear on the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List to:
  - notify the owner of the vessel identified on the Final IUU Vessel List of its inclusion on the list and the consequences which result from being included on the list, as referred to in paragraph 9;
  - take all the necessary measures to eliminate these IUU fishing activities, including if necessary, the withdrawal of the registration or of the fishing licenses of these vessels, and to inform the Commission of the measures taken in this respect.
9. CPCs shall take all necessary measures, under their applicable legislation to:
  - ensure that the fishing vessels, support vessels, refuelling vessels, the mother-ships and the cargo vessels flying their flag do not assist in any way, engage in fishing processing operations or participate in any transshipment or joint fishing operations with vessels included on the IUU Vessels List;
  - ensure that IUU vessels are not authorized to land, tranship re-fuel, re-supply, or engage in other commercial transactions; prohibit the entry into their ports of vessels included on the IUU list, except in case of *force majeure*, unless vessels are allowed entry into port for the exclusive purpose of inspection and effective enforcement action;
  - ensure the inspection of vessels on the IUU list, if such vessels are otherwise found in their ports, to the extent practicable;
  - prohibit the chartering of a vessel included on the IUU vessels list;
  - refuse to grant their flag to vessels included in the IUU list, except if the vessel has changed owner and the new owner has provided sufficient evidence demonstrating the previous owner or operator has no further legal, beneficial or financial interest in, or control of, the vessel, or having taken into account all relevant facts, the flag CPC determines that granting the vessel its flag will not result in IUU fishing;
  - prohibit the import, or landing and/or transshipment, of tuna and tuna-like species from vessels included in the IUU list;



- encourage the importers, transporters and other sectors concerned, to refrain from transaction and transshipment of tuna and tuna-like species caught by vessels included in the IUU list;
  - collect and exchange with other CPCs any appropriate information with the aim of searching for, controlling and preventing false documentation (including import/export certificates) regarding tunas and tuna-like species from vessels included in the IUU list; and
  - monitor vessels included in the IUU list and promptly submit any information to the Executive Secretary related to their activities and possible changes of name, flag, call sign and/or registered owner.
10. The Executive Secretary will ensure publicity of the Final IUU Vessel List adopted by ICCAT pursuant to paragraph 8, in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality requirements, and through electronic means, by placing it, along with any additional supporting information on the vessels and IUU activities, on a dedicated portion of the ICCAT website, to be updated as information changes or additional relevant information becomes available. Furthermore, the ICCAT Executive Secretary will transmit the Final IUU Vessel List and supporting information on newly added vessels promptly to other RFMOs for the purposes of enhanced co-operation between ICCAT and these organizations in order to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing.

### **Intersessional modification of ICCAT's Final IUU Vessel List**

#### ***Incorporation of IUU Vessel Lists of other RFMOs***

11. Upon receipt of the final IUU vessel list established by another RFMO<sup>1</sup> and supporting information considered by that RFMO, and any other information regarding the listing determination, such as relevant sections of the RFMO's meeting report, the Executive Secretary shall circulate this information to the CPCs and to any relevant non-CPC. Vessels that have been included on the respective lists shall be included on the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List, unless any Contracting Party objects to the inclusion on the Final ICCAT IUU List within 30 days of the date of transmittal by the Executive Secretary on the grounds that:
- a) there is satisfactory information to establish that:
    - i. The vessel did not engage in the IUU fishing activities identified by the other RFMO, or
    - ii. That effective action has been taken in response to the IUU fishing activities in question, including, *inter alia*, prosecution, and imposition of sanctions of adequate severity that have been complied with,
  - b) There is insufficient supporting information and other information regarding the listing determination to establish that none of the conditions in sub-paragraph 11.a) above have been met.
- Or
- c) In the case of vessels listed by a non-tuna RFMO, there is an insufficient nexus to the conservation and management of ICCAT species to warrant cross-listing.

In the event of an objection to a vessel listed by another RFMO being included on the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List pursuant to this paragraph, such vessel shall be placed on the Draft IUU Vessel List and considered by the PWG pursuant to paragraph 6.

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<sup>1</sup> The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT), the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC), the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), the North Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO), the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO), and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC).

12. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall implement paragraph 11 in accordance with the following procedures:
  - a) The ICCAT Secretariat shall maintain appropriate contacts with the Secretariats of other RFMOs in order to obtain copies of these RFMOs' IUU vessel lists in a timely manner upon adoption or amendment, including by requesting a copy of these RFMOs' IUU vessel lists annually upon conclusion of the RFMO's meeting at which its final IUU list is adopted.
  - b) As soon as possible after adoption or amendment of an IUU vessel list by another RFMO, the ICCAT Secretariat shall collect all supporting documentation available from that RFMO regarding the listing/delisting determinations.
  - c) Once the ICCAT Secretariat has received/collected the information outlined in paragraphs (a) and (b), it shall, consistent with paragraph 11 of this Recommendation, promptly circulate the other RFMO's IUU vessel list, supporting information, and any other relevant information regarding the listing determination to all CPCs. The requisite circular shall clearly state the reason the information is being provided, explain that ICCAT Contracting Parties have 30 days from the date of the circular to object to the inclusion of the vessels on the ICCAT IUU vessel list, and that absent any such objection the vessel will be added at the expiration of the 30-day period to the Final IUU Vessel List.
  - d) The ICCAT Secretariat shall add any new vessels contained in the other RFMOs' IUU vessel list to the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List at the end of the 30-day period provided no objection to such inclusion is received from a Contracting Party pursuant to paragraph 11 of this Recommendation.
  - e) Where a vessel has been included on the ICCAT Final IUU Vessel List solely due to its inclusion on another RFMO's IUU Vessel List, the ICCAT Secretariat shall immediately remove that vessel from the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List when it has been deleted by the RFMO that originally listed it.
  - f) Upon the addition or deletion of vessels from the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List pursuant to paragraph 11 or 12(e) of this Recommendation, the ICCAT Secretariat shall promptly circulate the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List as amended to all ICCAT CPCs and non-CPCs concerned.

***Intersessional removal from the Final IUU Vessel List***

13. A CPC or non-CPC whose vessel appears on the Final IUU Vessel List that wishes to request the removal of its vessel from the Final IUU Vessel List during the intersessional period shall submit this request to the ICCAT Executive Secretary no later than 15 July of each year accompanied by information to demonstrate that it meets one or more of the grounds for removal specified in paragraph 6.
14. On the basis of the information received by the 15 July deadline, the Executive Secretary will transmit the removal request, with all supporting information to the Contracting Parties within 15 days following receipt of the removal request.
15. The Contracting Parties shall examine the request to remove the vessel and reply within 30 days following the notification by the Executive Secretary if they object to the removal of the vessel from the Final IUU Vessel List.
16. The result of the examination of the request by mail will be checked by the Executive Secretary at the end of the 30-day period following the date of the notification by the Executive Secretary referred to in paragraph 15.

If a Contracting Party objects to the removal request, the Executive Secretary shall maintain the vessel on the Final ICCAT IUU List and the removal request shall be forwarded to the PWG for consideration at the annual meeting, if requested by the CPC seeking intersessional removal. If no Contracting Party objects to request to remove the vessel, the Executive Secretary shall promptly remove the vessel concerned from the Final ICCAT IUU Vessel List, as published on the ICCAT website.

17. The Executive Secretary shall promptly communicate the result of the delisting process to all CPCs as well as non-CPCs concerned. Moreover, the ICCAT Executive Secretary shall forward the decision to remove the vessel to other RFMOs.

**General dispositions**

18. This Recommendation shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to fish processing vessels, tug and towing vessels, vessels engaged in transshipment, and support vessels, and other vessels engaged in fishing related activities managed by ICCAT.
19. This Recommendation repeals and replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT on establishing a list of vessels presumed to have carried out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing activities* (Rec. 18-08).

**Addendum 1****ICCAT reporting form for IUU activity**

Pursuant to paragraph 2 of this Recommendation, attached are details of alleged IUU activity and available vessel information.

**A. Details of vessel**

*(Please detail information on the vessel and the incidents(s) in the format below, where such information is applicable and available)*

<i>Item</i>		<i>Available Information</i>
A	Name of vessel and previous names	
B	Flag and previous flags	
C	Owner and previous owners, including beneficial owner	
D	Owner's place of registration	
E	Operator and previous operators	
F	Call sign and previous call signs	
G	IMO number	
H	Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI), or, if not applicable, any other vessel identifier	
I	Length overall	
J	Photographs	
K	Date first included on the ICCAT IUU list	
L	Date of alleged IUU fishing activities	
M	Position of alleged IUU fishing activities	
N	Summary of alleged IUU activities (see also section B)	
O	Summary of any actions known to have been taken in response to the activities	
P	Outcome of any actions taken	
Q	Other relevant information, as appropriate (e.g., possible false flags or vessel names used, <i>modus operandi</i> , etc.)	

**B. Details of alleged IUU activity**

*(Indicate with an "X" the applicable elements of the activity and provide relevant details including date, location, source of information. Extra information can be provided in an attachment if necessary.)*

<b>Rec. 21-13 para. 1</b>	<b>Vessel fished for species covered by the ICCAT Convention within the Convention area and:</b>	<b>Indicate and provide details</b>
a	Harvest tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention area and are not registered on the relevant ICCAT list of vessels authorized to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention area	
b	Harvest tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention area, and the vessel's whose flag State is without quotas, catch limit or effort allocation under relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures	
c	Do not record or report their catches made in the ICCAT Convention area, or make false reports	
d	Take or land undersized fish in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures	
e	Fish during closed fishing periods or in closed areas in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures	
f	Use prohibited fishing gear or fishing methods in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures	
g	Transship or participate in other operations, such as re-supplying or re-fueling, with vessels included in the IUU vessels list;	
h	Harvest tuna or tuna-like species in the waters under the national jurisdiction of the coastal States in the Convention area without authorization or infringe on that State's laws and regulations, without prejudice to the sovereign rights of coastal States to take measures against such vessels;	
i	Are without nationality and fishing or supporting fishing operations in the ICCAT Convention area	
j	Engage in fishing or fishing related activities contrary to any other ICCAT conservation and management measures	

**Addendum 2****Information to be included in all IUU Lists (Draft and Final)**

The Draft IUU List shall include information on vessels listed on ICCAT's Final IUU List as well as information on new vessels submitted by CPCs for listing. The Draft IUU List shall contain the following details, where applicable and available:

- i) Name of vessel and previous name(s);
- ii) Flag of vessel and previous flag(s);
- iii) Name and address of owner of vessel and previous owners, including beneficial owners, and owners' place of registration;
- iv) Operator of vessel and previous operator(s);
- v) Call sign of vessel and previous call sign;
- vi) Lloyds/IMO number;
- vii) Photographs of the vessel;
- viii) Date vessel was first included on the IUU List;
- ix) Summary of activities which justify inclusion of the vessel on the List, together with references to all relevant documents informing of and evidencing those activities;
- x) Other relevant information.

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING RECOMMENDATION 13-13 CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ICCAT RECORD OF VESSELS 20 METRES IN LENGTH OVERALL OR GREATER AUTHORIZED TO OPERATE IN THE CONVENTION AREA**

*RECALLING* that ICCAT adopted at its 2000 meeting a *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Registration and Exchange of Information of Fishing Vessels Fishing for Tuna and Tuna-like Species in the Convention Area* (Rec. 00-17),

*FURTHER RECALLING* that ICCAT adopted at its 1994 meeting a *Resolution by ICCAT Regarding the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas* (Res. 94-08),

*FURTHER RECALLING* that the Commission has been taking various measures to prevent, deter and eliminate the illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fisheries conducted by large-scale tuna fishing vessels,

*NOTING* that large-scale fishing vessels are highly mobile and easily change fishing grounds from one ocean to another, and have high potential of operating in the Convention area without timely registration with the Commission,

*RECALLING* that the FAO Council adopted on June 23, 2001 an International Plan of Action (IPOA) aiming to prevent, to deter and to eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, that this plan stipulates that the regional fisheries management organization should take action to strengthen and develop innovative ways, in conformity with international law, to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing and in particular to establish records of vessels authorized and records of vessels engaged in IUU fishing,

*FURTHER RECALLING* that the Commission, in 2002, established an ICCAT Record of Vessels 24 meters in length overall or greater and then, in 2009, expanded the list to include all vessels 20 meters in length overall or greater,

*FURTHER NOTING* that the International Maritime Organization's Maritime Safety Committee, at its 92nd meeting, approved amendments to the IMO Ship Identification Number Scheme that remove the exclusion of vessels solely engaged in fishing, which will be considered for final adoption by IMO Assembly at its 28th meeting in November 2013,

*ACKNOWLEDGING* that in 2017 the International Maritime Organization adopted Resolution A.1117(30), expanding the IMO Number eligibility criteria to all motorised inboard fishing vessels, including wooden ones, down to a size limit of 12 metres authorised to operate outside waters under the national jurisdiction of the flag State,

*RECOGNIZING* the utility and practicality of using IMO numbers as a unique vessel identifier (UVI) for fishing vessels,

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

1. 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 or species taken in association with those species.
2. Each CPC shall submit to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, the list of its LSFVs that are authorized to operate in the Convention area. The initial list and any subsequent changes shall be submitted electronically in a format provided by the Secretariat. This list shall include the following information:
  - Name of vessel, register number
  - IMO or LR number<sup>1</sup>
  - Previous name (if any)
  - Previous flag (if any)
  - Previous details of deletion from other registries (if any)
  - International radio call sign (if any)
  - Type of vessels, length, and gross registered tonnage (GRT), or, where possible, Gross Tonnage (GT)
  - Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s)
  - Gear used
  - Time period authorized for fishing and/or transshipping. However, in no case shall the authorization period include dates more than 45 days prior to the date of submission of the list to the Secretariat.

The ICCAT record shall consist of all LSFVs submitted under this paragraph.

3. Each CPC shall promptly notify the ICCAT Executive Secretary of any addition to, any deletion from and/or any modification of the ICCAT record at any time such changes occur. Periods of authorization for modifications or additions to the list shall not include dates more than 45 days prior to the date of submission of the changes to the Secretariat. The Secretariat shall remove from the ICCAT Record of Vessels any vessel for which the period of authorization has expired.
4. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall maintain the ICCAT record, and take any measure to ensure publicity of the record and make the record available through electronic means, including placing it on the ICCAT website, in a manner consistent with confidentiality requirements noted by CPCs.
5. The flag CPCs of the vessels on the record shall:
  - a) authorize their LSFVs to operate in the Convention area only if they are able to fulfill in respect of these vessels the requirements and responsibilities under the Convention and its conservation and management measures;
  - b) take necessary measures to ensure that their LSFVs comply with all the relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures;
  - c) take necessary measures to ensure that their LSFVs on the ICCAT record keep on board valid certificates of vessel registration and valid authorization to fish and/or transship;
  - d) ensure that their LSFVs on the ICCAT record have no history of IUU fishing activities or that, if those vessels have such history, the new owners have provided sufficient evidence demonstrating that the previous owners and operators have no legal, beneficial or financial interest in, or control over those vessels, or that having taken into account all relevant facts, their LSFVs are not engaged in or associated with IUU fishing;

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<sup>1</sup> All LSFVs must obtain an IMO or LR number unless an exception specified in paragraph 7 of this recommendation applies.



- e) ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners and operators of their LSFVs on the ICCAT record are not engaged in or associated with tuna fishing activities conducted by LSFVs not entered into the ICCAT record in the Convention area; and
  - f) take necessary measures to ensure, to the extent possible under domestic law, that the owners of the LSFVs on the ICCAT record are citizens or legal entities within the flag CPCs so that any control or punitive actions can be effectively taken against them.
6. Flag CPCs shall authorize their commercial LSFVs to operate in the Convention area only if the vessel has an IMO number or a number in the seven-digit numbering sequence allocated by IHS-Fairplay (LR number), as applicable. Vessels without such a number shall not be included in the ICCAT record.
7. Paragraph 6 shall not apply to:
- a) LSFVs unable to obtain an IMO/LR number, provided that the flag CPC provides an explanation of its inability to obtain an IMO/LR number in its submission of information pursuant to paragraph 2.
  - b) Wooden LSFVs that are not authorized to fish on the high seas, provided that the flag CPC notifies the Secretariat of the LSFVs for which it is exercising this exemption in its submission of information pursuant to paragraph 2.
8. CPCs shall review their own internal actions and measures taken pursuant to paragraph 5, including punitive and sanction actions and in a manner consistent with domestic law as regards disclosure, report any relevant results of the review to the Commission at its annual meeting. In consideration of any CPC reports on the relevant results of such reviews, the Commission shall, if appropriate, request the flag CPCs of LSFVs on the ICCAT record to take further action to enhance compliance by those vessels to ICCAT conservation and management measures.
9. a) CPCs shall take measures, under their applicable legislation, to prohibit the fishing for, the retaining on board, the transshipment and landing of tuna and tuna-like species, and species taken in association with those species, by the LSFVs which are not entered into the ICCAT record.
- b) To ensure the effectiveness of the ICCAT conservation and management measures pertaining to species covered by Statistical Document Programs:
- i) Flag CPCs or, if the vessel is under a charter arrangement, the exporting CPC shall validate statistical documents only for the LSFVs on the ICCAT record,
  - ii) CPCs shall require that the species covered by Statistical Document Programs caught by LSFVs in the Convention area, when imported into the territory of a Contracting Party be accompanied by statistical documents validated for the vessels on the ICCAT record and,
  - iii) CPCs importing species covered by Statistical Document Programs and the flag States of vessels shall cooperate to ensure that statistical documents are not forged or do not contain misinformation.
10. Each CPC shall notify the ICCAT Executive Secretary of any factual information showing that there are reasonable grounds for suspecting LSFVs not on the ICCAT record to be engaged in fishing for and/or transshipment of tuna and tuna-like species and species taken in association with those species in the Convention area.
11. a) If a vessel mentioned in paragraph 10 is flying the flag of a CPC, the Executive Secretary shall request that CPC to take measures necessary to prevent the vessel from fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention area.
- b) If the flag of a vessel mentioned in paragraph 10 cannot be determined or is of a non-Contracting Party without cooperating status, the Executive Secretary shall compile such information for future consideration by the Commission.

12. The Commission and the CPCs concerned shall communicate with each other, and make the best effort with FAO and other relevant regional fishery management bodies to develop and implement appropriate measures, where feasible, including the establishment of records of a similar nature in a timely manner so as to avoid adverse effects upon tuna resources in other oceans. Such adverse effects might consist of excessive fishing pressure resulting from a shift of the IUU LSFVs from the Atlantic to other oceans.
13. 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) is repealed and replaced in its entirety by this Recommendation. The *Recommendation by ICCAT to Harmonize and Guide the Implementation of Vessel Listing Requirements* (Rec. 14-10) is replaced by provisions in this Recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON TRANSHIPMENT**

*TAKING ACCOUNT* of the need to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities because they undermine the effectiveness of the conservation and management measures already adopted by ICCAT;

*RECALLING* the Recommendation by ICCAT on Transshipment (Rec. 16-15);

*EXPRESSING GRAVE CONCERN* that organized tuna laundering operations have been conducted and there is a history of a significant amount of catch by IUU fishing vessels being transhipped under the names of duly licensed fishing vessels;

*IN VIEW THEREFORE OF THE NEED* to strengthen the monitoring of transshipment activities involving tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species that were harvested in the ICCAT Convention area, in particular by large-scale pelagic longline vessels (LSPLVs), including the control of their landings;

*TAKING ACCOUNT* of the need to ensure collection of catch data from such LSPLVs to improve the scientific assessments of those stocks;

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

**SECTION 1. GENERAL RULES**

1. All at-sea transshipment operations:
  - a) within the Convention area of tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species, and
  - b) outside the Convention area of tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species that were harvested in the ICCAT Convention area,

are prohibited, except that LSPLVs, defined as those greater than 24 meters length overall, may conduct at-sea transshipment under the program established in Section 3 below. All other transshipments must take place in port.
2. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall take the necessary measures to ensure that vessels flying their flag comply with the obligations set out in **Appendix 3** when transshipping tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species in port.
3. This Recommendation does not apply to harpoon vessels engaged in the transshipment of fresh swordfish<sup>1</sup> at sea.
4. This Recommendation does not apply to transshipments outside the Convention area where such transshipment is subject to a comparable monitoring program established by another regional fisheries management organization.
5. This Recommendation is without prejudice to additional requirements applicable to transshipment at sea or in port in other ICCAT Recommendations.

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<sup>1</sup> For the purpose of this Recommendation, "fresh swordfish" means swordfish that are alive, whole or gutted / dressed but not further processed or frozen.

**SECTION 2. RECORD OF CARRIER VESSELS AUTHORISED TO RECEIVE TRANSHIPMENTS**

6. Transshipment of tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species may only be authorized with regard to carrier vessels authorized in accordance with this Recommendation. Carrier vessels are those vessels used for fish transport.
7. An ICCAT Record of Carrier Vessels authorized to receive tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species in the Convention area shall be established. For the purposes of this Recommendation, carrier vessels not entered on the record are deemed not to be authorized to receive tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species in transshipment operations.
8. In order for its carrier vessels to be included on the ICCAT Record of Carrier Vessels, a flag CPC or flag Non-Contracting Party (NCP) shall submit each calendar year, electronically, and in the format specified by the ICCAT Executive Secretary, a list of the carrier vessels flying its flag that are authorized to receive transshipments in the Convention area. The list shall include the following information:
  - Name of vessel, register number
  - ICCAT Record Number (if any)
  - IMO number
  - Previous name (if any)
  - Previous flag (if any)
  - Previous details of deletion from other registries (if any)
  - International radio call sign
  - Type of vessels, length, gross registered tonnage (GRT) and carrying capacity
  - Name and address of owner(s) and operator(s)
  - For carrier vessels, type of transshipment authorised (i.e., in port and/or at sea)
  - Time period authorised for transshipping
9. Each CPC shall promptly notify the ICCAT Executive Secretary of any addition to, any deletion from, and/or any modification of the ICCAT Record of Carrier Vessels, at any time such changes occur.
10. The ICCAT Executive Secretary shall maintain the ICCAT Record and take measures to ensure its publicity through electronic means, including placing it on the ICCAT website, in a manner consistent with domestic confidentiality requirements.
11. CPCs shall prohibit their LSPLVs from transshipping any tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species with vessels not entered on the ICCAT Record of Carrier Vessels.
12. Effective January 1, 2022, vessels without an IMO number shall not be included in the ICCAT Record of Authorized Carrier Vessels and shall be prohibited from engaging in transshipment activities.

**SECTION 3. PROGRAMME TO MONITOR AND CONTROL TRANSHIPMENT ACTIVITIES*****Vessel Monitoring Systems***

13. Carrier vessels authorized for transshipment shall be required to install and continuously operate a VMS in accordance with all applicable ICCAT recommendations, including the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for Vessel Monitoring Systems in the ICCAT Convention Area* (Rec. 18-10), or any successor recommendation related to VMS minimum standards, including any future revisions thereto.

### **Port Inspection**

14. Consistent with the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing* (Rec. 18-09), port CPCs should prioritize inspection in port of (a) carrier vessels whose VMS signals disappear under suspicious circumstances and without explanation and/or indicate dubious movements, and (b) carrier vessels not entered into the ICCAT Record of Carrier Vessels to verify ICCAT species are not on board. Inspection of transshipment activities in port should involve the monitoring of the entire transshipment process and include a cross check of transhipped amounts by species as reported in the fishing vessel's logbook and review of the prior authorization to tranship in port issued by the flag CPC to the fishing vessel.

### **Separation of cargo**

15. Carrier vessels authorized to receive transshipments of ICCAT species shall be required to separate and stow transhipped fish by fishing vessel and develop a stowage plan to show the locations in the hold of the quantities by species and vessel. The carrier vessel master shall submit the stowage plan to inspectors, if requested.

### **Large Scale Pelagic Longline Vessels (LSPLVs) authorized to tranship at sea**

16. At sea transshipment by LSPLVs for tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species may only be authorized in accordance with the provisions set forth in this Section, in Section 4, and **Appendix 1 and 2** below.
17. Each flag CPC that authorizes its LSPLVs to tranship at sea shall submit each calendar year electronically and in the format specified by the Executive Secretary, the list of its LSPLVs that are authorized to tranship at sea. This list shall include the following information:
  - Name of vessel, register number
  - ICCAT Record Number
  - Time period authorized for transshipping at sea
  - Flag(s), name(s), IMO number(s), and register number(s) of the carrier vessel(s) authorized for use by the LSPLVs

Upon receipt of the lists of LSPLVs authorized to tranship at sea, the Executive Secretary shall provide to the flag CPCs of the carrier vessels the list of LSPLVs authorized to operate with its carrier vessels.

### **Coastal State authorization**

18. Transshipments by LSPLVs in waters under the jurisdiction of a CPC are subject to prior authorization from that CPC. An original or copy of the documentation of coastal State prior authorization must be retained on the vessel and made available to the ICCAT observer when requested. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to ensure that LSPLVs flying their flag comply with the provisions of this Section.

### **Flag CPC authorization**

19. LSPLVs are not authorized to tranship at sea unless they have obtained prior authorization from their flag CPC. An original or copy of the documentation of prior authorization must be retained on the vessel and made available to the ICCAT observer or inspector <sup>2</sup> when requested.

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<sup>2</sup> "Inspector" refers to inspectors of a CPC's competent authority authorized to conduct inspections under *Recommendation by ICCAT on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing* (Rec. 18-09), *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 19-04 Establishing a Multi-Annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean* (Rec. 21-08), *Recommendation by ICCAT Replacing the Recommendation 13-04 and Establishing a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Mediterranean Swordfish* (Rec. 16-05), or any successor recommendations, including any future revisions thereto, as well as any other Recommendation establishing a Joint Scheme of International Inspection that may be established in the future.

## Notification obligations

### *Large Scale Pelagic Longline Vessels (LSPLVs)*

20. To receive the prior authorization mentioned in paragraph 18 and 19 above, the master and/or owner of the LSPLV must notify the following information to its flag CPC authorities, and, where applicable, the coastal CPC, at least 24 hours in advance of the intended transshipment:
- the name of the LSPLV and its number in the ICCAT record of fishing vessels,
  - the name of the carrier vessel and its number in the ICCAT Record of Carrier Vessels authorized to receive transshipments, and the product to be transhipped, by species, where known, and, if possible, by stock,
  - the quantities of tuna and tuna-like species and, if possible, by stock, to be transhipped,
  - the quantities of other species caught in association with tuna and tuna-like species by species, where known, to be transhipped,
  - the date and location (latitude and longitude) of transshipment,
  - the geographic location of the catches by species and, where appropriate, by stock, consistent with ICCAT statistical areas.

The LSPLV concerned shall complete and transmit to its flag CPC, and, where applicable, the coastal CPC, not later than 5 working days after the transshipment, the ICCAT transshipment declaration, along with its number in the ICCAT record of fishing vessels in accordance with the format set out in **Appendix 1**.

### *Carrier vessels*

21. The master of the receiving carrier vessel shall complete and transmit the ICCAT transshipment declaration to the ICCAT Secretariat, the flag CPC of the LSPLV, and, where applicable, the coastal CPC, along with its number in the ICCAT record of carrier vessels authorized to receive transshipment, within 24 hours of the completion of the transshipment.
22. The master of the receiving carrier vessel shall, 48 hours before the first point of landing, transmit an ICCAT transshipment declaration, along with its number in the ICCAT record of vessels authorized to receive transshipment, to the competent authorities of the State where the landing is to take place.
23. Anytime a carrier vessel on the ICCAT Record of Carrier Vessels provides supply services to another vessel in the Convention area, the master of the carrier vessel shall complete a supply declaration and send it by electronic means to its flag CPC and the ICCAT Secretariat 24 hours in advance of the activity. The supply declaration shall include, at a minimum, the following information: Name and ICCAT record number of vessels involved, date and location (latitude and longitude) of the activity, content of the goods supplied, and name and ICCAT vessel record number (if assigned) of the vessel being supplied. A separate supply declaration is not required when the supply activity is conducted in association with transshipment that is monitored by an ICCAT Regional Observer.

### *Availability of Reports*

24. The ICCAT Secretariat shall promptly publish the documents received pursuant to paragraphs 21, and 23 in the secure part of the ICCAT website for the facilitation of implementation of *Recommendation by ICCAT on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing* (Rec. 18-09).

### *ICCAT Regional Observer Program*

25. Each CPC shall ensure that all carrier vessels transshipping at sea have on board an ICCAT observer in accordance with the ICCAT regional observer program specified in **Appendix 2**. The ICCAT observer shall observe the adherence to this Recommendation, and, notably, that the transhipped quantities are consistent with the reported catch in the ICCAT transshipment declaration and, as feasible, as recorded in the fishing vessel logbook.

26. CPCs shall prohibit vessels from commencing or continuing transshipping at sea in the ICCAT Convention area without an ICCAT regional observer on board, except in cases of force majeure duly notified without delay to the ICCAT Secretariat, which shall promptly notify the Commission.

#### SECTION 4. GENERAL PROVISIONS

27. To ensure the effectiveness of the ICCAT conservation and management measures pertaining to species covered by Catch and Statistical Document Programs:
- a) In validating the Catch or Statistical Documents, flag CPCs of LSPLVs shall ensure that transshipments are consistent with the reported catch amount by each LSPLV.
  - b) The flag CPC of LSPLVs shall validate the Catch or Statistical Documents for the transhipped fish, after confirming that the transshipment was conducted in accordance with this Recommendation. This confirmation shall be based on the information obtained through the ICCAT Observer Program and any other relevant information.
  - c) CPCs shall require that the species covered by the Catch or Statistical Document Programs caught by LSPLVs in the Convention area, when imported into the area or territory of a CPC, be accompanied by catch or statistical documents validated for the vessels on the ICCAT record and a copy of the ICCAT transshipment declaration.
28. The flag CPCs of LSPLVs which have transhipped during the previous year and the flag CPCs of carrier vessels accepting transshipments shall report annually before 15 September to the Executive Secretary:
- The quantities of tuna and tuna-like catches by species (and, if possible, by stock) transhipped during the previous year.
  - The quantities of other species caught in association with tuna and tuna-like species by species, where known, transhipped during the previous year.
  - The list of the LSPLVs and carrier vessels flying its flag which have transhipped during the previous year.
  - A comprehensive report assessing the content and conclusions of the reports of the observers assigned to carrier vessels which have received transshipment from their LSPLVs.

These reports shall be made available to the Commission and relevant subsidiary bodies for review and consideration. The Secretariat shall post these reports to a password protected website.

29. All tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with those species landed in or imported into the area or territory of CPCs, either unprocessed or after having been processed on board and which are transhipped, shall be accompanied by the ICCAT transshipment declaration until the first sale has taken place.
30. The flag CPC of the LSPLV engaged in at-sea transshipments, and the coastal CPC, where applicable, shall review the information received pursuant to the provisions of this Recommendation to determine consistency between the reported catches, transshipments, and landings of each vessel, including in cooperation with the landing State as necessary. This verification shall be carried out so that the vessel suffers the minimum interference and inconvenience and that degradation of the fish is avoided.
31. At its request, and subject to ICCAT confidentiality requirements, the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) shall have access to the data collected under this Recommendation.
32. Each year, the Executive Secretary of ICCAT shall present a report on the implementation of this Recommendation to the annual meeting of the Commission, which shall include any issues of potential non-compliance. The Commission, through the Compliance Committee, shall, *inter alia*, review compliance with this Recommendation. As part of this review, the Commission should also consider any information provided pursuant to Rec. 08-09 or regarding transshipment or supply activities conducted by vessels not on the ICCAT Record of Carrier Vessels.

33. The Commission shall, no later than 2024, review this Recommendation and consider improvements into account, as appropriate, relevant standards, specifications, and requirements that have been or may be adopted by the Commission.
34. This Recommendation repeals and replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Transshipment* (Rec. 16-15).





**Appendix 2****ICCAT Regional Observer Programme**

1. Each CPC shall require carrier vessels included in the ICCAT record of vessels authorized to receive transshipments in the ICCAT area and which tranship at sea, to carry an ICCAT observer during each transshipment operation in the Convention area.
2. The Secretariat of the Commission shall appoint the observers and shall place them on board the carrier vessels authorized to receive transshipments in the ICCAT area from LSPLVs flying the flag of CPCs that implement the ICCAT observer program.
3. The ICCAT Secretariat shall ensure observers are properly equipped to perform their duties, including with appropriate safety equipment.

**Designation of the observers**

4. The designated observers shall have the following qualifications to accomplish their tasks:
  - demonstrated ability to identify ICCAT species and fishing gear with a strong preference given to those with experience as observers on pelagic longline vessels;
  - satisfactory knowledge of the ICCAT conservation and management measures;
  - the ability to observe and record accurately;
  - a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag of the vessel observed.

**Obligations of the observer**

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

6.2 Observe the activities of carrier vessel and:

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

6.3 In addition, the observer shall:

- a) issue a daily report of the carrier vessel's transshipping activities;
- b) establish general reports compiling the information collected in accordance with the observer's duties and provide the captain the opportunity to include therein any relevant information;
- c) submit to the Secretariat the aforementioned general report within 20 days from the end of the period of observation;
- d) exercise any other functions as defined by the Commission.

7. Observers shall treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing operations of the LSPLV and of the LSPLV owners and accept this requirement in writing as a condition of appointment as an observer.
8. Observers shall comply with requirements established in the laws and regulations of the flag CPC and, where relevant, the coastal State, which exercises jurisdiction over the vessel to which the observer is assigned.
9. Observers shall respect the hierarchy and general rules of behaviour which apply to all vessel personnel, provided such rules do not interfere with the duties of the observer under this program, and with the obligations of vessel personnel set forth in point 11 of this program.

**Responsibilities of the Flag CPC of the LSPLV**

10. When a flag CPC is notified of potential non-compliance by its LSPLV that has engaged in transshipment activities pursuant to this Recommendation, the flag CPC shall investigate, including requesting any relevant port CPC to inspect the carrier vessel upon arrival in port, and take appropriate action.

**Responsibilities of the Flag CPCs of carrier vessels**

11. The conditions associated with implementation of the regional observer program *vis à vis* the flag CPCs of the carrier vessels and their captains include the following, notably:
  - a) Observers shall be allowed access to the vessel personnel, pertinent documentation, and to the gear and equipment;

- b) Upon request, observers shall also be allowed access to the following equipment, if present on the vessels to which they are assigned, in order to facilitate the carrying out of their duties set forth in point 6:
  - i) satellite navigation equipment;
  - ii) radar display viewing screens when in use;
  - iii) VMS
  - iv) electronic means of communication; and
  - v) scale used for weighing transhipped product.
- c) Observers shall be provided accommodations, including lodging, food and adequate sanitary facilities, equal to those of officers;
- d) Observers shall be provided with adequate space on the bridge or pilot house for clerical work, as well as space on deck adequate for carrying out observer duties;
- e) Observers shall be allowed to determine the most advantageous location and method for viewing transshipment operations and estimating species/stocks and quantities transhipped. In this regard, the master of the carrier vessel, giving due regard to safety and practical concerns, shall accommodate the needs of the observer in this regard, including, upon request, temporarily placing product on the carrier vessel deck for inspection by the observer and providing adequate time for the observer to carry out his/her duties. Observations shall be conducted in a manner that minimizes interference and avoids compromising the quality of the products transhipped.
- f) In light of the provisions of point 12, the master of the carrier vessel shall ensure that all necessary assistance is provided to the observer to ensure safe transport between the carrier and fishing vessels should weather and other conditions permit such an exchange; and
- g) The flag CPCs shall ensure that captains, crew and vessel owners do not obstruct, intimidate, interfere with, influence, bribe or attempt to bribe an observer in the performance of his/her duties.

The Secretariat, in a manner consistent with any applicable confidentiality requirements, is requested to provide to the flag CPC of the carrier vessel under whose jurisdiction the vessel transhipped and to the flag CPC of the LSPLV, copies of all raw data, summaries, and reports pertaining to the trip.

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

### **Responsibilities of LSPLVs during transhipments**

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

### **Observer fees**

- 13. The costs of implementing this program shall be financed by the flag CPCs of LSPLVs wishing to engage in transshipment operations. The fee shall be calculated on the basis of the total costs of the program. This fee shall be paid into a special account of the ICCAT Secretariat and the ICCAT Secretariat shall manage the account for implementing the program.
- 14. No LSPLV may participate in the at-sea transshipment program unless the fees, as required under point 13, are paid.

**Information sharing**

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

**Identification Guides**

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

**Appendix 3****In-Port Transshipment**

1. In the exercise of their authority over ports located in areas under their jurisdiction, CPCs may adopt more stringent measures, in accordance with domestic and international law.
2. Pursuant to Section 1 of this Recommendation, transshipment in port by any CPC of tuna and tuna-like species and other species caught in association with these species from or in the Convention area may only be undertaken in accordance with *Recommendation by ICCAT on Port State Measures to Prevent, Eliminate, and Deter Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing* (Rec. 18-09) and the following procedures:

**Notification obligations****3. Catching fishing vessel**

- 3.1 At least 48 hours in advance of transshipment operations, the captain of the fishing vessel must notify the Port State authorities of the name of the carrier vessel and date/time of transshipment.
- 3.2 Fishing vessels are not authorized to tranship in port unless they have obtained prior authorization from their flag CPC. An original or copy of the documentation of prior authorization must be retained on the vessel and made available to an inspector <sup>1</sup> or ICCAT observer when requested.

In seeking prior authorization, the captain of a fishing vessel shall inform its flag CPC of the following:

- the quantities of tuna and tuna-like species, if possible, by stock, to be transhipped;
  - the quantities of other species caught in association with tuna and tuna-like species by species, where known, to be transhipped;
  - the date and place of the transshipment;
  - the name, registration number, ICCAT record number, and flag of the receiving carrier vessel; and
  - the geographic location of the catches by species and, where appropriate, by stock, consistent with ICCAT statistical areas.
- 3.3 The captain of the fishing vessel concerned shall complete and transmit to its flag CPC the ICCAT transshipment declaration, along with its number in the ICCAT record of fishing vessels, where applicable, in accordance with the format set out in **Appendix 1** not later than 15 days after the transshipment.

**4. Receiving carrier vessel**

- 4.1 Not later than 24 hours before the beginning and at the end of the transshipment, the master of the receiving carrier vessel shall inform the port State authorities of the quantities of catches of tuna and tuna-like species transhipped to his vessel, and complete and transmit the ICCAT transshipment declaration to the competent authorities within 24 hours.
- 4.2 The master of the receiving carrier vessel shall, at least 48 hours before landing, complete and transmit an ICCAT transshipment declaration to the competent authorities of the landing State where the landing takes place.

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<sup>1</sup> "Inspector" refers to inspectors of a CPC's competent authority authorized to conduct inspections under *Recommendation by ICCAT on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing* (Rec. 18-09).

**Port and Landing State Cooperation**

5. The port State and the landing State referred to in the above points shall review the information received pursuant to the provisions of this Appendix, including in cooperation with the flag CPC of the fishing vessel as necessary, to determine consistency between the reported catches, transshipments, and landings of each vessel. This verification shall be carried out so that the vessel suffers the minimum interference and inconvenience and that degradation of the fish is avoided.

**Reporting**

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

21-16

GEN

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING THE RECOMMENDATION 07-08 CONCERNING DATA EXCHANGE FORMAT AND PROTOCOL IN RELATION TO THE VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM (VMS) FOR THE BLUEFIN TUNA FISHERY IN THE ICCAT CONVENTION AREA**

*IN ACCORDANCE WITH* paragraph 218 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 19-04 amending Recommendation 18-02 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean* (Rec. 21-08);

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

1. Each flag Contracting Party, Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity (hereinafter referred to as "CPCs") shall implement a vessel monitoring system (VMS) for its bluefin tuna fishing vessels referred to in paragraph 218 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 19-04 amending Recommendation 18-02 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean* (Rec. 21-08), in accordance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for Vessel Monitoring Systems in the ICCAT Convention Area* (Rec. 18-10)<sup>1</sup>.
2. The autonomous system referred to in paragraph 1(a) of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for Vessel Monitoring Systems in the ICCAT Convention Area* (Rec. 18-10) shall be in conformity with the specifications and schedule set out in **Annex 1**.
3. Each CPC shall communicate electronically the messages pursuant to paragraph 1 here above to the ICCAT Secretariat. In the event of technical malfunction, the messages shall however be transmitted electronically to the ICCAT Secretariat within 24 hours of receipt.
4. The CPCs shall transmit the messages to the ICCAT Secretariat every at least once every hour for purse seine vessels and at least once every two hours for all other vessels in accordance with paragraph 3 of the *Recommendation 18-10* when operating in the ICCAT Convention area. The messages should be sequentially numbered (with a unique identifier) in order to avoid duplication.
5. Each CPC shall ensure that the messages transmitted by their corresponding Fishing Monitoring Centre (hereinafter referred to as "FMCs") to the ICCAT Secretariat shall be in accordance with the data exchange format set out in **Annex 2**.
6. CPCs engaged in inspection at sea operations in the Convention area in accordance with the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection referred to in paragraphs 228 to 231 of the *Recommendation 21-08* shall request the ICCAT Secretariat to make available the messages received under paragraph 3 of this Recommendation.
7. CPCs shall take the necessary measures to assure that all messages shall be treated in a confidential manner, and be limited for the inspection at sea operations referred to in paragraph 6. The ICCAT Secretariat shall ensure the confidential treatment of the messages received. Data three years old or more shall be available to the SCRS for scientific purposes, given due consideration of data confidentiality.

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<sup>1</sup> Recommendation 03-14 was replaced by Recommendation 14-09, which was replaced by Recommendation 18-10.



**Annex 1**

1. Each CPC shall establish and operate fishing monitoring centres, hereinafter referred to as “FMC”, which shall monitor the fishing activities of vessels flying their flags. The FMC shall be equipped with computer hardware and software enabling automatic data processing and electronic data transmission. Each CPC shall provide for back-up and recovery procedures in case of system failures.
2. The CPC of the vessel shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the data received from its fishing vessels to which VMS applies are recorded in computer readable form for a period of three years.
3. The satellite tracking devices installed on board the fishing vessels shall ensure the automatic transmission to the FMC of the flag CPC, at all applicable times.
4. Each CPC shall take the necessary measures to ensure that its FMC receives the requested VMS data.

### Format for the Communication of VMS messages by fishing vessels

#### A. Content of the position message

Data element	Field code	Mandatory /optional	Remarks
Start record	SR	M	Message detail: indicates start of record
Address	AD	M	Destination: ICCAT
Sequence No.	SQ	M <sup>1</sup>	Message detail: message serial number in current year
Type of message	TM <sup>2</sup>	M	Message detail: "POS" as Position message to be communicated by VMS or other means by vessels with a defective satellite tracking device
Radio Call Sign	RC	M	Vessel registration detail; international radio call sign of the vessel
Trip No.	TN	O	Activity detail: fishing trip serial number in current year
From	FR	M	Origin of the VMS messages detail: country Alpha code
Flag State	FS	M	Origin of the VMS messages detail: flag State code
Internal Reference No.	IR	O	Vessel registration detail: internal reference of the vessel
Vessel name	NA	O	Vessel registration detail: name of the vessel
CPC internal reference No.	IR	O	Vessel registration detail: Unique Contracting Party vessel number as flag State 3-Alpha country code followed by number
External registration No.	XR	O	Vessel registration detail; the side number of the vessel or IMO number in the absence of a side number
Latitude	LA	M <sup>3</sup>	Activity detail: position at time of transmission
Longitude	LO	M <sup>3</sup>	Activity detail: position at time of transmission
Latitude (decimal)	LT	M <sup>4</sup>	Activity detail: position at time of transmission
Longitude (decimal)	LG	M <sup>4</sup>	Activity detail: position at time of transmission
Date	DA	M	Message detail: date of transmission
Time	TI	M	Message detail: time of transmission
End of record	ER	M	System detail: indicates end of the record

<sup>1</sup> Optional in case of a VMS message.

<sup>2</sup> Type of message shall be "ENT" for the first VMS message from the Convention area as detected by the FMC of the Contracting Party. Type of message shall be "EXI" for the first VMS message from outside the Convention area as detected by the FMC of the Contracting Party, and the values for latitude and Longitude are, in this type of message, optional.

Type of message shall be "MAN" for reports communicated by vessels with a defective satellite tracking device.

<sup>3</sup> Mandatory for manual messages.

<sup>4</sup> Mandatory for VMS messages.

#### B. Structure of the position message:

Each data transmission is structured as follows:

- Double slash (//) and the characters "SR" indicate the start of a message.
- A double slash (//) and field code indicate the start of a data element.
- A single slash (/) separates the field code and the data.
- Pairs of data are separated by space.
- The characters "ER" and a double slash (//) indicate the end of a record.

21-18

SDP

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING RECOMMENDATION 20-08  
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 2021;

*MINDFUL* that under such circumstances a rollover of these measures for a further year would offer an opportunity to revisit them in 2022;

**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 2022. 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 2022 annual meeting for decision on its possible extension.

The trade of live bluefin tuna including all trade events to and from bluefin farms must be recorded and validated in the eBCD system in accordance with the provisions of Recommendation 18-13 unless otherwise specified in this recommendation. The validation of sections 2 (catch) and 3 (live trade) in the eBCD may be completed simultaneously in derogation to paragraph 3 of Recommendation 18-13. The amending and re-validation of sections 2 and 3 in the eBCD as required by paragraph 99 of Recommendation 18-02<sup>1</sup> 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;

<sup>1</sup> Replaced by Rec. 19-04, which has been replaced by Rec. 21-08.

- 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)<sup>1</sup>, 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 2022 unless extended by the Commission after considering CPC reports on its implementation;
  - Information on the exporter and importer (where applicable);
  - The point of export (where applicable).
- iii) Information on tagged fish is compiled by the responsible CPC.
- e) Bluefin tuna that die during the transfer, towing, or caging operations foreseen by paragraphs 86 to 102 of Recommendation 18-02<sup>1</sup> prior to harvesting may be traded by the purse seine vessel, auxiliary/support vessel(s), and/or farm representatives, where applicable.
- f) Bluefin tuna that are caught as by-catch in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean by vessels not authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna pursuant to Rec. 18-02<sup>1</sup> 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Replaced by Rec. 19-04, which has been replaced by Rec. 21-08.

6. Paper BCD documents (issued pursuant to Recommendation 18-13) or printed eBCDs may be used in the following cases:
- a) Landings of quantities of bluefin tuna less than one metric ton or three fish. Such paper BCDs shall be converted to eBCDs within a period of seven working days or prior to export, whichever is first.
  - b) Bluefin tuna caught prior to the full implementation of the eBCD system as specified in paragraph 2.
  - c) Notwithstanding the requirement to use the eBCD system in paragraph 2, paper BCDs or printed eBCDs may be used as a back-up in the limited event that technical difficulties with the system arise that preclude a CPC from using the eBCD system, following the procedures as set forth in **Annex 3**. Delays by CPCs in taking necessary actions, such as providing the data necessary to ensure the registration of users in the eBCD system or other avoidable situations, do not constitute an acceptable technical difficulty.
  - d) In the case of trade of Pacific bluefin tuna as specified in paragraph 5(h).
  - e) In the case of trade between ICCAT CPCs and non-CPCs where access to the eBCD system through the Secretariat (pursuant to paragraph 5(j) above) is not possible or is not timely enough to ensure the trade is not unduly delayed or disrupted.

The use of a paper BCD document in the cases specified in sub-paragraphs a) through e) shall not be cited by importing CPCs as a reason to delay or deny import of a bluefin tuna shipment provided it complies with the existing provisions of Recommendation 18-13 and relevant provisions of this recommendation. Printed eBCDs that are validated in the eBCD system satisfy the validation requirement stipulated in paragraph 3 of Recommendation 18-13.

Where requested by a CPC, conversion of paper BCDs to eBCDs shall be facilitated by the ICCAT Secretariat or through the creation in the eBCD system of user profiles for CPC authorities at their request for this purpose, as appropriate.

7. The Technical Working Group shall continue its work and, through the ICCAT Secretariat, inform the developing consortium of the specifications on required system developments and adjustments and steer their implementation.
8. This recommendation clarifies Recommendation 18-02<sup>1</sup> 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).

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<sup>1</sup> Replaced by Rec. 19-04, which has been replaced by Rec. 21-08.

**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

**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

## Annex 3

**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)

21-19

SDP

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING RECOMMENDATION 18-13  
REPLACING RECOMMENDATION 11-20 ON  
AN ICCAT BLUEFIN TUNA CATCH DOCUMENTATION PROGRAM**

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

“13

b) The CPCs shall validate the BCD for all bluefin tuna products only when all the information contained in the BCD has been established to be accurate as a result of the verification of the consignment, and only when the accumulated validated amounts are within their quotas or catch limits of each management year, including, where appropriate, individual quotas allocated to catching vessels or traps, and when those products comply with other relevant ICCAT provisions of the conservation and management measures.

The requirement that CPCs shall only validate BCDs when the accumulated validated amounts are within their quotas or catch limits of each management year, does not apply to CPCs with a domestic legislation introduced before 2013 requiring 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 CPCs shall take necessary measures to prevent catch, which is over its national quota from being exported to other CPCs. The weight of each consignment related to catches exceeding the vessel quotas shall be reported to the ICCAT Secretariat without delay and will be examined by the Compliance Committee during each annual meeting.”

21-20

TOR

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO CONTINUE THE  
DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTEGRATED ONLINE REPORTING SYSTEM**

*RECALLING* the *Recommendation by ICCAT for the Development of an Online Reporting System* (Rec. 16-19) adopted by the Commission in 2016;

*NOTING* that the reporting requirements of the Commission are numerous and change over time and that any such system must, by its nature, be broad in scope and dynamic;

*RECOGNISING* the progress made to date by the Online Reporting Technology Working Group and the Secretariat in the initial development of the system;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* that the substantial scale of the project requires work beyond the initial target completion date of 2019;

*DESIRING* to continue to find ways to enhance the effective functioning of the Commission, including by reducing the burden associated with ICCAT reporting requirements for both the Secretariat and the CPCs and increasing access to valuable information;

**THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE  
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNA RECOMMENDS THAT:**

1. The Online Reporting Technology Working Group shall continue to work virtually and meet intersessionally as required in order to develop the Integrated Online Management System and complete its work plan.
2. The Working Group shall remain active following the completion of its work plan, which may be revised and amended as necessary, and until such time as the Commission decides otherwise. The tasks of the Working Group after the completion of its work plan shall be:
  - a) To oversee the incorporation into the online reporting system of any new Annual Report requirements;
  - b) To determine any redundant requirements for which reporting is no longer necessary;
  - c) With appropriate input from the Commission, to oversee development of additional system modules covering other ICCAT reporting requirements in order to establish a comprehensive and fully integrated online reporting system; and
  - d) Other tasks as the Commission may identify.
3. In carrying out the above tasks, the Working Group shall work in consultation with the SCRS, Compliance Committee, and other subsidiary bodies of the Commission as necessary and appropriate.
4. The Working Group shall continue to provide annual updates to the Commission regarding its activities, including presenting its proposal(s) for the content and format of the online reporting system and related modules for the Commission's consideration in order to inform design and development.
5. This Recommendation supplements the *Recommendation by ICCAT for the Development of an Online Reporting System* (Rec. 16-19) and repeals and replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Continue the Development of an Integrated Online Reporting System* (Rec. 19-12).

21-24

GEN

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO REPLACE RECOMMENDATION 03-20  
ON CRITERIA FOR ATTAINING THE STATUS OF COOPERATING  
NON-CONTRACTING PARTY, ENTITY OR FISHING ENTITY IN ICCAT**

*RECALLING* the *Resolution by ICCAT on Coordination with Non-Contracting Parties (94-06)* adopted at the Commission's 9th Special Meeting in 1994 and the *Resolution by ICCAT on Becoming a Cooperating Party, Entity or Fishing Entity (01-17)* adopted at the 17th Regular Meeting in 2001;

*RECOGNIZING* the continuing need to encourage non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities with vessels fishing for ICCAT species in the Convention area to implement ICCAT conservation measures;

*RECOGNIZING* the need to establish clear criteria to enable non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities with vessels fishing for ICCAT species in the Convention area to attain the status of Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity;

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

1. Each year, the Executive Secretary of ICCAT shall contact all non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities known to be fishing in the Convention area for species under ICCAT competence to urge them to become a Contracting Party to ICCAT or to attain the status of a Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity. In doing so, the Executive Secretary shall provide a copy of all relevant Recommendations and Resolutions adopted by the Commission.
2. Any non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity that seeks to be accorded the status of a Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity shall apply to the Executive Secretary. Requests must be received by the Executive Secretary no later than ninety (90) days in advance of an ICCAT annual meeting, to be considered at that meeting.
3. Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities requesting the status of Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity shall provide the following information in order to have this status considered by the Commission:
  - a) where available, data on its historical fisheries in the Convention area, including nominal catches, number/type of vessels, name of fishing vessels, fishing effort and fishing areas;
  - b) all the data that Contracting Parties have to submit to ICCAT based on the Recommendations adopted by ICCAT;
  - c) details on current fishing presence in the Convention area, number of vessels and vessel characteristics and;
  - d) information on any research programs it may have conducted in the Convention area and the information and the results of this research.
4. An applicant for Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity status shall also:
  - a) confirm its commitment to respect the Commission's conservation and management measures and;
  - b) inform ICCAT of the measures it takes to ensure compliance by its vessels with ICCAT conservation and management measures;

- c) confirm its intent to make an annual voluntary financial contribution commensurate with at least 50 % of the amount that would be assessed should it become a Member, pursuant to the scheme of contributions in accordance with Article X-2 of the Convention and Regulation 4-1 of the Financial Regulations.
5. Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities shall make every effort to provide annual voluntary financial contributions to the budget of the Commission beginning in 2024. The amount of the annual contributions consistent with the terms of paragraph 4(c) above shall be calculated by the Secretariat and be circulated to those non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities at least sixty (60) days before a Regular meeting of the Commission. Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities may decide to distribute all or a portion of their contributions to existing ICCAT scientific and research projects (e.g., GBYP or AOTTP) or special funds (e.g., Meeting Participation Fund or Monitoring, Control & Surveillance Fund). If a Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity does not make an annual voluntary contribution, it shall submit the reason to the Commission. The Commission may take into account information concerning the payment of voluntary contributions, including the contributions made in the past, by a Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity when it considers conservation and management measures.
6. Notwithstanding paragraph 5 above, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities are strongly encouraged to provide annual voluntary financial contributions as soon as possible before the budget of the Commission beginning in 2024.
7. The Commission's Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (hereinafter COC) shall be responsible for reviewing requests for Cooperating Status and for recommending to the Commission whether or not an applicant should receive Cooperating Status. In this review, the COC shall also consider information regarding the applicant available from other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) as well as data submission of the applicant to the Commission. Caution shall be used so as not to introduce into the Convention area the excessive fishing capacity of other regions or IUU fishing activities in granting Cooperating Status to the applicant.
8. Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entity status shall be annually reviewed and renewed unless revoked by the Commission due to non-compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures including this Recommendation.
9. The *Recommendation by ICCAT on Criteria for Attaining the Status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity in ICCAT* (Rec. 03-20) shall be repealed and replaced by this Recommendation.

## RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY ICCAT IN 2021

21-17

GEN

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROJECT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REMOTE ELECTRONIC MONITORING (REM) ON BLUEFIN TUNA PROCESSING VESSELS**

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* that ICCAT has adopted a Recommendation establishing a multi-annual management plan for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna;

*NOTING* that at the ICCAT Working Group on BFT Control and Traceability Measures held in March 2020 the Working Group identified several aspects of the control of live bluefin tuna that would benefit from being strengthened, among them, the control exercised over processing vessels operating in the bluefin tuna fishery in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. The 2020 Panel 2 Intersessional Meeting considered initiating discussions on this issue based on a working paper prepared by the EU;

*RECALLING* that new technologies have advanced greatly over the last few years and these technologies can make monitoring more effective and efficient as well as supporting the collection of data for scientific purposes; and,

*CONSIDERING* the establishment of a Pilot Project for the use of REM, including Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV), would allow testing whether these technologies can be used in the future to improve control and make it more efficient, as well as assisting in the automatic collection of data;

*NOTING* that the conclusions drawn from this Pilot Project are without prejudice to the possibility for the CPCs to continue using traditional means of control, including the use of control or scientific observers.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE  
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS RESOLVES THAT:

**Pilot Project objective**

1. A Pilot Project is established to test the use of a Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) system, including Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) on board bluefin tuna processing vessels operating in the bluefin tuna fishery in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.
2. The objective of the project is to test the REM system and to evaluate the added value of this technology in improving the monitoring and control of processing vessels, the cost-efficiency of the system and its capacity to collect comprehensive and accurate data and its subsequent analysis.
3. The duration of the Pilot Project should be one year, with the possibility of extending it for a further year. The project should be implemented on at least 2 of the active processing vessels listed in **Table 1**.
4. The pilot project would be considered as a testing phase and the information collected in it may only be used to achieve the objectives of the project, but in no case for control or enforcement purposes.

**Participation and points of contact**

5. Contracting Parties with processing vessels operating under their flag are encouraged to participate in the Pilot Project and facilitate the implementation on selected vessels under their flag. All other Contracting Parties involved in the control of processing vessels are also encouraged to participate in the Pilot Project.

6. Contracting Parties participating in the Pilot Project should submit to the Executive Secretary the following information:
  - a) National authority responsible for the processing vessel and its monitoring and control, and
  - b) Designated point(s) of contact within that authority with control responsibilities for liaison on the project, including name, telephone, fax numbers, and e-mail address.
7. A Technical Steering Group should be set up to oversee the implementation of the Pilot Project. The Technical Steering Group should be composed at least, by representative(s) of the ICCAT Secretariat, the flag Contracting Parties of the processing vessels included in the Pilot Project and, on a voluntary basis, the coastal Contracting Parties where these vessels operate. The Steering Group should be coordinated by Chair of the former Working Group on Bluefin Tuna Control and Traceability measures, set up by ICCAT Resolution 19-15.
8. The Technical Steering Group should monitor the project's progress, the fulfilment of its objectives and put forward recommendations for improved implementation of the project. They should be available for regular consultation and regular online meetings. The Steering Group should regulate its own procedures.

### **Implementation of the Pilot Project**

9. The ICCAT Secretariat, with the assistance of the Technical Steering Group, should identify a company (contractor) entrusted for the installation and maintenance of the REM system and a company or independent body in charge of auditing the REM data (analyst). The minimum technical standards in **Annex 1** should be included in the tender specifications when selecting the contractor and analyst.
10. In the performance of its tasks, the contractor implementing the pilot project and the analyst auditing the REM data should follow the minimum technical standards set out in **Annex 1**. The analyst should handle the REM data in accordance with the relevant data protection laws.
11. The ICCAT Secretariat, with the assistance of the Technical Steering Group, should identify the vessels to include in the project, following consultations with the flag States and the contractor to assure the feasibility of equipping such vessels.
12. The contractor should prepare a REM Vessel Monitoring Plan (VMP) for the vessels included in the pilot project and should submit it to the ICCAT Secretariat for approval. The ICCAT Secretariat, in consultation with the Steering Group, should evaluate the VMP and approve it if considered adequate for the purposes of the Pilot Project and that it follows the minimum technical standards set out in **Annex 1**.
13. The analyst should prepare a protocol for the analysis of the REM data and send it to the ICCAT Secretariat. The ICCAT Secretariat, in consultation with the Steering Group, should evaluate the REM data analysis protocol and approve it if considered adequate for the purposes of the Pilot Project and that it follows the minimum technical standards set out in **Annex 1**.
14. Contracting Parties participating in the pilot program should communicate and collaborate with each other and with the contractor and analyst in order to facilitate the implementation of the Pilot Project.

### **Data transmission**

15. Sensor data and video footage should be transmitted by the processing vessels to ICCAT Secretariat, which in turn will be responsible for transmitting it to the company or body in charge of auditing the data (analyst). The data and video footage will be made available to the flag CPC and the coastal CPC where the vessel operates upon request.

**Reporting**

16. The contractor should draw up a report on the alerts and issues identify and to recommend any improvement to the set-up of the system. The analyst should produce reports including details on the implementation of the project and on the data analysed, as well as conclusions on the functioning of the project and its effectiveness. The detailed content of the reports and the reporting period will be developed by the Technical Steering Group.
17. The ICCAT Secretariat should keep all Contracting Parties updated on the progress of the project and should distribute the progress reports drawn up by the contractor and analyst and the evaluations of the Steering Group.



## **Minimum technical standards for an ICCAT system of Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM)**

### **1. Minimum technical standards**

The Remote Electronic System (REM) software should be developed to handle and control sensors and cameras, store sensor data and video footage on embedded storage, and to display all information on a screen in the wheelhouse, allowing the crew to monitor the functioning of the system. The system must be capable of storing data and video footage for the entire period of operation of the vessel (trip).

The REM system should incorporate a self-test function including at least position check, memory status check, camera image check, and sensor operation check. The system should allow the master to test it and ensure it is fully functional at all times and that it meets all the required standards. The system should be able to deliver automatically, to the master and the competent body, health messages and warnings, including warnings for missing data, malfunction or tamper events.

The REM system must comply with the following minimum technical standards:

- a) include a sufficient number of cameras to monitor the fishing activity (considered, for the purpose of this Resolution, the loading of BFT, weighing, processing, storing, transshipment and landing),
- b) include sensors that monitor parameters to detect when fishing activity occurs or may be occurring,
- c) be capable of securely storing E-monitoring records and have enough storage and back-up storage, in accordance with the number of cameras and the duration of the trip,
- d) supports remote access/configuration and have Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) and controlled shutdown,
- e) be of sufficient camera resolution that allows the counting of the number of specimens,
- f) include a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver to monitor vessel position, route and speed as well as provide information on operation times and location, even during periods of poor visibility or at night (i.e. may be supported by IR lighting),
- g) be capable of issuing real time automated alerts when the system is malfunctioning,
- h) be tamper evident and prevent any manual data input or external data manipulation,
- i) be robust and withstand rough conditions at-sea with minimum human intervention.

### **2. Installation of the REM system**

A certified REM Vessel Monitoring Plan (VMP) would be necessary in order to establish the layout of sensors and cameras and other relevant technical specifications to cover all monitoring needs.

It should include at least the following elements:

- General information of the vessels, including vessel length and contact details of the vessel owner and/or representative;
- Vessel plan and pictures;
- General description of the settings of sensors and cameras;
- System components location and characteristics, including image of its location;
- For or each of the cameras: view and objectives, image of location, camera settings and a picture of the camera shot, showing the field of view the camera should cover.

#### **2.1 Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV)**

The number and field of view of the cameras should be such as to monitor all areas where BFT can be loaded, processed or weighed and to ensure in particular that all areas where tuna can be transferred on board are covered.

As a general setup, the position of the camera should cover both sides of the vessel and allow the number of specimens transferred on board to be counted and to identify, if possible, vessels that will be attached to the processing vessel. Since all receiving and processing operations of tuna take place on the main ship's deck, a camera with a general overview of the deck would ensure effective control.

An additional camera installed in the deck area where the fish is received and processed would make it possible to ensure a count of the number of individuals in a case where it was not possible to do so when the fish was lifted by the crane. Where possible, it should be ensured that this camera is equipped with measuring capability (lens dependable) to allowing for the automatic determination of the sizes of the individuals taken on board and to assist in the collection of fish size data to be used for scientific purposes, supporting at the same time weight control.

In parallel or alternatively, an ichthyometer or graduated rule, with an easily visible colour scale, may be placed in this area allowing to monitor a size sampling that may be set for scientific purposes.

The cameras and the camera housing need to be constructed of material that can resist the environment on board the vessel, be tamper-proof and that camera closure fittings are robust and durable.

Due to the large size of the video footage, the possibility of using on some or all cameras, photographs taken every few seconds instead of continuous video, during periods when the sensors indicate that there is no activity, should also be evaluated during the pilot project, since this alternative would allow to reduce very significantly the size of the files and facilitate its management.

The master should endeavour to ensure that the REM system is fully functional and that CCTV systems provide clear, unobstructed footage during operation. The cameras would not need to be recording when the vessel is sailing above a certain speed.

Digital signature (date and time stamp, vessel name, vessel registration and GPS coordinates), should be able to associate the video footage with a particular event in time (i.e. to check that the operation was authorized or that it has been correctly recorded).

When possible, masking capability, with the possibility to blank out parts of images for personal protection purposes and to select areas of interest, should be included.

## **2.2 Sensors**

The sensors should provide information on the possible occurrence of fishing activities. These sensors would be placed on those devices or mechanisms that are active when the vessel is or may be carrying out fishing activities, such as fish loading, processing, freezing or landing. This information would be mainly used to select the video footage to be analysed.

The sensors should also collect information on weighing operations, which will make it easier to monitor activity and allow automatic data crosschecks.

The REM systems should be able to support all types of sensors needed and a data-bus connection should be available for possible future expansions.

The following sensors should be included:

1. GPS;
2. opening of hatches or other access to the hold;
3. activation of the cranes;
4. scales used to weigh the BFT with the possibility of registering the weighing operations carried out (\*).

Other sensors whose usefulness can be assessed are:

5. activity in the freezing tunnels (introduction of fish) or motion sensors;
6. temperature in fish hold;

(\*) The use of scales attached to the cranes, method already used by most of these vessels, is considered of great interest because it would allow to record and transmit the weight of all the fish taken on board. It should be assessed whether the currently available scales can be adapted to the REM system.

### **3. Data storage and transmission**

All the information should be stored in the control box and the requested data should be secured to prevent possible deletion or tampering. A backup must be made automatically. All data being stored or transmitted could be compressed and securely encrypted.

Because in case of use of different systems there could be problems of data compatibility, the format of the data, both from sensors and video footage, should be unique or compatible, so that the different authorities involved in their analysis would have no problem reading and analysing them. All vessels in the pilot project should use the same REM provider (single procurement for one single system), as this will ensure the best possible data exchange and facilitate data analysis.

Sensor data and video footage will be stored only for the period necessary for the implementation of this pilot project and in any case for a maximum of 3 years.

The storage and management of the video footage should take into account technical options, possible legislation on privacy and data protection and comply with the relevant Personal Data Protection Regulations.

The data should be transmitted via mobile data networks, via WiFi (when the ship approaches the coast and enters WiFi or 4G coverage) or via satellite system. In case of technical failures in the transmission system, information should be shared through the exchange of hard disks.

### **4. Data analysis**

REM systems on board the vessels should be able to deliver the sensor data and video footage in a specified common format for exchange (output). The land based analysing software (REM analyser) should allow to associate the data of the sensors with the video footage, facilitating and speeding up the analysis of the video footage.

The selection of the video footage to be analysed would be based on:

1. Risk analysis, using at least:

- analysis of sensor data (i.e. crane activity or opening of hatches at times when the vessel is not authorized to transfer fish);
- the weight or numbers of individuals (number of weighing events) transmitted by the scale sensors do not correspond to the quantities recorded;
- vessel detention while in navigation (possibility of transshipment at sea);
- system alerts for malfunction, missing data or tampering attempts;
- VMS information indicating activity by other vessels in the vicinity of the processing vessel or non-receipt of auxiliary vessel positions associated with the farm;
- other intelligence information held by the authorities; and,

2. Random examination:

Comprising the analysis of sensor data and video footage from some randomly selected full days. Random analysis of some of the operations would allow to verify that the amounts declared by the operators correspond to those shown in the video footage (number of individuals) and in the weighing sensor data for these operations.

The analysis of the data based on risk analysis would imply that the control authorities where the processing vessel is operating should make available to the company in charge of auditing the data, certain information such as periods in which authorization has been given to do harvesting or quantities reported by the processing vessel.

**Table 1.** List of BFT processing vessels authorised by ICCAT to operate for BFT in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea (the list is not exhaustive and is based on processing vessels for which there has been activity in the EU in the last few years).

<i>Name</i>	<i>ICCAT No.</i>	<i>IMO</i>	<i>Flag</i>	<i>Tonnage (GT)</i>	<i>LOA (m)</i>
ASTRAEA	AT000PAN00234	9832523	PAN	2164	71,1
GOUTA MARU	AT000JPN00653	9746827	JPN	4865	97,45
KENTA MARU	AT000JPN00660	9788772	JPN	5846	122,2
KURIKOMA	AT000PAN00153	9145920	PAN	4177	105,5
LADY TUNA	AT000PAN00199	9453418	PAN	4538	113,4
PALOMA REEFER	AT000PAN00032	9309681	PAN	1267	62,6
PRINCESA GUASIMARA	AT000PAN00155	9442237	PAN	1877	72,1
REINA CRISTINA	AT000PAN00154	9011301	PAN	1176	61,33
TUNA PRINCESS	AT000PAN00185	9314612	PAN	4522	113,4
TUNA QUEEN	AT000PAN00145	9278612	PAN	4449	113,4

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ESTABLISHING AN ICCAT WORKING GROUP  
ON A CATCH DOCUMENT SCHEME**

*RECALLING* that ICCAT agreed at the 2019 annual Commission meeting that detailed discussion should be continued without prejudging the future course of development of Catch Document Schemes (CDS);

*RECOGNIZING* the ever-increasing market demand for fishery products whose legality are verified;

*NOTING* the successful development and implementation of an electronic bluefin tuna Catch Documentation Scheme in ICCAT;

*RECALLING* the *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Process Towards the Establishment of a Catch Certification Scheme for Tuna and Tuna-Like Species* (Rec. 12-09);

*EMPHASIZING* the need to implement a risk-based approach with respect to CDS;

*MINDFUL* of the Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes adopted by FAO in 2017, which set out guidance to States, RFMOs, regional economic integration organizations, and other intergovernmental organisations when developing and implementing new CDS, or harmonizing or reviewing existing CDS;

*RECOGNISING* that the Convention amendment process consisted of two parts, i.e., the first part focused on the review of the Convention and the second part focused on developing specific amendments, and a similar two-step approach could be a good way to proceed with the discussion on this issue;

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

1. An ad hoc Working Group (WG) on CDS is established with the objective of considering whether to establish an electronic CDS for any additional ICCAT stocks/species.
2. In 2022 and 2023, the WG should hold a meeting at least once a year, preferably in conjunction with an intersessional meeting, particularly the IMM Working Group, so that the Meeting Participation Fund can be efficiently utilized to support the participation of developing CPCs. If the WG is held in conjunction with an IMM Working Group meeting, the total duration of these two meetings should be no more than five days.
3. The ICCAT Secretariat will provide simultaneous interpretation in the three ICCAT languages (English, French and Spanish) during all Working Group meetings.
4. The WG is open to all CPCs and accredited observers.
5. The WG will elect its own Chair.
6. Without prejudging the conclusion on possible establishment of the CDS and taking into account the factors specified in paragraph 1 of Rec. 12-09 and the provisions of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Catch Documentation Schemes, the WG should discuss, *inter alia*:
  - a) Which species might be covered.
  - b) What practical and technical difficulties exist with respect to the design and implementation of CDS and how they may be overcome.
  - c) Whether it is feasible and appropriate to utilize the eBCD system for other species and what modifications would be needed.

- d) What enhancements to the capacity of developing CPCs may be needed to support their CDS implementation and how to meet them.
  - e) How to avoid duplication with existing schemes while possibly also reducing the workload of exporting CPCs.
  - f) How to ensure compatibility between CDS being developed or implemented in other tuna RFMOs.
7. If the WG finds any possibility of improving the eBCD in the course of the discussion on the items listed in paragraph 6 above, it should send it to the eBCD WG for further consideration.
8. The Chair of the WG should report on the progress of its work to the PWG during the annual meetings of the Commission in 2022 and 2023. In 2023, or as soon as possible thereafter, the Commission should decide on whether to start work on expansion of CDS to one or more ICCAT stocks/species.

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF  
A WORKING GROUP ON THE USE OF ELECTRONIC MONITORING SYSTEMS (EMS)**

*CONSIDERING* the need for effective monitoring and control of ICCAT fisheries in order to ensure the conservation and management of the stocks managed by ICCAT;

*RECOGNIZING* that technological development, in particular electronic monitoring systems (EMS) can be used to improve control and constitutes a significant means for authorities to ensure compliance with the applicable rules;

*CONSIDERING* that technological developments are considerably advancing each year and that related tools should be explored on a regular basis to improve the management of ICCAT fisheries;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* the benefits, including potential cost savings of implementing EMS on commercial fishing vessels;

*FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING* that EMS can enhance the collection of fisheries data for scientific and management purposes;

*REITERATING* that additional measures on control and traceability may be required to reinforce the efforts made over the past years for the recovery of fish stocks in the ICCAT Convention area.

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

1. An Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) Working Group is established with the objective of exploring the use of available EMS technologies (e.g. closed circuit televisions and artificial intelligence) in ICCAT fisheries, with a focus on commercial fisheries, in order to improve the effectiveness of monitoring and control as well as the collection of scientific data, taking into account the needs and specificities of each fishery.
2. The EMS Working Group should carry out the following tasks:
  - a) To compile and evaluate the most relevant reports, documents and other sources of information relating to experiences on the use and implementation of EMS;
  - b) Identify the objective and purpose of potential applications of EMS in ICCAT fisheries, including considering potential improvements that could be achieved in vessel monitoring and control from the use of EMS, including preventing inaccurate catch reporting and improving the reliability and coverage of collected data, as well as addressing IUU fishing;
  - c) To identify challenges and limitations relating to the use of EMS;
  - d) To explore the costs associated with implementing EMS for the different technical solutions available on the market;
  - e) To identify the type of activities that can be recorded and the data that can be collected by the system depending on the type of fishing activity and fishing vessel;
  - f) To identify which components of the fishing operations should be monitored;
  - g) To compare the use of data collected through human observers and EMS, and evaluate the potential of EMS to enhance, supplement and possibly offer alternatives to human observers under appropriate circumstances;

- h) Where needed and appropriate, to propose and evaluate pilot projects on the use of EMS in ICCAT fisheries; assess and draw lessons from pilot projects on the use of EMS performed outside of the remit of this Working Group, including in non-ICCAT fisheries (e.g., other RFMOs, CPCs, etc.);
  - i) To identify minimum standards and consider the specifications needed for the implementation of EMS technology by CPCs, including considerations such as:
    - i. the technical requirements, such as minimum number and resolution of cameras, number and type of sensors, hardware, GPS, etc. and their position and installation on board relevant vessels;
    - ii. data management specifications such as data standards, data transmission protocols, data confidentiality and data protection, data storage and period of storage, retrieval and data sharing;
    - iii. criteria on the ownership and maintenance of EMS and the associated data;
    - iv. requirements of any software that may be used to analyze the collected data and video footage, including capabilities in terms of system diagnostics function and the ability to create and transmit alerts and warnings;
    - v. authorities or bodies entrusted with the data analysis, protocols for the data analysis, analyzing software and possible use of artificial intelligence;
    - vi. roles and responsibilities of the different actors involved in the approval of the system and the implementation (e.g., operators/masters, suppliers, authorities, ICCAT Secretariat, or subsidiary bodies);
  - j) To recommend implementation strategies and priorities for different ICCAT fisheries and implementation timelines, taking into account the relevant provisions of ICCAT Recommendations.
3. The EMS Working Group should meet for the first time as soon as practically possible after the adoption of this Resolution.
  4. The Working Group will be assisted by the ICCAT Secretariat. To facilitate immediate work on this matter, the Working Group will be initially chaired by the Chair of the Permanent Working Group (PWG), unless and until the Working Group elects its own chair. The Working Group will consult, as needed and appropriate, with the SCRS in light of the ongoing work of that body on EMS, as well as where needed, with the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM).
  5. The ICCAT Secretariat will provide simultaneous interpretation in the three ICCAT languages (English, French and Spanish) during all Working Group meetings.
  6. As part of the first meeting, the EMS Working Group should develop a workplan covering the period 2022-2024. The EMS Working Group will submit an annual progress report, including any recommendations to the PWG for appropriate action at least 30 calendar days in advance of the ICCAT Annual Meeting.



**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ESTABLISHING  
A PROCESS TO ADDRESS LABOR STANDARDS IN ICCAT FISHERIES**

*RECOGNIZING* that various international instruments speak to the issue of certain labor standards and labor abuses;

*RECALLING* that the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO's) Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries provides that "States should ensure that fishing facilities and equipment as well as all fisheries activities allow for safe, healthy and fair working and living conditions and meet internationally agreed standards adopted by relevant international organizations";

*AWARE OF* work being done to address the issue of labor standards in the seafood sector in other relevant international organizations and fora, such as the International Labor Organization (ILO), Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the recommendations from the fourth meeting of the Joint FAO/ILO/International Maritime Organization (IMO) Ad Hoc Working Group on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and Related Matters;

*WELCOMING* the initial exchange on labor practices and potential labor abuses during the 2021 Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) Working Group meeting, during which some CPCs expressed their concern about the practice and stressed the urgency of addressing it;

*FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING* that unfair and abusive labor practices and unsafe working conditions are dire problems in international fisheries that must be both condemned in the strongest way possible and eliminated through effective CPC actions, taken collectively and individually;

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

1. An *ad hoc* Working Group on labor standards is established to identify actions that CPCs can take, individually and collectively, to improve labor standards in ICCAT fisheries, including through cooperation with other relevant international organizations and assistance to developing CPCs in the development and strengthening of relevant domestic legislation on labor standards and in the enforcement of that legislation.
2. The *ad hoc* Working Group will meet intersessionally beginning in 2022, preferably in conjunction with another ICCAT intersessional meeting. All CPCs are encouraged to participate in the Working Group. At its first meeting, the Working Group will elect its chair. The Working Group may invite outside experts to support its work, as needed.
3. The *ad hoc* Working Group will report on the progress of its deliberations at the 2022 ICCAT Annual Meeting as well as provide its recommendations regarding the need for additional intersessional meetings. The Commission will consider this report and decide on next steps.
4. CPCs are strongly encouraged to immediately take all appropriate actions under domestic and international law to improve and enforce requirements regarding labor standards and the prohibition of labor abuses including by, where applicable, strengthening these effective controls over vessels flying their flag that participate in ICCAT fisheries or in fishing-related activities that support such fishing.

## ANNEX 6

## OTHER DECISIONS ADOPTED BY ICCAT IN 2021

**6.1 PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENT OF THE RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE PROTECTION, ACCESS TO, AND DISSEMINATION OF DATA COMPILED BY ICCAT\***

This is an addendum to Annex 6 of the ICCAT Report for biennial period, 2010-2011, Part I (2010) – Vol. 1, “Rules and Procedures for the Protection, Access to, and Dissemination of Data Compiled by ICCAT”. This amendment aims to clarify the rules and procedures that apply to data collected by entities contracted under ICCAT research and data collection programmes. As ICCAT and the SCRS continue to promote Scientific Research of ICCAT species through the participation of CPCs, national scientist and Academic and Research Centres, it is important that rules and procedures be defined to ensure that data collected under these research programs are properly evaluated and effectively used for scientific advice.

## ANNEX 6

**RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE PROTECTION, ACCESS TO, AND DISSEMINATION OF DATA  
COMPILED BY ICCAT**

**1. Basic principles relating to the dissemination of data by the ICCAT**

1. Data and information held by the ICCAT Commission or Secretariat, and by service providers or contractors acting on their behalf, shall only be released in accordance with these Rules and Procedures; which reflect the policies of confidentiality and security determined by the Commission.
2. Data may be disseminated if the CPC (Contracting Party or Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity) providing the data to the ICCAT authorizes its release.
3. Persons duly authorized by the Executive Secretary within the ICCAT Secretariat and service providers, who have read and signed the Commission’s confidentiality protocol, shall have access to the data necessary to perform their ICCAT duties.
4. Officers of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies shall have access to the data necessary to perform their ICCAT duties.
5. CPCs shall have access to data to serve the purposes of the Convention, including data:
  - a) covering vessels flying their flag in the ICCAT Convention area.
  - b) covering any vessels fishing in waters under their jurisdiction.
  - c) covering vessels applying to fish in their national waters, unloading in their ports or transshipping fish within waters under their jurisdiction.
  - d) for the purpose of compliance and enforcement activities on the high seas, consistent with the Convention and the conservation and management measures and other relevant decisions adopted by the Commission, subject to the rules and procedures for access and dissemination of such data that the Commission will adopt under paragraph 24.
  - e) for the purpose of scientific and other research, if the CPC that originally provided that data authorizes the Commission to release them. In cases where a CPC elects to provide an ongoing authorization for the release of such data, the CPC may at any time cancel this authorization by notifying the Secretariat that it has revised its earlier decision.
6. To the greatest extent practical, the ICCAT Commission, Secretariat and their service providers, should disseminate data in a timely manner.
7. The ICCAT Commission, Secretariat and their services providers, shall put in place appropriate technical and organizational measures to protect the data they receive against unauthorized or unlawful processing, especially disclosure, and against accidental loss, destruction or damage.

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\* Adopted for a provisional one year period pending additional intersessional review and reconsideration at the 2022 ICCAT annual meeting.

## 2. Risk classification and definition of confidentiality

8. Data covered by these Rules and Procedures will be classified in accordance with the risk classification methodology included in **Table 1**, which reflects *inter alia* the damage that would be done to the operations or creditability of the Commission as a consequence of the unauthorized disclosure or modification of such information.
9. Data covered by these Rules and Procedures were determined to be either public domain or non-public domain data in accordance with the definition of confidentiality established in **Table 1**.

### 9. (bis) Clarification for data arising from ICCAT Research and Data Collection Programmes

*Associated conventional tagging data*: examples; Tag shedding and Tag seeding data are classified as no risk and thus fall under the public domain data category. Associated conventional tagging data includes species, seeding and recovery dates and positions, gear type, flag, and fish information where available. Associated conventional tagging data in this context does not include information identifying the fishing vessel that reported the tag, for example, which would otherwise alter its security classification.

*Biological data* resulting from ICCAT Research and Data Collection Programmes are classified as medium risk and thus fall under the non-public domain data category. This should include biological samples and initial results from the analyses of such samples; for ageing, genetic, maturity and reproductive studies, stock identification samples such as microconstituents, parasites, stomach content, muscle or any other biological tissue used for scientific analyses.

*Fisheries independent indices* including aerial surveys, larval sampling, acoustic sonar data, video recording, and sampling from scientific based observer programs are classified as medium risk and thus fall under the non-public domain data category.

All other data types follow the definitions and classification rules outlined in **Table 1 and 2**.

## 3. Dissemination of public domain data

10. Data in the public domain shall not reveal the individual activities of any vessel, company or person and shall not contain private information. Catch and effort data in the public domain shall be aggregated by flag, gear, month and 1° x 1° grid (for surface fisheries) or 5°x5° grid (for longline fisheries).
11. Annual catch estimates and aggregated catch and effort data that can be used to identify the activities of any vessel, company or person are not in the public domain.
12. Except for data as described in Paragraphs 10 and 11, the types of data listed in **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 6** have been designated to be public domain data.
13. Public Domain data shall be available to any persons for (a) downloading from the Commission's website and/or (b) release by the Commission on request.
14. The website should contain a statement describing the conditions associated with the viewing or downloading of public domain data (for example, that the source of the data must be acknowledged), and should require the person requesting the data to "Accept" these conditions before viewing or downloading can begin.
14. (bis) *Public domain data collected by entities contracted by ICCAT research and data collection programmes (e.g. conventional tagging) shall be quality controlled and uploaded to the ICCAT website by the Secretariat, on an annual basis. Immediate access to the most up to date quality-controlled data will be granted to respective SCRS working groups and participants of workshops organized by the research programme in question (e.g. capacity building workshops). Any other users wishing to access such data must follow the procedure outlined in section 17bis (c) below.*

#### 4. Dissemination of non-public domain data

##### 4.1 Definition of non-public domain data

15. Subject to the decisions of the Commission, all types of data not described in paragraph 12 shall be referred to as non-public domain data.

16. A list of examples of non-public domain data can be found in **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 6**.

##### 4.2 General rules for dissemination of, and access to, non-public domain data

17. Access to and dissemination of non-public domain data shall be authorized in accordance with these Rules and Procedures and the policies of confidentiality and security established in the Commission's Information Security Policy (ISP).

18. The ICCAT Secretariat shall log and report to the Commission all access and dissemination of non-public domain data, including the name and affiliation of the person, the type of data accessed or disseminated, the purpose for which the data were requested, the date when the data were requested, the date when the data were released and authorizations that may have been required.

18. (bis) *In the case data gathered within ICCAT Research and Data Collection Programmes:*

- a) Data will be accessible, once checked by ICCAT staff for quality control, to related SCRS subsidiary body (e.g. Species group) and the research teams directly involved in data generation, authorizing their use for scientific purposes as stipulated by the terms of the contract related to the collection of these data.
- b) Metadata relating to such data should be periodically updated on the ICCAT website.
- c) Data requests may be submitted by any person(s) or institutions(s) using the form found in this Addendum. Each request will be considered by an evaluation committee (composed of the Chair and Vice Chair of the SCRS, Rapporteur of the respective Species Group, and programme Coordinator if still available) to guarantee adherence to the ICCAT Publication Policy and alignment with the respective research programme priorities. The Evaluation Committee will consult with the data provider(s) to decide whether to authorize the data request. If the data provider(s) confirm that there is no conflict of interest, the data will be released after signing the Confidentiality Agreement (**Attachment 2 to Appendix 3 of ANNEX 6**). Should the data provider(s) seek preferential use of the data, this request will be considered and granted up to a period of two years, or for the period of time specifically agreed in the contract. The Secretariat will be responsible for coordinating and facilitating this process. The Evaluation Committee will strive to return a decision within 30 days of the request. The Secretariat will provide to the SCRS Plenary meeting a list of data requests and decisions in the annual report of activities.

##### 4.3 Access to non-public domain data by the Staff of the Secretariat, the ICCAT service providers, and Officers of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies

19. Persons duly authorized by the Executive Secretary, within the ICCAT Secretariat and service providers, including scientific experts within the SCRS, shall have access to the data necessary to perform their ICCAT duties. Officers of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies shall have access to the data necessary to perform their ICCAT duties. All such persons shall sign a Confidentiality Agreement with the Executive Secretary and maintain the data security standards of the Commission in respect of data to which they have access. The Executive Secretary shall maintain a register of all such persons (including the purpose for which they require access to the data) and make the register available to a CPC on written request.

#### **4.4 Access to non-public domain data by CPCs**

20. CPCs shall have access to non-public domain data to serve the purposes of the Convention, including data:
  - a) Covering vessels flying their flag in the ICCAT Convention area
  - b) Covering any vessels fishing in waters under their jurisdiction
  - c) Covering vessels applying to fish in their national waters, unloading in their ports or transshipping fish within waters under their jurisdiction
  - d) For the purpose of scientific and other research, if the CPC that originally provided that data authorizes the Commission to release them. In cases where a CPC elects to provide an ongoing authorization for the release of such data, the CPC may at any time cancel this authorization by notifying the Secretariat that it has revised its earlier decision.
21. CPCs shall notify the Secretariat of a small number of representatives (preferably only 2) authorized to receive non-public domain data. Such notification will include name, affiliation, and contact information (e.g. telephone, facsimile, email address). The ICCAT Secretariat will maintain a list of such authorized representatives. CPCs and the Secretariat shall ensure the list of CPC representatives is kept up to date and made available.
22. The authorized representative(s) of the CPCs are responsible for ensuring the confidentiality and security of the non-public domain data according to its risk classification and in a manner consistent with security standards established by the Commission for the ICCAT Secretariat.
23. The non-public domain data described in paragraph 20 will be made available by the Secretariat to authorized representatives of the CPCs for release by the Commission on request and, where appropriate, downloading from the Commission's website in accordance with the Commission's ISP.
24. For the purpose of compliance and enforcement activities on the high seas, non-public domain data will be made available subject to separate rules and procedures for the access and dissemination of such data, that the Commission will adopt for these purposes.
25. VMS data will be made available for scientific purposes, subject to the separate rules and procedures referred to in paragraph 24 above.
26. Access to non-public domain data by CPCs shall be administered by the Executive Secretary on the basis of these Rules and Procedures and the framework at **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 6**.
27. The Executive Secretary will implement the Framework and authorize access to and dissemination of non-public domain data.
28. Unless otherwise decided by the Member or CPC responsible for its external affairs, participating Territories shall have the same access rights to data as CPCs.
29. A CPC that has not fulfilled its obligations to provide data to the Commission for two consecutive years shall not be granted access to Non-Public Domain data until all such matters are rectified. A CPC whose representative, authorized in accordance with paragraphs 21 and 22 above, failed to observe the rules stipulated in these Rules and Procedures shall not be granted access to Non-Public Domain data until the appropriate actions have been taken.

#### **4.5 Exchange of data with other regional fisheries management organizations**

30. If the Commission enters into agreements for the exchange of data with other regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) or other organizations, such agreements must include requirements that the other RFMO provides equivalent data on a reciprocal basis and maintains the data provided to them in a manner consistent with the security standards established by the Commission. The data that may be exchanged is specified in **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 6**. At each annual session the Executive Secretary will provide copies of data exchange agreements that exist with other RFMOs and a summary of the data exchanges that occurred during the previous 12 months under such agreements.

#### **4.6 Disseminations of non-public domain data in other circumstances**

31. Non-Public Domain data will be made available by the Secretariat to any persons if the CPC that originally provided that data authorizes the Commission to release them. In cases where a CPC elects to provide an ongoing authorization for the release of such data, the CPC may at any time cancel this authorization by notifying the Secretariat that it has revised its earlier decision. Unless otherwise requested by the provider of the data:

Including universities, researchers, NGOs, media, consultants, industry, federations, etc.

- a) Persons that request non-public domain data shall complete and sign the Data Request Form and sign the Confidentiality Agreement and provide them to the Commission in advance of obtaining access to said data.
  - b) The Data Request Form and Confidentiality Agreement shall then be forwarded to the CPC that originally provided the requested data and the provider shall be requested to authorize the Commission to release the data.
  - c) Such persons shall also agree to maintain the data requested in a manner consistent with the security standards established by the Commission for the ICCAT Secretariat.
32. CPCs that have provided non-public domain data to the Commission shall notify the Secretariat regarding their representatives with the authority to authorize the release of non-public domain data by the Commission. Decisions whether to authorize the release of such data shall be made in a timely manner.

#### **4.7 Force majeure**

33. The Executive Secretary may authorize the release of Non-Public Domain data to rescue agencies in cases of *force majeure* in which the safety of life at sea is at risk.

#### **4.8 Storage limitation**

34. Non-public domain data shall be retained for no longer than it is necessary for the purpose for which the data has initially been collected/transferred by the CPCs.

#### **5. Periodic Review**

35. The Commission or its subsidiary bodies will periodically review these Rules and Procedures, and subsidiary documents, and the rules and procedures referred to in paragraphs 24 and 25 above, and amend these if necessary.

#### **6. Final Clause**

36. These Rules and Procedures do not prevent a CPC from authorizing the release of any data it has provided to the ICCAT.

**Table 1.** Types of information and confidentiality classification. Certain types of information such as Task 1 and Task 2 already have mandatory reporting and are publicly available through the ICCAT web site and the ICCAT *Statistical Bulletin*.

<i>Information Type</i>	<i>Risk Classification</i>
Operational level catch and effort data (e.g. set-by-set CPUE)	High
Annual catch estimates stratified by gear/flag and species for the ICCAT statistical areas (Task 1)	mandatory reporting already in place
Aggregated catch and effort data stratified by gear/year/month, 5x5 (LL) or 1x1 (surface), and flag (Task 2 catch/effort)	mandatory reporting already in place
Records of vessel unloading and logbooks	Medium
Transshipment consignments by species	Medium
Biological data (after the period set in article 17bis c)	mandatory reporting already in place
Conventional tagging data	No risk
Detailed electronic tagging data	Medium
ICCAT Record of Fishing Vessels (vessels authorized to fish; vessels authorized to transport; support vessels; carrier vessels)	mandatory reporting already in place
Vessel and gear attributes from other open sources	No risk
Oceanographic and meteorological data	No risk
Movements of fishing vessels recorded at a fine resolution/VMS vessel position, direction and speed	High
Boarding and Inspection Reports	High
Certified observer personnel	Medium
Certified inspection personnel	High
Catch Documentation Scheme	Medium
Port State Inspection Reports	Medium
Violations and infringements, detailed	High
Annual number of active vessels, by gear type and flag	mandatory reporting already in place
Economic data	[unassigned]
[Social data]	[unassigned]
Fisheries intelligence-sharing information	High
Weekly catch reports	High
Caging declarations	Medium

**Table 2.** Annotations on information types mentioned in **Table 1.**

<i>Information Type</i>	<i>Annotations</i>
Operational level Catch Effort data	Collected on fishing vessel logbooks and by observers.
Compliance-related observer data	Excludes operational catch and effort data, biological data and vessel and gear attributes.
Biological data	Biological data include size data, data on gender and maturity, genetic data, data on hard parts such as otoliths, stomach contents, and isotopic N15/C14 data collected by observers, port samplers and other sources. "Biological data" in this context does not include information identifying the fishing vessel, for example, which would otherwise alter its security classification.
Conventional tagging data	Conventional tagging data include species, release and recapture positions, lengths and dates. "Tagging data" in this context does not include information identifying the fishing vessel that recaptured the tagged tuna, for example, which would otherwise alter its security classification.
Electronic tagging data	Detailed electronic tagging data include detailed records from pop-up or archival tags such as date, time, depth, temperature, light intensity, etc.
ICCAT Record of Vessels	Covers vessels authorized to fish in the ICCAT Convention area also covers records of transport and other types of vessels
Vessel and gear attributes from other sources	Includes data collected by observers and port inspectors. Covers all vessels (i.e. includes vessels restricted to national jurisdiction-domestic fleets). Includes electronic equipment.
Oceanographic and meteorological data	"Oceanographic and meteorological data" in this context does not include information identifying the fishing vessel that collected the information, for example, which would otherwise alter its security classification.
Certified observer personnel	If identified by individual then risk classification would be assigned to HIGH.
Certified inspection personnel	If identified by individual then risk classification would be assigned to HIGH.
Violations and infringements, detailed	May cover individual violations and infringements pending investigation and/or prosecution. Summarized information included in Biannual ICCAT Report from CPCs. Includes compliance information collected by observers.
Economic data	Insufficient information currently available to determine Risk Classification.



**Public Domain Data**

The following types of data are considered to be in the public domain:

1. Annual catch estimates (Task I) stratified by gear, flag and species for the ICCAT statistical area;
2. The annual numbers of vessels active in the ICCAT Convention area stratified by gear type and flag;
3. Catch and effort/data (Task II) aggregated by gear type, flag, year/month and, for longline, 5° latitude and 5° longitude, and, for surface gear types, 1° latitude and 1° longitude – and made up of observations from a minimum of three vessels;
4. Biological data (after the period set in article 17bis c);
5. Conventional tagging data;
6. The ICCAT Records of Fishing Vessels;
7. Information on vessel and gear attributes;
8. Any vessel record established for the purpose of the Commission's VMS;
9. Oceanographic and meteorological data;
10. [Social data].

**Examples of Non-Public Domain Data**

The following are examples of types of data considered to be Non-Public Domain:

1. Operational level catch-effort data (detailed set-by-set information)
2. Records of vessel unloading
3. Transshipment consignments by species
4. Data describing (at a fine resolution) the movement of vessels including near- real time Commission VMS data (vessel position, direction and speed)
5. Boarding and Inspection Reports
6. Certified inspection personnel
7. Raw data from any Catch Documentation Scheme or Trade Documentation Scheme
8. Port State Inspection Reports
9. Violations and infringements, detailed
10. Economic data
11. Fisheries intelligence-sharing information
12. Detailed electronic tagging data
13. Data that reveal the individual activities of any vessel, company or person, including caging declarations and weekly catch reports.

*Appendix 3 to ANNEX 6***Framework for Access to Non-Public Domain Data**

1. In accordance with the policies for data protection, security and confidentiality established by the Commission's Information Security Policy (ISP), a Contracting Party or non-Contracting Cooperating Entity or Fishing Entity (CPC) shall have access to non-public domain data types covering describing the activities of any vessels:
  - a) covering vessels flying their flag in the ICCAT Convention area or;
  - b) covering any vessels fishing in waters under their national jurisdiction or;
  - c) covering vessels applying to fish in their national waters, unloading in their ports or transshipping fish within waters under their national jurisdiction;
  - d) for the purpose of scientific and other research, if the CPC that originally provided that data authorizes the Commission to release them. In cases where a CPC elects to provide an ongoing authorization for the release of such data, the CPC may at any time cancel this authorization by notifying the Secretariat that it has revised its earlier decision.
2. For the purposes of compliance and enforcement activities on the high seas, non-public domain data will be made available subject to separate rules and procedures for the access and dissemination of such data, that the Commission will adopt for these purposes. VMS data will be made available for scientific purposes, subject to these same separate rules and procedures.
3. In regard to paragraph 1:
  - a) CPCs shall provide a written request for access to such data to the Executive Secretary, specifying the purpose of the Convention by reference to the relevant article(s). In so doing, CPCs shall use the Commission Data Request Form (**Attachment 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 6**).
  - b) The CPC shall undertake to only use such data for the purpose described in the written request. The CPC shall also complete and sign the Commission Confidentiality Agreement (**Attachment 2 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 6**).
  - c) The Executive Secretary shall not authorize the release of more data than is necessary to achieve the purpose described in the written request.
4. The Executive Secretary shall not authorize access to non-public domain data by any CPC that has not fulfilled its obligations to provide data to the Commission for two consecutive years until all such matters are rectified. The Executive Secretary also shall not authorize access to a CPC whose authorized representative failed to observe the Rules and Procedures for the Protection, Access to and Dissemination of Data Compiled by the Commission until the CPC informs the Executive Secretary that appropriate actions have been taken.
5. The Executive Secretary may attach conditions appropriate for the access to such data (such as that the data be deleted upon achievement of the purpose for which it was released or by a pre-determined date, that a register of persons accessing the data be maintained and furnished to the Commission upon request, etc.)
6. Requests may be made for a standing authorization, such that CPCs may have multiple accesses to the requested data for the same purpose as of the original written request.
7. Dissatisfaction with the Executive Secretary's decisions in regard to access to non-public domain data by CPCs shall be resolved by the Commission Chairman.

**Data Request Form**

**To the Executive Secretary of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)**

I wish to submit the following request to receive and analyse data collected by ICCAT. I have read the above Data Policy, noting in particular, the matters relating to data confidentiality and usage specified in Annex 6 of the ICCAT REPORT for biennial period, 2010-2011, Part I (2010) – Vol. 1, “Rules and Procedures for the Protection, Access to, and Dissemination of Data Compiled By ICCAT”, and providing an appropriate acknowledgement in the case of any publications arising from the use of these data, and agree to all the conditions listed.

<p><b>Name of the person(s) or institution(s) requesting the data and contact details</b></p>
<p><b>Purpose/Project outline</b>  <i>If non-public domain data are being requested, the use of the data shall be authorized only for the purpose described below.</i></p>
<p><b>Data requested</b>  <i>If applicable, the specification of data being requested should refer to the type of data and any parameters relevant to the type of data, which may include, inter alia, the gear types, time periods, geographic areas and fishing nations covered, and the level of stratification of each parameter.</i></p>
<p><b>Name(s), job title(s) and affiliation(s) of the person(s) requesting access to the data; the use of the non-public domain data shall be authorized only for the person(s) listed.</b>  <i>Note, the Secretariat expects to be informed of any changes to the data users list.</i></p>
<p><b>Intentions with respect to publication of the results of the proposed work</b></p>

Signature and date:

Name:

Position:

Organisation:

Approved / Not Approved

Signature and date:

*Attachment 2 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 6***Confidentiality Agreement**

Confidentiality Agreement for the Dissemination of Non-Public Domain Data by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

Applicants name(s) and full contact details and signatures  
 Full name Institution, address and contact details  
 Signature and date

I/we agree to the following:

- To abide by any conditions attached to use of the data by the Executive Secretary;
- That the data shall be used only for the purpose for which the data are being requested, be accessed only by the individuals listed in Item 3 of the Data Request Form, and be destroyed upon completion of the usage for which the data are being requested;
- To make no unauthorized copies of the data requested. If a copy of all, or part, of the data requested is made by the applicant, all copies, or part thereof, will be registered with the Executive Secretary and will be destroyed upon completion of purpose for which the data was requested;
- To abide by the Commission's data security standards as specified in the Commission's Information Security Policy and the Rules and Procedures for Protection, Access to, and Dissemination of, Data Compiled by the Commission;
- That prior to the publication of any report of an analysis for which the requested data will be used, the report shall be provided to, and cleared by, the Executive Secretary of the ICCAT, who shall ensure that no non-public domain data will be published;
- To provide copies of all published reports of the results of the work undertaken using the data released shall be provided to the ICCAT Secretariat and to the relevant subsidiary body of ICCAT;
- Applicant(s) will not disclose, divulge, or transfer, either directly or indirectly, the confidential information to any third party without the written consent of the Executive Secretary;
- Applicant(s) shall promptly notify the Executive Secretary, in writing, of any unauthorized, negligent or inadvertent disclosure of confidential information of the ICCAT.
- Applicant(s) assume all liability, if any, in respect of a breach of this Confidentiality Agreement, once the data requested is released to the applicant(s).
- Pursuant to paragraph 29 of the Rules and Procedures for the Protection, Access to, and Dissemination of, Data Compiled by the Commission, CPC(s) shall not be granted access to non-public domain data until the appropriate actions have been taken to account for any disclosure in violation of the Agreement by the applicant or, *inter alia*, its affiliates, employees, attorneys, accountants, consultants, contractors, or other advisers or agents; and.
- That this Agreement may be terminated by giving written notice to the other party.

**Data that May be Disseminated to Other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs)**

***Operational level data***

1. Operational-level tuna fisheries data may be disseminated to other regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs), subject to the terms of the agreement specified in paragraph 30 of these Rules and Procedures. Such data includes catch and effort (including by-catch of mammals, turtles, sharks and billfish), observer, unloading, transshipment and port inspection data.

***Aggregated data***

2. Aggregated catch and effort data may be disseminated to other RFMOs. Such data includes:
  - Data for long line gear aggregated by flag State by 5° latitude and by 5° longitude by month
  - Data for surface gear (including purse seine) aggregated by flag State by 1° latitude and by 1° degree longitude by month
  - Aggregated observer data (made up of observations from a minimum of three vessels).

***Other data***

3. Monitoring, control, surveillance, inspection and enforcement data may be disseminated to other RFMOs. Such data includes:
  - The names and other markings of 'Vessels of Interest' to each organization;
  - Transshipment verification reports for vessels transshipping in the Convention area of one RFMO but which have fished within the Convention area of the other.

**6.2 SCRS REVISED ROADMAP FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION (MSE) AND HARVEST CONTROL RULES (HCR)**

This schedule is intended to guide the development of harvest strategies for priority stocks identified in Rec. 15-07 (North Atlantic albacore, North Atlantic swordfish, eastern and western Atlantic bluefin tuna, and tropical tunas). It builds on the initial roadmap that was appended to the 2016 Annual Meeting report. It provides an aspirational timeline that is subject to revision and should be considered in conjunction with the stock assessment schedule that is revised annually by the SCRS.\* Due to the amount of cross-disciplinary dialogue that may be needed, intersessional Panel meetings and/or meetings of the Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) will be necessary. The aspirational nature of this timeline assumes adoption of a final management procedure for northern albacore in 2021 and interim management procedures for bluefin tuna in 2022, and northern swordfish and tropical tunas as soon as 2023. However, the exact timeline for delivery is contingent on funding, prioritization, and other work of the Commission and SCRS.

\* For 2015 through 2020, the roadmap reflects progress to-date in some detail. For 2021 onward, more general steps for the SCRS and Commission are anticipated pending outcomes of the 2021 Annual Meeting.

	<i>Northern Albacore</i>	<i>Bluefin Tuna</i>	<i>Northern Swordfish</i>	<i>Tropical Tunas</i>
<b>2015</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commission established management objectives in Rec. 15-04</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commission provided initial guidance for the development of harvest strategies for priority stocks, including tropical tunas (Rec. 15-07)</li> </ul>
<b>2016</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SCRS conducted stock assessment</li> <li>- SCRS evaluated a range of candidate HCRs through MSE</li> <li>- PA2 identified performance indicators</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commission identified performance indicators (Rec. 16-01). Commission adopted MSE roadmap, including plan for activities for tropical tunas for 2016-2021</li> </ul>
<b>2017</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SCRS evaluated the performance of candidate HCRs through MSE, using the performance indicators developed by PA2</li> <li>- SWGSM narrowed the candidate HCRs and referred to Commission</li> <li>- Commission selected and adopted an HCR with associated TAC at the Annual Meeting (Rec. 17-04)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SCRS conducted stock assessment</li> <li>- Core modelling group completed development of modelling framework</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SCRS conducted stock assessment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SCRS reviewed performance indicators for YFT, SKJ, and BET</li> <li>- SWGSM recommended a multi-stock approach for development of MSE framework</li> </ul>

<p><b>2018</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SCRS contracted independent expert to complete peer review of MSE code</li> <li>- Call for Tenders issued for peer review</li> <li>- SCRS tested the performance of the adopted HCR, as well as variations of the HCR, as requested in Rec. 17-04</li> <li>- SCRS developed criteria for the identification of exceptional circumstances</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SCRS conducted joint MSE meeting on BFT/SWO</li> <li>- SCRS reviewed but could not adopt reference set of Oms</li> <li>- SCRS began testing candidate management procedures (MPs)</li> <li>- SWGSM considered qualitative management objectives</li> <li>- BFT WG reviewed progress and developed detailed road map</li> <li>- Commission adopted conceptual management objectives (Res. 18-03)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SCRS conducted joint meeting on BFT/SWO MSE</li> <li>- SCRS contracted MSE technical expert to develop OM framework, define initial set of OMs, and conduct initial conditioning of OMs</li> <li>- SWGSM considered qualitative management objectives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SCRS contracted with technical experts: start development of MSE framework (phase I)</li> <li>- SCRS conducted bigeye tuna stock assessment</li> </ul>
<p><b>2019</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SCRS addressed recommendations of the peer reviewer</li> <li>- SCRS updated performance of the interim HCR and variants</li> <li>- SCRS produced consolidated report on MSE</li> </ul> <p>1. COMM: PA2 considered possible approaches that could be useful in developing guidance on a range of appropriate management responses if exceptional circumstances occur, including those implemented by other RFMOs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SCRS held three BFT MSE Technical Group meetings with significant progress but advised at least one additional year of work needed</li> <li>- SCRS continued to evaluate candidate MPs</li> <li>- At intersessional meeting, PA2 reviewed and developed initial operational management objectives and identified performance indicators</li> <li>- SCRS held December webinar to review OM progress</li> </ul> <p>COMM: PA2 reviewed MSE progress and advised the Commission on next</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SWO Species Group meeting</li> <li>- SCRS contracted with technical expert to develop initial MSE framework</li> <li>- Commission adopted conceptual management objectives at the Annual Meeting (Res. 19-14)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SCRS conducted yellowfin tuna stock assessment</li> <li>- SCRS agreed on developing a western skipjack (W-SKJ) MSE and a multi-stock MSE (eastern skipjack, bigeye and yellowfin tuna)</li> </ul> <p>Commission updated MSE roadmap for the period 2019-2024<sup>1</sup> and requests that the SCRS “refines the MSE process in line with the SCRS roadmap and continue testing the candidate management procedures. On this basis, the Commission shall review the candidate</p>

<sup>1</sup> [https://iccat.int/mse/en/COM\\_ROADMAP\\_ICCAT\\_MSE\\_PROCESS\\_ENG.pdf](https://iccat.int/mse/en/COM_ROADMAP_ICCAT_MSE_PROCESS_ENG.pdf)



		steps, including the need for an update of the stock assessment to provide TAC advice for at least 2021		<i>management procedures, including pre-agreed management actions to be taken under various stock conditions. These shall take into account the differential impacts of fishing operations (e.g. purse seine, longline and baitboat) on juvenile mortality and the yield at MSY.” (Rec. 19-02)</i>
<b>2020</b>	1. COMM (PA2) developed guidance intersessionally on a range of appropriate management responses should exceptional circumstances be found to occur (5-6 March, PA2 intersessional)	1. SCRS conducted stock assessment update and developed TAC advice for 2021 and 2022	1. SCRS continued development of MSE framework, including the operating model conditioning and refinement of the uncertainty grid	COVID slowed progress on multi-stock MSE but SCRS developed a preliminary OM for W-SKJ MSE.
	2. SCRS conducted NALB stock assessment (in June)	2. COMM set TACs for at least 2021, based on stock assessment update, at the Annual Meeting (Rec. 20-06, Rec. 20-07).	2. SCRS developed example candidate MPs	
	3. SCRS evaluated existence of exceptional circumstances	3. SCRS continued development of MSE framework including the operating model conditioning and the uncertainty grid		
	4. COMM set new TAC for 2021 based on the HCR and 2020 assessment (Rec. 20-04)			

<b>2021</b>	1. SCRS prepared inputs for a new MSE framework using the Stock Synthesis (SS) model	1. SCRS adopted reference (OM) grid and decided plausibility weighting	1. SCRS continued development and testing of candidate MPs. SCRS continued work on the reference (OM) grid, including diagnostics	1. COMM reviewed and proposed update of tropical tuna MSE roadmap
	2. SCRS evaluated existence of exceptional circumstances	2. SCRS initiated independent peer review of MSE code	2. SCRS continued work on criteria for determining exceptional circumstances, taking into account the exceptional circumstances protocol for NALB	2. SCRS agreed on major sources of uncertainty to be considered in the MSE and candidate performance indicators for tropical tuna MSEs
	3. COMM: a) reviewed and endorsed guidance developed intersessionally on management responses in the case of exceptional circumstances b) reviewed the interim HCR and adopt a long-term MP, including the TAC, at the Annual Meeting	3. SCRS continued development and testing of candidate MPs	3. SCRS initiated independent peer review of MSE code	3. SCRS conducted bigeye stock assessment
		4. SCRS/BFT SG initiated two additional subgroups on Indices and Modeling to address key issues. Subgroup on Growth in Farms continued its work	4. COMM (PA4) reviewed MSE progress, and began considering performance indicators and a limit reference point at the 1st Intersessional PA4 meeting. Additional dialogue in 2022 was proposed.	4. SCRS recommended modifying OM for W-SKJ to include the whole of the western Atlantic

<b>2021</b>		5. COMM (PA2) – Intersessional Meetings held and updates on MSE progress provided by SCRS (March, September). Ambassadors workshops held in October.	5. The Group provided an update on the progress of the MSE to COMM/PA4 at the Annual Meeting	5. JCAP/ICCAT Training workshops on MSE and HCR held for Portuguese and Spanish speaking Scientists and Managers
		6. The SCRS presented an overview on the progress of the BFT MSE to the COMM (PA2) at the Annual Meeting (1-day prior), including conceptual illustrations on how candidate MPs would work and on the trade-offs in achieving different objectives. The workplan to complete the MSE was discussed, including the plan for future dialogue meetings. PA2 provided feedback to support next steps.		

<b>2022</b>	1. SCRS to initiate independent peer review of MSE process			
	2. SCRS to work on developing a new MSE reference grid using the SS model for NALB	2. COMM (PA2) to meet intersessionally to: - recommend final operational management objectives and identify performance indicators - develop guidance on range of appropriate management responses should exceptional circumstances be found to occur	2. COMM (PA4) to recommend initial operational management objectives and identify performance indicators either intersessionally or during the Annual Meeting	2. SCRS to conduct SKJ stock assessments
	3. SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances	3. SCRS to conduct data preparatory meeting for EBFT (based on work conducted by subgroups on models and indices)	3. SCRS to conduct stock assessment (North and South Atlantic)	3. SCRS dialogue with PA1 on management objectives and performance indicators to be used for tropical tunas MSE
		4. SCRS to complete MSE, incorporating feedback from COMM to be provided at dialogue meetings with PA2	4. SCRS to recondition OMs considering new information from the stock assessment and finalize OM grid	4. SCRS to recondition OMs for SKJ in W-SKJ MSE model and ESKJ in mixed species MSE model in light of new SKJ assessments
		5. COMM (PA2) and SCRS to meet intersessionally to consider final CMPs	5. SCRS to continue work on criteria for determining exceptional circumstances taking into account the exceptional circumstances protocol for NALB	5. SCRS to initiate development and testing of candidate Management procedures (CMP) for W-SKJ
		6. COMM to: a. consider SCRS guidance developed intersessionally on management responses in the case of exceptional circumstances, and b. adopt an MP at the Annual Meeting, including TAC	6. SCRS dialogue with PA4 on CMPs, operational management objectives and performance indicators	6. COMM (at Annual meeting or Panel 1 intersessional) to provide feedback on evaluation criteria and W-SKJ CMPs to be evaluated further

<p><b>2022</b></p>		<p>7. SCRS to continue work on criteria for determining exceptional circumstances for inclusion in the exceptional circumstances protocol for BFT to be developed by Panel 2, based on the exceptional circumstances protocol adopted for NALB</p>	<p>7. COMM (PA4) and the SCRS to: - refine CMP(s) - recommend final operational management objectives and identify performance indicators (2022 COMM meeting)</p>	<p>7. SCRS to contract independent review of tropical tuna MSE process and technical review of W-SKJ MSE</p>
<p><b>2023*</b></p>	<p>1. SCRS will continue to conduct assessments periodically to ensure that the conditions considered in MP testing are still applicable to the stock. The first such assessment is scheduled for 2023</p>	<p>1. Once an MP is adopted, SCRS to conduct assessments to ensure that the conditions considered in MP testing are still applicable to the stock</p>	<p>1. SCRS to continue MSE, incorporating feedback from COMM through PA4/SWGSM</p>	<p>1. SCRS to conduct yellowfin assessment</p>
	<p>2. SCRS will finalize a grid of reference and robustness OMs based on Stock Synthesis as part of a new MSE, after reconsidering the main axes of uncertainty.</p>	<p>2. SCRS to provide final advice to COMM on criteria for determining exceptional circumstances</p>	<p>2. COMM to: a) review candidate MPs intersessionally. Dialogue with PA4 on CMPs, operational management objectives and performance indicators. At this point the SCRS should have 2-3 candidate MPs and tangible performance statistics values to show trade-offs. b) adopt an interim MP at the Annual Meeting, including the TAC</p>	<p>2. COMM to consider final evaluation of W-SKJ MPs and adopt an interim W-SKJ MP at the Annual Meeting</p>
	<p>3. SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances</p>	<p>3. On the predetermined timescale for MP setting, SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances</p>	<p>3. COMM to review and finalize an exceptional circumstances protocol</p>	<p>3. SCRS to initiate independent technical review of multi-stock MSE</p>

2023*	4. COMM to continue use of the MP to set TAC at the Annual Meeting, on the predetermined timescale for MP setting	4. COMM to continue use of the MP to set TAC based on the MP at the Annual Meeting, on the predetermined timescale for MP setting		
2024*	1. SCRS to improve Observation Error Model by incorporating statistical properties of CPUE residuals		1. COMM to review and finalize, as needed, guidance on a range of appropriate management responses should exceptional circumstances be found to occur.	1. SCRS to test final set of MP candidates for multi-stock MSE
	2. SCRS to test the available (i.e. production model) and alternative candidate MPs (e.g. based on Jabba, or empirical)			2. SCRS to provide advice on exceptional circumstances for the implementation of the MP
	3. SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances			3. COMM to consider final evaluation of MPs for multi-stock MSE
				4. SCRS to deliver multi- stock MSE, including fully conditioned operating models and candidate management procedures to COMM
				5. COMM to:  a) review and endorse guidance on management responses in the case of exceptional circumstances, and  b) considers adopting interim MP(s) for BET, YFT and eastern SKJ

<b>2025 and beyond*</b>	1. According to the frequency outlined in the exceptional circumstances protocol, SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances	1. According to the frequency outlined in the exceptional circumstances protocol, SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances	1. SCRS to conduct assessments as per the agreed-to assessment interval to ensure that the conditions considered in MP testing are still applicable to the stock	1. Once an MP is adopted, SCRS to conduct periodic assessments to ensure that the conditions considered in MP testing are still applicable to the stock
	2. COMM to continue use of the MP to set management measures on the predetermined timescale defined in the MP setting	2. COMM to continue use of the MP to set TAC based on the MP at the Annual Meeting, on the predetermined timescale for MP setting	2. On the predetermined timescale, SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances	2. On the predetermined timescale for MP setting, SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances
	3. SCRS to conduct periodic assessments to ensure that the conditions considered in MP testing are still applicable to the stock	3. Once an MP is adopted, SCRS to conduct assessments to ensure that the conditions considered in MP testing are still applicable to the stock	3. COMM to continue setting TAC based on the MP at the Annual Meeting, on the predetermined timescale for MP setting	3. COMM to continue use of the MP to set management measures on the predetermined timescale defined in the MP setting

\*Assumes that the workplan is accomplished as described.

**LIST OF ACRONYMS:**

- BET** = Bigeye tuna
- BFT** = Bluefin tuna
- BFT SG** = SCRS Bluefin Tuna Species Group
- COMM**=Commission
- HCR** = Harvest Control Rule
- MP** = Management Procedure
- MSE** = Management Strategy Evaluation
- OM** = Operating Model
- SCRS** = Standing Committee on Research and Statistics
- SWGSM** = Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers
- TAC** = Total Allowable Catch
- TRO** = Tropical tunas

## **REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION (STACFAD)**

### **1. Opening of meeting**

The meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) was opened on Monday, 15 November 2021, by its Chair, Mr. Hasan Alper Elekon (Turkey).

### **2. Nomination of Rapporteur**

The ICCAT Secretariat was appointed Rapporteur.

### **3. Adoption of Agenda**

The Agenda, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, was adopted (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 7**).

### **4. Reports from the Secretariat**

#### ***4.1 2021 Administrative Report***

The 2021 Administrative Report was presented by the STACFAD Chair. The report summarized the activities carried out by the Secretariat in 2021 and highlighted the significant workload of the year. The Chair informed the Committee that at the date of the report, four Contracting Parties had deposited the instrument of acceptance of the Palma de Mallorca Protocol: Canada, European Union, Japan and Norway. Moreover, the Chair also signaled that the ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions adopted in 2020 by the Commission had been circulated within the timeframes established in Article VIII.2 of the Convention, and referred to the numerous ICCAT intersessional meetings, Working Group meetings and training courses that were held in 2021. He also referred to the meetings at which ICCAT was represented and indicated that Annex 1 to the Administrative Report contained a summary of these meetings. He also informed that the Secretariat continues to send annually two letters of reminder regarding compliance with budgetary obligations.

The Chair informed that in March Mr. Jesús García assumed the role of Database Programmer and GIS Expert and that Mr. Dashiell Portel had been hired in April, for a 12-month period, as Software Developer of the Integrated Online Management System (IOMS).

Finally, he thanked CPCs for their voluntary contributions to provision several trust funds, and informed that during 2021, the Secretariat had started to work on: a multidisciplinary security project to bring ICCAT in line with the Data Protection Law and the protection of ICCAT assets through IT security surveillance, revision of the ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules, as well as the assessment of staffing profile and workload of the Secretariat.

The 2021 Administrative Report was adopted.

#### ***4.2 2021 Financial Report***

Mr. Juan Antonio Moreno, Head of the Department of Administration and Finance, presented the Secretariat's 2021 Financial Report. He indicated that the 2020 Auditor's Report had been sent to the Contracting Parties in June 2021, and that the Financial Report set out the situation of the Commission's budgetary statements on 22 October 2021, along with that of the trust funds managed by the Secretariat.



He also signaled that the Working Capital Fund reached 55.42% of the total budget. He explained the most significant aspects of the financial statements, and informed that expenses incurred amounted to 69.09% and that the revenue received represented 74.80% of the budget approved for 2021. Regarding the situation of extra-budgetary funds, he informed that expenses had been incurred in the amount of €115,650.48 and that revenue in the amount of €595,279.29 had been received.

Finally, he indicated that the costs estimated by the Secretariat until year-end amounted to €1,147,712.71 and that once the revenue referred to above has been received and if no new revenue is received before year-end, the Working Capital Fund would represent 29.86% of the budget (€1,340,473.15). The 2021 Financial Report was adopted.

#### ***4.3 Review of progress of the payment of arrears and voting rights***

The STACFAD Chair presented the document “Detailed information on the accumulated debt of the ICCAT Contracting Parties and review of the payment plans of past-due contributions”, which reflected the accumulated debt of the Contracting Parties by year. The Chair recalled that the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Financial Position for ICCAT (VWG-SF) had prepared a letter that was sent by the Commission Chair whereby CPCs with two or more years of arrears were requested to submit a payment plan to settle their debt. While Cabo Verde made a contribution, and another Contracting Party replied but did not submit a plan, the other CPCs did not respond. He highlighted that the total CPC debt amounted to €2,698,341.57, which poses a considerable risk to Secretariat and Commission activities.

Several delegations encouraged the Contracting Parties concerned to explain why they had not sent a response to the Chair’s letter.

Nigeria explained that they had received the letter and would make their contribution.

The United Kingdom and the United States indicated that they would settle their outstanding contributions.

Senegal indicated that they had mobilized funds to send to ICCAT, representing around 50% of their outstanding contributions.

Honduras explained that the request for payment had been sent to an incorrect address.

Libya informed that they would send their pending contributions before the end of the month.

Ghana responded that they would contact the Secretariat to inform as to when they would settle their debt.

Brazil indicated that due to devaluation of its currency, the amount set aside had fallen short and that this situation would be addressed in the future.

Guinea (Rep.) indicated that they would settle their arrears in part or in full.

The Executive Secretary announced that the Secretariat would ensure correct receipt of correspondence on this matter by delegations, and that to avoid these problems, an acknowledgment of receipt would be requested. The Chair added that procedures would be amended for the purpose of improvement.

For the third session, the document was updated with the latest contributions received from Ghana, Senegal and the United Kingdom. The Chair informed that letters of reminder would continue to be sent to countries with contributions pending payment and that work would continue on this matter in VWG-SF meetings.

## **5. Assistance to developing CPCs and identification of mechanism to finance the Meeting Participation Fund (MPF) and other capacity building activities**

### **5.1 Meeting Participation Fund (MPF)**

The document “Meeting Participation Fund (MPF)” was presented, which informed about the financial situation of the MPF. This document indicated that no expenses had been incurred during 2021 due to cancellation of in-person meetings.

There were no discussions under this agenda item.

## **6. Presentation of external reports on issues regarding the staff**

### **6.1 Assessment of staffing profile and workload of the Secretariat**

In accordance with Recommendation #130 of the Second Performance Review of ICCAT, the company Crowe Advisory SP, S.L was hired to carry out a study on staffing profile and workload of the Secretariat. A representative of Crowe presented the report contained in the document “Diagnostic Report on volume of workload by professional profile of the Secretariat”. He explained that the procedure carried out had consisted in describing and analyzing the positions, articulating job descriptions, developing and reviewing work templates, in addition carrying out staff interviews. After carrying out this analysis, an Executive Summary was prepared with the following observations and recommendations:

#### *High priority:*

- Increase staff resources to ensure the quality of the service and to meet the increasing demand for tasks.
- Incorporate a person responsible for human resources.
- Incorporate a technical expert in organization and control, to describe and implement some internal procedures of the Secretariat, such as staff succession etc., through a Procedures Manual.
- Strengthen the area of Information Technology (IT), with technical staff.

#### *Medium priority:*

- Conduct in-depth analysis of the tasks/activities and re-structure the team.
- Incorporate a person to head the Department of Publications, supervising and controlling translations.
- Reorganize the structure of the Secretariat to separate the areas of research and statistics.
- Define and implement a Criminal Compliance Model to enable the Secretariat, as a legal entity, to control the risks related to criminal offenses.

The Secretariat prepared the document “Evolution of some indicators on the Secretariat’s workload in recent years” as additional information to that contained in the Crowe Report. The document reflected the progression in the number of meetings and, therefore, in the total number of meeting days, in the number of participants at meetings, and in the number of meeting reports, as well as the evolution of staff time allocated to meetings. Moreover, it reflected the evolution in the number of active databases in the ICCAT DB-system, the number of reporting requirements and CPCs, as well as the number of contracts issued and associated staff. Finally, it reflected the number of staff days per year due to overtime and compensation, as well as the average accumulated number of staff holidays per year. This additional information reflects the growing dynamic of the tasks of the Secretariat staff.

The Executive Secretary explained that although the Secretariat was adapting to meet the objectives established by the Commission, it had to make improvements. He signaled that a company had been hired in 2021 to improve data protection and IT security, and that in that line, a company with expertise would be hired to carry out human resources related tasks concerned with job descriptions, as well as manuals and procedures, and that the organigram would be updated.

Some Contracting Parties noted the Secretariat’s workload in relation to the budgetary restrictions.

A Contracting Party indicated that the Consultant's report had been very useful in identifying the challenges faced by the Secretariat in terms of workload and asked if the new appointments reflected in the budget were the consequence of the report received, and how the high-priority recommendations contained in the report would be addressed.

The Executive Secretary explained that the budget had been sent to the Contracting Parties before the report had been received. The proposal included the hire of two new appointments that the Secretariat had identified as priority for the proper functioning of the Secretariat. Due to the budgetary impact, the intended course of action would be to incorporate the medium and long-term recommendations of the Consultant into the budget, and to outsource some of these such as those related to human resources procedures and protocols.

Another Contracting Party added that the Secretariat needed to be provided with both the human and material resources to carry out quality work, and that it would be appropriate for an action plan to be submitted for subsequent approval by the Commission.

## **6.2 Revision of the ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules**

Progress on the revision of the ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules was presented in the document "Secretariat Report on the situation of the ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules reform project". The report highlighted that the Regulations and Rules lacked, among others, an adequate mechanism for resolution of disputes and it was proposed to follow a model comprising a conciliation procedure, an appeal at first instance and an appeal at second instance to an International Court of Arbitration and approval was requested to carry out an in-depth assessment of the procedure and the costs of two Courts of Arbitration of recognized prestige and international standing i.e. the International Court of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) (Paris) and the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) (The Hague).

The request was approved by the Committee.

## **7. Consideration of financial implications of SCRS requests**

The Chair of the SCRS presented the document "SCRS research activities requiring funding for 2022", which summarized the SCRS activities that required funding. These activities were organised by Working Group and were broken down into: biology, other fisheries related studies, assessments, MSE and workshops. The document presented a budget with the SCRS requests, and a revised version developed by the SCRS Chair and Vice Chair together with the Secretariat in which €769,500 was requested for these activities, €404,500 of which would be contributed by the Commission through the Commission budget. Therefore €365,000 would be needed through voluntary contributions, in addition to the budget of €1,500,000 allocated to GBYP, which was financed through voluntary contributions. Besides these items, the estimated costs of simultaneous interpretation at SCRS intersessional meetings had been added, following the request of the SCRS in 2021, since, if approved, this cost should be included in the regular budget.

The European Union highlighted the importance of including all scientific activities in the regular budget of the Commission.

The United States announced that they would finance part of the tropical tunas tagging work.

Following several clarifications on the revised SCRS budget proposal, the delegations stressed that it was important to have simultaneous interpretation to facilitate full participation in these meetings. Given the budgetary impact and the increase that would be prompted by inclusion in the budget of the estimated amount i.e. €496,650.00, some delegations requested that the SCRS Chair prioritise those meetings for which interpretation was more necessary. The prioritisation presented was reviewed under item 10.1 of this report.

A new version of the SCRS budget (**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 7**) was published and approved by the Committee, for a total amount of €2,285,500, of which €1,510,000.00 corresponds to GBYP and €775,500.00 to the remainder of the activities.

## **8. Review of progress of the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Finances for ICCAT (VWG-SF)**

The Chair presented the “Report of the Meeting of VWG-SF”, which is contained in **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 7**. He explained that the Group had discussed the following issues: review of potential solutions to achieve further progress in payment of arrears, the mechanism to address the budgetary burden of annual Commission meetings: proposed improvements on Guidelines for Observer Status on level of observer fees and extending coverage of meeting participation fees and Draft proposal to amend Recommendation 03-20 as a way to subject Cooperating non-Members to annual contribution fees, and under other matters: potential ways to deal with the issue regarding the workload of the Secretariat, information exchange and cooperation with the SCRS to provide a guidance to identify financing priorities for research activities in consideration with available budget resources and proposals for review and update of ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules.

Japan presented a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 03-20 on criteria for attaining the status of Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity in ICCAT”. Following the discussions, a text was agreed whereby Cooperating non-members would confirm their intent to provide an annual voluntary contribution commensurate with at least 50% of the amount that would be assessed if it were to become a Contracting Party in accordance with Article X-2 of the Convention and Article 4.1 of the Financial Regulations as from 2024.

The “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 03-20 on criteria for attaining the status of Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity in ICCAT” was approved.

The Chair indicated that the VWG-SF will continue to work in 2022 and that the status of progress of the work would be presented at the ICCAT annual meeting in 2022.

## **9. Consideration of financial implications of ICCAT conservation and management measures proposed**

The document on “Financial implications of proposed draft recommendations”, which compiled the financial implications of the new recommendations proposed by the Commission, was presented. The document responded to the request that new proposals be accompanied by an estimate of the costs for the new measures. The Secretariat prepared an initial estimate of the costs of the first proposals presented. The Chair encouraged Contracting Parties to complete the form when presenting proposals.

The United States requested that the work continue on this matter, noting that a simpler template should be developed within the framework of the VWG-SF.

## **10. Adoption of the Budget and Contracting Party contributions for the period 2022/2023**

### ***10.1 ICCAT budget***

The Executive Secretary presented the document “Explanatory Note on the ICCAT budget for financial years 2022 and 2023” with the budget and contributions for the period 2022 and 2023 which was circulated to Contracting Parties in July 2021. The budget for financial year 2022 included an increase of 8.42% with respect to 2021, and an increase of 5.65% for 2023 with respect to 2022. He explained the requests proposed, which included approval for two new posts in Chapter 1: a Publications Editor and a Compliance Technical Officer. He also clarified the significant increase in Chapter 9, Services requiring specialist external consulting, to continue developing IT security services, legal consultancy and advice for update of the ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules, and the increase in some chapters to update the amounts to the estimated expenses, regularization of the chapter on the annual meeting of the Commission and finally an increase of the chapters related to travel and meetings to reflect the same amounts as those requested before the pandemic.

Moreover, it was indicated that the proposed budget must be revised if the request received from the SCRS that simultaneous interpretation be provided in SCRS intersessional meetings is approved. The calculation estimated by the Secretariat, based on the number of meetings by daily cost, amounted to €496,650.

The delegations expressed their difficulties in relation to the increase in the budget that this inclusion would entail and requested that the SCRS Chair prioritize the meetings for which it was most important to have simultaneous interpretation and requested that the Secretariat revise the chapters presented.

In the second session of STACFAD, new options for the budget were presented. Option A contained a reduction in the proposed increases, to reduce the chapters related to travel and meetings, resulting in an increase of 6.67% with respect to 2021 and 7.08% with respect to 2022. Option B incorporated the changes of Option A, as well as interpretation for SCRS intersessional meetings. Under this item, five proposals were presented according to the prioritization of meetings provided by the SCRS Chair.

The STACFAD Chair requested that discussions focus on Option A and Option B, Priority 1, in order to reach consensus and that the remaining priorities be incorporated progressively over time.

Several delegations such as Canada, Japan and the United States expressed that they could accept Option B, Priority 1. However, China preferred Option A, and this proposal was therefore approved by STACFAD.

The budget (**Tables 1 to 7**) was approved and referred to the Commission for adoption.

The European Union stressed that ICCAT continued to depend on voluntary contributions to finance a significant part of the activities (including the bulk of scientific activities) and that these should be regularized within the regular budget of the Commission. The European Union noted that its delegation contributes around €2,500,000.00 annually, representing 80% of the scientific budget and other activities such as capacity building. The European Union called upon other CPCs to address this situation through mandatory budget contributions as a matter of urgency.

The STACFAD Chair signaled that the VWG-SF would continue to work on this issue given how important it is to fully incorporate the science budget into the regular budget.

The United States requested future advice from the SCRS regarding prioritization of meetings for which interpretation is most needed, taking into account, among the other issues above, the level of participation of scientists who are not native speakers of English.

### **10.2 Budget of the eBCD system**

The document “Explanatory Note on the eBCD System budget for financial years 2022 and 2023”, containing the budget and contributions for the period 2022 and 2023, was presented. The budget for financial year 2022 included a 26.10% reduction with respect to 2021 and a 5.00% increase for 2023 with respect to 2022. The chapter on support and system maintenance and system structure and the chapter on salaries included an increase to adjust the budget to the projected costs. As regards the chapter on developments in the application, it had been estimated that the expense for 2022 would amount to €100,000.00, and it was requested that this amount be covered by the balance of the eBCD Fund. This chapter would be revised and modified as a result of the decisions taken by the Commission during financial year 2022.

The eBCD budget (**eBCD Tables 1 to 7**) was also approved and referred to the Commission for adoption.

## **11. Election of Chair**

Canada nominated Ms. Deirdre M. Warner-Kramer (United States) as STACFAD Chair. This proposal was seconded by various delegations. Ms. Warner-Kramer was elected by acclamation to serve as Chair for the 2022-23 biennial period.

The Chair thanked the Secretariat, the members of the VWG-SF and all the members of STACFAD for their work and kind contribution to the work of the Committee during his time as Chair.

The Executive Secretary thanked Mr. Hasan Alper Elekon for his collaboration, support and supervision during the years he had served as STACFAD Chair, adding that he hoped that he would continue to contribute in the future. The Executive Secretary also welcomed Ms. Deirdre M. Warner-Kramer, noting the significant challenges ahead.

**12. Other matters**

STACFAD was informed that the Secretariat would sign a new contract with the company Tragsa (eBCD), updating the contract that dates from 2014. The new contract would be amended annually to include the requirements requested by the Commission.

**13. Adoption of the report and adjournment**

It was agreed to adopt the STACFAD Report by correspondence. The Chair adjourned the meeting.

**Table 1.** 2022-2023 ICCAT budget (Euros).

Chapters	2021	Increase	2022	Increase	2023
1. Salaries	1,849,836.61	14.21%	2,112,780.03	3.00%	2,176,163.43
2. Travel	15,450.00	0.00%	15,450.00	100.00%	30,900.00
3. Commission meetings (annual)	274,495.00	0.00%	274,495.00	3.00%	282,729.85
4. Publicationes	28,891.50	-30.78%	20,000.00	3.00%	20,600.00
5. Office Equipment	15,759.00	0.00%	15,759.00	3.00%	16,231.77
6. Operating Expenses	147,084.00	0.00%	147,084.00	3.00%	151,496.52
7. Miscellaneous	7,984.56	0.00%	7,984.56	3.00%	8,224.10
8. Coordination of Research					
a) Salaries	1,092,680.81	2.73%	1,122,494.06	3.00%	1,156,168.88
b) Travel to improve statistics	11,845.00	0.00%	11,845.00	100.00%	23,690.00
c) Statistics-Biology	19,000.00	0.00%	19,000.00	3.00%	19,570.00
d) Computer-related items	41,000.00	0.00%	41,000.00	3.00%	42,230.00
e) Database maintenance	27,000.00	0.00%	27,000.00	3.00%	27,810.00
f) Phone line-Internet domain	33,500.00	0.00%	33,500.00	3.00%	34,505.00
g) Scientific meetings (including SCRS)	80,370.90	0.00%	80,370.90	3.00%	82,782.03
h) Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00
<i>Sub-total Chapter 8</i>	<i>1,305,396.71</i>	<i>2.28%</i>	<i>1,335,209.96</i>	<i>3.86%</i>	<i>1,386,755.91</i>
9. Services requiring specialized external consultancy (i.e., legal advice, total quality management project, etc.)	52,975.00	29.31%	68,500.00	3.00%	70,555.00
10. Separation from Service Fund	63,561.30	0.00%	63,561.30	3.00%	65,468.14
11. Strategic Research Programme					
a) Strategic Research Programme	404,500.00	0.00%	404,500.00	3.00%	416,635.00
<i>Sub-total Chapter 11</i>	<i>404,500.00</i>	<i>0.00%</i>	<i>404,500.00</i>	<i>3.00%</i>	<i>416,635.00</i>
12. Compliance					
a) Compliance database maintenance	30,900.00	0.00%	30,900.00	3.00%	31,827.00
<i>Sub-total Chapter 12</i>	<i>30,900.00</i>	<i>0.00%</i>	<i>30,900.00</i>	<i>3.00%</i>	<i>31,827.00</i>
13. Travel					
a) Travel by ICCAT SCRS Chairs	25,750.00	0.00%	25,750.00	100.00%	51,500.00
b) Special Meeting Participation Fund	40,000.00	0.00%	40,000.00	325.00%	170,000.00
c) Travel by ICCAT Officers (Developing ICCAT Contracting Parties)	15,450.00	0.00%	15,450.00	100.00%	30,900.00
<i>Sub-total Chapter 13</i>	<i>81,200.00</i>	<i>0.00%</i>	<i>81,200.00</i>	<i>210.84%</i>	<i>252,400.00</i>
14. Online Management System					
a) Online Management System	206,000.00	0.00%	206,000.00	3.00%	212,180.00
<i>Sub-total Chapter 14</i>	<i>206,000.00</i>	<i>0.00%</i>	<i>206,000.00</i>	<i>3.00%</i>	<i>212,180.00</i>
15. Contingencies	5,253.00	0.00%	5,253.00	3.00%	5,410.59
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>4,489,286.68</b>	<b>6.67%</b>	<b>4,788,676.85</b>	<b>7.08%</b>	<b>5,127,577.31</b>

**Table 2.** Basic information to calculate the Contracting Party contributions in 2022-2023.

Contracting Parties	Groups <sup>a</sup>	GNP <sup>b</sup> 2019	GNP <sup>b</sup> 1991	Catch <sup>c</sup>	Canning <sup>d</sup>	Catch + Canning	Panels <sup>e</sup>				Total Panels	Contracting Parties
							1	2	3	4		
Albania	D	5,326	2,863	104	0	104	-	X	-	-	1	Albania
Algérie	C	4,049	2,177	3,334	1,949	5,283	-	X	-	X	2	Algérie
Angola	D	2,658	1,429	1,257	0	1,257	X	-	-	X	2	Angola
Barbados	C	18,449	9,919	514	0	514	-	-	-	-	0	Barbados
Belize	C	4,870	2,618	27,574	1,411	28,985	X	X	X	X	4	Belize
Brazil	B	8,593	4,620	51,010	13,141	64,151	X	X	X	X	4	Brazil
Canada	A	46,327	24,907	2,026	0	2,026	X	X	-	X	3	Canada
Cabo Verde	C	3,636	1,955	14,231	14,836	29,067	X	X	-	X	3	Cabo Verde
China, People's Rep. of	B	9,923	5,335	6,725	0	6,725	X	X	X	X	4	China, People's Rep. of
Côte d'Ivoire	C	1,678	902	16,384	0	16,384	X	-	-	X	2	Côte d'Ivoire
Curaçao	A	52,958	28,472	32,203	0	32,203	X	-	-	-	1	Curaçao
Egypt	D	3,178	1,709	668	0	668	-	X	-	X	2	Egypt
El Salvador	C	4,130	2,220	24,809	4,059	28,868	X	-	-	-	1	El Salvador
France (St. P. & M.)	A	40,148	21,585	0	0	0	X	X	-	X	3	France (St. P. & M.)
Gabon	C	7,849	4,220	101	0	101	X	-	-	X	2	Gabon
Gambia	D	757	407	0	0	0	-	-	-	X	1	Gambia
Ghana	C	2,153	1,158	94,669	24,500	119,169	X	-	-	-	1	Ghana
Grenada	C	10,866	5,842	1,708	0	1,708	-	-	-	-	0	Grenada
Guatemala, Rep. de	C	4,670	2,511	13,671	0	13,671	X	-	-	X	2	Guatemala, Rep. de
Guinea Ecuatorial	C	8,884	4,776	32	0	32	X	-	-	X	2	Guinea Ecuatorial
Guinea, Rep. of	D	1,038	558	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Guinea, Rep. of
Guinée-Bissau	D	756	406	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Guinée-Bissau
Honduras	D	2,576	1,385	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Honduras
Iceland	A	70,785	38,056	0	0	0	-	X	-	-	1	Iceland
Japan	A	40,144	21,583	29,183	0	29,183	X	X	X	X	4	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	C	32,485	17,465	2,900	0	2,900	X	X	X	X	4	Korea, Rep. of
Liberia	D	535	288	324	0	324	X	-	-	X	2	Liberia
Libya	D	5,669	3,048	1,966	1,350	3,316	X	X	-	X	3	Libya
Maroc	C	3,246	1,745	13,716	957	14,673	X	X	-	X	3	Maroc
Mauritania	C	1,760	946	10,152	5,330	15,482	X	X	-	X	3	Mauritania
Mexico	C	9,913	5,330	1,227	0	1,227	X	X	-	X	3	Mexico
Namibia	D	5,474	2,943	1,644	0	1,644	X	X	X	X	4	Namibia
Nicaragua, Rep. de	D	1,905	1,024	0	0	0	X	-	-	-	1	Nicaragua, Rep. de
Nigeria	D	2,383	1,281	2	0	2	X	-	-	X	2	Nigeria
Norway	A	77,089	41,446	41	0	41	-	X	-	X	2	Norway
Panama	B	15,800	8,495	20,172	0	20,172	X	X	X	X	4	Panama
Philippines, Rep. of	D	3,377	1,816	0	0	0	X	-	X	-	2	Philippines, Rep. of
Russia	C	11,662	6,270	1,721	0	1,721	X	X	-	-	2	Russia
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	C	7,587	4,079	1,712	0	1,712	X	X	-	X	3	Saint Vincent and Grenadines
São Tomé e Príncipe	D	1,999	1,075	1,535	0	1,535	X	-	-	X	2	São Tomé e Príncipe
Senegal	C	1,483	797	40,872	5,910	46,782	X	X	-	X	3	Senegal
Sierra Leone	D	557	299	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Sierra Leone
South Africa	D	6,006	3,229	3,964	0	3,964	X	-	X	X	3	South Africa
Syrian Arab Republic	D	1,139	612	65	0	65	-	X	-	-	1	Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad & Tobago	C	17,073	9,179	3,031	0	3,031	X	-	-	X	2	Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisie	C	3,317	1,783	13,277	3,734	17,011	-	X	-	X	2	Tunisie
Turkey	B	9,141	4,915	16,288	0	16,288	-	X	-	X	2	Turkey
Union Européenne	A	36,796	19,783	256,829	299,107	555,936	X	X	X	X	4	Union Européenne
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	A	41,577	22,353	454	0	454	X	X	X	X	4	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States	A	64,876	34,880	18,009	8,958	26,967	X	X	X	X	4	United States
Uruguay	C	16,235	8,728	0	0	0	X	-	X	X	3	Uruguay
Venezuela	B	13,387	7,197	4,777	309	5,086	X	X	-	X	3	Venezuela

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



**Table 3.** Contracting Party Contributions 2022 (Euros).

Contracting Party		Catch + Canning <sup>a</sup>	Panels <sup>a</sup>	% Catch + Canning <sup>b</sup>	% Member + Panels <sup>c</sup>	Membership fee <sup>d</sup>	Panel Membership <sup>e</sup>	Variable fees for Member <sup>f</sup>	Variables fees Catch-Canning	Total fees <sup>h</sup>	Contracting Party
	Albania	D	104	1	0.81%	3.92%	872.00	872.00	2,079.04	856.22	Albania
	Algérie	C	5,283	2	1.52%	4.41%	872.00	1,744.00	13,916.56	9,568.65	Algérie
	Angola	D	1,257	2	9.76%	5.88%	872.00	1,744.00	3,118.56	10,348.72	Angola
	Barbados	C	514	0	0.15%	1.47%	872.00	0.00	4,638.85	930.96	Barbados
	Belize	C	28,985	4	8.32%	7.35%	872.00	3,488.00	23,194.27	52,498.06	Belize
	Brazil	B	64,151	4	57.06%	22.73%	872.00	3,488.00	52,963.45	265,956.77	Brazil
	Canada	A	2,026	3	0.31%	11.43%	872.00	2,616.00	107,836.74	5,911.09	Canada
	Cabo Verde	C	29,067	3	8.34%	5.88%	872.00	2,616.00	18,555.41	52,646.58	Cabo Verde
	China, People's Rep. of	B	6,725	4	5.98%	22.73%	872.00	3,488.00	52,963.45	27,880.46	China, People's Rep. of
	Côte d'Ivoire	C	16,384	2	4.70%	4.41%	872.00	1,744.00	13,916.56	29,674.94	Côte d'Ivoire
	Curaçao	A	32,203	1	4.98%	5.71%	872.00	872.00	53,918.37	93,955.98	Curaçao
	Egypt	D	668	2	5.19%	5.88%	872.00	1,744.00	3,118.56	5,499.56	Egypt
	El Salvador	C	28,868	1	8.29%	2.94%	872.00	872.00	9,277.71	52,286.14	El Salvador
	France (St. P. & M.)	A	0	3	0.00%	11.43%	872.00	2,616.00	107,836.74	0.00	France (St. P. & M.)
	Gabon	C	101	2	0.03%	4.41%	872.00	1,744.00	13,916.56	182.93	Gabon
	Gambia	D	0	1	0.00%	3.92%	872.00	872.00	2,079.04	0.00	Gambia
	Ghana	C	119,169	1	34.21%	2.94%	872.00	872.00	9,277.71	215,840.64	Ghana
	Grenada	C	1,708	0	0.49%	1.47%	872.00	0.00	4,638.85	3,093.55	Grenada
	Guatemala, Rep. de	C	13,671	2	3.92%	4.41%	872.00	1,744.00	13,916.56	24,761.12	Guatemala, Rep. de
	Guinea Ecuatorial	C	32	2	0.01%	4.41%	872.00	1,744.00	13,916.56	57.96	Guinea Ecuatorial
	Guinea, Rep. of	D	0	2	0.00%	5.88%	872.00	1,744.00	3,118.56	0.00	Guinea, Rep. of
	Guinée-Bissau	D	0	2	0.00%	5.88%	872.00	1,744.00	3,118.56	0.00	Guinée-Bissau
	Honduras	D	0	2	0.00%	5.88%	872.00	1,744.00	3,118.56	0.00	Honduras
	Iceland	A	0	1	0.00%	5.71%	872.00	872.00	53,918.37	0.00	Iceland
	Japan	A	29,183	4	4.51%	14.29%	872.00	3,488.00	134,795.92	85,144.78	Japan
	Korea, Rep. of	C	2,900	4	0.83%	7.35%	872.00	3,488.00	23,194.27	5,252.52	Korea, Rep. of
	Liberia	D	324	2	2.52%	5.88%	872.00	1,744.00	3,118.56	2,667.45	Liberia
	Libya	D	3,316	3	25.75%	7.84%	872.00	2,616.00	4,158.09	27,300.21	Libya
	Maroc	C	14,673	3	4.21%	5.88%	872.00	2,616.00	18,555.41	26,575.95	Maroc
	Mauritania	C	15,482	3	4.44%	5.88%	872.00	2,616.00	18,555.41	28,041.22	Mauritania
	Mexico	C	1,227	3	0.35%	5.88%	872.00	2,616.00	18,555.41	2,222.36	Mexico
	Namibia	D	1,644	4	12.76%	9.80%	872.00	3,488.00	5,197.61	13,534.84	Namibia
	Nicaragua, Rep. de	D	0	1	0.00%	3.92%	872.00	872.00	2,079.04	0.00	Nicaragua, Rep. de
	Nigeria	D	2	2	0.02%	5.88%	872.00	1,744.00	3,118.56	16.47	Nigeria
	Norway	A	41	2	0.01%	8.57%	872.00	1,744.00	80,877.55	119.62	Norway
	Panama	B	20,172	4	17.94%	22.73%	872.00	3,488.00	52,963.45	83,628.94	Panama
	Philippines, Rep. of	D	0	2	0.00%	5.88%	872.00	1,744.00	3,118.56	0.00	Philippines, Rep. of
	Russia	C	1,721	2	0.49%	4.41%	872.00	1,744.00	13,916.56	3,117.10	Russia
	Saint Vincent and Grenadines	C	1,712	3	0.49%	5.88%	872.00	2,616.00	18,555.41	3,100.80	Saint Vincent and Grenadines
	São Tomé e Príncipe	D	1,535	2	11.92%	5.88%	872.00	1,744.00	3,118.56	12,637.46	São Tomé e Príncipe
	Senegal	C	46,782	3	13.43%	5.88%	872.00	2,616.00	18,555.41	84,732.24	Senegal
	Sierra Leone	D	0	2	0.00%	5.88%	872.00	1,744.00	3,118.56	0.00	Sierra Leone
	South Africa	D	3,964	3	30.78%	7.84%	872.00	2,616.00	4,158.09	32,635.11	South Africa
	Syrian Arab Republic	D	65	1	0.50%	3.92%	872.00	872.00	2,079.04	535.14	Syrian Arab Republic
	Trinidad & Tobago	C	3,031	2	0.87%	4.41%	872.00	1,744.00	13,916.56	5,489.79	Trinidad & Tobago
	Tunisie	C	17,011	2	4.88%	4.41%	872.00	1,744.00	13,916.56	30,810.57	Tunisie
	Turkey	B	16,288	2	14.49%	13.64%	872.00	1,744.00	31,778.07	67,526.68	Turkey
	Union Européenne	A	555,936	4	85.95%	14.29%	872.00	3,488.00	134,795.92	1,622,007.55	Union Européenne
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	A	454	4	0.07%	14.29%	872.00	3,488.00	134,795.92	1,324.60	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	United States	A	26,967	4	4.17%	14.29%	872.00	3,488.00	134,795.92	78,679.34	United States
	Uruguay	C	0	3	0.00%	5.88%	872.00	2,616.00	18,555.41	0.00	Uruguay
	Venezuela	B	5,086	3	4.52%	18.18%	872.00	2,616.00	42,370.76	21,085.50	Venezuela

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

**Table 4.** Contributions by group 2022. Fees Expressed in Euros.

<b>Groups</b>	<b>Parties<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Panels<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>Catch + Canning<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>% of each Party<sup>d</sup></b>	<b>% of the Budget<sup>e</sup></b>	<b>Fees<sup>f</sup></b>	<b>Panels fees<sup>g</sup></b>	<b>Other fees<sup>h</sup></b>	<b>Total fees<sup>i</sup></b>
<b>A</b>	9	26	646,810	---	59.75%	7,848.00	22,672.00	2,830,714.42	2,861,234.42
<b>B</b>	5	17	112,422	3.00%	15.00%	4,360.00	14,824.00	699,117.53	718,301.53
<b>C</b>	21	47	348,321	1.00%	21.00%	18,312.00	40,984.00	946,326.14	1,005,622.14
<b>D</b>	17	34	12,879	0.25%	4.25%	14,824.00	29,648.00	159,046.77	203,518.77
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>1,120,432</b>		<b>100.00%</b>	<b>45,344.00</b>	<b>108,128.00</b>	<b>4,635,204.85</b>	<b>4,788,676.85</b>

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

**Table 5. Contracting Party Contributions 2023 (Euros).**

Contracting Party		Catch + Canning <sup>a</sup>	Panels <sup>a</sup>	% Catch + Canning <sup>b</sup>	% Member + Panels <sup>c</sup>	Membership fee <sup>d</sup>	Panel Membership <sup>e</sup>	Variable fees for Member <sup>f</sup>	Variables fees Catch-Canning <sup>g</sup>	Total fees <sup>h</sup>	Contracting Party
		Exchange rate: / Taux de change: / Cambio: 1 €= 1.147      US\$ (11/2021)									
Albania	D	104	1	0.81%	3.92%	872.00	872.00	2,267.32	933.76	<b>4,945.08</b>	Albania
Algérie	C	5,283	2	1.52%	4.41%	872.00	1,744.00	14,963.17	10,288.26	<b>27,867.43</b>	Algérie
Angola	D	1,257	2	9.76%	5.88%	872.00	1,744.00	3,400.98	11,285.90	<b>17,302.88</b>	Angola
Barbados	C	514	0	0.15%	1.47%	872.00	0.00	4,987.72	1,000.98	<b>6,860.70</b>	Barbados
Belize	C	28,985	4	8.32%	7.35%	872.00	3,488.00	24,938.61	56,446.21	<b>85,744.82</b>	Belize
Brazil	B	64,151	4	57.06%	22.73%	872.00	3,488.00	56,814.59	285,295.34	<b>346,469.93</b>	Brazil
Canada	A	2,026	3	0.31%	11.43%	872.00	2,616.00	115,550.76	6,333.93	<b>125,372.69</b>	Canada
Cabo Verde	C	29,067	3	8.34%	5.88%	872.00	2,616.00	19,950.89	56,605.90	<b>80,044.78</b>	Cabo Verde
China, People's Rep. of	B	6,725	4	5.98%	22.73%	872.00	3,488.00	56,814.59	29,907.74	<b>91,082.33</b>	China, People's Rep. of
Côte d'Ivoire	C	16,384	2	4.70%	4.41%	872.00	1,744.00	14,963.17	31,906.66	<b>49,485.83</b>	Côte d'Ivoire
Curaçao	A	32,203	1	4.98%	5.71%	872.00	872.00	57,775.38	100,677.04	<b>160,196.42</b>	Curaçao
Egypt	D	668	2	5.19%	5.88%	872.00	1,744.00	3,400.98	5,997.60	<b>12,014.58</b>	Egypt
El Salvador	C	28,868	1	8.29%	2.94%	872.00	872.00	9,975.44	56,218.36	<b>67,937.80</b>	El Salvador
France (St. P. & M.)	A	0	3	0.00%	11.43%	872.00	2,616.00	115,550.76	0.00	<b>119,038.76</b>	France (St. P. & M.)
Gabon	C	101	2	0.03%	4.41%	872.00	1,744.00	14,963.17	196.69	<b>17,775.86</b>	Gabon
Gambia	D	0	1	0.00%	3.92%	872.00	872.00	2,267.32	0.00	<b>4,011.32</b>	Gambia
Ghana	C	119,169	1	34.21%	2.94%	872.00	872.00	9,975.44	232,073.08	<b>243,792.52</b>	Ghana
Grenada	C	1,708	0	0.49%	1.47%	872.00	0.00	4,987.72	3,326.21	<b>9,185.93</b>	Grenada
Guatemala, Rep. de	C	13,671	2	3.92%	4.41%	872.00	1,744.00	14,963.17	26,623.29	<b>44,202.46</b>	Guatemala, Rep. de
Guinea Ecuatorial	C	32	2	0.01%	4.41%	872.00	1,744.00	14,963.17	62.32	<b>17,641.48</b>	Guinea Ecuatorial
Guinea, Rep. of	D	0	2	0.00%	5.88%	872.00	1,744.00	3,400.98	0.00	<b>6,016.98</b>	Guinea, Rep. of
Guinée-Bissau	D	0	2	0.00%	5.88%	872.00	1,744.00	3,400.98	0.00	<b>6,016.98</b>	Guinée-Bissau
Honduras	D	0	2	0.00%	5.88%	872.00	1,744.00	3,400.98	0.00	<b>6,016.98</b>	Honduras
Iceland	A	0	1	0.00%	5.71%	872.00	872.00	57,775.38	0.00	<b>59,519.38</b>	Iceland
Japan	A	29,183	4	4.51%	14.29%	872.00	3,488.00	144,438.45	91,235.54	<b>240,033.99</b>	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	C	2,900	4	0.83%	7.35%	872.00	3,488.00	24,938.61	5,647.54	<b>34,946.15</b>	Korea, Rep. of
Liberia	D	324	2	2.52%	5.88%	872.00	1,744.00	3,400.98	2,909.02	<b>8,926.00</b>	Liberia
Libya	D	3,316	3	25.75%	7.84%	872.00	2,616.00	4,534.64	29,772.51	<b>37,795.16</b>	Libya
Maroc	C	14,673	3	4.21%	5.88%	872.00	2,616.00	19,950.89	28,574.61	<b>52,013.50</b>	Maroc
Mauritania	C	15,482	3	4.44%	5.88%	872.00	2,616.00	19,950.89	30,150.08	<b>53,588.97</b>	Mauritania
Mexico	C	1,227	3	0.35%	5.88%	872.00	2,616.00	19,950.89	2,389.49	<b>25,828.38</b>	Mexico
Namibia	D	1,644	4	12.76%	9.80%	872.00	3,488.00	5,668.30	14,760.56	<b>24,788.86</b>	Namibia
Nicaragua, Rep. de	D	0	1	0.00%	3.92%	872.00	872.00	2,267.32	0.00	<b>4,011.32</b>	Nicaragua, Rep. de
Nigeria	D	2	2	0.02%	5.88%	872.00	1,744.00	3,400.98	17.96	<b>6,034.94</b>	Nigeria
Norway	A	41	2	0.01%	8.57%	872.00	1,744.00	86,663.07	128.18	<b>89,407.25</b>	Norway
Panama	B	20,172	4	17.94%	22.73%	872.00	3,488.00	56,814.59	89,709.87	<b>150,884.46</b>	Panama
Philippines, Rep. of	D	0	2	0.00%	5.88%	872.00	1,744.00	3,400.98	0.00	<b>6,016.98</b>	Philippines, Rep. of
Russia	C	1,721	2	0.49%	4.41%	872.00	1,744.00	14,963.17	3,351.52	<b>20,930.69</b>	Russia
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	C	1,712	3	0.49%	5.88%	872.00	2,616.00	19,950.89	3,334.00	<b>26,772.88</b>	Saint Vincent and Grenadines
São Tomé e Príncipe	D	1,535	2	11.92%	5.88%	872.00	1,744.00	3,400.98	13,781.91	<b>19,798.89</b>	São Tomé e Príncipe
Senegal	C	46,782	3	13.43%	5.88%	872.00	2,616.00	19,950.89	91,104.59	<b>114,543.48</b>	Senegal
Sierra Leone	D	0	2	0.00%	5.88%	872.00	1,744.00	3,400.98	0.00	<b>6,016.98</b>	Sierra Leone
South Africa	D	3,964	3	30.78%	7.84%	872.00	2,616.00	4,534.64	35,590.54	<b>43,613.19</b>	South Africa
Syrian Arab Republic	D	65	1	0.50%	3.92%	872.00	872.00	2,267.32	583.60	<b>4,594.92</b>	Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad & Tobago	C	3,031	2	0.87%	4.41%	872.00	1,744.00	14,963.17	5,902.66	<b>23,481.82</b>	Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisie	C	17,011	2	4.88%	4.41%	872.00	1,744.00	14,963.17	33,127.70	<b>50,706.87</b>	Tunisie
Turkey	B	16,288	2	14.49%	13.64%	872.00	1,744.00	34,088.75	72,436.76	<b>109,141.51</b>	Turkey
Union Européenne	A	555,936	4	85.95%	14.29%	872.00	3,488.00	144,438.45	1,738,036.63	#####	Union Européenne
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	A	454	4	0.07%	14.29%	872.00	3,488.00	144,438.45	1,419.35	<b>150,217.80</b>	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States	A	26,967	4	4.17%	14.29%	872.00	3,488.00	144,438.45	84,307.61	<b>233,106.06</b>	United States
Uruguay	C	0	3	0.00%	5.88%	872.00	2,616.00	19,950.89	0.00	<b>23,438.89</b>	Uruguay
Venezuela	B	5,086	3	4.52%	18.18%	872.00	2,616.00	45,451.67	22,618.70	<b>71,558.37</b>	Venezuela

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

**Table 6.** Contributions by group 2023. Fees expressed in Euros.

<b>Groups</b>	<b>Parties<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Panels<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>Catch + Canning<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>% of each Party<sup>d</sup></b>	<b>% of the Budget<sup>e</sup></b>	<b>Fees<sup>f</sup></b>	<b>Panels fees<sup>g</sup></b>	<b>Other fees<sup>h</sup></b>	<b>Total fees<sup>i</sup></b>
<b>A</b>	9	26	646,810	---	59.75%	7,848.00	22,672.00	3,033,207.44	3,063,727.44
<b>B</b>	5	17	112,422	3.00%	15.00%	4,360.00	14,824.00	749,952.60	769,136.60
<b>C</b>	21	47	348,321	1.00%	21.00%	18,312.00	40,984.00	1,017,495.23	1,076,791.23
<b>D</b>	17	34	12,879	0.25%	4.25%	14,824.00	29,648.00	173,450.04	217,922.04
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>1,120,432</b>		<b>100.00%</b>	<b>45,344.00</b>	<b>108,128.00</b>	<b>4,974,105.31</b>	<b>5,127,577.31</b>

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

**Table 7.** Catch and canning figures (in t) of the Contracting Parties.

<i>Parties</i>	<i>2017</i>			<i>2018</i>			<i>2019</i>			<i>Parties</i>
	<i>Catch</i>	<i>Canning</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Catch</i>	<i>Canning</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Catch</i>	<i>Canning</i>	<i>Total</i>	
Albania	56 t		56	100 t		100	156 t		156	Albania
Algérie	2,858	1,852	4,710	3,736	1,970	5,706	3,409	2,025	5,434	Algérie
Angola	119 t		119	10 t		10	3,643 t		3,643	Angola
Barbados	637 t		637	547 t		547	358 t		358	Barbados
Belize	19,342	888	20,230	32,874	2,602	35,476	30,505	742	31,247	Belize
Brazil	54,513 t	13,141 coo	67,654	50,435 t	13,141 coo	63,576	48,081 t	13,141 coo	61,222	Brazil
Canada	2,281	0	2,281	1,712	0	1,712	2,084	0	2,084	Canada
Cabo Verde	12,454	12,807	25,261	18,519	16,450	34,969	11,720	15,252	26,972	Cabo Verde
China, People's Rep. of	7,189	0	7,189	6,126	0	6,126	6,861	0	6,861	China, People's Rep. of
Côte d'Ivoire	12,490 t		12,490	18,513 t		18,513	18,149 t		18,149	Côte d'Ivoire
Curaçao	29,937	0	29,937	37,355	0	37,355	29,317	0	29,317	Curaçao
Egypt	124 t		124	1,617 t		1,617	263 t		263	Egypt
El Salvador	23,751	3,949	27,700	26,437	7,230	33,667	24,240	998	25,238	El Salvador
France (St. P. & M.)	t		0	0 t		0	t		0	France (St. P. & M.)
Gabon	64 t		64	87 t		87	151 t		151	Gabon
Gambia			0			0			0	Gambia
Ghana	86,043 co	24,500 co	110,543	101,347 t	24,500 co	125,847	96,618 t	24,500 co	121,118	Ghana
Grenada	1,659 t		1,659	1,757 t		1,757			0	Grenada
Guatemala, Rep. de	15,340 t		15,340	13,086 t		13,086	12,587 t		12,587	Guatemala, Rep. de
Guinea Ecuatorial	0	0	0	42	0	42	53	0	53	Guinea Ecuatorial
Guinea, Rep. of			0			0			0	Guinea, Rep. of
Guinée-Bissau			0			0			0	Guinée-Bissau
Honduras			0			0			0	Honduras
Iceland	0		0			0			0	Iceland
Japan	29,503		29,503	29,997		29,997	28,050		28,050	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	2,542 t		2,542	3,085 t		3,085	3,072 t		3,072	Korea, Rep. of
Liberia	671 t		671	97 t		97	205 t		205	Liberia
Libya	1,600 co	1,350 co	2,950	2,057 t	1,350 co	3,407	2,241 t	1,350 co	3,591	Libya
Maroc	9,913 t	957 coo	10,870	16,016 t	957 coo	16,973	15,219 t	957 coo	16,176	Maroc
Mauritania	16,134 co	5,330 co	21,464	8,230 t	5,330 co	13,560	6,091 t	5,330 co	11,421	Mauritania
Mexico	1,537	0	1,537	1,163	0	1,163	980	0	980	Mexico
Namibia	1,205	0	1,205	1,879	0	1,879	1,847		1,847	Namibia
Nicaragua, Rep. de	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Nicaragua, Rep. de
Nigeria	2 t		2			0			0	Nigeria
Norway	57		57	16		16	50		50	Norway
Panama	17,109 t		17,109	19,351 t		19,351	24,057 t		24,057	Panama
Philippines, Rep. of			0			0			0	Philippines, Rep. of
Russia	1,660	0	1,660	2,004	0	2,004	1,500	0	1,500	Russia
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	2,552 co		2,552	1,506 t		1,506	1,079 t	0	1,079	Saint Vincent and Grenadines
São Tomé e Príncipe	2,485	0	2,485	1,463	0	1,463	656	0	656	São Tomé e Príncipe
Senegal	37,638	2,355	39,993	42,850	6,146	48,996	42,127	9,229	51,356	Senegal
Sierra Leone			0			0			0	Sierra Leone
South Africa	3,479 t		3,479	4,235 t		4,235	4,179 t		4,179	South Africa
Syrian Arab Republic	57 t		57	66 t		66	72 t		72	Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad & Tobago	2,613 co	0 co	2,613	3,360 t		3,360	3,119 t		3,119	Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisia	17,726	2,091	19,817	9,859	2,284	12,143	12,247	6,826	19,073	Tunisie
Turkey	10,531		10,531	33,653		33,653	4,679		4,679	Turkey
Union Européenne	248,090 co	299,107 co	547,197	260,796 t	299,107 co	559,903	261,602 t	299,107 co	560,709	Union Européenne
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	459		459	394		394	508		508	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States	10,513	8,682	19,195	17,574	10,182	27,756	25,939	8,010	33,949	United States
Uruguay			0			0			0	Uruguay
Venezuela	7,309	483	7,792	4,061	282	4,343	2,960	161	3,121	Venezuela
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>694,242</b>	<b>377,492</b>	<b>1,071,734</b>	<b>778,012</b>	<b>391,531</b>	<b>1,169,543</b>	<b>730,674</b>	<b>387,628</b>	<b>1,118,302</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

co = Transfer of the data received (S19-01573).

coo = Transfer of the latest data received/obtained from the database.

t = Obtained from the database, because there was no official communication.

(Data updated until 6 July 2021)

## 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 2017-2018-2019 Catches (t)
d	Average 2017-2018-2019 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 and 5

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 and 6

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.** 2022-2023 eBCD system budget (Euros).

eBCD system fund	2021	%	2022	%	2023
Support, maintenance, and functionality development of the electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation (eBCD) system	275,000.00	5.45%	290,000.00	5.00%	304,500.00
Developments in the web application ("Flexible" allotment): Development activities requested by the Working Group (WG) *					
a) Other developments as required*	150,000.00	-100.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Salaries	80,000.00	4.02%	83,215.91	0.00%	87,376.71
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>505,000.00</b>	<b>-26.10%</b>	<b>373,215.91</b>	<b>5.00%</b>	<b>391,876.71</b>

\* Note, these amounts may be subject to change depending on decisions taken during the 2021 and 2022 Commission meetings.

**Table 2.** Basic information to calculate the 2022-2023 contributions to the eBCD system for members of the Commission that catch and/or trade Atlantic bluefin tuna.

Contracting Parties	Groups <sup>a</sup>	Average Catch <sup>b</sup> (2017-2019)	% Average Catch <sup>b</sup>	No. of Trade <sup>c</sup>	% No. of Trade <sup>c</sup>	Import weight <sup>d</sup>	% Import weight <sup>d</sup>	Contracting Parties
Albania	D	104.08	4.77%	6	4.05%	0.00	0.00%	Albania
Algérie	C	1,258.20	20.49%	30	0.33%	0.00	0.00%	Algérie
Canada	A	552.83	2.83%	4,560	3.75%	48.34	0.06%	Canada
China, People's Rep. of	B	77.44	4.84%	585	15.22%	81.93	100.00%	China, People's Rep. of
Egypt	D	189.33	8.68%	69	46.62%	0.00	0.00%	Egypt
Iceland	A	0.14	0.00%	12	0.01%	0.49	0.00%	Iceland
Japan	A	2,621.09	13.42%	15,906	13.09%	74,564.78	87.48%	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	C	207.20	3.37%	2,612	28.38%	10,951.04	100.00%	Korea, Rep. of
Libya	D	1,821.97	83.56%	70	47.30%	0.00	0.00%	Libya
Maroc	C	2,544.07	41.44%	6,279	68.21%	0.00	0.00%	Maroc
Mexico	C	51.00	0.83%	148	1.61%	0.00	0.00%	Mexico
Norway	A	37.49	0.19%	183	0.15%	24.07	0.03%	Norway
Syrian Arab Republic	D	64.96	2.98%	3	2.03%	0.00	0.00%	Syrian Arab Republic
Tunisie	C	2,079.30	33.87%	136	1.48%	0.00	0.00%	Tunisie
Turkey	B	1,523.06	95.16%	3,258	84.78%	0.00	0.00%	Turkey
Union Européenne	A	15,244.36	78.06%	85,706	70.55%	7,571.15	8.88%	Union Européenne
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	A	0.40	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States	A	1,071.95	5.49%	15,118	12.44%	3,024.59	3.55%	United States

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



**Table 3.** 2022 contributions to the eBCD system for members of the Commission that catch and/or trade Atlantic bluefin tuna (Euros).

Contracting Party		Group <sup>a</sup>	% Average Catch <sup>b</sup>	% No. of Trade <sup>c</sup>	% Import weight <sup>d</sup>	Basic fee <sup>e</sup>	Average Catch <sup>f</sup>	No. of Trade <sup>g</sup>	Import weight <sup>h</sup>	Total fees <sup>i</sup>	Contracting Party
	Albania	D	4.77%	4.05%	0.00%	586.60	28.45	32.02	0.00	<b>647.07</b>	Albania
	Algérie	C	20.49%	0.33%	0.00%	586.60	966.91	20.50	0.00	<b>1,574.02</b>	Algérie
	Canada	A	2.83%	3.75%	0.06%	586.60	2,754.42	4,869.46	55.18	<b>8,265.67</b>	Canada
	China, People's Rep. of	B	4.84%	15.22%	100.00%	586.60	308.02	1,292.07	6,365.93	<b>8,552.62</b>	China, People's Rep. of
	Egypt	D	8.68%	46.62%	0.00%	586.60	51.74	368.26	0.00	<b>1,006.60</b>	Egypt
	Iceland	A	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%	586.60	0.70	12.81	0.56	<b>600.67</b>	Iceland
	Japan	A	13.42%	13.09%	87.48%	586.60	13,059.24	16,985.45	85,118.48	<b>115,749.78</b>	Japan
	Korea, Rep. of	C	3.37%	28.38%	100.00%	586.60	159.23	1,785.16	4,718.34	<b>7,249.33</b>	Korea, Rep. of
	Libya	D	83.56%	47.30%	0.00%	586.60	497.93	373.59	0.00	<b>1,458.13</b>	Libya
	Maroc	C	41.44%	68.21%	0.00%	586.60	1,955.08	4,291.36	0.00	<b>6,833.04</b>	Maroc
	Mexico	C	0.83%	1.61%	0.00%	586.60	39.19	101.15	0.00	<b>726.94</b>	Mexico
	Norway	A	0.19%	0.15%	0.03%	586.60	186.79	195.42	27.48	<b>996.29</b>	Norway
	Syrian Arab Republic	D	2.98%	2.03%	0.00%	586.60	17.75	16.01	0.00	<b>620.36</b>	Syrian Arab Republic
	Tunisie	C	33.87%	1.48%	0.00%	586.60	1,597.92	92.95	0.00	<b>2,277.47</b>	Tunisie
	Turkey	B	95.16%	84.78%	0.00%	586.60	6,057.91	7,195.83	0.00	<b>13,840.34</b>	Turkey
	Union Européenne	A	78.06%	70.55%	8.88%	586.60	75,953.14	91,522.40	8,642.75	<b>176,704.88</b>	Union Européenne
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	586.60	2.01	0.00	0.00	<b>588.61</b>	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	United States	A	5.49%	12.44%	3.55%	586.60	5,340.84	16,143.98	3,452.69	<b>25,524.10</b>	United States

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

**Table 4.** 2022 contributions to the eBCD system by group for members of the Commission that catch and/or trade Atlantic bluefin tuna. Fees expressed in Euros.

<b>Groups</b>	<b>Parties<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Average Catch<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>No. of Trade<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>Import weight<sup>d</sup></b>	<b>% of each Party<sup>e</sup></b>	<b>% of the Budget<sup>f</sup></b>	<b>Basic Fees<sup>g</sup> (Euros)</b>	<b>Average Catch<sup>h</sup> (Euros)</b>	<b>No. of Trade<sup>i</sup> (Euros)</b>	<b>Import weight<sup>j</sup> (Euros)</b>	<b>Total fees<sup>k</sup> (Euros)</b>
<b>A</b>	7	19,528.27	121,485.00	85,233.42	---	88.00%	4,106.20	97,297.14	129,729.52	97,297.14	328,430.00
<b>B</b>	2	1,600.50	3,843.00	81.93	3.00%	6.00%	1,173.20	6,365.93	8,487.90	6,365.93	22,392.95
<b>C</b>	5	6,139.77	9,205.00	10,951.04	1.00%	5.00%	2,933.00	4,718.34	6,291.12	4,718.34	18,660.80
<b>D</b>	4	2,180.35	148.00	0.00	0.25%	1.00%	2,346.40	595.88	789.88	0.00	3,732.16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>29,448.88</b>	<b>134,681.00</b>	<b>96,266.38</b>		<b>100.00%</b>	<b>10,558.80</b>	<b>108,977.28</b>	<b>145,298.42</b>	<b>108,381.41</b>	<b>373,215.91</b>

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

**Table 5.** 2023 contributions to the eBCD system for members of the Commission that catch and/or trade Atlantic bluefin tuna (Euros).

		Exchange rate: 1€ = 1.193							US\$ (07/2021)	
Contracting Party	Group <sup>a</sup>	% Average Catch <sup>b</sup>	% No. of Trade <sup>c</sup>	% Import weight <sup>d</sup>	Basic fee <sup>e</sup>	Average Catch <sup>f</sup>	No. of Trade <sup>g</sup>	Import weight <sup>h</sup>	Total fees <sup>i</sup>	Contracting Party
Albania	D	4.77%	4.05%	0.00%	586.60	32.28	36.33	0.00	655.21	Albania
Algérie	C	20.49%	0.33%	0.00%	586.60	1,024.27	21.72	0.00	1,632.59	Algérie
Canada	A	2.83%	3.75%	0.06%	586.60	2,893.89	5,116.02	57.97	8,654.48	Canada
China, People's Rep. of	B	4.84%	15.22%	100.00%	586.60	324.27	1,360.24	6,701.82	8,972.94	China, People's Rep. of
Egypt	D	8.68%	46.62%	0.00%	586.60	58.71	417.85	0.00	1,063.16	Egypt
Iceland	A	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%	586.60	0.73	13.46	0.59	601.38	Iceland
Japan	A	13.42%	13.09%	87.48%	586.60	13,720.47	17,845.48	89,428.29	121,580.84	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	C	3.37%	28.38%	100.00%	586.60	168.68	1,891.06	4,998.25	7,644.59	Korea, Rep. of
Libya	D	83.56%	47.30%	0.00%	586.60	564.99	423.90	0.00	1,575.49	Libya
Maroc	C	41.44%	68.21%	0.00%	586.60	2,071.07	4,545.94	0.00	7,203.61	Maroc
Mexico	C	0.83%	1.61%	0.00%	586.60	41.52	107.15	0.00	735.27	Mexico
Norway	A	0.19%	0.15%	0.03%	586.60	196.25	205.31	28.87	1,017.03	Norway
Syrian Arab Republic	D	2.98%	2.03%	0.00%	586.60	20.14	18.17	0.00	624.91	Syrian Arab Republic
Tunisie	C	33.87%	1.48%	0.00%	586.60	1,692.71	98.46	0.00	2,377.78	Tunisie
Turkey	B	95.16%	84.78%	0.00%	586.60	6,377.55	7,575.52	0.00	14,539.66	Turkey
Union Européenne	A	78.06%	70.55%	8.88%	586.60	79,798.88	96,156.45	9,080.36	185,622.29	Union Européenne
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	586.60	2.11	0.00	0.00	588.71	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States	A	5.49%	12.44%	3.55%	586.60	5,611.26	16,961.39	3,627.51	26,786.76	United States

**Table 6.** 2023 contributions to the eBCD system by group for members of the Commission that catch and/or trade Atlantic bluefin tuna. Fees expressed in Euros.

<b>Groups</b>	<b>Parties<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Average Catch<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>No. of Trade<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>Import weight<sup>d</sup></b>	<b>% of each Party<sup>e</sup></b>	<b>% of the Budget<sup>f</sup></b>	<b>Basic Fees<sup>g</sup> (Euros)</b>	<b>Average Catch<sup>h</sup> (Euros)</b>	<b>No. of Trade<sup>i</sup> (Euros)</b>	<b>Import weight<sup>j</sup> (Euros)</b>	<b>Total fees<sup>k</sup> (Euros)</b>
<b>A</b>	7	19,528.27	121,485.00	85,233.42	---	88.00%	4,106.20	102,223.59	136,298.12	102,223.59	344,851.50
<b>B</b>	2	1,600.50	3,843.00	81.93	3.00%	6.00%	1,173.20	6,701.82	8,935.76	6,701.82	23,512.60
<b>C</b>	5	6,139.77	9,205.00	10,951.04	1.00%	5.00%	2,933.00	4,998.25	6,664.33	4,998.25	19,593.84
<b>D</b>	4	2,180.35	148.00	0.00	0.25%	1.00%	2,346.40	676.12	896.25	0.00	3,918.77
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>29,448.88</b>	<b>134,681.00</b>	<b>96,266.38</b>		<b>100.00%</b>	<b>10,558.80</b>	<b>114,599.78</b>	<b>152,794.46</b>	<b>113,923.66</b>	<b>391,876.71</b>

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

**Table 7.** Eastern and western bluefin tuna catch figures (in t) for 2017-2019 of the members of the Commission that catch and/or trade Atlantic bluefin tuna.

Parties	2017			2018			2019			Parties
	East	West	Total	East	West	Total	East	West	Total	
Albania	56.00		56.00	100.00		100.00	156.25		156.25	Albania
Algérie	1,037.67		1,037.67	1,299.99		1,299.99	1,436.95		1,436.95	Algérie
Canada		471.65	471.65		553.98	553.98		632.87	632.87	Canada
China, People's Rep. of	64.38		64.38	78.99		78.99	88.96		88.96	China, People's Rep. of
Egypt	123.67		123.67	180.99		180.99	263.34		263.34	Egypt
Iceland	0.42		0.42	0.00		0.00	0.00		0.00	Iceland
Japan	1,910.65	345.83	2,256.48	2,269.76	407.00	2,676.76	2,523.73	406.29	2,930.02	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	181.19		181.19	207.97		207.97	232.43		232.43	Korea, Rep. of
Libya	1,630.75		1,630.75	1,791.60		1,791.60	2,043.56		2,043.56	Libya
Maroc	2,141.20		2,141.20	2,571.00		2,571.00	2,920.00		2,920.00	Maroc
Mexico		34.00	34.00		80.00	80.00		39.00	39.00	Mexico
Norway	50.86		50.86	12.31		12.31	49.30		49.30	Norway
Syrian Arab Republic	56.91		56.91	66.00		66.00	71.97		71.97	Syrian Arab Republic
Tunisie	1,755.13		1,755.13	2,103.23		2,103.23	2,379.55		2,379.55	Tunisie
Turkey	1,514.70		1,514.70	1,283.70		1,283.70	1,770.78		1,770.78	Turkey
Union Européenne	13,084.30		13,084.30	15,584.70		15,584.70	17,064.09		17,064.09	Union Européenne
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland		0.46	0.46		0.41	0.41		0.34	0.34	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States		996.80	996.80		1,028.26	1,028.26		1,190.78	1,190.78	United States
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,607.82</b>	<b>1,848.74</b>	<b>25,456.56</b>	<b>27,550.24</b>	<b>2,069.65</b>	<b>29,619.90</b>	<b>31,000.91</b>	<b>2,269.28</b>	<b>33,270.19</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

Catch figures (in t) based on the published version of the Compliance Tables from the 2020 annual meeting [COC-304F/2020] (Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9 of the Report for Biennial Period 2020-2021, Part I (2020), Vol. 1).

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 2017-2019
c	Total number of trades in the eBCD system 2017-2019
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 and 5

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 and 6

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

### **Agenda**

1. Opening of meeting
2. Nomination of the rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Reports from the Secretariat
  - 4.1 2021 Administrative Report
  - 4.2 2021 Financial Report
  - 4.3 Review of progress of the payment of arrears and voting rights
5. Assistance to developing CPCs and identification of mechanism to finance the Meeting Participation Fund and other capacity building activities
6. Presentation of external reports on issues regarding the staff
7. Consideration of financial implications of SCRS requests
8. Review of progress to of the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Financing
9. Consideration of financial implications of ICCAT conservation and management measures proposed.
10. Adoption of Budget and Contracting Party Relevant contributions for 2022/2023
11. Election of Chair
12. Other matters
13. Adoption of the report and adjournment

## Appendix 2 to ANNEX 7

## SCRS research activities requiring funding for 2022

## 2022 science budget approved by the Commission

This 2022 revised 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 a total of €404,500 through the regular budget and the approval of an extension request to the current grant agreement with the EU (SI2.839159) due the impact of the pandemic on the 2021 field and laboratory activities. 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 2022 Science budget. Therefore, the total revised budget of the 2022 Science Envelope will be €2,285,500, of which €1,510,000 corresponds to GBYP. In addition, the SCRS has also requested that simultaneous interpretation be provided in all SCRS intersessional meetings. The Secretariat has estimated this cost for 2022 at €496,650. However, this cost should be included in the regular budget, not in the Science Envelope.

Activity	<i>Biology</i>								<i>Other fisheries related studies</i>	<i>Assessment</i>	<i>MSE</i>	<i>Workshops</i>	<b>Total</b>
	Tagging	Reproduction	Age and growth	Genetics	Sample collection and shipping	Other	Consumables	Total	(inc. data recovery of fisheries statistics; update ICCAT Manual)	Expert to be hired	MSE	Workshops	
Albacore	40.000	35.000	10.000		5.000			90.000	0		20.000		110.000
Billfish			15.000		10.000		5.000	30.000	10.000			30.000	70.000
Sharks	35.000		5.000	25.000		5.000		70.000					70.000
Small tunas		12.500	12.500	10.000	10.000			45.000	1.000			25.000	71.000
Swordfish	10.000	15.000	45.000	70.000	10.000			150.000			90.000	20.000	260.000
Tropicals tunas	42.500	15.000						57.500		10.000	50.000		117.500
SC Ecosystems						6.000		6.000				30.000	36.000
SC Statistics									6.000				6.000
Stock Assessment methods									35.000				35.000
<b>Sub-total</b>	127.500	77.500	87.500	105.000	35.000	11.000	5.000	448.500	52.000	10.000	160.000	105.000	775.500
Bluefin tuna (GBYP)	280.000		40.000	120.000	100.000	320.000		860.000	400.000	10.000	160.000	80.000	1.510.000
												<b>Total</b>	<b>2.285.500</b>

NB. Red font indicates priorities.



**Report of the Meeting of the Virtual Working Group  
on Sustainable Finances for ICCAT (VWG-SF)**

Pursuant to the decision taken by the Commission in 2020 the VWG-SF has continued intersessional work through an e-meeting and subsequent internal correspondence. Experts from five CPCs (Canada, European Union, Japan, Turkey and the United States), the Chair of STACFAD and the Secretariat have participated the meeting that was held on 20 April 2021. An outline of issues discussed by the members of the VWG-SF are provided in the following sections.

**Item I - Review of potential solutions to achieve further progress in payment of arrears**

The Chair noted that the Commission has already agreed in its previous sessions to use a special letter (*Attachment 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 7 of ICCAT Report 2021*) to be sent to those Contracting Parties with arrears of contributions that equal or exceed the amount due for the two preceding years. It was pointed out that the letter signed by the Chairman of the Commission stipulates that if it is not possible for a Contracting Party to pay its accumulated debt in one lump sum, a payment plan must be presented to the Commission for its consideration, and that failure to submit or adherence to such payment plan could result in additional actions that have not yet identified by the Commission except for the suspension of voting rights stipulated in ICCAT Basic Texts.

Having informed the members of VWG-SF of the current situation of the accumulated debts since 2019, the Secretariat indicated that although nine special letters were sent to the respective CPCs, only one CPC had responded back but no specific payment plan was provided to the Secretariat.

Reaffirming that failure to submit the payment plan should be considered a serious matter by the Commission, some members of the VWG-SF expressed that it could be considered to introduce a binding measure like Rec. 11-15 to urge submission of the required payment plans by those CPCs that did not respond to the letter of the Commission Chair.

While stressing the importance of ensuring to receive appropriate engagements from the relevant parties on how they intend to comply with their financial obligations, some members of VWG-SF noted that situations leading to the non-payment of regular contributions might not be similar for all parties and that particular challenges faced by the relevant parties would need to be assessed individually to identify the reasons of lack of payments in due date or actions to reimburse the current arrears. The VWG-SF also noted that, as an option, a sliding scale of measures might be developed to address and compensate the issue of arrears considering that not every CPC has similar situations with respect to continuation of arrears from previous years. The VWG-SF agreed to continue discussions on potential ways to achieve progress in payment of arrears.

**Item II - Mechanisms to address the budgetary burden of the annual Commission meetings**

**(a) Proposed improvements on Guidelines for Observer Status on level of observer fees and extending coverage of meeting participation fees**

The Chair recalled that although the VWG-SF previously discussed the proposal for amendment to “Draft Guidelines and Criteria for Granting Observer Status at ICCAT Meetings”, no consensus was reached on the proposed approach to extend the coverage of observer fees to the representatives from the industry who are not part of the official delegations and who shall attend the annual Commission meeting, with a view to compensating the additional meeting expenses incurred by them to partially mitigate the budgetary expenses.

In this context, the VWG-SF briefly reviewed the proposed edit to paragraph 6 of the “Guidelines for Observer Status” that reads; “*All observers, except those who are designated as part of official delegation of CPCs and notified to the Secretariat, including representatives from the industry and fishing operators that have not been confirmed by a given CPC authority to be as part of the official delegation of that CPC, will be required to pay a fee for their participation at the meetings of the Organization, which will contribute to the additional expenses generated by their participation, as determined annually by the Executive Secretary.*”

Additionally, an amendment to Rule 5 of ICCAT Rules of Procedure, proposed by the Chair in a way to address the correspondence from Panel 2 Chair regarding disclosure of meeting information (Circular # 5676 / 2020), was discussed but not finalized by the VWG-SF.

Some members of VWG-SF pointed out three fundamental points to follow: to take into account the Rules of procedure (i.e., to clearly stipulate how many Delegates and Observers could attend the meetings, etc.), describing the steps to follow, to remember the link with the Performance review and to clarify who is charged the observer's fee and how much they have to pay. It was also referred to the composition of the delegations at the meetings, which should be very clear.

The meeting also noted that it could be problematic for some CPCs to distinct NGO observers and industry observers from their delegations and that it would not agreeable to expand the scope of the observer fees instead of having other alternative mechanisms in financing the annual Meetings of the Commission.

The VWG-SF did not reach an agreement on the proposed amendments to Guidelines for Observer Status and Rule 5 of ICCAT Rules of Procedure, and no further actions were recommended during the meeting.

**(b) *Draft Proposal to amend Recommendation 03-20 as a way to subject Cooperating non-Members to annual contribution fees***

The Chair reminded that the VWG-SF had agreed in 2020 to continue its deliberations for a consolidated proposal in light of the proposal to amend Recommendation 03-20. It was noted that the proposed draft submitted by Japan requires that the Cooperating non-Member shall make a commitment to make an annual financial contribution that is equal to [50]% of the amount that it would be assessed should it become a Contracting Party. In addition, the proposal also provides for the Cooperating non-Members to be able to distribute on a voluntary basis a portion of the contributions to existing scientific and research projects or special Meeting Participation Fund.

The meeting noted that making an explicit commitment to make financial contributions for attaining the status of Cooperating non-Member was obligatory in some RFMOs such as WCPFC and introduction of a similar model for ICCAT could be introduced by amendment of Rec. 03-20 provided that such commitment to make contribution by Cooperating non-Members would be voluntary instead of being binding and mandatory. To this end, discussion were held on a revised Japanese document that will be putted forward for consideration at STACFAD by Japan.

**Item III - Other matters**

**(a) *Potential ways to deal with the issue regarding the workload of the Secretariat***

*Assessment of the financial and workload implications of the proposed management measures*

Under this agenda item, the following issues were brought to the agenda by the Chair to inform the members of the VWG-SF with respect to the activities undertaken by the Secretariat.

The meeting noted that, among other items, the excessive workload of the Secretariat and the need to reduce the high number of meetings affecting the logistics of the Secretariat.

The Executive Secretary provided an update on the recent progress for review and assessment of the Secretariat's workload and human resources by external consultants. He informed that the delay in initiating this work, which will be done virtually, is the situation caused by the global pandemic. He also reported that this work will be finalized and the report presented at the Commission meeting.

*Issue of the extra hours of the Secretariat staff as they are accumulated because of the continuous heavy meetings' calendar; a solution is needed as staff members are losing days because it is impossible for them to take all the vacations they have*

The Executive Secretary informed the VWG-SF of the fact that due to prevailing conditions caused by the global pandemic, usual working conditions of the Secretariat staff has transformed to telecommuting and owing to increasing number of online meetings scheduled, working hours spread over an extended period that is well beyond the usual working times. He indicated that the prolonged working time might require some additional administrative measures to be taken. The experience gained from the previous year has shown that, under the current conditions, some staff are accumulating more vacation days that they cannot take because of the work necessity. Hence, the accumulation is beyond what is allowed in the Staff Rules.

As the heavy meeting calendar and telecommuting seems to continue in 2021, it was asked whether there are "examples of good practice" that the members of the VWG-SF could suggest in order to manage this process in the most effective way. The VWG-SF did not express any opinions or suggestions on this matter.

***(b) Information exchange and cooperation with SCRS to provide a guidance to identify financing priorities for research activities in consideration with available budget resources***

With respect to prioritizing of the research activities by SCRS that require funding in 2021, members of the VWG-SF were asked for their suggestions on potential ways or mechanisms to address any situation of mismatch between the resources requested and those available. The VWG-SF did not suggest any actions on this topic during the meeting.

***(c) Proposals for review and update of ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules***

The Executive Secretary informed the members of the VWG-SF about the intended review and update of ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules in the light of current developments and the need to adapt to the present conditions like conflict resolution, guidelines for telework, paternity leave, etc. He also indicated that they would be working with a legal advisor to produce a document that involves comparative analysis of Staff Regulations and Rules of some relevant international organizations, like FAO, International Labour Office, WCPFC, World Intellectual Property Organization, etc., to learn from the provisions that are of interest to ICCAT. The proposed amendments to Staff Regulations and Rules were planned to be discussed in STACFAD this fall. The Executive Secretary also informed about the development of the ICCAT IT Security Policy, together with the Personal Data Protection Rules.

**REPORTS OF THE MEETINGS OF PANELS 1 TO 4*****REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 1*****1. Opening of the meeting**

Mr. Shep Helguilè (Côte d'Ivoire), the Chair of Panel 1, opened the meeting.

**2. Appointment of Rapporteur**

Ms. Sylvia Sefakor Awo Ayivi (Ghana) was appointed as Rapporteur.

**3. Adoption of Agenda**

The Panel reviewed the draft Agenda. After clarification requested by a CPC related to items 8 and 9, the Agenda was adopted without change and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8**.

**4. Review of Panel membership**

The ICCAT Executive Secretary, Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel indicated that there were no changes in the Panel 1 membership from the previous year. The 41 members are Angola, Belize, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canada, China (P.R.), Côte d'Ivoire, Curaçao, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (St Pierre et Miquelon), Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea (Rep.), Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Philippines, Russian Federation, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

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

The SCRS Chair, Dr Gary Melvin presented the SCRS report on tropical tunas (skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye) and indicated the significant contribution of the AOTTP to the knowledge of tropical tuna. The Bigeye Stock Assessment was undertaken in 2021 (Anon. 2021), while the Yellowfin Stock Assessment was carried out in 2019 (Anon. 2019). The Skipjack Stock Assessment Meeting will be held in May 2022.

Stock status of skipjack indicated no overfishing. This stock has no current specific regulations and no change in management advice since the last assessment in 2014.

As regards yellowfin, catches increased from 135,312 t in 2019 to 149,202 t in 2020 and mainly in the eastern Atlantic. The assessment result of yellowfin in 2019 indicated that the stock is not overfished and not subject to overfishing, nevertheless, a TAC of 120,000 t should be maintained to sustain the stock status through 2033 with at least 63% probability.

The stock status of bigeye indicated that nominal catches exceeded the TAC (65,000 t) between 2016 and 2019 by 13% to 21%, however, the 2020 catch was approximately 9% below the TAC. Significant changes were made in the assessment inputs in relation to maximum age, natural mortality assumptions, relative abundance indices and fleet structure. The TAC established in Rec. 19-02 will have a high probability (97%) of maintaining the stock in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot by 2034. The increase in harvest of small yellowfin and bigeye tunas has negative consequences on both long-term sustainable yield and stock status.

Dr Melvin continued with the management recommendations for each stock and the various responses to the Commission. It was also recommended to revitalize the FAD Working Group in 2022 since its last meeting was in 2017. The report is contained in ANNEX 4.5 to the *Report for Biennial Period 2016-2017, Part II (2017), Vol. 1*.

In relation to bigeye tuna, one CPC raised concerns regarding the use of “a high probability” in the management recommendation. In response, Dr Melvin commented that there were two statements that used this phrase, i.e. the future catch of 61,500 t obtained from Rec. 19-02 which will have a high probability to take the stock to the green quadrant. The second statement indicated that, “the Commission should consider adopting a TAC which shifts the stock status of the green quadrant of the Kobe plot with a high probability”. The use of the word is subjective; however, it was a characterization expressed by the SCRS. He noted that the SCRS could perhaps be more explicit in the future, such as defining a range of percentages to be taken into consideration, if that would be more useful to the Panel.

The other question raised by this CPC was whether a measure similar to that of the IATTC could be implemented for setting vessel based specific limits. Dr Melvin responded that the ICCAT Secretariat does not have data on tropical tunas catch by vessel. CPCs could, therefore, be required to submit historical catches by vessel from at least the past ten years, to enable the Committee to provide scientific analysis.

Some CPCs expressed concern about the current outlook of the bigeye stock and requested further explanation on the level of caution to be taken in the TAC projections considering the significant changes in the assessment inputs. The SCRS Chair pointed out that these changes were adequately emphasized in the SCRS Report, and the management recommendations highlighted the concerns of the SCRS regarding uncertainty and the potential implications of the changes in assessment inputs. A similar assessment model was used for assessment advice as used in 2018.

Another CPC was concerned about the uncertainties considered in the assessment in terms of use of maximum age of 20 and 25 years, while the highest recorded age was 17 years. Dr Melvin stated that the SCRS extensively deliberated to consider three (3) scenarios (low, medium, and high), in comparison to two (2) scenarios used in 2018 to cover a broad range of possible maximum ages.

Regarding this issue, many CPCs intervened to reject the proposal by the European Union to amend the SCRS Report after it had been adopted by that body. The statement submitted by the European Union on this matter is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 8**.

## **6. Review of the reports of the intersessional meetings of Panel 1 and consideration of any necessary actions**

The Chair indicated that both the [Report of the First Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1](#) and the [Report of the Second Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1](#) were available on the ICCAT website.

The Philippine delegation requested clarification on Rec. 19-02, paragraph 22 (a) and (b), elaborating on the categorization of the Philippines and the subsequent effect of the Recommendation. The Chair also encouraged the CPC to contribute and participate more in Panel 1 meetings. The Philippines was requested to submit its management plan to the Secretariat in accordance with the Recommendation, thereby helping to find a solution to their current position regarding the Rec. 19-02.

## **7. Review of compliance tables**

The Chair referred CPCs to the compliance documents and encouraged CPCs to work with the Secretariat to address the discrepancies identified so the tables could be endorsed by the Commission. The final version of the Compliance Tables is attached as **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9**.

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

The Chair reminded members of the provisional status of Rec. 19-02 and the need for a consensus to prepare a new document to replace those measures which would expire at the end of 2021. The Chair noted that the diverse opinions on management measures for tropical tunas would make it more difficult to reach a consensus at this meeting. That said, the Chair acknowledged the helpful contributions made by CPCs, and referred to the four proposals submitted: “Chair’s Draft for a Revised ICCAT Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tunas”, drafted by the Chair, “Draft Recommendation to Amend ICCAT Recommendation 19-02”, proposed by Japan, “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Replace Recommendation 19-02 on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tunas”, submitted by a group of Central American CPCs (Curaçao, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama), and “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Replace Recommendation 16-01 on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tunas”, submitted by the European Union. For comparison purposes and to facilitate the discussions, the Chair compiled the four proposals in a “Table of Analysis of Panel 1 Proposals”, which highlighted their similarities and differences.

Each proposal was presented and was followed by discussion of areas of disagreement and paragraphs requiring substantial changes or updates. The Chair’s proposal, developed as a result of two Panel 1 intersessional meetings, pointed out the need for further discussions on the bigeye TAC as well as catch limits for CPCs in a table inserted in the Recommendation, applying a concept of transition to a more equitable distribution of bigeye fishing opportunities for coastal developing States over time. Some CPCs supported the three-month closure to FAD fishing provided for in Rec. 19-02 as well as a reduction in FAD numbers. Others argued that the closed period should be shortened. A new paragraph was proposed relating to a capacity limitation for support vessels. A number of CPCs raised concerns about the large number and complexity of the monitoring and reporting measures in Rec. 19-02.

Japan proposed a gradual increase in TAC to 70,000 t in 2023 and that the increment between the current TAC and 70,000 t be allocated to developing coastal CPCs who would work out an allocation arrangement among themselves and submit it to the Commission for approval. This proposal also called for an intersessional meeting in 2022 to discuss long-term management measures for yellowfin tuna, including a possible allocation scheme. Japan also requested that the Commission provide guidelines for measures on FAD set limits.

The Central American group proposed an increase in the TAC to 75,000 t for 2022, 2023 and 2024, considering long-term measures over three years based on the same elements as in Rec. 19-02. The incremental increase of TAC would go to benefit developing countries. Average catches of each CPC would be considered in allocating additional TAC; these estimated average catches cover 2016 to 2019. This proposal would also reduce the current three month FAD closure to 1 month (January) in 2022-24. However, if a CPC exceeds its catch limit, a mechanism would be set in motion in line with the percentage of surplus/excess of the limit to extend the closed period for that CPC by one or two additional months. In addition, that CPC would be subject to pay back of the quota harvest and an increased period of FAD closure in year following the overage.

The EU proposed to increase the TAC to 75,000 t, considering the more than 60% probability of maintaining the stock in the green zone of the Kobe plot for the duration of the programme. The EU presented this TAC increase as a unique opportunity to resolve allocation issues/requests, and reiterated that it is important for developing CPCs to submit a proposal on TAC distribution for approval by the Commission during intersessional meetings. The creation of a working group to consolidate recent FAD information and the potential establishment of a FAD register to clarify the request of the Commission to the SCRS regarding the number of FAD sets was also recommended to improve current management of FADs.

Some CPCs expressed concern that the Panel was not making headway in the limited time available if each proposal was to be considered and discussed. It was proposed to use the “Chair’s Draft for a Revised ICCAT Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tunas” as a basis for reaching a consensus, considering equity and transparency. In an effort to advance discussions, several CPCs agreed that working from the Chair’s proposal would provide the best approach.

A few CPCs expressed concern regarding the issue of quota transfers and suggested prohibiting such transfers in the case of bigeye tuna. Some CPCs supported retaining the possibility of authorizing temporary quota transfers for bigeye tuna as is done for other species managed by the Commission.

In a subsequent session, the Chair suggested a rollover of Rec. 19-02 with minimum changes in the text due to divergence on several key points submitted by CPCs following an informal discussion. He introduced the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Replace Recommendation 19-02 Replacing Recommendation 16-01 on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tunas”. It was proposed that the roll-over proposal contain the minimum number of changes in the text necessary to enable the measures in place for 2021 to remain in place through 2022, including maintaining a TAC between 62,500 t and 61,500 t, number of months of FAD closure, number of FADs allowed per vessel, and updating all dates and years.

CPCs were willing to accept a rollover, suggesting the scheduling of intersessional meetings in 2022 to pursue work to reach a consensus on these measures, especially for bigeye and yellowfin stocks. Members debated extensively amendment of the TAC of 61,500 t and reduction of FAD closure from 3 to 2 months. Many CPCs, however, expressed disappointment with the rollover proposal, and there was no consensus to work from that document. As a way forward, South Africa proposed a revised version, which included the high and low ends of TAC (61,500 - 75,000 t), a 3 FAD month closure, and other changes. Consensus could not be reached on this proposal by Panel 1.

As time was running short in the Panel and a number of issues still needed to be resolved to avoid a lapse in management of the tropical tunas fishery in 2022, the United States suggested that as an interim approach the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Replace Recommendation 19-02 Replacing Recommendation 16-01 on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tunas”, be forwarded to the Commission for further consideration with the following deliberated options stated in the text before submission to the Plenary;

- Paragraph 3: insert the proposed TAC of 61,500 t or 62,500 t in brackets;
- Paragraph 28: include two or three months closed period options in brackets (1 January to 28 February and 1 January to 31 March).

The Panel agreed to forward a revised version that included the edits suggested by the United States to the Commission for further discussion with a view to reaching consensus. In addition, to help find a compromise on the closure period the United States further proposed that consideration be given by the Commission to a two-month closure (1 January to 28 February) and one additional month of closure to be selected by the CPC.

In light of these discussions, the proposal was revised and referred to the Plenary for further discussion.

The Panel also agreed on the need to hold at least one intersessional meeting in 2022 (either online or in person, as conditions allow), to continue discussing conservation and management measures for tropical tunas, including issues associated with the implementation of the *Resolution by ICCAT on criteria for the allocation of fishing possibilities* (Res. 15-13) in the allocation of the bigeye tuna quotas.

In that regard, some CPCs stressed that the current situation puts more emphasis on historical catches than other criteria contained in Resolution 15-13 when considering allocation issues.

Japan submitted its position regarding paragraph 55 of Recommendation 19-02 (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 8.**)

## **9. Identification of outdated measures in light of item 8 above**

This Agenda item was deferred to the proposed Panel 1 intersessional meeting, as needed, although it was recognized that any revision to current tropicals recommendation would repeal and replace relevant measures.

## 10. Research

As regards the skipjack stock assessment, including data preparation, Dr Melvin, the SCRS Chair, stressed the need to focus on the following: multi-stock MSE for western and eastern skipjack stocks; ongoing age and growth studies to continue to modify or confirm current values used; ongoing support from the Secretariat for tag recoveries from the AOTTP programme, which will aid studies related to information on tropical tuna movements and growth. Finally, the availability of new information in relation to FADs will support the SCRS to respond to some enquires from the Commission.

## 11. Election of Chair

Ghana was elected Chair of Panel 1 for the 2022-23 biennial period. The Panel thanked the outgoing Chair for his many years of service to ICCAT.

## 12. Other matters

No other matters were raised by CPCs.

A joint statement was submitted to Panel 1 by Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Morocco, Mauritania, Nigeria, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sierra Leone, Senegal and South Africa (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 8**). Statements were also submitted to Panel 1 by Européche\*, International Pole and Line Foundation (IPNLF), Pew Charitable Trusts, and World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) (**Appendices 5 to 8 of ANNEX 8**).

## 13. Adoption of the report and adjournment

The Panel agreed to adopt its report by correspondence. The Chair thanked the Secretariat and interpreters for their excellent efforts and the Panel for its hard work and adjourned the meeting.

## References

- Anonymous. 2019. Report of the 2019 ICCAT Yellowfin Tuna Stock Assessment Meeting (*Grand-Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire, 8-16 July 2019*). Collect. Vol. Sci. Pap. 76(6): 344-515.
- Anonymous. 2021. Report of the 2021 Bigeye Tuna Stock Assessment Meeting (*Online, 19-29 July 2021*). Collect. Vol. Sci. Pap. 78(2): 335-485.

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\* Statement in excess of word limit and not provided in the three official languages of ICCAT, therefore included in original language only.



## **REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 2**

### **1. Opening of the meeting**

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

### **2. Appointment of Rapporteur**

Dr Derek Kraft (United States) was appointed as Rapporteur.

### **3. Adoption of Agenda**

The Agenda was adopted without changes (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8**).

### **4. Review of Panel membership**

The Executive Secretary reported that there had been no change to the Panel 2 membership since 2020 and that the Panel was composed of the following 29 members: Albania, Algeria, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Cabo Verde, China (P.R.), Egypt, European Union, France (St. Pierre and Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Norway, Panama, Russia, Senegal, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, and Venezuela.

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

Dr Gary Melvin, Chair of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), presented the [Executive Summaries on the western Atlantic stock of bluefin tuna and the Mediterranean stock of albacore](#). Dr Melvin also provided a short summary of the Atlantic-wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (ICCAT GBYP) and progress on Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) relevant to bluefin tuna and northern albacore. These summaries can be found in Sections 9.2, 9.3, 10.1, 17.1, and 17.2 of the [2021 SCRS Report](#), respectively.

#### **5.1 Albacore**

##### *5.1.1 Mediterranean albacore tuna*

The SCRS Chair reviewed the results of the 2021 Stock Assessment, which is summarized in Section 9.3 of the 2021 SCRS Report.

##### *5.1.2 North Atlantic albacore tuna*

The SCRS Chair briefly touched on 2020 northern albacore catches. For stock status information, he called attention to Section 5.1 of the [2020 SCRS Advice to the Commission](#).

#### **5.2 Bluefin tuna**

##### *5.2.1 Western Atlantic bluefin tuna*

The SCRS Chair reviewed the results of the 2021 Stock Assessment, which is summarized in Section 9.2 of the [2021 SCRS Report](#).

### 5.2.2 Eastern Atlantic/Mediterranean bluefin tuna

The SCRS Chair briefly touched on 2020 eastern Atlantic/Mediterranean bluefin tuna catches. For stock status information, he called attention to Section 5.2 of the [2020 SCRS Advice to the Commission](#).

### 5.3 Responses of the SCRS to the Commission requests

The SCRS Chair referred the Panel to the responses to various Commission requests, which are contained in the 2021 SCRS report, as follows:

1. Provide advice to the Commission on the appropriate management measures, approaches, and strategies, including, inter alia, regarding TAC levels for the western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock for future years. Rec. 20-06, para 6 (17).

This response is presented in point 21.22 of the 2021 SCRS Report.

2. Report to the Commission in 2021 on CPCs' 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.

This response is presented in point 21.23 of the 2021 SCRS Report.

3. Annually advise on the (eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna) TAC. Rec. 20-07, paragraph 1 (Rec. 19-04, para 5).

This response is presented in point 21.24 of the 2021 SCRS Report.

4. Review no later than 2021, and each time an eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna stock assessment is performed, CPCs fishing capacity 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. Rec. 20-07, para 4 (18).

This response is presented in point 21.25 of the 2021 SCRS Report.

5. Identify growth rates including in weight and size gains during the fattening period, and review and update the growth table published in 2009, and the growth rates utilized for farming the fish referred to under paragraph 35c and considering the difference among geographic areas (including Atlantic and Mediterranean) in updating the table. Rec. 20-07, para 8 (Rec. 19-04, para 28).

This response is presented in point 21.26 of the 2021 SCRS Report.

6. Advise, not later than 2022, on possible extension on the fishing seasons for different gear types and/or fishing areas, without negatively influencing the stock development and by ensuring the stock is managed sustainably. Rec. 20-07, para 9 (Rec. 19-04, para 33).

This response is presented in point 21.27 of the 2021 SCRS Report.

7. Report on National observer programmes. Rec. 19-04, para 83.

This response is presented in point 21.28 of the 2021 SCRS Report.

8. Programmes to estimate the number and weight of bluefin tuna to be caged. The SCRS should evaluate such procedures and results and report to the Commission. Rec. 19-04, para 99.

This response is presented in point 21.29 of the 2021 SCRS Report.

9. Provide new advice on the TAC for the following year when the goal of maintaining the biomass around  $B_{0.1}$  (to be achieved by fishing at or less than  $F_{0.1}$ ) is not achieved and the objectives of this plan are in danger. Rec. 19-04, para 114.

This response is presented in point 21.30 of the 2021 SCRS Report.

10. Standards and procedures for stereoscopic cameras systems in the context of caging operations. Rec. 19-04, Annex 9, item 1 iii.

This response is presented in point 21.31 of the 2021 SCRS Report.

11. Review the (stereoscopic camera systems) specifications and, if necessary, provide recommendations to modify them. Rec. 19-04, Annex 9, item vi.

This response is presented in point 21.32 of the 2021 SCRS Report.

12. Method proposed for the calculation of a margin of error and range of the stereoscopic camera system, Rec. 19-04, Annex 9, section 2.

This response is presented in point 21.33 of the 2021 SCRS Report.

13. 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. Rec. 20-04, para 4 (18).

This response is presented in point 21.34 of the 2021 SCRS Report.

#### **5.4 Comments on the SCRS presentation**

Regarding the 2021 assessment of western Atlantic bluefin tuna, Norway pointed out there are few fisheries independent surveys and asked why the Canadian acoustic survey index had not been updated nor applied since 2017. The SCRS Chair explained the major reasons: there was a vessel change in 2017 that created more noise and caused fish avoidance; and there were environmental changes that affected the availability of prey, and therefore the availability of bluefin tuna, in the survey area. The SCRS intends to use the index values for 2017 onwards again, but this change requires that the acoustic survey index be split into two periods, and there are insufficient years in the second period at this time.

Regarding northern albacore, the European Union thanked the SCRS for its work on evaluating harvest control rule (HCR) variants, which it considered should be acted upon by the Commission in 2021. The European Union noted it had incorporated changes to the current HCR in its "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on conservation and management measures, including a management procedure and exceptional circumstances protocol, for North Atlantic albacore". The European Union expressed concerns regarding no planned eastern Atlantic/Mediterranean bluefin tuna stock assessment for 2022 and cautioned about a TAC increase for western Atlantic bluefin tuna given the substantial shift in advice since the 2020 assessment as well as the conclusions of the independent review. The SCRS Chair explained that the SCRS had conducted intensive work to review and revise the indices used in the stock assessment and the MSE process for bluefin tuna, and the corrected data provided clear evidence of higher recruitment levels in the past decade than had been evident during the 2020 western bluefin tuna stock assessment. He pointed out that a moderate increase in TAC is warranted even if, as recommended by the expert reviewer, the assessment models are not used to provide quantitative advice. He stressed that the expert reviewer pointed out that abundance indices indicate that some TAC increase could be supported. The SCRS Chair noted the need for caution when considering the Kobe matrix and referred to the qualitative advice for a "moderate" TAC increase provided by the SCRS. He explained that the results of the three additional analyses done to provide guidance to the Commission on what a "moderate" TAC increase might be, should be seen as characterizing a range rather than three specific options to choose from. There was a discussion of the models used in the assessment (Stock Synthesis and Virtual Population Analysis), and it was noted that all indices showed increases except for the Japanese longline index. It was also noted that catches had been below the TAC.

The United States expressed support for the SCRS plans to refine the bluefin tuna MSE, including the testing of CMPs and holding three scientist-manager dialogue meetings in 2022. The United States drew attention to its updates to the “SCRS revised Roadmap for the development of Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) and Harvest Control Rules (HCR)” (**ANNEX 6.2**), and recognized and supported the work undertaken for northern albacore MSE, which may be completed by 2023. The United States asked the SCRS Chair if more work can or should be done to evaluate additional HCR variants under the current MSE, as suggested in the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on conservation and management measures, including a management procedure and exceptional circumstances protocol, for North Atlantic albacore”, given the effort by the SCRS to develop a new MSE for northern albacore. The Chair replied that this could be discussed under Agenda Item 8.

The Chair reviewed the detailed SCRS workplan on BFT MSE for the remainder of 2021 and 2022, indicating he would formally request the scheduling of these meetings during the Plenary session. The United States and Canada supported the schedule. Canada requested clarification regarding the duration of the meeting, supporting an equivalent duration to an in-person meeting if the meeting is held virtually. The Chair commented that having a virtual meeting the same time length as an in-person meeting would be difficult but said that he would consult with the SCRS Chair and Secretariat on appropriate timing.

The European Union reiterated the need for an eastern bluefin tuna stock assessment in 2022 given the last assessment was in 2017. The Chair noted that this discussion should occur in Plenary but the Panel could take note of views on the issue. The United States agreed that the discussion should be taken up by the Commission in Plenary. However, as views were being discussed, the United States questioned why the request was not part of the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 19-04 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean” and why an assessment would be needed prior to the anticipated completion of the MSE work in 2022. The United States noted particular concern that this additional work could conflict with advancing the MSE given the amount of work needed to develop an assessment model that works for the stock. The United States noted that the highest priority of the SCRS concerning bluefin tuna in 2022 was to finalize the MSE and nothing should get in the way of that. Norway supported the intervention by the European Union that a full stock assessment would be needed in 2022 and would improve the quality of the MSE. The Chair agreed that the Panel could recommend a 2022 assessment to the Commission in Plenary but suggested the SCRS Chair speak on the practicality of this as doing an eastern bluefin tuna assessment would sacrifice other work. Given this, he stressed that such a recommendation would need to come with more guidance on what to drop. The SCRS Chair confirmed their heavy workload and that many of the same people would be needed for an assessment and the MSE work. He noted that the western bluefin stock assessment requested for 2021 was only possible because of the hard preparatory work that happened behind the scenes in advance of the assessment meeting. He explained that information needed for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna TAC advice (for 2023) would be available from the MSE so that a stock assessment in 2022 may be somewhat redundant. Additionally, the SCRS Chair noted that the planned eastern bluefin tuna data preparatory meeting will give an indication of the status of eastern bluefin tuna for the next two or three years and could be used to establish a TAC in 2023 if needed. Nevertheless, the SCRS Chair stressed that the SCRS would complete the MSE in 2022 so that TAC advice could be provided based on a management procedure beginning for 2023 and into the future.

## **6. Review of the reports of the Intersessional Meetings of Panel 2, and consideration of any necessary actions**

The Chair provided summary information regarding the three Panel 2 intersessional meetings. [The Report of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2](#), held in March and [the Report of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2](#) held in September were endorsed. As the November intersessional meeting on Bluefin Tuna MSE occurred just before this Annual Meeting, the Chair prepared a draft “Chair’s summary of the Panel 2 meeting on Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT) Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)” for consideration and adoption during the Panel 2 meeting.

On the topic of applying TAC caps during the CMP testing to improve performance, the SCRS West Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Rapporteur clarified caps for the western stock are less important than for the eastern stock, and most likely would not be necessary for testing. He added that 7 of the 9 CMPs do not use caps and that the Commission will be able to consider the issue of caps when deciding on a CMP for adoption. The Chair

suggested the report reflect that CMPs will be tested with and without caps as appropriate and that it would be clear from the performance results why they are sometimes needed. The Panel agreed with this way forward, noting in particular the approach for using caps in testing CMPs will differ with respect to the eastern and western stocks.

Regarding the possible use of a minimum threshold for implementing a TAC change resulting from application of MSE, the Chair recounted a similar issue regarding southern bluefin tuna. He noted that the CCSBT had decided that, where application of the MSE resulted in a de minimis TAC change, the Commission would not implement it, which would eliminate the administrative burden associated with making very small TAC changes. Following the practice of the CCSBT, he suggested setting the minimum TAC change threshold to 1% of the TAC. While understanding the concept, the United States was unsure if a percentage or absolute value would be a better approach. The European Union suggested a more appropriate range might be 3-5% and that 1% would be too low. CPCs were not prepared to endorse a specific amount at this meeting, and some suggested it may not be necessary at this point since it would not affect the evaluation of performance among CMPs. The Chair agreed and suggested continuation of the discussion later in the MSE process.

The “Chair’s summary of the Panel 2 meeting on Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT) Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)” as updated based on Panel 2 discussions was endorsed.

## **7. Review of Compliance Tables**

The Chair urged CPCs to examine the compliance tables to determine if any changes were necessary or if any actions were required by the Compliance Committee. No issues were raised.

The Chair relayed the “Issues referred from the Compliance Committee to Panel 2” and indicated they would be taken up under agenda item 8 as they related to elements in the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 19-04 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean”.

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

### **8.1 Bluefin tuna**

#### *8.1.1 Setting western bluefin tuna TAC*

Initially, the United States tabled a one-year proposal for western Atlantic bluefin tuna without a TAC specified and welcomed discussion, underscoring the SCRS Chair’s point that the alternative approaches presented by the SCRS to help determine a “moderate” increase should be considered a *range* rather than three specific options (i.e., a 4%, 16%, or 28% increase). Japan also submitted a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Rec. 17-06 for an interim conservation and management plan for western Atlantic bluefin tuna” with these three options for the TAC. Following informal consultations as requested by the Chair, the United States introduced a revised version of “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Rec. 17-06 for an interim conservation and management plan for western Atlantic bluefin tuna”, co-sponsored by Japan and Canada. The United States indicated that although it initially supported a slightly higher TAC of 2,800 t, it was willing to compromise and find agreement among the western harvesters on a TAC associated with a 16% increase (2,726 t). Canada expressed support for a 16% increase as it reflects the empirical analysis using western stock abundance and would prevent overfishing with a high probability during the transition to MSE. The European Union was uncomfortable supporting an increase given the state of the stocks and the radical change in assessment results compared to 2020, which was based on only two years of new data. The European Union drew attention to the independent expert reviewer’s comments that neither assessment model should be used to provide quantitative management advice. Norway agreed with the European Union, noting assessment uncertainties, and suggested that a rollover or a 4% increase would be more precautionary.

At the following session, the Chair asked if there could be any consensus on a TAC of 2,726 t. The European Union, Norway, and the United Kingdom noted that they preferred a more precautionary approach but considering they are not major harvesters, they indicated they would not block consensus on the proposed measure. The “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Rec. 17-06 for an interim conservation and management plan for western Atlantic bluefin tuna” was endorsed by Panel 2 and sent to Plenary for adoption by the Commission.

### *8.1.2 Amending recommendation 19-04 for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna*

The Chair recalled the extensive intersessional work that had been undertaken since 2020 to develop a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 19-04 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean” and suggested going through pending issues one-by-one. Regarding quota transfer text in paragraph 9, the Chair suggested option 2, which was based on a similar paragraph in the southern albacore recommendation. The United States preferred to delete the paragraph entirely as it derogates from the terms of Rec. 01-12. As there was no agreement to delete the paragraph, option 2 was agreed with a small amendment. The Chair suggested removing brackets from paragraphs 5, 197, and 203, to which there was no objection. The United States suggested removing the other brackets in Annex 6. The European Union had reservations about this language, which required inclusion of estimates of the weight of the catch, if possible, as it could complicate estimation procedures currently in place and suggested instead to remove the language altogether. After some discussion, the language was removed. The Chair suggested adding language (“as soon as practical”) to the section on the Regional Observer Program of Annex 6 with no objections.

Regarding paragraph 214, which was related to one of the issues referred by the Compliance Committee, the European Union clarified their intention to develop a template to provide guidance on the content of the random control report for circulation to Panel 2 before its March 2022 intersessional meeting.

The European Union and United States put forward revised language on paragraph 101. The United States explained the enhancements to the new force majeure paragraph which were taken from the approach agreed by the Commission in early 2020 to address potential issues with deploying regional observers caused by the pandemic. The European Union agreed that the new text increases oversight on the issue and noted that issues of force majeure should be very rare. There was consensus to add the proposed new text to paragraph 101.

The United States also requested that clarifying text be added to paragraph 102 regarding the derogation to the use of regional observers and that with these adjustments the United States could accept the paragraph, including the bracketed text. There was no objection to the inclusion of the language proposed by the United States and the paragraph was agreed.

In the process of updating Recommendation 19-04, Canada suggested that it might be useful to understand how the illegal eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna catches transpired under the previous measure and if the European Union could provide information on how this happened based on the Tarantelo investigations to-date. The European Union referred to its written submissions on this matter.

Regarding Annex 9, Item 10 (margins of error), Morocco asked if, since these were already provided by the SCRS, the text indicating that the appendix should be reviewed by the SCRS could be removed. The SCRS Chair commented that the procedure was computationally correct and, therefore, it was agreed the text could be removed.

The United States noted that it had worked hard to be as flexible as possible on the remaining issues in order to find consensus on this document this year. That said, the United States noted for the record that it has a continuing concern, in particular, about paragraph 197 and how the traceability of fish that are regrouped during intra-farm transfers can be effectively implemented. The U.S. ability to agree to paragraph 197, therefore, was based on the understanding that work will be done through the eBCD Technical Working Group to ensure traceability can be assured. If it could not be, the United States indicated its understanding that CPCs cannot and will not authorize regrouping pursuant to this paragraph. Acknowledging the U.S. comment on this matter, the Chair stated that the issue would be further considered by the eBCD Technical Working Group. A revised version of the proposal to amend Recommendation 19-04 was presented to and endorsed by the Panel, which sent to the Plenary for adoption by the Commission.

The United Kingdom and European Union submitted a joint proposal, that specified a transfer of 48.40 t of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna quota from the European Union to the United Kingdom. This proposal reflects a bilateral agreement between the two CPCs in light of Brexit. The Chair indicated that this language would be added to paragraph 5 of “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 19-04 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean”. The Panel fully supported the UK-EU proposal and the way forward suggested by the Chair.

Finally, the Panel discussed an issue referred from the Compliance Committee regarding whether JFOs should only be allowed when the fish is destined for farming, or if the “destination farm” field should be made optional. The Chair noted that JFOs should be for farming purposes only but that there is some flexibility on this matter in Rec. 19-04. Given that, he suggested that additional language (“if applicable”) be added to the relevant part of Rec. 19-04 when updated to clarify this issue. The European Union indicated it could go along with the proposal, but stated that, in its case, JFOs are only conducted by purse seine vessels supplying farms. The European Union stressed that the critical point is to ensure the farm of destination and other details of the JFO are known by the observer.

### *8.1.3 Growth rates in farmed bluefin tuna*

Japan introduced a “Proposal on growth rate observed in bluefin tuna farmed in eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean”. There was general concern about potential underreporting of the growth of bluefin tuna in farms. Japan monitors growth rates of bluefin tuna imported into Japan and noted there were cases that they were very high and may not be realistic. Japan suggested that farming CPCs should more actively analyze growth rates and proposed adding a paragraph to “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 19-04 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean” in this regard. The European Union agreed that transparency on this issue would be useful. It was clarified that this process is intended to supplement the existing bilateral assessments with Japan and farming CPCs. The European Union suggested that adding a requirement to the abovementioned draft recommendation as suggested by Japan could create duplicate and potentially conflicting processes given the bilateral cooperation already underway and suggested further consideration of this matter was needed before an additional requirement was added to the current proposal. Morocco noted the uncertainty associated with growth rates in farms, highlighting that it will be higher in captivity than in the wild, and that it would like more transparency as new technologies become available. The United States supported Japan’s proposal as it would help ensure more effective monitoring of farming activities, including quota uptake. The United States suggested that it might be useful to explore development of a functionality in the eBCD to automatically calculate growth rates of farmed fish. The United States noted the importance of getting accurate counts of the number and weight of bluefin tuna going into farms (based on the weight of bluefin tuna at capture and removal from the wild) as well as their growth while in farms to accurately determine quota uptake and help identify any irregularities. In that regard, the United States suggested exploring the use of stereoscopic cameras when bluefin tuna are transferred from the purse seine net to the towing vessel. This would eliminate the need to adjust the number and weight of bluefin tuna in the eBCD system when the fish are eventually caged, which can take weeks and result in weight loss, mortalities, and other losses. The Chair stated that this discussion should continue at the March intersessional meeting.

The European Union introduced “Request to the SCRS to establish a length-weight relationship (L-W) for fattened bluefin tuna” requesting that the SCRS establish a length-weight relationship for farmed bluefin tuna. They explained that stereoscopic cameras are used to estimate length and then length-weight ratios are applied to estimate weight; however, these ratios differ between wild and captive fish and a different algorithm is needed for farmed fish. The SCRS Chair stressed the importance of this issue and pointed out that differences in growth rates are clear in the work already done on this issue. The United States noted the urgency of this work, in particular due to live bluefin tuna carryover provisions in paragraph 203 of the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 19-04 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean”. The SCRS Chair stated the SCRS can supply a new algorithm by the next caging season (August 2022) as long as they receive quality data from CPCs. The United States noted the unfortunate timing of these activities, which will require interim application of a new algorithm prior to adoption of that algorithm by the SCRS at its plenary meeting in October 2022. Panel 2 agreed to forward the request to the SCRS.

### *8.1.4 Short-term storage of bluefin tuna*

Norway introduced the concept paper “Short-term live storage of bluefin tuna” for the purpose of improving quality and timing of market conditions, not for the purpose of fattening as covered in Rec. 19-04. Norway was seeking input on whether this issue should be addressed in the main body of the eastern bluefin Recommendation or a new annex when they introduce a proposal in 2022. The European Union thought it did not fit within the framework of Rec. 19-04, due to the risk profile which may be different for this activity and expressed concerns about loopholes. The European Union intends to work with Norway on this issue to develop a new proposal in 2022. The Chair requested Norway to submit a paper to the 2022 Annual Meeting for further consideration.

## **8.2 Northern albacore tuna**

### *8.2.1 Transfer of northern albacore quota from European Union to the United Kingdom*

The United Kingdom introduced a “Proposal to amend ICCAT Recommendation 17-04 on a harvest control rule for North Atlantic albacore supplementing the multiannual conservation and management programme, Rec. 16-06, as amended by Recommendation 20-04”, which documented a transfer of 442.25 t of northern albacore quota from the European Union to the United Kingdom. This proposal reflects a bilateral agreement between the two CPCs in light of Brexit. The Chair indicated that this language would be added to paragraph 6 of “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Conservation and Management Measures, including a Management Procedure and Exceptional Circumstances Protocol, for North Atlantic Albacore. The Panel fully supported this proposal and the way forward suggested by the Chair.

### *8.2.2 Management procedures and Exceptional Circumstances Protocol for northern albacore*

The European Union introduced a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on conservation and management measures, including a management procedure and exceptional circumstances protocol, for North Atlantic albacore”, which combined the existing two northern albacore recommendations (the harvest control rule and other management measures in Recs. 20-03 and 20-04, which extended and amended Recs. 16-06 and 17-04) into one and incorporated other elements of a management procedure, including the exceptional circumstances protocol that was developed intersessionally. The United States thanked the European Union for its work, noting that it supported the effort in principle. The United States noted, however, that the proposal made a number of substantive changes that had not been anticipated in previous discussions. These changes would require further discussion due to their potential implications, and, given the limited amount of time available, it would be preferable this year to stick as much as possible with the process of simply combining existing measures and incorporating the additional management procedure elements. The United States expressed particular concern with: (1) the proposed adjustment to the rule governing the change in TAC between management periods where instead of requiring  $B_{CURR}$  to be greater than or equal to  $B_{THRESH}$ , it would only have to be greater than  $B_{LIM}$ ; (2) insertion of quota allocation percentages into the quota table, thus creating an allocation key; and (3) the request for the SCRS to continue testing of HCRs while the SCRS is working to develop a new MSE in the same time frame. Canada also supported the European Union proposal in principle but shared several of the concerns expressed by the United States.

The United Kingdom indicated that, if the northern albacore proposal is for 2 years, the footnote regarding the quota transfer from the European Union to the United Kingdom would need to be amended. The United Kingdom also asked for input on whether the carryover provision would apply to their transfer. The Chair replied that the transfer should be applicable for two years and that CPCs can carry over up to 25% of the previous year’s quota for northern albacore. China asked for clarification on the applicable years of the TAC and catch limits but, in general, supported the proposal.

Based on input received, the European Union revised the text, dropping the proposed allocation key from the proposal, amending the harvest control rule to allow a larger change in TAC but only when  $B_{CURR}$  is greater than or equal to  $B_{THRESH}$ , and providing more flexibility to the SCRS in conducting additional analyses of HCR variants based on the current MSE. The United States noted its satisfaction with the revised proposal while commenting that it may be challenging for the SCRS to carry out testing of additional HCR variants given its aggressive work plan in 2022. The SCRS Chair replied that the SCRS would try to fit this work into the schedule if possible. The Panel 2 Chair suggested one additional clarification to the text, specifically to have the new recommendation repeal and replace the two prior northern albacore recommendations. With the resolution of all major issues, the revised proposal was approved by Panel 2 and forwarded to the Plenary for adoption by the Commission.



### **8.3 Mediterranean albacore tuna**

The European Union introduced a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to establish a rebuilding plan for Mediterranean albacore”, which was designed to address the stock’s overfished and overfishing status through a two-step rebuilding program similar to the Mediterranean swordfish rebuilding plan. The European Union added new language in paragraph 9 to clarify closure periods for longline vessels targeting swordfish in response to a question from WWF on what would happen to the application of paragraph 12 in Rec. 16-05. The Chair asked for clarification regarding CPCs choosing option b in paragraph 9, asking what their longliners do during the closure. The European Union clarified that paragraph 12 in Rec. 16-05 would be applied to such longliners. Turkey and Morocco supported the proposal. Although Turkey indicated some remaining concerns and indicated it would work to resolve those issues.

Egypt and the European Union worked together to sort a licensing issue for Egyptian vessels. These two CPCs introduced a “Joint statement on Mediterranean albacore rebuilding plan to clarify matters” (**Appendix 9 to ANNEX 8**) and Egypt stated they will be issuing permits specifically for species instead of gear types next year in accordance with the statement. The revised draft was approved by Panel 2 and sent to the Plenary for adoption by the Commission.

## **9. Identification of outdated measures in light of item 8 above**

No outdated measures were identified but the Chair noted that the management measures discussed and agreed by Panel 2 during the 2021 ICCAT Annual Meeting included clauses to repeal and replace previous measures.

## **10. Research**

The SCRS Chair gave an update on the Committee’s recommendations for bluefin tuna research stating there is high priority for electronic tagging and reproductive studies. For albacore, priorities include reproductive biology, age and growth, electronic tagging, and the development of a new northern ALB MSE framework. Funding was requested to support the GBYP, including electronic tagging, biological studies, and development of fishery independent indices.

The United States indicated it has been pleased with the progress made concerning close-kin mark-recapture sampling, which can give direct estimates of spawning population size. Initial population estimates have been made for the western stock and a workshop was held this year which included the feasibility of carrying out this work for the eastern stock. The United States pointed out that the SCRS has indicated this will provide needed insight on mixed-stock dynamics and important inputs to both MSE and stock assessments. The United States noted that the SCRS has highlighted that sampling by CPCs provides essential data for genetic close-kin mark-recapture (as well as for monitoring stock composition, growth, and reproduction), but pointed out that some fisheries have low sampling coverage. They also highlighted that the SCRS has called for increased sampling levels and coverage to include all relevant bluefin tuna fisheries, as well as other sources such as larval surveys and sampling at farms. They concluded that continuing close-kin sampling will be a very worthwhile investment.

The European Union described discussions with Canada and the United States about recommending an eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna stock assessment, referring to the “Joint statement by the European Union, Canada and United States on bluefin tuna MSE” to Plenary that expresses the understanding of the European Union, Canada, and the United States that the SCRS work to carry out a stock assessment of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna in 2022 would be conducted in a way that does not negatively affect the other work of the SCRS, particularly the ongoing MSE process for bluefin tuna. This statement indicates that this MSE work, including the three planned Panel 2-SCRS dialogue meetings in 2022, is essential to ensure that candidate management procedures can be presented to the Commission at its 2022 Annual Meeting and that the Commission can select a management procedure for adoption and implementation at that meeting. The SCRS Chair stated that the preference of the SCRS was to not conduct an eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna stock assessment since the same scientists would be involved in carrying out both the MSE work and the assessment. If the Commission were to recommend the assessment, however, the SCRS will be unable to complete some of the other work currently planned for

2022. The SCRS Chair said that the SCRS would discuss which meetings to propose postponing until after 2022, although he noted that the potential postponements may not free up time for the scientists working on bluefin tuna. The United States reiterated for the record concerns about the feasibility of the SCRS developing a working model for the eastern stock in 2022, but after further consideration, was open to scheduling the assessment on the conditions described in the joint statement. The Chair noted that, based on this discussion, Panel 2 will request in Plenary that the SCRS conduct an eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna stock assessment in 2022 provided it does not impede completion of the bluefin tuna MSE.

#### **11. Election of Chair**

The United States nominated Japan to continue as Chair and the nomination was seconded by Canada. Japan was re-elected by acclamation to serve for the 2022-23 biennial period.

#### **12. Other matters**

No other matters were raised.

The Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW) presented a statement to Panel 2 (**Appendix 10 to ANNEX 8**).

#### **13. Adoption of report and adjournment**

It was agreed that the report would be adopted through correspondence.

After sincerely thanking the Secretariat, Interpreters, Panel members, and others for their cooperation, assistance, and flexibility, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

### **REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 3**

#### **1. Opening of the meeting**

The meeting was opened by Mr. Qayiso Kenneth Mketsu (South Africa), the Chair of Panel 3.

#### **2. Appointment of Rapporteur**

Ms. Maeve White (European Union) was appointed as Rapporteur.

#### **3. Adoption of Agenda**

The agenda (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8**) was adopted with two changes. Agenda item 8 was deleted from the agenda. Agenda item number 9 was combined with agenda item number 5.

#### **4. Review of Panel membership**

Panel 3 comprises the following 13 members: 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 of America and Uruguay.

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

The SCRS Chair, Dr Gary Melvin, updated the Panel on southern albacore and southern bluefin tuna. Southern albacore has a TAC of 24,000 t from 2017-2021. Catches have been well below this TAC since 2002, except for 2011. While catches increased in 2018, they subsequently decreased in 2019 to 15,640 t. The last stock assessment was completed in 2020 using data up to 2019 with three of the standardised CPUE indices updated to the most recent data available. Assessment showed probabilities based on Bayesian surplus production models that the stock mortality is below  $F_{MSY}$  and biomass is above  $B_{MSY}$  for constant catch levels between 16,000 t and 34,000 t. This assessment indicated that the southern albacore stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring. Catch consistent with the current TAC of 24,000 t showed a 98% probability of being within the green quadrant of the Kobe matrix by 2023.

Dr Melvin informed the Panel that the SCRS work plan includes incorporating research activities for South Atlantic Albacore into the Albacore Research Program, so that the programme will now cover both southern and northern albacore. A five-day intersessional meeting is envisaged between April and July. This shared work plan will consolidate activities on reproductive biology (including aging of analysed individuals, using spines) and start electronic tagging. Funding for tagging, rewards and awareness, biological studies and sample collections and shipping in 2022 will be split evenly between northern and southern stocks.

Dr Melvin also provided an update on southern bluefin tuna, drawing on the reporting from the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT). Annual reported catches by country between 1952 and 2020 show catches decreased rapidly in the 1980s and declined slowly until 2010. However there has been a general increase since 2010 to 16,411 t in 2020. Exploitation is considered moderate with a low abundance. The next stock assessment is scheduled for 2023. Southern bluefin tuna is overfished but overfishing is not occurring currently.

The floor was opened for comments and questions however there were no questions from the Panel.

## 6. Review of Compliance Tables

The Compliance Tables for southern albacore and the transfers of underage from 2020 to 2022 were reviewed by the Panel (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9**). Belize, Brazil, China (P.R.), the European Union, Japan, Korea, Namibia, South Africa, Uruguay and Chinese Taipei informed the Panel of their intention to transfer underage from 2020 to 2022 and the United Kingdom from 2021 to 2022.

It was requested that the CPCs seeking to carry over quota underharvest work with the Secretariat to update the Compliance Tables.

The Philippines also requested a carryover of its underharvest from 2020 to 2022. However, the Philippines was not permitted to do so under ICCAT Rec. 16-07 as they are not included in the allocation table. The Philippines requested an amendment to ICCAT Rec. 16-07 to add them to the quota table, which would allow them to carryover underharvest in the future. There was general support for this request.

The USA noted that the reported catches were within the overall TAC but some discrepancies between Task 1 data and COC data exist. CPCs are urged to improve their catch reporting systems as outlined in paragraph 7 of ICCAT Rec. 16-07.

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

In 2020, it was agreed to roll over ICCAT Rec. 16-07 for one year given the difficulties in negotiating new measures by correspondence. The Chair proposed to take similar action in 2021 and tabled 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".

The United States stated that the current TAC in the Chair's proposal continues to set an appropriate limit according to the SCRS assessment in 2020. However, the United States noted concern about discrepancies between Task 1 data and catches reported in the Compliance Tables which appear to be linked to incomplete, inconsistent, and/or inaccurate data reporting. The United States urged CPCs to fully implement the reporting requirements outlined in paragraph 7 of Rec. 16-07 .

The United States suggested adding text confirming that the 2020 recommendation has been repealed and that ICCAT Rec. 16-07 has been extended to 2022.

The Philippines reiterated its request to be added to the quota table in paragraph 3 with a catch limit of 25 t to qualify for underharvest carryover. The Panel supported this request with the understanding that the possibility to carry forward would apply to any underharvested quota resulting from the 2022 fishery and that the quota remains a bycatch quota only.

The Panel also agreed to update the allocation table in paragraph 3 to change the reference to 'UK St Helena' to 'United Kingdom', as requested by the United Kingdom.

At the suggestion of the United States, additional text was added to paragraph 6 to clarify that it is a derogation to ICCAT Rec. 01-12 on temporary quota transfers.

Based on input received, the Chair revised his proposal; the Panel endorsed it and referred it to the Commission for adoption.

## 8. Election of Chair

Japan nominated South Africa to continue as Chair of Panel 3. China (P.R.) seconded the nomination. South Africa was re-elected Chair for the 2022-23 biennial period by acclamation.

## **9. Other matters**

The United States raised an additional point for consideration regarding southern albacore bycatch limits for vessels that are not included in the ICCAT Record of vessels. The United States suggested that the Panel reconsider the derogation in Rec. 16-07 that allows retention of southern albacore taken as bycatch by unlisted vessels as soon as practicable, noting that a similar provision exists in recommendations for other species. The Panel noted this as a matter of concern, and it was agreed that this matter should be discussed intersessionally. The United States agreed to draft a paper to facilitate further discussion in 2022.

## **10. Adoption of the report and adjournment**

It was agreed that the report would be adopted through correspondence. The Chair adjourned the meeting.

## **REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 4**

### **1. Opening of the meeting**

The interim Chair of the Panel, Mr. Raul Delgado (Commission Chair), opened the meeting.

### **2. Appointment of Rapporteur**

The Panel appointed Ms. Kathryn Dalton (United States) as Rapporteur.

### **3. Adoption of Agenda**

The agenda was adopted with no revisions (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8**).

### **4. Review of Panel membership**

Panel membership has not changed. The Panel comprises the following 41 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 (Rep.), Guinea-Bissau, 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.

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

The Chair of the SCRS, Dr Gary Melvin, presented information on the status of swordfish, billfish, sharks, and other species.

#### ***Swordfish***

In both the North and South Atlantic, swordfish catches were below the TAC, although the southern stock is overfished, and overfishing is either occurring or is very nearly occurring. A stock assessment is planned for northern and southern swordfish for 2022. Dr Melvin requested that the Panel discuss and provide further guidance on performance metrics and advice intervals to support the development of MSE for North Atlantic swordfish. For the Mediterranean stock, catch is just under the TAC, although the stock is most likely overfished and may be experiencing overfishing.

#### ***Billfish***

For blue marlin, 2020 catches were below the landings limit. As of the 2018 assessment, the stock remained overfished and overfishing was still occurring. Catches were also below the landings limit for white marlin, and as of the 2019 assessment the stock was overfished, but no overfishing was occurring. The catch of eastern sailfish has exceeded the TAC in some years, and has been below the TAC in others. Sailfish was last assessed in 2016. At that time, the eastern stock was overfished and it was unclear if overfishing was occurring. Although the western stock was not overfished and no overfishing was occurring as of the 2016 assessment, catches in recent years have consistently exceeded the TAC.

Dr Melvin noted that only two CPCs have provided papers and information on methods for estimating billfish discards, as called for by Recommendation 19-05. Additionally, a subgroup within the SCRS is planning to address recommendations related to electronic monitoring systems (EMS) for billfish, and will work to provide advice on this in 2022. Another subgroup is reviewing research on the effects of terminal gear modifications, as called for by Recommendation 19-05, and designing experiments to fill scientific gaps, with the goal of responding to the Panel in 2022. The SCRS, whose research was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic, will continue the growth studies of the 3 priority species, research on the reproductive biology of blue marlin in the Gulf of Mexico, and will convene technical workshops on age reading and small-scale fisheries.

## ***Sharks***

The northern stock of blue shark is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring. For the southern stock of blue shark, overfishing could be occurring and the stock is overfished. From 2018-2020 catches were below the TAC for the northern stock, and above the TAC for the southern stock. For shortfin mako, there is a 90% probability that the northern stock is overfished and overfishing is occurring. Reported catches of North Atlantic shortfin mako decreased from 2018-2020. The southern stock is also overfished and overfishing is occurring, but the outcome of the assessment was less certain than for the northern stock. Porbeagle shark catches remained small, and the statistics were insufficient to provide quantitative advice. However, while the northwest stock was predicted to be overfished in 2018, if catches remain low, the stock is expected to rebuild with at least 50% probability between 2030 and 2035. The magnitude of dead discards of porbeagle sharks remains uncertain. An assessment of the northeast stock was not carried out in 2020, but a joint assessment with ICES is being planned for 2022. The SCRS will complete research on South Atlantic shortfin mako age and growth studies, stock differentiation, and movement and habitat characterization.

One CPC asked the SCRS Chair for more information on the status of reporting dead discards and live releases of North Atlantic shortfin mako, as the majority of CPCs have not fulfilled the reporting requirement under paragraph 10 of Rec. 19-06. The SCRS Chair responded that complete and accurate data are essential to determine stock status, but such reporting is not occurring, which is problematic. He noted that a new measure that further reduces or eliminates landings will increase discards. The full implications of such changes for the stock are not yet known, but the need for complete data reporting remains critical to be able to accurately assess the status of the stock. Another question was raised about South Atlantic blue shark and the risk associated with the ongoing overharvest. The SCRS Chair responded that exceeding the TAC puts the species more at risk and that the stock is close to being overfished already.

## ***Other species***

Dr Melvin noted that small tunas and other species are important for coastal communities as a highly relevant socioeconomic resource, and that the statistics reported are likely an underestimate of total landings. The status of some of these stocks was estimated in 2019 using data-limited approaches. Many stocks are in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot while others are in the red. The SCRS plans to continue to support the small tunas research programme from 2022-2024. Dr Melvin also noted that there is a recommendation for a new chapter for the ICCAT manual on narrow-barred Spanish mackerel.

### **6. Review of the reports of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4, and consideration of any necessary actions**

There were no comments on the reports of the July and October 2021 intersessional meetings, and the Panel endorsed them.

### **7. Review of compliance tables**

The Chair urged CPCs to examine the compliance tables to determine if any changes were necessary or if any actions were required by the Compliance Committee. No issues were raised.

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

The Chair presented the various proposals on the table for discussion by the Panel, and CPCs agreed to discuss the simpler, less contentious recommendations prior to delving into the "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of North Atlantic stock of shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries".

***“Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to amend Recommendation 19-07 amending the Recommendation 16-12 on management measures for the conservation of the North Atlantic blue shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries”***

The Panel approved this draft Recommendation, which was submitted by the European Union and United Kingdom to codify a quota transfer of 32.58 t from the EU to the UK for 2022 in light of Brexit. It was submitted to the Plenary for adoption.

***“Draft Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT extending and amending Recommendation 17-02 amending the Recommendation 16-03 for the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish”***

The Panel approved this proposal by the Chair, as modified by the United States and subsequently by Japan, to amend and extend that Recommendation for one year. The final substantive modification clarified Japan’s quota balancing period, contained in paragraph 4 of Rec. 17-02. The revised version was referred to the Plenary for adoption.

***“Draft Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT on Recommendation 17-03 amending the Recommendation 16-04 for the conservation of South Atlantic swordfish”***

The Panel approved this proposal by the Chair, to amend and extend that Recommendation for one year. The measure was edited by several CPCs. These edits included deletion of paragraph 4 of the proposal as it was redundant with paragraph 1 and other modifications to clarify the terms of the one-year rollover measure. The revised version was referred to the Plenary for adoption.

***“Draft Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT”***

Belize introduced this proposal on behalf of numerous co-sponsors. It would require sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries to be landed with their fins naturally attached. Belize emphasized the conservative life history of sharks and how important it is for shark fins to remain attached so as to improve species-specific data collection and to ensure compliance with conservation and management measures. Belize noted that the proposal did not differ in substance from what had been submitted to previous ICCAT meetings and that had received broad support from CPCs. Belize highlighted that, once again, the proposal was receiving widespread support from CPCs. However, Japan reiterated its opposition to paragraphs 2 and 3, noting that it could not, therefore, support the proposal. China also expressed its opposition to the proposal. The United States invited CPCs who had expressed opposition to the proposal to reconsider their positions in the future in order to move past this stalemate. As a consensus could not be reached, the proposal was not approved by the Panel.

***“Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 19-08 on management measures for the conservation of South Atlantic blue shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries”***

The Chair introduced his proposal to amend and extend Rec. 19-08 at least through 2023. The United States expressed concern that the TAC was exceeded by 17% in 2020, noting that the bulk of landings were made by just three CPCs. Given the conservative life history of sharks, this overage is a cause for concern. The United States urged concerned CPCs to take immediate action to reduce catches and agree on an allocation arrangement no later than 2022, rather than 2023, as reflected in the Chair’s proposal. The United States noted that allocation discussions are management decisions that do not depend on a stock assessment. One CPC agreed that the year to develop an allocation arrangement should be changed from 2023 to 2022 in the Chair’s proposal. Others preferred to keep the Chair’s original formulation. The Panel acknowledged that it would potentially be difficult to develop an allocation arrangement in 2022 unless an intersessional process were established to facilitate discussions. CPCs eventually compromised on a joint text, which stated that “An allocation of the future TAC shall be decided by the Commission, if possible, in 2022 and not later than 2023.”

Several other changes were made to the text, including to appropriately distinguish between allocation and TAC and to reflect plans for a new stock assessment. A revised version of the proposal was approved by the Panel, which was referred to the Plenary for adoption.



***“Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on the bycatch of sea turtles caught in association with ICCAT fisheries (combine, streamline, and amend Recommendations 10-09 and 13-11”***

The United States presented this proposal on behalf of its co-sponsors. Given the significant concerns related to bycatch of sea turtles in ICCAT fisheries, this proposal (which was identical in substance to the one that was tabled in 2019) would require that CPCs use one of several mitigation measures in their shallow-set pelagic longline fisheries: large circle hooks, finfish bait, or other measures in accordance with SCRS advice. It was noted that this proposal was modeled on similar recommendations that have been adopted in IATTC and WCPFC.

Japan suggested that there was no clear scientific basis for proposing the use of large circle hooks or finfish bait with respect to species other than sea turtles and noted its concern that the proposal considered only one aspect of bycatch when some earlier research suggested that circle hooks may increase the mortality of shortfin mako sharks. The United States responded to Japan’s concerns, clarifying that earlier research papers about the increase in shortfin mako mortality had statistical and data treatment errors and that updated statistical models, presented to the SCRS in 2021, indicated that there is in fact no difference in retention rates with shortfin mako, and that large circle hooks actually reduce at-haulback mortality by 10 percent. The SCRS Vice Chair confirmed these updated statistics. The SCRS has recommended the use of circle hooks and alternative baits for sea turtles because it is well known that these mitigation strategies reduce interactions, and there is ongoing work to look at tradeoffs, such as lower retention rates of marlins and swordfish. In response to a question from a CPC, the SCRS also confirmed that there was a subgroup as a part of the billfish species group that was tasked with reviewing and designing future studies on terminal gear modifications.

Several CPCs intervened in general support of the measure. Japan emphasized that the report of the SCRS Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch does not provide a clear conclusion on the tradeoffs between the effects of circle hooks on different species. Japan requested that the SCRS provide more comprehensive advice on this subject and stated that it cannot support the proposal until such clarity is provided.

One CPC called for a definition of “large” circle hook, to which the United States responded that the language in the proposal is taken from IATTC and WCPFC for consistency and that there is no strict definition contained in the proposal. The EU noted that they do not think that measures for the Pacific are well-suited for adoption in the Atlantic and suggested instead that the Panel look at a measure recently adopted by the GFCM on sea turtle issues and consider implementing something similar.

The United States indicated that the comments from the EU on the GFCM measure would have made much of the U.S. proposal voluntary, which is a fundamentally different approach to the issue. Given the limited meeting time, a consensus could not be reached, and the subject was deferred to a future meeting. The EU noted that it may consider tabling its own proposal in 2022.

***“Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of North Atlantic stock of shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries”***

Discussion on the proposal to conserve North Atlantic shortfin mako was lengthy and nuanced, spanning five days of meetings, and requiring compromise from all CPCs. The conversation opened with the EU introducing a modification to the Chair’s proposal tabled at the Second Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4 held in October 2021. The main change was the inclusion of two different options – paragraphs 2 bis and 2 bis alt – which set out different approaches for determining any allowable level of retention. CPCs expressed determination to find a way forward based on this document.

*Paragraph 1*

CPCs engaged in a lively discussion about the probability of rebuilding the stock by 2070, and a wide variety of opinions were expressed. Some CPCs expressed a preference for 60 percent, and others for 70 percent. Eventually, a compromise of 66 percent was suggested, but one CPC who had tied their concession on the reference period used in Annex 1 to the percentage, refused to accept this proposal, insisting that if they did, then the reference period would need to be from 2013-2017. On the other hand, several CPCs preferred not to accept a probability below 66 percent, citing the vulnerability and life history of the stock. One CPC suggested 63 percent could be a way forward, but others were still unwilling to move from their positions.

Finally, Canada suggested instead of a single number, that the proposal reference a range between at least 60 and 70 percent. The corresponding total fishing mortality level specified in paragraph 2 bis-bis (a) of the proposal was set at 250 t, determined by splitting the difference between the constant catch tonnages in the Kobe matrix with the 60 and 66 percent probabilities of being in the green zone in 2070. It was also agreed that with this percentage range, the reference period used in the process for determining possible retention (Annex 1) would be the years 2013-2016. This compromise was acceptable to the Panel.

#### *Paragraph 2*

One CPC suggested deleting the bracketed text referring to overall fishing mortality, noting that it is repetitive, but there was no consensus. It was later agreed to use the term total fishing mortality instead and to define it as the sum of any retention, dead discards, and post-release mortality of live releases.

#### *Paragraph 2 bis and 2 bis alternative*

In the first round of discussions on the proposal as submitted, there was some support and concern expressed about both 2 bis and 2 bis alt, but it was noted that similarities between the two approaches might allow CPCs to find a compromise approach. Paragraph 2 bis outlined the specific calculation to be used to determine allowable retention based on overall mortality and the probability of rebuilding, while 2 bis alt would ban all retention in 2022 and 2023, thereby giving the Panel two years to work out specific procedures to determine any possible future retention.

Japan suggested, rather than prohibiting retention for two years, as outlined in 2 bis alt, to instead limit the prohibition on retention for 1 year and then consider at the 2022 Annual Meeting whether to extend it. Other CPCs preferred a measure that would implement no retention for more than one year. It was also clarified that 2 bis alt would only allow retention of dead North Atlantic shortfin mako and not live fish. Canada and the UK offered to take the pen on suggested drafting changes to try to facilitate a compromise and encouraged all CPCs to weigh in on the process. Extensive work took place outside of the Panel meeting to develop a proposal that all CPCs could agree on.

Several observer organisations, including SharkProject International, Defenders of Wildlife, and The Shark Trust advocated for a full retention ban beyond two years, noting the conservative life history of North Atlantic shortfin mako sharks.

The compromise that was ultimately struck incorporated elements of both 2 bis and 2 bis alt into the proposal by moving certain elements to an annex (Annex 1). This Annex included elements, some of which were revised, from the original 2 bis, 2 quinques, 2 quater, and 2 sexes. Annex 1 is linked to paragraph 2 bis-ter, which specifies the process for the SCRS and Panel 4 to test and confirm the appropriateness of the proposed approach in Annex 1, or alternative approaches for determining the amount of permissible retention of North Atlantic shortfin mako in the future. The two-year prohibition on retention from 2 bis alt was incorporated into the final version of paragraph 2 bis.

#### *Paragraph 2 bis-bis*

This paragraph was created as a part of the new compromise approach that incorporates elements of the original 2 bis and 2 bis alt. CPCs agreed on this language that specifies the allowable tonnage of total fishing mortality and that such a number must be determined with the most recent Kobe matrix. 250 t was selected in line with the decision on the probability range specified in paragraph 1.

#### *Paragraph 2 bis-ter*

This was another new paragraph created as a part of the compromise, and, as noted in the discussion of paragraph 2 bis and 2 bis alt above, it specifically references the new Annex 1 and specifies that the Panel and the SCRS will evaluate the appropriateness of the proposed approach in Annex 1 and any other alternative approaches. It further specifies factors that must be taken into account with respect to alternative approaches including references to individual CPC accountability and performance in reducing mortality.

*Paragraphs 2 quater, 2 quinquies, and 2 sexies*

As previously noted, these paragraphs were amended by CPCs and combined within Annex 1.

*Paragraph 3*

Japan insisted on deletion of the bracketed text requiring fins to remain naturally attached to the shark carcass contained in the original proposal and it was eventually removed. CPCs agreed to delete the bracketed text in the paragraph limiting retention to two sharks per trip, noting that if certain CPCs wish to implement a trip limit (in the case of any allowed retention) they can still do so. The last element of paragraph 3 under debate was the question of whether vessels of 15 m or 12 m in length or less should be limited to retaining no more than 1 North Atlantic shortfin mako per trip. Some CPCs expressed confusion and concern at the suggestion to increase this length from 12 m to 15 m and opposed the change. Ultimately, CPCs agreed that vessels 12 meters or less could retain no more than 1 specimen.

*Paragraph 4*

Language clarifying the retention exception applicable to Norway and Iceland, whose domestic legislation requires them to land fish dead on haulback, was added and agreed.

*Paragraph 5*

After discussing where and how to include certain language related to the safe handling and release requirements, such as “to the extent practicable” and references to crew safety, as well as clarifying relevant obligations and the timing of when Annex 2 (minimum standards for safe handling and live release procedures) will take effect, CPCs agreed on the text of paragraph 5.

*Paragraph 7*

There was some debate about the reporting frequency for allowable retention referenced in this paragraph of the original proposal, particularly whether it should be quarterly or monthly. CPCs agreed on monthly but deleting “at a minimum” as it was unnecessary. It was clarified that this reporting is separate from that of dead discards, which occurs annually and is required by all CPCs. On the contrary, the monthly reporting requirement applies only to those CPCs who choose to land North Atlantic shortfin mako, when appropriate and pursuant to the provisions of the measure.

*Paragraph 7 ter*

A deadline of 31 July 2022 was established in this paragraph of the original proposal, for CPCs to provide their statistical methodologies for estimating dead discards and live releases to the SCRS, including data collection programs for small-scale fisheries.

*Paragraph 7 quater*

Substantive discussion on this paragraph focused on the date of North Atlantic shortfin mako data submission. CPCs agreed to provide these data in line with their annual obligation to submit Task 1 and 2 data.

*Paragraph 7 quinquies*

The inclusion of this paragraph in the proposal was accepted by CPCs. It directs the SCRS to evaluate the completeness and suitability of reported data to be used in the retention allowance calculation and, if not, to estimate dead discards and live releases for use in that calculation.

*Paragraph 8*

There was disagreement on the requirement in paragraph 8 of the original proposal to increase the percentage of observer coverage by 2023, with some CPCs wanting the percentage to be 20 percent while others favored 10 percent. Some CPCs suggested deleting the paragraph altogether because this paragraph contradicts the requirement for tropical tuna longline fishing vessels as specified in paragraph 55 of Rec. 19-

02. Some CPCs expressed their concern that this would be applied to all longline fishing vessels, even those not catching North Atlantic shortfin mako. It was clarified that whether the fishing vessel is targeting North Atlantic shortfin mako or not, it may still have interactions with that stock that should be recorded and reported to ICCAT. A target of 10% coverage was agreed, and the date for achieving this increase in observer coverage was removed. Instead, the text was amended to say that CPCs shall endeavor to achieve this percentage through human observers or electronic monitoring. Despite these compromises, some CPCs maintained that this paragraph should not be included in a species-specific measure. They argued instead that Rec. 16-14 should be amended. The Panel agreed to make the paragraph non-binding.

#### *Paragraph 8ter*

The United States suggested that the vessel length referenced in paragraph 8 ter of the proposal for providing a derogation on the use of onboard observers to verify that any North Atlantic shortfin mako shark to be retained is dead at haulback should apply to vessels 12 m or less rather than those less than 15 m as proposed. The United States noted that this was consistent with the vessel length derogations specified in Recommendations 17-08 and 19-06. Morocco disagreed, expressing its preference for 15 m and noting that this is the vessel length specified in paragraph 4b of Rec. 16-14. Morocco stressed that this proposal should be in line with the observer program recommendation. Several CPCs supported this position, while others disagreed, noting that the current measure (Rec. 19-06) references 12 m, and therefore increasing the length to 15 m in this proposal would inappropriately expand the scope of the derogation. Ultimately, a compromise was struck so that the text reads, “less than 15 m” with a clear reference that any CPC wishing to avail itself of this alternative approach to the use of on board observers must have it reviewed by the SCRS and approved by the Commission. There was a question about the vessel lengths referenced in paragraph 8 ter and paragraph 3 of the proposal, and whether or not the lengths needed to be the same. The United States stressed that the requirement to limit retention to one mako per trip and the size of vessels subject to the observer derogation were separate issues and insisted that the 12 m or less reference remain in paragraph 3. The Panel agreed to move forward in this way.

#### *Paragraph 10*

This paragraph of the second revised version of the proposal (previously paragraph 11 in earlier versions of the proposal) relates to the provision of information by CPCs to the SCRS on mitigation measures to reduce shortfin mako mortality. The discussion began with choosing dates for submitting data to the SCRS. After some back and forth, 30 April 2023 was accepted as a workable deadline for data submission as it would give the SCRS the rest of 2023 to develop its advice.

In paragraph 10b of the second revised version of the proposal, modifications were made to clarify that the requested SCRS analysis related to the retention of live shortfin mako where one CPC asked that the potential benefits of using minimum and/or maximum size limits for live retention be included. Paragraph 10c of the same revised version (formerly 11c) was deleted as the scope of this paragraph was already appropriately covered by the final paragraphs under the ‘Review and Repeal’ section.

#### *Paragraph 10 bis*

This paragraph was added by the United States and directs the SCRS to review the reported landings and discards of longfin mako shark to identify any inconsistencies that could be the result of misidentification between the two mako species. This addition was accepted with the understanding that the purpose of the request was to assist in the formulation of management advice by the SCRS.

#### *Paragraph 11*

This paragraph of the proposal (formerly 12), calls on the SCRS to conduct a stock assessment by 2024 given that the last assessment was in 2017. The Panel agreed that it would not be appropriate to wait nearly 10 years (until 2026) to conduct a new assessment on this overfished stock.

### *Paragraph 12 bis*

This paragraph of the proposal (previously 13 bis), calls for Panel 4 to hold an intersessional meeting in 2023 with stakeholders and scientists to review best practices for reducing and mitigating shortfin mako mortality. It was agreed that the results of this meeting will be submitted to the SCRS for its review and that the SCRS should provide advice to the Commission based on that review in 2024.

### *Paragraph 14*

Noting that the Panel will not have sufficient information to review the rebuilding program by 2023, one CPC suggested changing the language of this paragraph to specify review no later than the 2024 Annual Meeting. The Panel agreed with this suggestion.

### *Annex 1 - Paragraphs 1-5*

Two reference periods, 2013-2016 and 2013-2017, for data to be used in calculating the average annual retention based on the rebuilding percentage established in paragraph 1 of Annex 1 of the revised proposal were considered. There were strong opinions expressed for both periods and, as discussed under paragraph 1 above, one CPC tied its willingness to concede on its preferred reference period for agreement from others that the rebuilding probability in paragraph 1 be set at 60 percent. Ultimately, a compromise was struck, and the 2013-2016 reference period was agreed.

One CPC expressed concern with the language in paragraph 2 of Annex 1 of the revised proposal, noting that it is unusual to include a cutoff period for data reported in a certain year. CPCs agreed to remove the reference to a specific year and clarified that the data should be verified by the SCRS pursuant to paragraphs 7 ter and 7 quinquies (paragraphs 13 and 15 after renumbering).

A CPC noted that paragraph 5 of Annex 1 is similar to the provision outlined in paragraph 7 bis, and it was agreed to retain paragraph 7 bis and delete paragraph 5 of Annex 1 in the final version of the proposal to avoid any confusion.

In light of these discussions, the proposal was revised several times and ultimately, the Panel approved it by consensus and referred it to the Plenary for adoption by the Commission.

## **9. Identification of outdated measures in light of 8 above**

The Panel noted that Rec. 19-06 would be repealed and replaced by this last proposal, following adoption by the Commission and entry into force in mid-2022.

## **10. Research**

The SCRS Chair, Dr Melvin, provided a brief overview of the relevant research planned in 2022. This included:

- North and South Atlantic swordfish stock assessments and reconditioning work, and biological sampling;
- Enhanced billfish research program, prioritizing blue and white marlin and sailfish, and two workshops;
- One intersessional meeting devoted to blue shark data preparation, and continuation of the shark research and data collection program; and
- Continued work on the small tuna research program to improve biological information for growth, maturity and stock identification, new sampling studies and the revision of the length-weight relationship.

## 11. Election of Chair

Belize nominated Algeria to be the Chair of Panel 4 for the 2022-23 biennial period. Senegal seconded the nomination, and Algeria was elected by acclamation.

## 12. Other matters

Egypt made a statement (**Appendix 11 to ANNEX 8**) requesting a quota of at least 100 t to target Mediterranean swordfish. A “Joint statement to Panel 4 on overarching principle of multilateral collaboration and primacy of ICCAT Recommendations” (**Appendix 12 to ANNEX 8**) was submitted by the European Union, Japan, Namibia, Chinese Taipei and Morocco.

Statements were also submitted to Panel 4 by Ecology Action Centre, EUROPÊCHE\*, Global Tuna Alliance, Ocean Foundation, Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew)\*, Pro Wildlife, Sea Shepherd Legal, Shark Guardian, and SharkProject International, which are contained in **Appendices 13 to 21 of ANNEX 8**.

## 13. Adoption of the report and adjournment

It was agreed that the report would be adopted by correspondence.

The Chair adjourned the meeting with many thanks to the Secretariat and interpreters for all their hard work, and congratulations to the Panel members on a successful meeting.

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\* Statement in excess of word limit and not provided in the three official languages of ICCAT, therefore included in original language only.

## Panel Agendas

### **Panel 1**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Review of Panel membership
5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
6. Review of the reports of the intersessional meetings of Panel 1 and consideration of any necessary actions
7. Review of compliance tables
8. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*
9. Identification of outdated measures in light of item 8 above
10. Research
11. Election of Chair
12. Other matters
13. Adoption of the report and adjournment

### **Panel 2**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Review of Panel membership
5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
6. Review of the reports of the Intersessional Meetings of Panel 2, and consideration of any necessary actions
7. Review of compliance tables
8. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*
9. Identification of outdated measures in light of item 8 above
10. Research
11. Election of Chair

12. Other matters
13. Adoption of the report and adjournment

**Panel 3**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Review of Panel membership
5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
6. Review of compliance tables
7. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities
8. Election of Chair
9. Other matters
10. Adoption of the report and adjournment

**Panel 4**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Review of Panel membership
5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
6. Review of the reports of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4, and consideration of any necessary actions
7. Review of compliance tables
8. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*
9. Identification of outdated measures in light of item 8 above
10. Research
11. Election of Chair
12. Other matters
13. Adoption of the report and adjournment



**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 8****Statement by the European Union to Panel 1 on PA1-517**

The European Union would like to offer clarifications regarding document PA1-517/2021, entitled "Proposal to Amend the SCRS Report BET – Bigeye Tuna (Executive Summary) Item BET-6. Management Recommendations - (Proposal presented by the European Union)". The rationale for the text submitted to the Secretariat was to prompt a correction of the text so that it correctly reflected what had been discussed and agreed during the adoption of the SCRS report but not correctly transmitted to the Secretariat when the whole report was assembled. Unfortunately, the way our request was presented and labelled in the document led to a misperception that this was an attempt by the European Union to amend the SCRS conclusions in its 2021 Report. Those familiar with this issue are aware that this was not the intention of the text, and that this request initially followed feedback from the Secretariat addressed to the Chair of the SCRS and the BET Rapporteur with a view to settle the matter without reopening the revision of the SCRS report.

This issue is related to an error which was introduced in the SCRS report and which required a correction. On the day of distribution of the SCRS report, the EU Head of Delegation to the SCRS highlighted to the Bigeye tuna rapporteur that a sentence in the Management Recommendation, namely "... some other sources of relevant uncertainties were not included in the development of the K2SM, including the appropriateness of the range of natural mortalities used in the uncertainty grid...", was not reflecting the actual discussions and agreement since natural mortalities were actually taken into account in the uncertainty grid. It is worth noting that the revision of the text had been done through a quick scroll down on the screen at the end of the SCRS meeting with the reassurance that all cross checks would be done subsequently to ensure consistency amongst the sections. This was far from an ideal solution because since it was not corrected immediately there was a risk that the correction would be forgotten as an oversight as in fact happened. Other similar issues had already led to changes in other parts of the SCRS advice but this had for some reason not been done for section 6.

Following subsequent exchanges, involving also the SCRS Chair and other delegations, the Secretariat suggested not to reopen any discussions or editorial process of the text adopted, and but noted that it could be raised in the Commission during the SCRS Chair's presentation.

Although reluctantly, because it is not for the Commission to amend the SCRS report, this is what the European Union did by its request to correct the text so it correctly reflected the actual content of the KIISM. The experience of this year's discussion highlights the need for a more robust process for correcting mistakes in the SCRS document so we can avoid any discussions in the Commission.

**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 8****Japan's position on paragraph 55 of Rec. 19-02**

In the negotiation to establish Rec. 19-02, Japan agreed to the observer coverage to be increased up to 10% by 2022 while making it very clear that the use of EM is prerequisite for achieving 10%. This agreement was based on the two assumptions that: (i) the SCRS would provide advice on the specification and standards of EM in 2021, which would be discussed at the IMM WG meeting for finalization; and (ii) Japan would conduct EM trials in 2020-2021. Unfortunately, the SCRS could not provide any such advice in 2021 and Japan could not complete EM trials due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This means that the two important assumptions were not realized, and it will be impossible for Japan to implement paragraph 55 of Rec. 19-02. That is why Japan submitted PA1\_507 to delay the implementation for one year. Unfortunately, there was no time to consider this proposal in Panel 1 and the roll-over of Rec. 19-02 did not incorporate this. Accordingly, Japan would like to stress that it is not likely to achieve 10% by the end of 2022 although it will make every effort.

**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 8****Joint Statement to Panel 1 on exploitation of tropical tunas**

*(Angola, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Morocco, Mauritania, Nigeria, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Sierra Leone, Senegal and South Africa)*

We, the African coastal States present at the meeting of ATLAFCO in Tangier and South Africa, the authors of this statement, wish to express the following common positions:

1. We remind ICCAT of the rights of coastal States established in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, to conserve, manage and exploit live marine resources, and the rights of developing States, established in the United Nations Agreement on straddling stocks, to develop their own fisheries for highly migratory and straddling fish stocks. We also remind ICCAT of the obligation to meet fully the particular needs of developing States that are dependent on the exploitation of live marine resources, which includes the need to meet the nutritional needs of their populations, or part of such needs.
2. We appreciate recognition by CPCs at the Second Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1 of the shortcomings and inadequacies noted for the allocation criteria listed in Resolution 15-13. It is noted that the criteria on past / present fishing activity only include 2 of the total 15 allocation criteria listed in that Resolution. We affirm that historical catches should not be the main consideration in the allocation negotiations.
3. We recognise that establishment of equitable allocations that take into account all the allocation criteria listed in Res. 15-13 will take time, but transition to a more equitable distribution of fishing possibilities for developing coastal States should start immediately. To address this issue, we request that the ICCAT Commission establish an ad hoc working group to review Resolution 15-13.
4. The transition to more equitable allocations should not depend on increase in the bigeye tuna TAC. Increases in the bigeye tuna TAC will only be possible if there is strong evidence of stock recovery. Recovery of bigeye tuna is determined disproportionately by the actions of the major fishing countries, and is therefore outside of the control of developing coastal States. Progressive transition towards a more equitable distribution of fishing possibilities cannot be contingent on stock recovery, and legitimate and sustainable development of our fisheries should be accepted.
5. The current TAC of 61 500 t should be maintained until more reliable data become available and there is greater certainty as regards the effect that this TAC (and the associated measures) has potentially had on the stock. This is consistent with the advice of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), according to which a TAC of 61 500 t will support stock recovery with high probability. Maintenance of the TAC is also consistent with the precautionary approach, given the number of changes and new hypotheses in the updated stock assessment, and the uncertainty associated with the results.
6. Any proposal to freeze development of the fishing fleets of developing coastal States is not compatible with the rights of those States, to develop their own fisheries and to exploit, conserve and manage live marine resources.
7. While we have supported strict monitoring of catches and effort in the tropical tunas fishery, the large number of detailed obligations currently in place are unsustainable and impose a heavy workload on our administrations. The scope and complexity of the monitoring and reporting obligations are not only a disincentive for participation in the fishery, they are also a disincentive for data submission. Furthermore, a large number of these obligations are obsolete, since they no longer reflect the reality of observation and data collection activities, and do not reflect the technological improvements over time. Therefore, we request that these reporting obligations be reviewed, prioritised and optimised, to ensure that only the actions necessary for monitoring and management are required. We also request that resources be made available to build the capacity of the administrations of the developing coastal States for understanding and implementation of these obligations.

### Statement by Européche to Panel 1

**Ref: Doc. No. PA1\_503/ 2021**

**Recitals:**

- Européche notes that the Standing Committee Research and Statistics (SCRS) estimates the Bigeye Tuna (BET) stock to be overfished although not overfished in 2019, and indicates that with a constant future catch of 61.500 tons, corresponding to the TAC established in Rec. 19-02, there is a high probability (97%) of maintaining the stock in the green quadrant of the Kobe diagram by 2034;
- Européche notes the increase in catches of tropical tuna stocks by other Contracting Parties or Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) in the last decade such as by Senegal, China, Korea or Brazil. There is a lack of knowledge on the volume of total removals and the number of juveniles caught by these fleets. A global and integral approach is needed covering all fleets targeting tropical tunas;
- Européche notes that BET is one of the main species targeted by most longline and baitboat fisheries. Between 2015 and 2020, longline catches accounted for an average of 45% of the total catch, purse seine catches for 36%, baitboat catches for 10% and other fleets for 8%. It should also be noted that catches of CPCs not subject to catch limits in Rec 16-01 have increased from around 1.000 tons in 2011 to almost 7.000 tons in 2019;
- Européche urges CPCs to take proportional effort and responsibility towards the positive evolution of the state of the stock. The management plan must concern all actors although compromising on a certain degree of flexibility in its implementation;
- Européche recalls that among these measures, it is essential to improve the implementation of the management plan and to develop the collective collection of the necessary fishing data;
- Européche reiterates that it is essential that all measures are controllable and enforced.

Européche recommends the following on:

**Catch limit**

To end overfishing and allow stock recovery in accordance with Rec. 11/13, Européche proposes a TAC of 75.000 tons for all CPCs that are catching at least 1.000 tons of BET in the recent period.

This allocation could consider:

- Current reference period for current CPCs subject to a catch limit,
- A different and more recent reference period for current non-quota CPCs,
- An additional replenishment premium for developing CPCs, if and when the stock is effectively fully rebuilt,
- A conditioned quota allocation to fisheries data reported by the different CPCs (no data = no quota).

In addition:

- All CPCs with purse seiners or large longliners flying their flags should be integrated in the CPCs' group subject to quota,

- Consequently, CPCs should not be subject to quota if BET catches are below 1.000 tons,
- End carry over during recovery plan of the stock,
- Return to the wording of paragraph 9 of Recommendation 16-01: In case the annual catch limit for CPCs subject to a catch limit for BET is overshoot, it should be deducted from the annual catch limit of the year Y+1 or Y+2, depending on the ability of each CPC to monitor the consumption of its quota.

Europêche recalls that longline fleets account for about 50% of total catches of BET and that there are important gaps in terms of information regarding the exploitation rates based on abundance indexes (CPUE), total removals and the number of juveniles caught by the non-EU longliners. This is mainly due to misreporting and non-reporting of juvenile BET tuna as a result of discarding.

In order to improve future BET-stock assessments and to avoid practices of high-grading, Europêche proposes to extend the ICCAT Recommendation 17-01 on the prohibition on discards of tropical tunas caught by purse seiners to all vessels fishing bigeye tuna and the application of 100% observer coverage on all industrial vessels catching bigeye tuna.

### **Management of fishing capacity**

Europêche proposes to establish limited entry to tropical tuna fisheries in the ICCAT area of competence through closed vessel registries, so that new active fishing vessels shall only be authorized to replace vessel already authorized with the same gear and within the same group of length overall, i.e. >20m or <20m length overall.

Europêche notes that after examining trends in average BET catches by area and monthly distributions of catches, the SCRS concluded that the moratorium in the Gulf of Guinea has not been effective in reducing the mortality of juvenile bigeye tuna, mainly due to the redistribution of effort to areas adjacent to the moratorium area and the increase in the number of fishing vessels.

Europêche therefore recommends a balanced approach to tackle efficiently the fishing capacity issues and to be cost-effective from a perspective of efficacy of monitoring, control and surveillance activities.

Europêche still opposes to a FAD closure to the ICCAT Convention area during three months and supports its elimination from the future management measure. Since the FAD closure stipulated in Rec. 19-02 was implemented in 2020 and 2021, its effects could not yet be assessed.

Nevertheless, Europêche considers that maintaining the current 3 month moratorium (in space and time) goes beyond what is necessary to achieve the objective of reducing juvenile fishing mortality and has an excessive socio-economic impact on purse seine and bait boat fisheries, as well as on the vulnerable economies and coastal communities that depend on them. This closure has contributed to the decrease in BET catches estimated for 2020, but has already created severe trade impacts and supply-demand imbalances in the yellowfin and skipjack markets. This situation is untenable for the fishing sector and the local economies where tuna is processed.

Furthermore, Europêche encourages the use of biodegradable FADs, although emphasizes that current trials confirm that well-working biodegradable materials do not exist.

## **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 8**

### **Statement by the International Pole and Line Foundation (IPNLF) to Panel 1**

The sustainable management of Atlantic Ocean tuna stocks and ecosystems cannot be further delayed despite ongoing COVID-19 disruptions; responsible and decisive action by ICCAT is needed this year.

Even though the 2021 bigeye tuna (BET) stock assessment suggests a more positive stock status than in 2018, the SCRS warns that results should be interpreted with caution and highlights the need for BET recovery with a high probability. It also states that it is too early to know if the measures in Rec. 19-02 have reduced mortality of juvenile BET, and that the “estimated total numbers of FADs released yearly has increased since the beginning of the FAD fishery, especially in recent years”. We therefore urge the following:

- Maintain a TAC of 61,500 t, following the SCRS advice.
- Maintain the three-month FAD closure.
- Develop a FAD recovery system, driving accountability and including incentives for recovery.
- Improve the monitoring and control of FADs, noting the following legal concerns:
  - [Just a Harmless Fishing Fad—or Does the Use of FADs Contravene International Marine Pollution Law?](#)
  - [The IUU Nature of FADs: Implications for Tuna Management and Markets](#)
- As discussed intersessionally, implement a regional FAD registry.
- While addressing FAD transparency issues, implement precautionary limits on the total number of FADs allowed to be deployed.
- All dFADs deployed must be non-entangling (prohibiting netting or other meshed materials), and constructed from biodegradable materials.
- Noting with concern Japan’s proposal (PA1\_507/2021) to delay progress another year, achieve a minimum of 10% observer coverage of longline fishing effort by 2022.
- An equitable BET allocation mechanism that reflects Res. 15-13, whereby “one-by-one” tuna fisheries (baitboat, handline) are not subjected to an unfair conservation burden despite being characterised by high selectivity (virtually no bycatch), relatively low impact on SSB, employing the most fishers per tonne of tuna caught, and primarily benefiting coastal communities in isolated regions. This could be achieved by allocating the TAC by both CPC and gear type, thereby recognising the benefits of low impact fishing methods. Please note SDG target 14.b: “provide access of small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets”.

Further, we are highly concerned about the 2020 yellowfin tuna (YFT) catch (148,894 t), which was 35% higher than the TAC (110,000 t) and the highest since 2016. While YFT was not considered overfished in 2019, the TAC was overshoot by 20%. The SCRS states that catches above 120,000 t are expected to further degrade the condition of the stock. An equitable process for catch limit allocation for YFT needs to be urgently initiated.

Lastly, accelerate and prioritize the development of MSE for all tropical tuna stocks and include South Atlantic albacore on the MSE Roadmap.

## Appendix 7 to ANNEX 8

### Statement by Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW) to Panel 1

The Pew Charitable Trusts welcomes this opportunity to comment on important business that Panel 1 must address under this year’s agenda. We would like to acknowledge reports that bigeye catch is now below the TAC for the first time in several years and appreciate that Recommendation 19-02 – in particular, the changes to FAD management and allocation – likely played a role in this reduction. At the same time, we remain concerned that yellowfin catch continues to significantly exceed the TAC – by nearly 40,000 t in 2020 – reflecting a continued lack of action by the Commission and its CPCs to address yellowfin mortality. To ensure continued progress on bigeye and improve outcomes for tropical tuna management by ICCAT more broadly, we urge Panel 1 to prioritize the following items:

- **Maintain the bigeye TAC at the current level:** While this year’s bigeye stock assessment results were relatively optimistic, the SCRS raised substantial concern regarding uncertainty in the assessment and recommended ICCAT act cautiously when setting the next TAC. As such, PEW joins several other organizations in calling on ICCAT to maintain the TAC at current levels.

- **Address allocation of yellowfin TAC:** The persistent and significant TAC overages underscore the urgent need for a yellowfin allocation key to hold fleets and CPCs accountable for respecting the TAC.
- **Advance management procedures for tropical tunas:** Panel 1 should recommit to developing management procedures (MPs) for the tropical tunas by approving necessary funding and supporting the efforts by any CPCs to develop an MP for western skipjack, the only tropical tuna stock managed by ICCAT that is not currently the subject of mixed purse seine fisheries.
- **Increase observer coverage for longline vessels:** PEW urges the Commission to maintain commitments under Recommendation 19-02 to increase observer coverage for longline vessels to 10% starting in January 2022. This should be considered the minimum step this year, given the SCRS has repeatedly recommended 20% observer coverage as the lowest level needed for scientific purposes. This move would also position ICCAT as a leader, rather than a laggard, on observer coverage rates among tuna RFMOs.

### Appendix 8 to ANNEX 8

#### Statement by World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) to Panel 1

Despite the encouraging results of the recent stock assessment for bigeye tuna, it is important to note that the existing sources of uncertainty, still call for a precautionary approach in managing this stock. WWF supports the management recommendation of the SCRS to adopt a precautionary Total Allowable Catch (TAC) that would shift the stock status of bigeye towards the green zone of the Kobe plot with a high probability. Maintaining a TAC of 61.500 t is considered to be a level that allows meeting this objective, while maintaining the management and monitoring measures that ensure catches are kept within this limit.

On the other hand, WWF is particularly concerned for the continuous overshooting of yellowfin tuna TAC that also occurred in 2020. In order to prevent overfishing of this stock, catch limits should be maintained below the current level and we call on CPCs to agree on a solid allocation scheme to ensure the effective monitoring of catches.

The last stock assessment for skipjack tuna dates back to 2014. It is urgent to schedule and agree on an update of this stock assessment, including this issue in the already busy agenda of the SCRS for 2022.

Fishing Aggregating Devices (FADs) deployed by the Atlantic purse seine fleets, significantly contribute to the overfished state of bigeye tuna due to the high catch of juveniles of both bigeye and yellowfin tuna. WWF strongly believes that the use of FADs in the Atlantic needs to be further regulated, besides the provisions of ICCAT Recommendation 19-02, to limit their impact on stocks and ecosystems, and welcomes the SCRS recommendation to revitalize the FAD working group that last met in 2017.

WWF considers the development of a Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for tropical tuna and other species to be a priority in ICCAT and urges the Commission to devote resources to fast track this process.

### Appendix 9 to ANNEX 8

#### Joint statement by Egypt and the European Union to Panel 2 Mediterranean albacore rebuilding plan

During Panel 2 discussions on the European Union proposal for a rebuilding plan of Mediterranean albacore, Egypt supported the European Union proposal and recognised the importance of protecting this stock. Moreover, Egypt declared that the provision on capacity limitation (paragraph 5 of the Mediterranean albacore rebuilding plan) cannot currently be implemented at domestic level, as the system of licences used in Egypt is based on gears, rather than species.

Recommendation 17-05 (*Recommendation by ICCAT establishing management measures for the stock of Mediterranean albacore*) establishes an obligation for all CPCs to issue licenses for vessels targeting this species. As per the SCRS tables, Egypt declared catches of Mediterranean albacore in 2018 (429 t) and in 2020 (316 t). Notwithstanding the challenges faced by Egypt, due to its internal legal framework, it was not possible to accommodate Egypt's request to modify the provision on capacity limitation of the Mediterranean albacore proposal, since, as highlighted by other CPCs, for example in the context of discussions in Panel 3 regarding South Atlantic albacore, the lack of licenses for vessels catching a certain species as bycatch can create a loophole in terms of compliance and control within the ICCAT framework.

Acknowledging that the status of its internal legislation will need to be improved, in order to avoid potential compliance issues, Egypt commits to adopt, in the first quarter of 2022, the appropriate legislation that will allow issuance of licences by type of species. In that context, Egypt commits to establish a reference list of vessels which have documented, as of 2018, track record of catches of Mediterranean albacore and to submit this list, together with associated catches per vessel and an explanation on how these catches were determined and verified, to Panel 2 for validation.

In light of these commitments, the European Union and Egypt would like to have the opportunity to engage in further discussions in Panel 2, at the next annual meeting and in intersessional sessions, on a possible review of the capacity limitation provision of the Mediterranean albacore rebuilding plan (Doc. No. PA2\_610A /2021), provided Egypt has adapted its internal legislation, so as to allow it to fulfil the above commitments.

## Appendix 10 to ANNEX 8

### Statement by the Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW) to Panel 2

Panel 2 has several pieces of important business that must be addressed this year. The Panel and the SCRS have both completed substantial intersessional work since the last ICCAT Commission meeting, and there are now several items ready for final decision making and adoption. To continue progress on these issues and achieve final adoption of measures that will help to ensure sustainability of bluefin and albacore fisheries, Pew Charitable Trusts urges PA2 to prioritize the following:

- **Adopt a western bluefin total allowable catch that is no higher than 2,444 t.** The results of this year's western Atlantic bluefin stock assessment were substantially different than the 2020 results. Fortunately, the reduction adopted in Recommendation 20-06 no longer appears necessary. Unfortunately, changes to the assessment model led to substantial uncertainty in the results, and an independent review that was expressly requested by PA2 and the Commission concluded that it should not be used to guide management. The SCRS therefore encouraged precaution when setting a TAC for 2022. The most precautionary of three additional analyses they conducted concluded that a 4% increase from the 2021 TAC to 2,444 t would be acceptable. This should be the maximum TAC increase that PA2 considers this year.
- **Adopt proposal PA2-613/2021 to implement a fully specified management procedure (MP) for north Atlantic albacore.** PA2 adopted ICCAT's first ever harvest control rule (HCR) when it adopted Recommendation 17-04 in 2017. PA2-613/2021 expands the existing HCR to an MP and adds an exceptional circumstances protocol. This Recommendation would implement ICCAT's first fully specified MP and ensure ICCAT is keeping up with other tuna RFMOs on adoption of robust MPs to guide future management.
- **Endorse the SCRS workplan and meeting schedule to complete the management strategy evaluation (MSE) for Atlantic bluefin and adopt a management procedure in 2022.** The SCRS has informed PA2 and ICCAT that an Atlantic bluefin MSE will be completed in 2022, after a series of final consultations with managers and stakeholders. The scientists will also produce a final set of candidate MPs for the Panel's consideration. To ensure this process will be finalized without further delay, PA2 should endorse the SCRS work plan and meeting schedule for next year, including delaying the eastern assessment until 2023. MP adoption will help to overcome the ongoing problems associated with the eastern and western stock assessments, and an MP will introduce a new era of sustainability and prolific fisheries for this valuable species.

- **Adopt proposal PA2-610/2021 to implement a rebuilding program for Mediterranean albacore.** The stock status requires a recovery plan, and Pew acknowledges the efforts of the EU to ensure the population will return to a sustainable level.

#### Appendix 11 to ANNEX 8

#### Statement by Egypt to Panel 4

In the beginning, Egypt would like to thank you for all your efforts that you are continuously provide in order to achieve and implement the ICCAT principles and its international roles. Throughout 14 years which reflect our contribution in the ICCAT, since Egypt joined in 2007, we are trying hard to fulfill all our obligations and compliance with the ICCAT Recommendations.

In 2019, Egypt requested the ICCAT Secretariat to allow us to catch swordfish and benefit from our territorial water resources and we provide all evidence that shows our historical rights to have our own quota in Mediterranean swordfish because of;

- Egypt has a great and large-scale fishing vessels which are submitted yearly in the Annual Report to ICCAT indicating that Egypt has moreover than 3,000 registered fishing vessels “coastal catching” operating only in the Mediterranean Sea;
- Egypt exporting Med. swordfish since 2011 to EU. We already have the documents showing that:
  - In 2013 Egypt has registered its first SWO-MED vessel with ICCAT *EL HAG KHAMIES DARWISH* ICCAT number AT000EGY00004 with LOA. 16.15 M;
  - Egypt sends its catch of swordfish every year in the Egyptian Annual Report to ICCAT, and due to our domestic observation, the catch of the swordfish still limited. However, the abundance of the swordfish in the Egyptian water allows for more catch.
- In February 2017 “the intersessional meeting of panel 4 on Mediterranean swordfish” held in Madrid, page No. 2, point No. 5 the Egyptian delegation announce our position regarding the distribution of the allocated swordfish quota as following:
  - 5. Establishment of CPC quotas for 2017 without prejudice to the allocation scheme aforementioned:
 

“The delegates of Egypt and the United States also reserved their positions, in order to consult. Further, the delegate of Egypt reported that its government would gather and report catch statistics to the SCRS and reiterated Egypt’s interest in being included in the quota for Other CPCs.”
- In November 2018, at the Compliance Committee meeting, on 10 and 11 November held in Croatia, Dubrovnik. Again, Egypt reaffirmed its rights in a rightful quota.

With the abovementioned evidences as you can see, it is not applicable in our case as a developing country, what is mentioned in Rec. 16-05 on capacity limitation para. 7, Egypt strictly endeavors to manage Mediterranean swordfish under the umbrella of ICCAT Recommendations to limit bycatch and obtaining its fair quota.

With all our respect, Egypt wants as a humble start to re-register its swordfish fishing vessels in order to participate in the 2022 fishing season and kindly to assign a fair Mediterranean swordfish quota.



**Appendix 12 to ANNEX 8**

**Joint statement to Panel 4 on overarching principle of multilateral collaboration and primacy of ICCAT Recommendations**

*(European Union, Japan, Namibia, Chinese Taipei and Morocco)*

The European Union [and Japan, Namibia, Chinese Taipei, and...] have been recently identified under the USA High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (Moratorium Protection Act) for allegedly not having adopted measures, deemed comparable to those of the USA, for the mitigation of sea turtles bycatch in their longline fisheries operating in the ICCAT Convention area. We have been requested to adopt measures determined by the USA as comparable with U.S. domestic legislation to avoid the imposition of sanctions by the USA, such as denial of USA port privileges for its flag vessels, or potential prohibitions on certain seafood products exported to the USA.

We consider that this identification, which took place outside the ICCAT context and did not involve appropriate consultations with relevant ICCAT Contracting Parties and Fishing Entity, runs counter to Article IX(3) of the ICCAT Convention Article 118 UNCLOS and Article 8 of UNFSA. Those provisions uphold cooperation as the main obligation in the conservation and management of living resources in the high seas, which should be done through regional fisheries organisations.

We are fully committed to working collectively under the auspices of ICCAT and through its commonly agreed rules of procedures. We are determined to ensure the conservation and sustainable exploitation of target species and to guarantee the protection of bycatch species such as sea turtles, based on the best available scientific advice.

Any unilateral action outside this multilateral legal framework in the areas of conservation and management of living resources falling within the remit of ICCAT, undermines the international architecture, the mandate and the work of ICCAT. ICCAT is currently assessing the impact of the pelagic longline fleet on sea turtles in the Atlantic Ocean, to further strengthen the existing recommendation on the bycatch of sea turtles (ICCAT Rec. 13-11) and to provide an appropriate level of protection to these vulnerable species, while ensuring that any possible negative trade-offs for other species are identified, duly taken into account and minimised.

We invite the USA to suspend its unilateral action on sea turtles bycatch and join forces within ICCAT for achieving this common goal.

**Appendix 13 to ANNEX 8**

**Statement by Ecology Action Centre (EAC) to Panel 4 regarding shortfin mako sharks**

Ecology Action Centre appreciates this opportunity to comment on ICCAT Panel 4 deliberations regarding North Atlantic shortfin makos.

We are pleased that Parties are at last coalescing around an immediate prohibition on retention for this depleted stock, as long advised by the SCRS. In addition to being critical to achieving the substantial mortality reduction goals, this straightforward measure is readily enforceable and key to removing incentives to encounter and kill this valuable, threatened species.

We ask that the final text establishing this measure be explicit so as to facilitate proper implementation and provide clear standards for compliance monitoring.

At the same time, it is difficult to believe that – after the overwhelming support for a decisive ban – Parties are seriously considering avenues for relaxing it within just a few short years.

On the contrary, the advised non-retention policy should be set in place for many years given:

- The exceptional vulnerability of the species, as underscored by the SCRS this week
- The serious population depletion that is predicted to continue for 14 more years
- The rebuilding timeframe that realistically spans another five decades.

The lengthy recovery period offers plenty of time to carefully consider if and under what conditions retention might resume. We echo concerns over the complexity of the proposed formulas and the challenge of agreeing them at this busy virtual meeting. We agree that this particularly consequential process should be addressed intersessionally rather than needlessly rushed over the coming days.

We stress, however, that relaxing protections a decade before rebuilding is expected to begin would be egregious even for a resilient species.

We take this opportunity to reiterate our strong support for basing the rebuilding plan on at least a 70% probability of success, as is clearly warranted for slow growing makos.

In summary, this exceptionally depleted, inherently vulnerable shark population represents the ultimate case for taking a precautionary approach. We urge Parties to make decisions accordingly and focus on rebuilding the stock rather than reviving exploitation.

## **Appendix 14 to ANNEX 8**

### **Statement by Europêche to Panel 4**

#### **PA4\_807/ 2021 Shark management**

Europêche supports the recommendation submitted by many CPCs to prohibit the removal of shark fins at sea and to require that all fins remain naturally attached (fully or partially) until the point of first landing. The EU sector reminds that this is already mandatory in several countries, including in the EU, and in some RFMOs.

The approval of the Recommendation on the conservation of short fin mako (PA4-809 / 2021) should be linked as a *conditio sine qua non* to the approval and strict compliance with Rec. PA4- 807.

#### **PA4-809 / 2021 North Atlantic shortfin mako**

Europêche notes that the mako shark is not in danger of extinction in the North Atlantic. Europêche recalls that due to the inclusion of this species under CITES Appendix II, the Spanish and Portuguese governments have decided not to allow the commercialization of mako caught in international waters (outside national EEZs) of the North Atlantic.

Since the adoption of ICCAT management measures in 2017, the Spanish pelagic longline fleets, conscious of the need to rebuild the stock, reduced the catches by almost 40% and proactively seek the avoidance of catches on a voluntary basis. This effort, which included the installation of electronic monitoring systems and an increased number of human observers on board, was difficult, costly and was made even before the Recommendation 19-06 was adopted.

The efforts from the EU fleet did not stop there. In addition to the strict compliance with ICCAT's recommendations, the sector launched in 2018 a Fishing Improvement Project for the Swordfish and Blue Shark Fisheries (FIP BLUES) promoted by 4 producer organizations and 13 companies, which represent 90% of the catches of the EU fleet. One of the main objectives of the FIP is to address and propose solutions to solve the gaps of information and data for fishing-related species, i.e. mako shark. Under this programme, skippers collect and report on a voluntary basis in the e-logbook additional information such as the number of individuals discarded (dead or alive), catch areas, sex of the specimen, etc.

Discarding dead specimens does not make sense from different angles. As recognised by the SCRS, a total retention ban would bring no conservation benefits for the stock and would be a wasteful practice. The only reliable source of data, which comes from the reporting provided by the EU fleet, would be totally lost and lead to the constant application of the "precautionary approach". Landings are one of the parameters on which the SCRS estimates are based. In addition, it would bring about tremendous negative socio-economic consequences for the longline fleets. Furthermore, returning a dead fish to the sea, and not taking advantage of that source of healthy protein, is to encourage food waste.

In this context, Européche supports the compulsory release of all makos that are alive when brought along the boat. However, it is important to maintain the continuity of the retention on board of mako sharks that arrive dead to the vessel. This possibility must be strongly conditioned to data collection/reporting, an increase of the presence of human or electronic observers on board and management measures such as the identification of spawning areas or avoidance of areas of high concentration of individuals. Furthermore, Spain only allows the catch of two individuals per fishing trip per vessel. This aimed at continuing to improve knowledge, management and the recovery of the fish species. ICCAT should pay particular attention and take urgent measures against CPCs not complying with ICCAT's recommendations. The following principle should apply: "no data, no fishing".

Europêche also advocates the establishment of a TAC of at least 500t for all CPCs involved in the fishery. A 0 TAC would be illogical and counterproductive for the reasons explained above.

#### **PA4\_811\_SPONS\_1 /2021**

#### **Recommendation on by-catch of sea turtles - G Hooks**

Europêche simply fails to understand why some CPCs propose the mandatory use of G hooks. If reducing bycatch is a key priority for all the CPCs, it makes no sense introducing a fishing method that actually increases by-catches. The authors of this proposal even recognise that studies have extensively documented that circle hooks increase catch rates of sharks, particularly shortfin mako.

#### **Appendix 15 to ANNEX 8**

#### **Statement by Global Tuna Alliance (GTA) to Panel 4**

#### **Shortfin mako (SMA) in the North Atlantic**

Following Wednesday's discussion of PA4-809/2021 alternative versions for paragraph 2 bis presented by the EU and the USA (alternative), we would like to remind all parties that this stock will continue to decrease until 2035 even at the mortality of zero and that the SCRS has advised that rebuilding of this stock with a high probability to  $B_{MSY}$  by 2070 and at least a 50% probability by 2045 requires limiting total mortality below 300 t. Therefore, at least a temporary retention ban until 2035, preferably 2045 would be needed to account "for many of the uncertainties and increase the chances for successful implementation and rebuilding of the NA-SMA stock in accordance with the best available scientific information" according to a recently published legal opinion for a "precautionary approach in line with the UNFSA." This is because of the extremely long time for rebuilding the stock due to the biological characteristics of SMA and the many uncertainties arising from such a long time frame.

While we appreciate the progress made over the last months, we want to highlight that none of the current proposals will provide the desired outcome. The proposed retention ban of 2 years in 2bis (alternative) is a good start but too short to stop the negative trend. All calculations for potential retention are premature in the face of the lack of robust mortality data from past years, with no discards reported by most CPCs.

Therefore, we urge all parties to reconsider the current proposal and agree on an extended period for a retention ban – ideally until 2035 but at least until new projections from a new stock assessment by the SCRS are available. Throughout these years, improved data sets, including dead and live discards, could be collected, being essential for improved total mortality estimates as highlighted by the SCRS. This period could then be used to discuss the future approach and additional measures to reduce mortality, by effective avoidance strategies, and post-release mortality.

## SMA in the South Atlantic

Landings in 2020 increased substantially, and most CPCs provided almost no data on dead and life discards. Therefore, we are concerned that the Commission still does not consider any precautionary measures to end potential overfishing, as warned of by SCRS since 2017.

This is the time for ICCAT to demonstrate leadership in sharks' sustainable management and make a real difference.

## Appendix 16 to ANNEX 8

### Statement by Ocean Foundation to Panel 4

The Ocean Foundation appreciates this opportunity to encourage ICCAT action on the shark fishery management issues before Panel 4.

This week marks the fifth consecutive annual meeting that has Parties grappling with ICCAT scientists' advice for rebuilding overfished North Atlantic shortfin makos. An inadequate management response to the SCRS 2017 advice has exacerbated depletion and risks a collapse that is irreparable in our lifetimes.

We are pleased that ICCAT Parties have recently made time for makos and that support continues to grow for the cornerstone of the SCRS advice: a complete prohibition on retention. Such a ban is essential to achieving the substantial mortality reduction needed to reverse decline.

We oppose *any* North Atlantic shortfin mako landing allowances because they:

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

Retention bans, on the other hand, are:

- Straightforward and readily enforceable
- Essential for removing incentives to encounter and kill valuable, threatened species
- The most common shark conservation measure imposed by ICCAT and its Parties
- Less restrictive than closing fisheries.

Mako sharks have exceptionally low reproductive rates and are therefore particularly susceptible to overfishing. Females do not begin to reproduce until age 18, remain pregnant for up to 18 months, and produce just 4-25 pups every 2-3 years. Because of these life history characteristics, recruitment does not fluctuate widely from year to year. North Atlantic recovery is likely to take five decades. Indeed, the SCRS predicts further decline until 2035. Relaxing protections before rebuilding begins would be seriously problematic.

As suggested by the UK and Norway and demonstrated by the US, rebuilding plans for slow growing sharks should be based on a 70% probability (at least) of meeting recovery goals. A high chance of success reflects a precautionary approach that is clearly warranted for makos.

Additional mako bycatch reduction measures are needed to enhance recovery but cannot replace the ban or succeed without it. Finally prohibiting retention would allow a shift in focus to complementary initiatives aimed at helping fishers avoid makos and safely release those caught incidentally.

Additional shark conservation issues needing attention include:

- The lack of protection for South Atlantic shortfin makos
- Overages in the South Atlantic blue shark TAC

- The conservation status of other species.

We strongly support replacing the finning ban's complicated fin-to-carcass ratio with a requirement to land sharks with their fins still naturally attached. This best practice can ease enforcement, eliminate room to fin sharks, and facilitate collection of species-specific catch data.

## Appendix 17 to ANNEX 8

### Statement by Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW) to Panel 4

While SCRS scientists have warned of the highly concerning population status of the shortfin mako shark since 2017, The Pew Charitable Trusts is hopeful this is the year it can congratulate ICCAT and its members on adoption of a recovery plan for this severely overfished population. Pew continues to stress the scientific advice that a ban on retention of north Atlantic shortfin mako is an important first step to begin recovery. We are encouraged by the progress made at the October intersessional meeting of Panel 4, where there was acknowledgement from even the most significant mako fishing Parties that retention will not be possible in the next several years given the status of the population and the number of incidental interactions between makos and longline fishing gear. The work completed at that meeting and in the intersessional period since then has resulted in a new proposal from the ICCAT Chair (PA4-800), and adoption of this proposal should be Panel 4's top priority. There are some outstanding questions/issues that remain to be settled, and specifically, there are still two alternative proposals to determine if/when there will be retention in the future. But, with the world now watching, the fate of north Atlantic makos and ICCAT's reputation hinges on CPCs reaching agreement to adopt an effective recovery plan this year.

For the consideration of Panel 4, we offer the following specific recommendations to improve the latest draft text:

- There should be no less than a 60% probability of recovering the population by 2070. This will be the longest ICCAT recovery plan on record. Therefore, it is important that the timeline is not delayed when new stock assessments are conducted or science is completed. And it must be clarified that the recovery deadline will be no later than 2070 in any future updates to the plan.
- Regardless of which version of paragraph 2 bis is supported, it must be clearly stated that retention will not be allowed until the total fishing mortality (including discards) is reduced to sustainable levels. However, to conduct this calculation correctly, the SCRS will have to assess live and dead discards on the basis of a reference year where mako landings are prohibited. The second alternative under paragraph 2 sufficiently addresses this issue, but the first alternative requires an addition. Pew recommends the following be added between sub-paragraphs 2bis d and e:
  - "In order to establish a baseline for live and dead discards under a new management system where landings are limited, and notwithstanding the above sub-paragraphs, retention shall not be permitted in 2022 or 2023. As such, the exercise outlined in sub-paragraph 2bis b will be executed for the first time in 2023, to assess the possibility of fishing opportunities in fishing year 2024, using discard mortality data from 2022."

This proposal builds on the consensus view during the October intersessional meeting that retention will not be possible for the next several years.

- Regardless of which alternative is chosen, there is still not a clear requirement to return to this Recommendation to consider additional measures if mortality remains too high. This is highly likely, as there continues to be no agreement on the bycatch mitigation measures necessary to achieve reductions in total fishing mortality nothing yet in place. The following should therefore be added before paragraph 3:
  - "If the total fishing mortality is higher than the amount that would achieve the objective outlined in Paragraph 1 for two consecutive years, the Commission shall review this Recommendation in order to ensure the necessary bycatch mitigation measures are in place to achieve the objective of the rebuilding program."

- As discard data will directly impact fishing opportunities moving forward, it is of paramount importance that discards and landings are correctly reported after the adoption of this rebuilding program. One concern is the potential misreporting of shortfin mako as longfin mako. Therefore, we recommend inclusion of the following paragraph under the section on scientific and research activities or at another appropriate location:
  - “Annually, the SCRS shall review the reported landings and discards of longfin mako shark to identify any unexpected inconsistencies that could be the result of misidentification within the two mako species.”

With adoption of the Chair’s proposal, including these additions, ICCAT CPCs will finally have demonstrated they are serious about following the scientific advice and taking steps to recover this imperiled population. Importantly, if this new measure is not sufficient to reduce total mortality of north Atlantic mako to a sustainable level, PA4 must come back to the table to add additional measures to the recovery plan.

Finally, Pew continues to believe that the south Atlantic mako population requires science-based management, and we encourage CPCs to take up this business in 2022 or as soon as possible. And we continue to support the draft proposal PA4-811 to reduce the impact of ICCAT fisheries on Atlantic sea turtle populations.

## **Appendix 18 to ANNEX 8**

### **Statement by Pro Wildlife to Panel 4**

Pro Wildlife would like to comment on two Documents of the Panel 4 meeting:

#### **Draft Recommendation PA4-807/2021**

Pro Wildlife fully supports the document and refers to the broadly acknowledged “Fins naturally attached” policy, which has already been implemented by many fishing nations, including India, the European Union (by its Council Regulation (EU) No. 605/2013), the USA, Canada, Brazil, Venezuela or Colombia. It is essential to prohibit the removal of shark fins at sea to enhance controls and to prevent laundering and fraudulence of numbers of caught sharks and related fins.

#### **Draft Recommendation PA4-809/2021**

While we welcome that in the new proposal an alternative version proposes a temporary retention ban for North Atlantic mako for 2022 and 2023 this still does not meet the precautionary approach and the recommended high probability of 70% for rebuilding the stock by 2070. Pro Wildlife therefore strongly urges ICCAT Parties to support an immediate and long-term retention ban, in line with the advice from the SCRS.

In this context, Pro Wildlife would also like to draw your attention to a recent Legal Opinion “on the Conformity of the European Union’s Position with the UN Fish Stocks Agreement (UNFSA) concerning the Conservation and Management of North Atlantic Shortfin Mako Shark at ICCAT” by the Universities of Leeds Beckett, Hamburg, and Oxford (<https://sfact.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Mako-legal-opinion.pdf>).

According to the Legal Opinion, the EU’s proposal of October 2021 is still not complying with the precautionary principle due to the extremely long restoration period and the resulting uncertainties for success, as well as the proposed method of calculation for such a potential retention of a still to be defined amount of bycatch. The authors note that the calculation relies on mortality data that are either not available or inadequate. They therefore recommend the implementation of a temporary retention ban at least until 2035, or even better until 2045 (the earliest point in time a recovery of this population is at all possible).

Furthermore, Pro Wildlife would want to highlight that landings in EU ports from the High Sea will be in conflict with the CITES SRG decision of December 2020, which has banned imports of North Atlantic mako sharks in EU ports, in the absence of a mandatory Non-Detriment Finding ([https://circabc.europa.eu/sd/a/a30daa66-704d-4160-a7fe-81948f22944b/92\\_summary\\_SRG.pdf](https://circabc.europa.eu/sd/a/a30daa66-704d-4160-a7fe-81948f22944b/92_summary_SRG.pdf)).

## Appendix 19 to ANNEX 8

### Statement by Sea Shepherd Legal to Panel 4

Sea Shepherd Legal is grateful for the opportunity to address this Panel. In light of today's initial discussion, we would like to make the following observations on shortfin mako (PA4-809/2021):

While we understand the concerns voiced by CPCs during Panel 4's first session that agreement on PA4-809 may take time and we see the value in "informal discussions", we strongly believe that deliberations need to be transparent and include observers. The imperiled status of the North Atlantic population of shortfin mako sharks (NA-SMA), as well as ICCAT's role in conserving and managing this population, is a matter of great public interest - the subject of hundreds if not thousands of social media posts and articles. Any decision that is not transparent, science-based and proportionate to the urgency and severity of the situation would risk losing the public trust.

In making this decision, as outlined in the recent [legal opinion by Rosello \*et al.\*](#), ICCAT's CCPCs that are Parties to the 1995 UNFSA, should be guided by their obligation to "apply the precautionary approach widely to conservation, management and exploitation of [...] highly migratory fish stocks in order to protect the living marine resources and preserve the marine environment". To fulfill this obligation, a Party must, among other things, "be more cautious when information is uncertain, unreliable or inadequate" and obtain and share "the best scientific information available" for improved decision-making.

Applying this approach to the NA-SMA, Rosello *et al.* find that a precautionary approach in line with the UNFSA would require a temporary retention ban until at least 2035, preferably until 2045 - an assessment we fully endorse.

This extended retention ban could be integrated into the text proposed in paragraph *2bis (alternative)* in document PA4-809. In paragraph *2bis (alternative)*, we would further recommend incorporating a requirement for a minimum percentage of submitted full data sets (including dead and live discards) for any future calculations of allowable retention by the SCRS, as currently included in paragraph *2 bis b)*, to ensure that future decisions will be based on sound data and best available science.

Incentives to improve data quality and completeness strike us as particularly important in light of today's SCRS' report highlighting that statistics are still insufficient to provide advice for most shark populations under ICCAT's mandate (except BSH, SMA and POR).

Last, but not least, we reiterate the point made by Rosello *et al.* that ICCAT has at its disposal stricter methods to more reliably reduce NA-SMA mortality, e.g. by making it a choke species. A temporary retention ban should, therefore, be seen as a middle-ground.

## Appendix 20 to ANNEX 8

### Statement by Shark Guardian to Panel 4

Shark Guardian appreciates that CPCs have agreed to collaborate on measures to begin rebuilding overfished Atlantic shortfin mako populations ("*Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of North Atlantic stock of shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries*", PA4-809/2021)<sup>1</sup>.

However, this intent must be matched with concrete measures resulting in tangible positive results for sharks. Avoiding past failures is imperative if overfished shortfin mako shark populations are to recover.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.iccat.int/com2021/ENG/PA4\\_809\\_ENG.pdf](https://www.iccat.int/com2021/ENG/PA4_809_ENG.pdf)

Improvements are urgently needed to save this shark population which will already take around fifty years to rebuild with a probability of 70%. Noting that for Atlantic sharks NOAA's "general objective is to rebuild the stock within the rebuilding period with a 70-percent probability"<sup>2</sup>, Shark Guardian is alarmed that Proposal PA4- 809A still does not even confirm such 70% probability for rebuilding.

None of the alternatives presented in paragraph 2 of Proposal PA4-809A/2021 so far acknowledges that any potential retention should be based on sound science and sufficient data. Currently, insufficient data exists to estimate future total mortality, nor does a scientific rationale exist to support any retention in the near future.

Unless decisive action is taken, this stock will continue to crash until 2035. Shark Guardian strongly urges CPCs to immediately implement a retention ban, at least until such time as scientific data based on a new stock assessment becomes available from the ICCAT SCRS.

Shark Guardian urges all parties to at minimum agree to a retention ban, at least until the date of the next stock assessment in 2026. At that date more reliable information on live and dead discards over a range spanning several years should have become available, including reported discards, which would allow for a better estimate of total mortality to be used for any future retention allocations.

Shark Guardian also hopes to see 'Fins Naturally Attached' Proposal PA4-807A/2021<sup>3</sup> endorsed by ICCAT. The adoption of this proposal by ten ICCAT sponsoring parties would mark an important conservation measure for ICCAT to demonstrate its commitment to the sustainable management of its shark populations.

Adopting global best practice to stop shark finning at ICCAT, after many disastrous past failed attempts, is overdue. It should be noted by CPCs that RFMOs like NAFO and GFM have long since adopted global best practices to end shark finning, and many ICCAT Contracting Parties already enacted domestic 'Fins Naturally Attached' laws to regulate their own domestic fleets.

In summary, we urge ICCAT to take the following bold action for sharks this year:

- provide a realistic chance of rebuilding overfished North Atlantic shortfin mako shark populations.
- adopt the precautionary approach and stop overfishing of South Atlantic shortfin mako sharks.
- adopt a 'Fins Naturally Attached' policy.

#### **Appendix 21 to ANNEX 8**

#### **Statement by SharkProject International to Panel 4**

Knowing that northern Atlantic shortfin mako will continue to decrease until 2035 we had hoped to see a retention ban at least until a time, when new scientific advice from the SCRS based on a new stock assessment is available, or preferably until we have proof of this stock recovering.

Therefore, PA4-809D/2021 proposing a default retention ban for 2022 and 2023 only is a disappointing outcome after five years of negotiations and inadequate for a stock which is about to collapse and may not recover in our lifetime, if ever.

We had certainly hoped for more but acknowledge the compromise, with de facto one year of no retention and an option to possibly allow some retention in 2023.

Nevertheless, this falls significantly short of SCRS advice and a precautionary approach accounting "for many of the uncertainties and increase the chances for successful implementation and rebuilding of the NA-SMA stock in accordance with the best available scientific information" outlined in a recent legal opinion.

<sup>2</sup> [https://gulfcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/M-4a-Draft-Amendment-14\\_FINAL.pdf](https://gulfcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/M-4a-Draft-Amendment-14_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.iccat.int/com2021/ENG/PA4\\_807\\_ENG\\_SPONS\\_1.pdf](https://www.iccat.int/com2021/ENG/PA4_807_ENG_SPONS_1.pdf)



We are grateful to all CPCs who pushed hard over the last months to improve prerequisites now proposed as basis for calculation of any potential retention in PA4-809D/2021 representing the lowest common denominator Panel 4 members might agree on.

- Appreciating the collective agreement on the importance of complete data sets (including dead and live discards) being submitted by all CPCs for an annual estimation of total mortality by SCRS and calculation of potential retention for the following year.
- Welcoming the proposed monthly reporting of retained quantities to the Secretariat by all CPCs to monitor compliance against their applicable allowances.
- Acknowledging, that the proposed approach with stringent oversight by SCRS and the request that CPCs have to repay exceeded allowances in full over the following years are major steps forward, while we would have preferred an initial phase of data collection prior to starting any considerations of potential retention.
- Noting, that the proposed approach results in additional annual tasks for the SCRS and the Secretariat.
- Highlighting the importance of compliance with reporting requirements and the agreed measures on the water but noting the lack of representative observer coverage and an EMS taking into account minimum standards to be agreed by ICCAT based on advice from SCRS and PWG.

Notwithstanding this we believe ICCAT must account for the existing uncertainties and adopt 70% probability instead of the proposed range for stock rebuilding by 2070. A 66% probability would be a compromise appropriate for elasmobranchs, close to [NOAA's approach for migratory sharks](#), and a precautionary approach for a species, which ranked third in vulnerability in the ecological risk assessments conducted by the SCRS and was globally recognised for its vulnerability to unsustainable exploitation when listed on CITES App. II in 2019.

## **REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE (COC)**

### **1. Opening of the meeting**

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

### **2. Appointment of Rapporteur**

As there were no nominations, Mr. Campbell offered to draft the meeting report himself. There were no objections to this proposal.

### **3. Adoption of the Agenda**

Following slight modification, the agenda was adopted and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**.

### **4. Review of the progress on follow up on the Second Performance Review and consideration of any necessary actions**

The Chair drew attention to the document "Follow-up of the ICCAT Performance Review – COC", which tracks actions taken by the Commission to address recommendations made in the Report of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review.

The Chair proposed that in the interest of efficiency given the time constraints and virtual format, this document could be updated following the conclusion of the annual meeting to reflect any actions taken by the COC and subject to review and comment as part of the adoption of the COC meeting report.

An updated table of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review and status of ICCAT actions is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9**.

### **5. Review of Secretariat Report to the Compliance Committee**

Introducing the Secretariat's Report to the Compliance Committee, the Chair noted this document has evolved in recent years into a very helpful format to facilitate discussion of all relevant measures that may warrant the COC's attention, and thanked the Secretariat for all of its efforts.

#### ***Tropical tunas***

The Chair drew attention to paragraph 31 of 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 Chair noted that to date, this paragraph does not appear to have been implemented by ICCAT. To help address this issue, the Chair asked the Secretariat to prepare a report on CPC fulfillment of the requirement to report historical FAD data, which was presented as "Implementation of reporting requirements and prohibitions under Rec. 19-02 para 31". The Secretariat's paper noted that Rec. 19-02 para 31 does not state clearly what historic means or extends to i.e., which years are required; the paper therefore provided some historical context, and noted that FAD data were submitted to ICCAT through the ST-08 form starting in 2011. Over the course of the week, the table in that report was updated to reflect that all CPCs with purse seine vessels operating in the tropical tunas fishery had reported FAD data for at least some years, with the exception of Senegal, which reported Task 2 FAD data starting in 2020 but did not report the number of FADs. One CPC suggested that given the wording of

para 31, its application should be automatic, so that CPCs are prohibited from setting on FADs until they supply the required data. The Chair noted that additional guidance from Panel 1 as to what historical data are required would be helpful to ensure full implementation of this provision.

Regarding catch reporting under Rec. 19-02, one CPC noted that having reporting requirements across multiple time scales causes confusion and advised referring this matter to Panel 1 for further discussion. The CPC also expressed that it is alarming that a large number of CPCs have not reported quarterly catches at all. The Chair concurred that this is a recurring issue for many CPCs.

Regarding catch limits for BET, a CPC drew attention to the fact that Rec. 19-02 paragraph 4 establishes catch limits for a number of CPCs, and continues to apply and should be reflected accordingly in the compliance tables. The Chair concurred, further clarifying that although the Secretariat's Report stated "no agreements were made on catch limits in 2020", this should not be misread to suggest that no catch limits existed for 2020. Rather, the catch limits agreed at the 2019 meeting in Rec. 19-02 paragraph 4 applied. One CPC indicated that it intended to take this matter up in Panel 1. Nevertheless, consistent with Rec. 19-02, the overharvests of two CPCs that had been brought to the attention of the COC as not being accurately reflected in those CPCs' bigeye tuna compliance tables were later accurately reflected in revised compliance tables that were approved by the COC.

### ***Bluefin tuna***

The Chair drew attention to a request from the Secretariat in its Report to COC seeking clarification as to whether joint fishing operations (JFOs) are only allowed when fish are destined for farming, or whether the "destination farm" field in the eBCD should be optional. Currently, the eBCD system does not allow a JFO unless there is a destination farm. The eBCD would require a new development if the destination field is optional. The Chair stated that further discussion would be helpful in the relevant Panel, noting that COC and PWG are the only bodies that receive a Secretariat's report, so sometimes these questions are brought up in the COC when they should be directed to a Panel. One CPC opined that it does not seem like there is anything preventing an optional "destination" field and concurred that Panel 2 should consider this issue. The Chair asked the Executive Secretary to ensure the question was referred to Panel 2.

The Chair drew attention to another suggestion from the Secretariat in its Report to COC regarding the Joint Inspection Scheme under Rec. 20-07, that "It would be helpful if any inspection reports which contain ICCAT infringements could be submitted as they are issued, as well as the date on which they sent the report to the flag State, rather than being sent with the complete batches at the end of the season." The Secretariat further explained that this would provide for a more timely review by the Commission of compliance issues and a more timely flag State response. The Secretariat expressed the view that this would not require changes to the relevant Recommendation, and that a summary table of infringements could be submitted in order to facilitate Secretariat's work.

The Chair suggested the COC support this change in approach, noting that sometimes a CPC may not hear of an infringement identified under the Joint Inspection Scheme until a much later date, which does not facilitate timely investigation, review, and response from the CPC.

A CPC made a general comment on the importance of robust measures for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, including strengthening the control measures in Rec. 19-04, which will be discussed at this annual meeting. The CPC emphasized the importance of closing all loopholes in that fishery, including those raised by the Secretariat in its report.

The COC also discussed the following request for clarification from the Secretariat in its Report to COC: "Rec. 19-04 requires that the information be submitted to the Secretariat. Guidance on what the Secretariat is expected to do with these reports, for which there is no standard format or indication of expected content, is sought." The Secretariat noted that some of the information in the reports submitted pursuant to paragraph 103 of Rec. 19-04 could be confidential, so they were concerned about making them public. The Secretariat recommended detailing further the format and content of what should be submitted to the Secretariat, with Panel 2 aiding in this effort.

### ***Billfish***

The Chair noted that the Billfish Check Sheets submitted in accordance with Rec. 18-05, are up for an in depth-review by the COC this year in accordance with the Strategic Plan for Review of Compliance Priorities agreed in 2019. This in-depth review would take place under agenda item 6. In that regard, one CPC brought attention to questions they had submitted relating to compliance with billfish requirements, noting that only one CPC responded.

### ***Sharks***

Regarding the Shark Check Sheets submitted pursuant to Rec. 18-06, the Chair noted that the COC discussed these in its special session in 2018 and identified a number of issues in both proper reporting in the check sheet and in implementation of the underlying management Recommendation requirements. He stated that, unfortunately, there had not been substantial improvement in these areas. As in the past, many CPCs did not submit check sheets. The Chair reminded the COC that all CPCs are required to submit a completed shark check sheet whether their fisheries have directed catch or only bycatch.

Regarding Rec. 19-08 on South Atlantic blue shark, one CPC expressed concern that this Recommendation was not included in the Secretariat Report to COC. The CPC requested its inclusion next year, noting with concern that catches have exceeded the TAC by 17%.

Regarding Rec. 19-06 on North Atlantic shortfin mako, one CPC expressed concern that, based on review of the Shark Check Sheets and ICCAT data, a number of CPCs have not taken action to implement the requirements of the Recommendation. In particular, the CPC referenced Table 10 of the Secretariat's Report on Research and Statistics, which shows that many CPCs have failed to report live and dead discards in accordance with paragraph 9 of Rec. 19-06. The CPC recalled that paragraph 9 provides as follows: "CPCs that authorize their vessels to catch and retain on board, transship or land North Atlantic shortfin mako in accordance with paragraphs 2 through 5 above shall provide to the Secretariat the amount of North Atlantic shortfin mako caught and retained on board as well as dead discards and live releases in 2019 one month prior to the 2020 Panel 4 intersessional meeting." These data are critical for stock assessments and rebuilding programs. And regarding paragraph 7 of Rec. 19-06, which provides "CPCs shall endeavour to take further measures than those contained in this Recommendation with the aim to stop overfishing and to rebuild the stock", the CPC noted it had put in place many management measures to effectively implement this provision in its fisheries and recommended that the COC take a strong stance against those who have not taken effective action.

Another CPC echoed the view on the high importance of the check sheet and its utility for the COC and Commission. Regarding shortfin mako sharks and the importance of fully reporting data on dead discards, live releases, and landings, the CPC noted that this is an active issue in Panel 4 and stressed the difficulty that lack of data poses to developing a plan to rebuild the stock. CPCs were encouraged, therefore, to fulfill data reporting requirements.

Another CPC expressed support for the abovementioned interventions, noted its disappointment that the check sheets have not worked very well due to lack of reporting, and encouraged CPCs to carry out their obligations by submitting this information, which the COC has committed to emphasizing in its work. The CPC highlighted that it is important to be able to deliver on that commitment.

Regarding the review of the shark check sheet for specific CPCs, the United States raised questions specific to Morocco's responses in that document. First, it was noted that Morocco's response in the check sheet indicates that Morocco authorizes vessels greater than 12 m to "catch and retain on board, transship or land North Atlantic shortfin mako". Given the requirements for an onboard observer or electronic monitoring system, the United States inquired if this response means that shortfin mako are only landed when an observer is present. Morocco responded that it has stopped observation of shortfin mako because of COVID, but that an alternative method to direct observation has been reported, and that it has sought advice from the Secretariat on proper submission of this information in the future, but it did not know that this was supposed to be submitted to the SCRS. Morocco recalled the special provisions of Rec. 16-14 regarding vessels under 15 m and observer requirements, noting it is difficult to have observers on board its small vessels.

The United States asked Morocco to clarify whether the landing of shortfin mako on vessels less than 12 m was allowed, and if so, why Morocco respond “no” on the check sheet regarding Rec. 19-06 paragraph 2. Morocco responded that shark fisheries are incidental to its swordfish fishery. Small vessels do sometimes land sharks in these fisheries. However, Morocco is no longer interested in these species, and in order to conserve them, it has reduced catches of the species in the last two years. In light of this response from Morocco, the Chair suggested that Morocco consider updating its response from “no” to “yes” on this element of the check sheet. Morocco responded that it would consult with its scientists and get back to the COC on this matter.

Lastly, the United States noted that Morocco’s check sheet also says: to limit the fishing mortality of North Atlantic shortfin mako a TAC has been established through the Ministerial Decision 01/21 of 04/01/2021. Upon further review, the United States noted it could not find domestic regulations for Morocco that established a TAC for shortfin mako and asked Morocco to provide more specific information about its domestic regulations in this regard. Morocco did not provide any additional information on this point.

### ***Sea turtles***

The extent of applicability of bycatch reduction requirements relating to turtles was again a topic of discussion at this year’s COC. The Chair drew attention to text in the Secretariat’s Report to the COC that states “It should be noted that *the applicability of the requirements relating to the maximisation of survival of sea turtles is not dependent on the extent of interactions; i.e. this should be implemented by all those with purse seine and/or longline fisheries.*” In a few cases, *it remains unclear from reporting whether the measures have been implemented in a legally binding way*, although improvement has been noted over previous years. It is recommended that CPCs cite the relevant domestic legislation in their Annual Reports to avoid such uncertainty.”

In this regard, both the Chair and a CPC expressed continued concern that, on the basis of information contained in Annual Reports, it remained unclear whether some CPCs have implemented the measures in Rec. 10-09, such as safe handling and release requirements, in a legally binding way, and that this should be improved in future Annual Reports.

### ***Recommendation by ICCAT on Penalties Applicable in Case of Non-Fulfillment of Reporting Obligations (Rec. 11-15) (“No Data, No Fish”)***

The Chair informed the COC that some CPCs have neither reported Task 1 data nor confirmed zero catch for certain species, as reflected by blanks in the table contained in the document “Information for the application of Rec. 11-15”. As in years past, the Chair recommended the COC ask the Secretariat to send letters to all CPCs following the annual meeting to request the missing data and to inform the CPCs that, in the absence of fulfillment of Task 1 reporting requirements for a species, the CPC would be prohibited from retaining such species until the Secretariat determines the data deficiency is remedied. At the end of the 2021 ICCAT Annual Meeting, CPCs subject to prohibition for some or all species were: Angola, Cote d’Ivoire, EU, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Equatorial, Sierra Leone and Costa Rica.

### ***Recommendation by ICCAT on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (Rec. 18-09)***

The Chair drew attention to the Secretariat’s note in its Report to COC that “In order to ensure correct implementation of the requirement for CPCs to submit inspection reports which contain ICCAT infringements for inclusion on the ICCAT website, it would be helpful if the CPCs submit a summary of the relevant information for publication, as well as the date on which they sent the report to the flag State.”

Intervening in support of the Executive Secretary’s request, a CPC said that such an action would be welcomed as it would enhance ICCAT’s efforts to monitor compliance.

Another CPC expressed its view that while the current mandate is to submit infringements, a broader summary would be useful, and suggested referral of the issue to PWG for consideration.

***Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Minimum Standards for Fishing Vessel Scientific Observer Programs (Rec. 16-14)***

The Chair thanked the Secretariat for preparing, and drew the COC's attention to, the document "Implementation of Rec. 16-14: scientific observer programmes", which compiles and summarizes information on CPC implementation of, and reporting of information required under, this Recommendation. The Chair noted that deficiencies in implementation of this measure and its predecessor (Rec. 10-10) have been repeatedly flagged in COC meetings over the past decade for many CPCs. Most common issues raised are CPCs not reporting their observer coverage or CPCs simply reporting that they have not implemented a domestic fisheries scientific observer programme. Some CPCs have claimed the Recommendation is not applicable. While there is an exemption in the measure with regard to the deployment of observers on vessels under 15 m where an extraordinary safety concern exists, there is a process CPCs need to follow to receive approval to use that exemption and, instead, implement an alternative scientific monitoring approach that collects equivalent data. That process includes submission of information to the SCRS on the proposed alternative approach for evaluation and subsequent review and approval of the use of the alternative approach by the Commission before it can be applied.

A CPC intervened to thank the Secretariat as well as CPCs that provided additional information in response to the CPC's question on this matter. The CPC expressed a number of concerns, including that only 33 CPCs had provided the required information on their domestic scientific observer programmes' design and implementation, and seven of those reported only partial information, and the Secretariat had reported that they were only able to process forms from less than half of CPCs, leaving the Commission with major information gaps on how Rec. 16-14 is being implemented – many years after its adoption. And even with the information the Secretariat has compiled in the document "Implementation of Rec. 16-14: scientific observer programmes", it is difficult to see the overall picture of which CPCs are collecting data through observer programmes and reporting those data as required. Rec. 16-14 is a foundational measure for the Commission, as all conservation and management measures for ICCAT stocks rely on having sound scientific data. The CPC asked for more transparency regarding whether each CPC is meeting the minimum standard of 5% coverage in the Compliance Summary Tables in future annual meetings.

**6. In-depth review of Billfish Check Sheets (pursuant to Rec. 18-05 paragraph 4)**

In introducing the agenda item, the Chair explained that this in-depth review of the billfish check sheets is done every two years, in accordance with para 4 of Rec. 18-05, and opened the floor for any CPC comments regarding fulfillment of the check sheet requirement or systemic issues in implementation of billfish requirements that were reflected in the responses by CPCs. The COC conducted an in-depth review of checksheets; issues of concern are noted in **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9** for inclusion in letters to individual CPCs.

One CPC noted that some CPCs say they neither target billfish nor have bycatch, but the CPC emphasized that there is still an obligation to report. The CPC also expressed concern that CPCs do not provide a reference to their relevant domestic laws or regulations as required in the check sheet.

The Chair agreed that the fact that there may not be a directed fishery for billfish species is irrelevant for purposes of fulfilling the billfish check sheet and applicable requirements of the billfish measures, many of which do not concern directed fishing but rather bycatch interactions and mitigation measures. The Chair noted that it is a significant part of the reason for which the Billfish (and Shark) Check Sheets have been revised in recent years to expressly limit where and the circumstances under which a response of "Not Applicable" or "N/A" is permitted. The Chair also confirmed that Rec. 18-05 is applicable to all vessels in ICCAT fisheries, regardless of size, and that it applies in fisheries both within and outside of EEZs in the ICCAT Convention area.

**7. Priority review of other Recommendations, taking into account the schedule of expiration of Recommendations and, where possible, the schedule of SCRS assessments, as appropriate (pursuant to Strategic Plan for Review of Compliance Priorities, Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9 to Report for Biennial Period 2018-2019, Part II (2019), Vol. 1)**

The Chair brought the COC's attention to the document "Strategic Plan for Review of Compliance Priorities: Suggestions from CPCs". In 2019, the COC agreed on an approach to developing and updating periodically a strategic plan to aid the COC in prioritization and efficient conduct of its work. The purpose of this agenda item is to discuss possible updates to the strategic plan, including through the identification of priority issues. This version reflects the document that came out of the 2019 meeting with modifications to reflect written input received from the 2021 COC meeting prior to commencement of the proceedings.

One CPC reminded the COC that it had already proposed inclusion of Rec. 16-14 on minimum standards for observers as a priority item, and, in furtherance of the Commission's intent to review check sheets every two years, the CPC suggested that the shark check sheets be reviewed in-depth in 2023. This is in addition to review of expiring recommendations and stocks to be assessed.

Another CPC suggested that it may be appropriate to revisit the question of priorities at the end of the series of meetings because there might be things that come up that will warrant inclusion in the priorities list. And as for priority "deep dives," it was suggested that it would be good to consider, not just issues where compliance is not good, but to step back and look at the conservation measures governing the big fisheries. A deep dive might allow the COC to find out whether there are some issues under the surface that could be addressed or improved.

The COC supported the COC strategic plan, noting that it was a living document and subject to change in the future. In that regard, the Chair welcomed additional written input from CPCs on this matter to inform potential future revisions to the plan. As some input described during the COC meeting was not provided in writing and only a few CPCs intervened under this item, the Chair indicated his intention to append the document as-is "Strategic Plan for Review of Compliance Priorities: Suggestions from CPCs" (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9**) to the meeting report, reiterating that it would be open for further input during the intersessional period with a view to considering any proposed revisions at the 2022 ICCAT annual meeting.

**8. Review of response to Chair's letters arising from the 2020 Commission decision-making process**

The Chair drew attention to the document "Responses from CPCs to Letters from the Chair of the Compliance Committee" and associated documents, which contain letters sent to CPCs following the 2020 Commission decision-making process as well as CPC responses to date. The Chair noted that the Secretariat had developed a standard response template in which CPCs can categorize their responses regarding subjects raised in the letters. He thanked the Secretariat for this improvement and expressed his view that it makes the letters much easier to digest. However, despite these improvements, the Chair found it troubling that there had not been as much attention as expected in recent COC meetings to considering the content of the responses to Commission letters. The Chair expressed his hope that there would be a much more focused review of CPC responses and that they would not simply be deferred to the CPC-by-CPC review. The Chair solicited CPC views about the nature of the responses received and encouraged CPCs to raise questions. He asked the COC members if the response letters included appropriate clarifying information; if they reflected appropriate next steps taken or planned by the recipient CPC; and if a follow-up response was necessary from the CPC to assist COC tracking of any outstanding compliance issues.

The European Union expressed its view that it is extremely important to maintain and emphasize how crucial it is that CPCs who receive letters should pay attention to the issues raised and reply properly. There are many missing replies, which is worrisome. And some replies are not entirely satisfactory. The EU stressed that it was important that CPCs undertake a critical review of these letters and indicated it would take these letters up in the CPC-by-CPC review.

The United States aligned itself with comments made by the EU, noting that it values the letters and responses, and welcomes the opportunity to have a more robust discussion about the letters themselves in the future. The United States also noted that it was willing to address issues stemming from the letters in the CPC-by-CPC review.

The Secretariat intervened to suggest that perhaps the COC Friends of the Chair group, if convened in the future, could aid in the review of response letters prior to the Annual Meeting to flag issues for further discussion by the COC. The Chair welcomed this suggestion and recalled positively the contributions Japan had made in previous years in its role as a Friend of the Chair when it provided the COC with its assessment of CPC responses in the shark check sheets.

## 9. Compliance tables

The Chair commended the work accomplished to date to update and correct the compliance tables. Regarding the accuracy of compliance tables, the Chair invited the CPCs to work with the Secretariat to address any remaining issues that may be identified at this meeting.

Regarding bigeye, concerns were raised that overharvests by Brazil and Senegal were not properly accounted for in their respective compliance tables. Brazil emphasized that it has provided all data to the Secretariat in good faith and is committed to Commission mandates; its overharvest of 241 t was less than 4% over its catch limit; and that it would work with the Secretariat to resolve the issues in the table.

Senegal indicated that it would like to first seek to address the overharvest issue in Panel 1.

The Chair encouraged resolution of these issues, drawing attention to Rec. 19-02 para 4 (a)-(c), which established that bigeye tuna catch limits established in Rec. 19-02 para 4(a)-(c) were binding for all CPCs during 2020 and applied for purposes of completing the compliance tables at the 2021 annual meeting in order to accurately reflect future fishing possibilities of CPCs.

With the help of the Secretariat, the bigeye tuna compliance tables of both Brazil and Senegal were corrected and published in subsequent versions of the compliance tables.

The COC approved all tables with the exception of bigeye tuna and South Atlantic albacore, which had not been completed by the conclusion of the COC sessions. Instead, these two tables were left open and forwarded, together with the approved tables, to the Commission for endorsement, as appropriate (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9**).

In closing this item, the Chair noted that, as always, the tables are subject to revision in future years when reported catches are revised, and that, in the case of the European Union and Namibia, there was recognition of the possible need to revisit their respective tables for blue marlin and white marlin due to potential species misidentification of some catches as Indo-Pacific marlin species.

## 10. Review of other relevant information, including submissions under Rec. 08-09

The Chair introduced this agenda item with a point on process. Noting that the submitters of documents under Rec. 08-09 are participating in the meeting as observers, the Chair recommended that derogation from the ICCAT's normal order of speaking (CPCs before observers) was warranted.

A representative from Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW) introduced a joint submission from PEW and Global Fishing Watch entitled "A comparative analysis of AIS data with the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas reported transshipment activity in 2019". The representative from PEW noted that this is the third year in a row that they have submitted information to ICCAT using AIS and applying the tool to look for potential non-compliance. In partnership with Global Fishing Watch, PEW is looking for activity at-sea that is not aligned with reports of transshipment. In 2019, for its first paper on this subject, PEW noted that it used 2017 data (2-year data delay inherent in analysis), removing any activity that was clearly not involving ICCAT species. Now, the data reflects loitering events (vessels sitting for a long time in one place) and certain other activities (e.g., if the transshipment vessel engages with a longline



vessel). PEW explained that in year one, they evaluated the tool; in year two, they explored potential non-compliance; in year three (2021), they focused on policy loopholes. PEW noted that there is a proposal for consideration by ICCAT in PWG that they believe addresses the potential loopholes. PEW encourages CPCs to support and adopt the proposal which, *inter alia*, limits transshipment vessels to those flagged to an ICCAT CPC, shortens the time between transshipment event and required reporting to CPC/Secretariat, and improves how carrier vessels' information is presented to the Compliance Committee.

The Chair thanked PEW for its presentation and for preparing these reports. He noted that this type of input was in line with, and a good use of the process under, Rec. 08-09. Input by non-CPCs is valuable and adds a helpful perspective, and this presentation and process illustrates the important role that civil society can play in strengthening ICCAT's efforts to improve compliance. It provides a basis for ICCAT to look further into compliance issues that are brought to light by these non-CPCs, and also serves as an important source of information for stakeholders to seek changes in how ICCAT rules are implemented and enforced domestically. He noted that information in these papers had in previous years led to constructive probing by CPCs, such as CPC inquiries into extensive loitering events identified for Liberian carrier vessels.

Japan expressed its interest in and support for improving ICCAT's transshipment recommendation, inspired in part by information in the Rec. 08-09 submissions, and stated that it has been working with other CPCs, including the United States, in this regard, including on ways to enhance monitoring of transshipment activities.

One CPC stated that it was disturbing to see the scale of potential illegal transshipment activity, noting as well that it had detected a number of concerning activities just outside of its EEZ. Also of relevance to the issue of illegal transshipment, the "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for a Joint International Inspection Scheme in the western Atlantic", which is a proposal on high seas boarding and inspection, under consideration by the PWG this year could also identify problematic issues.

Another CPC, while thanking PEW, expressed its view that AIS is not for monitoring purposes as there are sometimes problems with signals showing that a vessel is somewhere it is not.

The Chair noted the range of views about the appropriateness of using AIS and that stolen signals can be an issue. However, even a stolen AIS signal is transmitting and, therefore, could reflect that there is a vessel out there that is potentially committing infractions of ICCAT measures or seeking to evade monitoring. For this reason, the Chair observed there can be utility in following up on AIS signals that may indicate an infraction.

## **11. Review of CPC implementation of and compliance with ICCAT requirements, focusing on priority issues and/or cases**

The COC conducted the CPC-by-CPC review of compliance with ICCAT requirements. Potential compliance issues for CPCs and CPC written explanations were included in the Compliance Summary Tables (**Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9**) prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the COC Chair. CPCs were asked to provide updated information on actions taken or planned to address potential compliance issues raised in COC meeting documents, and other information as needed.

## **12. Review of information relating to Non-CPCs**

Drawing attention to the document "Responses from NPCs to letters from the Chair of the Compliance Committee", which contains correspondence with NPCs over the preceding year at the direction of the COC, the Chair explained that the purpose of this agenda item has been to gather information relating to non-CPCs that appear to be participating in ICCAT fisheries but not cooperating with ICCAT, and to determine how to improve communication and cooperation with ICCAT, and ultimately observation of ICCAT measures. In the interest of time, as the available meeting time was nearly completed, the Chair suggested that the COC focus on non-CPCs that had received letters in the past year. If those non-CPCs have not sufficiently responded or mitigated issues, the Chair suggested that the COC agree in principle to simply renew our correspondence with those non-CPCs - inviting them to participate in ICCAT's work, and to submit information on how they are seeking to address significant harvest of ICCAT species (e.g. St. Lucia, St Kitts & Nevis). As there were no requests from the floor, the Chair took this as support and committed to develop follow-up letters as needed with the help of the Secretariat.

### **13. Determination of recommended actions to address issues of non-compliance by CPCs and issues relating to NCPs**

Based on recommendations developed by the Chair taking into account available information and discussions in the COC sessions, in particular under Agenda item 11, the COC recommended to the Commission that 31 CPCs be sent letters on compliance issues, requesting CPCs to respond with information on how they are addressing the matters identified.

The COC also recommended that the Commission maintain identification of five countries under the Rec. 06-13 on Trade Measures: Guinea Bissau, Guinea (Rep.), Namibia, Costa Rica, and Guyana.

The COC's recommended actions reflected in the "Actions taken in 2021" column of the Compliance Summary Tables (**Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9**) were forwarded to the Commission for approval.

### **14. Consideration of requests for cooperating status**

The Chair noted there were no new requests for Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity, and Fishing Entity status, and that under the terms of Rec. 03-20, cooperating status is deemed renewed unless the Commission takes a decision otherwise. One letter from Bolivia requested renewal; the Chair noted that while such a request is not necessary, Bolivia's interest is appreciated. Having received no objections, the Compliance Committee recommended that the Commission renew cooperating status for Bolivia, Chinese Taipei, Suriname, Guyana, and Costa Rica.

### **15. Review of progress made by the Online Reporting Working Group and next steps**

In introducing this agenda item, the Chair expressed his view that the initiative to develop an Integrated Online Management System (IOMS) is extremely important for improving compliance with ICCAT measures, as it will facilitate timely and accurate reporting while reducing the burden on CPCs in reporting, and the COC in reviewing compliance information. The COC Chair thanked the Chair of the Working Group, Ms. Terra Lederhouse (USA), the Secretariat, and all other participants in this work for the significant progress made in recent years. The Chair invited the Chair of the Working Group, to provide a status update.

Ms. Lederhouse drew attention to the Working Group's status report, "Working Group for the Development of an Online Reporting System – 2021 Status Report" (**Appendix 6 to ANNEX 9**) and provided an overview for the COC of the activities of the Working Group since the 2020 Commission correspondence process. Ms. Lederhouse introduced a decision document for the COC's consideration to extend the mandate of the Working Group to complete its work, "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Continue the Development of an Integrated Online Reporting System."

The Chair thanked Ms. Lederhouse and noted that this update was encouraging.

One CPC intervened in support of the work of the Working Group and the workplan and expressed its view that a task of the Working Group is not only to review the current reporting obligations to reduce redundancies, but also to recommend to the COC improvements and clean up of the reporting obligations, which is a key priority for that CPC. Other CPCs intervened in support of this approach. The Chair noted that the Working Group could certainly work on identifying ways to streamline reporting obligations, while reminding CPCs that this is also something that can be taken up by other ICCAT subsidiary bodies with responsibility over the reporting requirement at issue. The Working Group Chair concurred, noting that the Working Group would not have authority to repeal current reporting requirements, but could advise the Commission or the relevant subsidiary bodies on any potential redundancies.

In closing this item, the Chair noted that there was broad support for the draft Recommendation and indicated that it would be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.

**16. Other recommendations to the Commission to improve compliance, including consideration of a schedule of actions for future application based on Res. 16-17**

The Chair introduced the document “Working Paper on Draft Schedule of Actions: Severity of Types of Non-Compliance with Specific ICCAT Provisions”, which was prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the COC Chair. He explained that the document builds on a number of earlier versions of this tool that have been utilized by the COC. He further explained that the document reflects a substantial amount of work dating back to 2010 to develop clearer guidance or rules on how ICCAT should respond to instances of non-compliance. As discussed in the previous day’s COC session, ICCAT has struggled with taking action in response to CPC non-compliance in the face of the political dimensions of RFMOs. Many CPCs are hesitant to support taking meaningful actions against another CPC that may sit across the table at the ICCAT meeting. The intent of the Schedule of Actions is to remove politics from the equation by committing, in advance, to a standardized set of appropriate responses to different types of non-compliance. The initial draft of this tool categorizes different types of compliance issues and has an overlay of different levels of severity. In Rec. 16-17, ICCAT committed to further elaborating the Schedule of Actions to make it more useful to the COC. The Chair thanked the Secretariat for providing the first draft of this document, opened the floor for CPC views and encouraged CPCs to submit written input at this meeting.

One CPC thanked the Secretariat and the COC Chair for their work on this important initiative and offered several preliminary comments on the draft Schedule of Actions. First, the CPC noted that fine-tuning of the correlation between the seriousness of actions and of the measures proposed, is needed. The CPC offered, for example, that an identification letter, at least in category B, should come earlier in the process – rather than waiting until year three. The CPC noted that references to “trade measures” should be used carefully. And in those cases where it is appropriate, the Schedule of Actions should make reference to the full relevant provisions of paragraph 6 of Rec. 06-13 by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures. The CPC clarified that trade measures should be viewed as a last resort in the case where all other corrective measures have been unsuccessful.

Another CPC reiterated its support for the effort to strengthen the ICCAT compliance process and wishes to ensure that each of the categories together cover all of the different types of measures that ICCAT has. The CPC also noted that this effort will increase transparency and help to strengthen the effectiveness of the compliance evaluation process through the application of a full suite of responsive actions, while also promoting fairness, including by taking into account mitigating circumstances.

Another CPC clarified that the draft Schedule of Actions is intended to categorize different types of actions, rather than dictate the “severity” of actions to be taken. This CPC also noted that if a CPC is being identified for non-compliance, it should be given an opportunity to provide an improvement plan for the consideration of the COC. This would allow CPCs to truly resolve issues by enabling the COC to retain oversight of implementation of the improvement plan.

The Chair agreed that requesting CPCs to provide an implementation or improvement plan would be a helpful tool.

Over the course of the 2021 meeting, CPCs provided written input on the plan, which was revised accordingly and published. The plan is attached as a working document along with additional written comments submitted by CPCs (**Appendix 7 to ANNEX 9**). The Chair suggested that further correspondence on this document could continue in advance of the 2022 annual meeting in order to ensure progress towards adoption.

The COC identified a number of other future actions to improve compliance, including:

- Progressive implementation of previous COC recommendations for a process to facilitate capacity building and technical assistance to improve compliance, noting the importance of this type of tool for advancing the COC’s work;
- Development, with input from CPCs, the Chair, and the Secretariat, of a methodology for the COC to conduct effective in-depth reviews of measures that are prioritized by the Commission and considering the possibility of enhancing opportunities for members of the Friends of the COC Chair group and other CPCs to play a role in helping to lead the analysis and discussion of priority items.

The statement by the EU to COC on the document referred to above is attached as **Appendix 8 to ANNEX 9**.

The statement by Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW) on this subject is attached as **Appendix 9 to ANNEX 9**.

## **17. Election of Chair**

In light of the ongoing process that was agreed for nominating and electing Chairs during ICCAT's first ever virtual annual meeting, this matter was deferred to the Commission for decision\*.

## **18. Other matters**

The Chair drew the COC's attention to documents from observers posted on ICCAT's meeting document website, including a submission from PEW on a series of compliance workshops organized by ISSF and PEW. Many ICCAT staff and CPC members participated. It provided a good venue for discussion of how RFMOs are doing compliance reviews, with a view to identifying best practices. As the Chair wanted to ensure there was awareness of these efforts, in order to inform the work of the COC in the future, he offered the floor to PEW to introduce the submission.

The representative from PEW informed COC that, in 2021, there were three workshops coordinated by PEW and ISSF to bring experts together from six RFMO compliance committees. NGOs provided a platform for facilitating the discussions, which focused on data collection, transparency in the compliance process, and ways to address persistent non-compliance. Two observer documents were posted on the meeting website: "Second Virtual Expert Workshop on Best Practices in Compliance in RFMOs" and "Virtual Expert Workshop on Best Practices in Compliance in RFMOs". The report of the third workshop will be made available shortly.

## **19. Adoption of report and adjournment**

It was agreed that the report of the Committee would be adopted by correspondence.

In adjourning the meeting, the Chair expressed special thanks to the Secretariat Compliance team, the other Secretariat staff, the interpreters, and the translators for their tireless efforts and highest quality work, which was instrumental in making this virtual meeting a success. He also offered his heartfelt thanks for the contributions of the CPCs. Even in the face of virtual meeting challenges due to the global pandemic, the Chair noted that significant work had been accomplished by the COC, and he again praised the hard work of all involved in ensuring a successful meeting, sometimes pleasantly accompanied by the Chair's daughters' violin practice taking place a floor below and despite the COC Chair working from an unheated attic in his home normally reserved for gymnastics.

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\* The Commission considered this matter after the close of the COC meeting and re-elected Mr. Derek Campbell (USA) to serve as COC chair for the next biennial period (2022-2023).

**Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Review of progress on follow-up on the Second Performance Review and consideration of any necessary actions
5. Review of Secretariat Report to the Compliance Committee
6. In-depth review of Billfish Check Sheets [pursuant to Rec. 18-05 para 4]
7. Priority review of other Recommendations, taking into account the schedule of expiration of Recommendations and, where possible, the schedule of SCRS assessments, as appropriate [pursuant to Strategic Plan for Review of Compliance Priorities, Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9 of 2019 Annual Meeting Report]
8. Review of response to Chair's letters arising from the 2020 Commission decision making process
9. Compliance tables
10. Review of other relevant information, including submissions under Rec. 08-09
11. Review of CPC implementation of and compliance with ICCAT requirements, focusing on priority issues and/or cases
12. Review of information relating to Non-CPCs
13. Determination of recommended actions to address issues of non-compliance by CPCs and issues relating to NCPs arising from items 5 and 6
  - a) Endorsement of Compliance Annex
  - b) Identifications or other actions under the trade measures recommendation (Rec. 06-13)
  - c) Action under data recommendations (Recs. 05-09 and 11-15)
14. Consideration of requests for cooperating status
15. Review of progress made by the Online Reporting Working Group and next steps
16. Other recommendations to the Commission to improve compliance, including consideration of a schedule of actions for future application based on Res. 16-17
17. Election of Chair
18. Other matters
19. Adoption of report and adjournment

## Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9

**An updated table of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Follow Up of the Second ICCAT Performance Review  
and status of ICCAT actions**

<i>Report Chapter</i>	<i>Recommendations</i>	<i>LE A D</i>	<i>T i m e f r a m e</i>	<i>Proposed Next Steps</i>	<i>PR Panel Observations</i>	<i>Action to be taken, or already taken</i>	<i>Completion status following annual meeting</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<b>Data Collection and Sharing</b>	5. The Panel recommends that the possible non-reporting of incidental catches by vessels not on CPCs authorised list should be investigated by the Compliance Committee.	COC	M	Refer to the COC for appropriate action.	PR Panel believes that this is unlikely to be a major problem (pg 10).	At 2017 meeting, it was noted that at the moment, COC has inadequate data to fully evaluate the scope of the problem. In light of this and PR Panel's observation, no action taken but item left open.	Ongoing	
	6. The Panel recommends that a mechanism be found to allow minor occasional harvesters without allocations to report their catches without being subject to sanctions.	COC	M	Refer matter to the COC in cooperation with the other relevant bodies for consideration and also to the Panels as the issue could also be addressed in the context of management recs.	Overall efforts should be coordinated initially by the PWG.	Referred to PWG.	Return to this in response to follow-up by PWG	
<b>Blue and White Marlins</b>	37. The Panel considers that ICCAT should reinforce its compliance actions, as Rec. 15-05 will not deliver results as long as the severe under-reporting continues.	COC	S	Refer matter to COC for review of compliance with data reporting and other billfish obligations and recommend any needed actions.	SCRS has been tasked to provide the Commission with a data improvement plan for billfish in 2017, which will inform discussions of this matter in the Panel.	2018 Commission adopted the billfish reporting check-sheet to improve information on CPC billfish fisheries and implementation of ICCAT billfish requirements, and COC recommended ICCAT letter sent to NCPs known to be harvesting marlins. In recent years, certain CPCs either identified	Ongoing	

						under ICCAT's trade measures recommendation or received compliance letter concerning marlin overharvest and non-implementation of ICCAT marlin requirements. In 2021, the COC conducted an in-depth review of billfish check sheets.		
<b>Sharks</b>	41. The Panel recommends that the Compliance Committee should prioritise the issue of data reporting on sharks, as well as poor reporting on the blue and white marlin stocks.	COC	S	Refer to COC for consideration and appropriate action.		Shark check sheet has already been adopted through Rec. 16-13 and updated through Rec. 18-05 and later revisions to reflect new Recommendations.	Ongoing	
<b>Port State Measures</b>	69. Make more efforts to assess substantive compliance with its port State measures and to specify consequences for non-compliance.	COC	S	Refer to PWG to review implementation and determine any technical improvements that might be needed. Refer to COC to consider any issues non-compliance and recommend appropriate actions.		Since 2017 COC has raised compliance concerns with CPC implementation of certain provisions, including requirements to designate ports and submit port inspection reports to ICCAT. Recommendation has been updated and strengthened to require denial of entry to port and access to port services.	Ongoing	

<p><b>Cooperative Mechanisms to Detect and Deter Non-Compliance</b></p>	<p>78. The Panel recommends that the COC should identify key compliance priorities across the range of different fisheries, and programme its work accordingly. Identification of non-respect of reporting requirements or incomplete reporting by CPCs should be entrusted to the ICCAT secretariat and its report submitted to COC in advance of the Annual meeting.</p>	<p>COC</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>COC should consider this matter in light of the terms of recently adopted Rec. 16-22.</p>		<p>COC prioritized review of shark measure implementation in 2018, and in 2018 considered extending shark check sheet for submission and prioritization in future years, and considered adoption of a similar check sheet to improve billfish reporting. In 2018 COC also discussed development of a strategic plan to allow for prioritization and in-depth review of certain measure on an annual meeting cycle to be determined by the COC, taking into account a proposed schedule that the Secretariat could prepare during the intersessional period. In 2019, the COC approved a schedule for prioritization of specific measures at future meetings. In 2021, the Chair worked with the Secretariat to strengthen the check sheets by not allowing for a “N/A” response when that would not be appropriate.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	
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<p><b>Follow-Up on Infringements</b></p>	<p>81. The Panel considers the key task of the COC should be to make a qualitative assessment as to the degree to which the measures in the individual fisheries contained in the ICCAT recommendations, are being respected by the vessels of the Parties.</p>	<p>COC</p>	<p>S/ M</p>	<p>Refer to COC for consideration and appropriate action.</p>	<p>Implementation of Rec 16-22 should assist with this work. Clear and timely reporting by all CPCs on the implementation of ICCAT requirements is also essential.</p>	<p>Chair has proposed deferral of discussion of how to prioritize issues for future meetings, including to take into account how this matter is approach by other RFMO compliance committees.</p>	<p style="background-color: red;"></p>	
<p><b>Relationship to Cooperating Non- Members</b></p>	<p>99. Reviews Rec. 03-20 in order, inter alia, to clarify the rights of States and Entities with Cooperating Status; integrate elements of Res. 94-06; replace the PWG with the COC; and include a requirement to apply for renewal of Cooperating Status.</p>	<p>COC</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>Refer to COC to review the issue of cooperating status and determine if additional clarity on this matter is needed.</p>	<p>The roles and responsibilities of the COC and PWG were clarified a few years ago and there is no longer any overlap in their mandates. Both bodies have heavy workloads during the Annual meeting.</p>	<p>COC Chair recommends deferral of discussion of 03-20 and 94-06 to future meetings.</p>	<p style="background-color: red;"></p>	
<p><b>Relationship to Non-Cooperating Non- Members</b></p>	<p>101. Continues to monitor fishing activities by non-cooperating non-members through cooperation between the ICCAT Secretariat and CPCs, and between CPCs.</p>	<p>COC</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Secretariat, CPCs and the COC should continue to monitor fishing activities by non-members and bring them to the attention of the Commission.</p>		<p>For the last few years COC has been monitoring NPCs with marlin catches and sending letters, but few responses to date.</p>	<p style="background-color: orange;">Ongoing</p>	
	<p>102. Considers taking appropriate sanctions against non-cooperating non-members that continue to ignore ICCAT's requests for information and cooperation. This is particularly relevant in relation to overfished stocks, such as marlins.</p>	<p>COC</p>	<p>S</p>	<p>Refer to COC to recommend appropriate action.</p>	<p>COC has a key role in monitoring the fishing activities of non-CPCs and recommending ways to improve cooperation, including through application of Rec. 06-13 (Trade measures Recommendation).</p>	<p>Actions against non-cooperating non-members have included trade restrictive measures (e.g., Georgia and Bolivia, since lifted), and in more recent years identification under ICCAT's trade measures recommendation of certain non-parties for billfish catch. The Chair has also recommended that the COC further consider ways to progressively implement the <i>Resolution</i></p>	<p style="background-color: orange;">Ongoing</p>	

						<p><i>by ICCAT Establishing an ICCAT Schedule of Actions to Improve Compliance and Cooperation with ICCAT Measures (16-17), and to that end in 2021 presented a Working Paper on Draft Schedule of Actions: Severity of Types of Non-Compliance with Specific ICCAT Provisions.</i></p>	
<p><b>Data Collection and Sharing</b></p>	<p>6bis. The Panel concludes that ICCAT scores well in terms of agreed forms and protocols for data collection but, while progress has been made, more needs to be done particularly for bycatch species and discards.</p>	<p>SCRS</p>	<p>M</p>			<p>In 2018, a thorough review of the shark check sheets was carried out, as well as a more in-depth analysis of possible by catch and discard gaps. The COC will be monitoring actions taken to rectify deficiencies and updated reports will be expected from CPCs for which deficiencies were found in 2018. In 2018 COC also referred to panel's potential interpretive issues in ICCAT measures relating to this issue. Additionally, ICCAT is developing an online reporting interface to facilitate and improve CPC fulfillment of reporting requirements. In 2019, the COC conducted a more in-depth review of Recommendation 16-14 on Minimum Standards for Scientific Observer Programs, which highlighted broad non-implementation, and</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

						referred the matter to PWG to consider technical improvements to the measure and STACFAD for consideration of how to provide assistance to CPCs to improve implementation. The ICCAT Secretariat has also made significant progress on an online reporting system.		
<b>Cooperative Mechanisms to Detect and Deter Non-Compliance</b>	79. The Panel recommends that independent information from the fisheries, through inspections at sea and in port, and through effective observer programmes, are made available to the COC, in order for the COC to conduct an effective compliance assessment.	PWG	M	Refer to PWG to consider if there are technical reasons for implementation failures and how to address them if so; Refer to COC to consider extent of any non-compliance and recommend appropriate action.	Some independent information is available to COC due to ICCAT requirements, but implementation and reporting problems exist in some cases that can limit evaluation of compliance by CPCs.	In 2016-17, COC requested improvements in how potential non-compliance issues identified by ICCAT observer programs are presented to the COC for review. Some changes were made, but further consideration may be given to additional improvements.	Ongoing	
<b>Reporting Requirements</b>	87. The Panel recommends that ICCAT consider introducing a provision in new recommendations, whereby the introduction of new reporting requirements would only become effective after a 9 to 12 month period has elapsed. This would assist Developing States to adapt to new requirements. This is particularly relevant where the volume and/or nature of the reporting have changed significantly. The difficulties Developing States encounter in introducing new administrative/reporting requirements at short notice,	COM	S	Refer to all ICCAT bodies that can recommend binding reporting requirements for consideration when developing such recommendations. Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.		For COC, deferred discussion to future meetings.	Ongoing	

	is well documented in the compliance context. The option for Developed CPCs to apply immediately the new reporting requirements may of course be maintained, if those CPCs consider it opportune.							
<b>Decision-Making</b>	91. Reviews its working practices in order to enhance transparency in decision-making, in particular on the allocation of fishing opportunities and the work of the Friends of the Chair.	COM	S	Commission to coordinate action among the bodies.	The Implementation of Res. 16-22 will assist with improving transparency in the COC Friends of the Chair process.	Requirements adopted in 16-22 that improve transparency of decision making of COC include amended deadlines and biennial special 2-day session of COC, which allow for better documented and more in-depth discussions of compliance matters, enabling CPCs to better understand the basis for COC decisions.	Ongoing	

**Strategic Plan for Review of Compliance Priorities: Suggestions from CPCs**

**1. Objectives**

- (1) To prioritise conservation measures for more in-depth review in certain years in order to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Compliance Committee (COC), recognizing the limited time available for COC sessions.
- (2) To identify any general issues of compliance and propose solutions for improving compliance with the respective measures.

**2. Nature of strategic plan**

- (1) The COC strategic plan is intended to serve as guidance for establishing a mid- and long-term schedule of priorities for COC review.
- (2) The strategic plan does not create additional reporting requirements.
- (3) Notwithstanding this strategic plan, each year the COC will review any issues it deems necessary, including standing priority issues such as accuracy of catch reporting and compliance with monitoring measures.

**3. Criteria and process for prioritisation**

- (1) At the Annual Meeting, the COC will determine the priority issues for review the following year.
- (2) In determining priorities for a given year, the COC will take into consideration, *inter alia*, CPC input, the schedule of expiration of ICCAT Recommendations and, where possible, the schedule of SCRS assessments, as appropriate.
- (3) The COC may prioritize other issues for review at any time, as appropriate, based, *inter alia*, on CPC input.
- (4) COC may ask the Secretariat to provide summary information on some of the prioritized issues, as necessary, to facilitate compliance review and discussion.

**4. Outstanding issues for future consideration**

- (1) How to reduce the burden on the Secretariat.
- (2) How to align COC priorities with the annual SCRS assessment schedule and the SCRS strategic plan.
- (3) How to streamline reporting requirements.

**Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9****Draft schedule of compliance review priorities****2021 (2-day special session in advance of COM meeting) [SA-Delayed, due to the pandemic]**

- In depth CPC by CPC review
- In depth review of billfish check sheets
- Expiring Recommendations, and/or stocks assessed in 2021 [SEC for coherence] [TBA by Secretariat]

**2022**

- Expiring Recommendations, and/or stocks assessed in 2022, as appropriate [SEC for coherence] [TBA by Secretariat]
- Review of implementation of Rec. 16-14 on Scientific Observer Coverage [USA- Rec. 16-14 (on minimum standards for scientific observer coverage) was scheduled for review by the Commission in 2019, but that review was delayed due to other pressing business in 2019 and then the pandemic. A focused look at CPCs' implementation may help to inform future review of this measure]

**2023 (2-day special session in advance of COM meeting)**

- In depth CPC by CPC review
- In depth review of Shark Check Sheet, in particular the implementation of any Recommendations in force for North Atlantic shortfin mako. [Change suggested by USA]
- Expiring Recommendations, and/or stocks to be assessed in 2023, as appropriate [SEC for coherence], [TBA by Secretariat]

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	2021	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
TAC	28000	28000	33600	33600	33600	37801																	
BARBADOS	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	38.10	15.90	14.60	7.12	10.18	201.90	224.10	235.40	257.88	254.82	240.00	240.00	250.00	265.00	265.00	295.75	
BELIZE	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	398.50	448.44	385.14	216.09	326.05	51.50	1.56	64.86	200.47	138.95	450.00	450.00	450.00	416.56	465.00	495.75	495.75
BRAZIL	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	268.75	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	268.75	295.75	
CANADA	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	19.92	16.99	26.40	31.19	12.46	230.07	233.01	223.60	233.81	252.54	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	265.00	295.75	
CHINA	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	103.20	123.65	123.84	129.16	207.66	146.80	126.35	126.16	135.84	57.34	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	265.00	295.75	
CHINESE TAIPEI	3271.70	3271.70	3926.00	3926.00	3926.00	4416.90	3134.00	2385.00	2926.00	2770.00	3549.00	655.62	1404.62	1355.62	1773.93	1158.50	3789.62	3789.62	4281.62	4543.93	4707.50	5198.40	
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	150.56	248.70	0.00	75.91	14.19	99.38	1.30	201.30	189.09	250.81	250.00	250.00	201.30	265.00	265.00	295.75	
COSTA RICA	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	4.65	11.23	4.90	1.35	0.64	195.35	188.77	195.10	213.65	241.36	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	
CURAÇAO	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	10.00	10.00	21.50	0.00	0.00	190.00	190.00	178.50	215.00	215.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	
EU	21551.30	21551.30	25861.60	25861.60	25861.60	29095.10	24308.65	20699.71	25086.83	30076.89	25580.70	233.05	6239.41	1007.82	-540.04	1288.72	24541.70	26939.12	26094.65	29536.85	26869.42	28121.02	
FRANCE (St. P&M)	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	265.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	265.00	295.75	
JAPAN	449.52	394.89	393.98	397.33	371.77		254.90	335.00	210.60	319.27	282.80	194.62	59.89	183.38	78.05	88.97	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	242.00	13.18	7.90	27.27	48.48	115.90	236.82	242.10	222.73	216.52	149.10	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	265.00	295.75	295.75
LIBERIA		200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00		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	242.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	25.00	29.00	230.00	230.00	230.00	240.00	236.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	265.00	295.75	295.75
MEXICO	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	2.19	0.38	7.19	0.29	1.45	247.81	249.62	242.81	264.71	263.55	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	265.00	295.75	
PANAMA					215.00	242.00					175.92					39.08						215.00	242.00
ST.VINCENT & GRENADINES	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	291.60	296.20	173.26	180.45	251.73	6.89	3.80	133.63	38.35	13.27	298.49	300.00	306.89	218.80	265.00	295.75	
THE GAMBIA					215.00	242.00				0.72						214.28					215.00		
TR. & TOBAGO	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	70.70	48.20	33.10	22.03	16.06	179.30	201.80	216.90	242.97	248.94	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	265.00	295.75	
UK-OT	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	0.60	0.36	0.38	0.79	2.05	249.40	249.64	249.62	264.21	262.95	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	265.00	295.75	295.75
USA	527.00	527.00	632.40	632.40	632.40	711.50	250.22	238.35	102.57	221.13	332.49	408.53	420.40	661.58	569.37	458.01	658.75	658.75	764.15	790.50	790.50	869.60	
VANUATU	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	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	337.50	286.98	301.35	165.45	220.92	245.92	-702.19	-429.54	-294.99	-215.91	-161.83	-415.21	-128.19	-129.54	5.01	84.09	175.67	
<b>TOTAL CATCH</b>							<b>29357.95</b>	<b>25297.36</b>	<b>29331.93</b>	<b>34346.79</b>	<b>31154.20</b>												
Rec. number	13-05	16-06	17-04	17-04	17-04	20-04											13-05	16-06	16-06	17-04	17-04	20-04	20-04

BELIZE: intends to use 1.56 t of its underage from 2017 in 2019 (Rec. 16-06, para 7).

BELIZE: receives a transfer of ALB-N from Chinese Taipei 200 t for 2019/2020.

BELIZE: intends to use 50 t of its underage from 2018 (Q2018\*0.25 = 50) in 2020 (Rec. 16-06, para 7)

BELIZE: intends to use 53.75 t of its underage from 2019 in 2021 (Rec. 16-06, para 7); receiving a transfer of ALB-N from Chinese Taipei: 200 t (Rec. 20-04, para 2).

CANADA: all 2019 and 2020 catches are inclusive of dead discards.

EU: authorized to transfer in 2017 to Venezuela 60 t of its unsued portion of its 2015 quota (Rec. 16-06).

EU: The EU adjusted quota for ALB-N takes into account the transfer of 1.52% of its initial quota to United Kingdom in 2021 and 2022.

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% (Rec. 16-06, para 6).

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\*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\*(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.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2021 adjusted quota is 5198.4 t (=4416.9+3926\*0.25-200) due to the inclusion of 2019 underage and 2021 initial catch quota and the deduction of transfers of 200 t to Belize.

## SOUTH ALBACORE

YEAR	Initial catch limits						Current catches					Balance					Adjusted quota/catch limit							
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
TAC	24000	24000	24000	24000	24000	24000																		
ANGOLA	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00													
BELIZE	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	122.86	219.03	310.52	158.14	162.13	189.64	93.47	1.98	154.36	89.85	312.50	312.50	312.50	312.50	251.98	312.50	312.50	
BRAZIL	2160.00	2160.00	2160.00	2160.00	2160.00	2160.00	657.59	496.85	396.00	1002.66	617.00	2042.41	2103.15	2204.00	1597.34	1883.00	2700.00	2600.00	2600.00	2600.00	2500.00	2600.00	2700.00	
CHINA	100.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	94.37	184.55	116.45	132.07	183.94	30.63	20.05	133.55	87.98	66.06	125.00	204.60	250.00	220.05	250.00	250.00	250.00	
CHINESE TAIPEI	9400.00	9400.00	9400.00	9400.00	9400.00	9400.00	8907.00	9090.00	9227.00	9626.00	9851.00	2843.00	2660.00	2523.00	2124.00	1699.00	11750.00	11750.00	11750.00	11750.00	11550.00	11524.00	11244.00	
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	122.40	6.18	19.36				2.60	96.43	105.64	79.77	125.00	102.60	125.00	125.00	100.00	100.00	
CURACAO	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	12.00	13.30	0.00	0.00	0.00			36.70	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	
EU	1470.00	1470.00	1470.00	1470.00	1470.00	1470.00	54.77	178.20	102.81	81.73	60.47	1782.73	1659.30	1734.69	1755.77	1777.03	1837.50	1837.50	1837.50	1837.50	1837.50	1837.50	1837.50	
GUINEA EQ.			25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.77	0.00				24.23	25.00									
GUYANA	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.04	0.00	3.00	1.00	0.06	24.96	25.00	22.00	24.00	24.94								
JAPAN	1355.00	1355.00	1355.00	1355.00	1355.00	1355.00	1212.80	2135.80	1654.50	1465.57	1621.80	480.95	-418.70	239.25	470.73	1071.95	1693.75	1717.10	1893.75	1936.30	2693.75	1693.75	1693.75	
KOREA	140.00	140.00	140.00	140.00	140.00	140.00	48.27	85.96	166.64	170.01	131.45	126.73	89.04	8.36	4.99	16.91	175.00	175.00	175.00	175.00	148.36	144.99	156.91	
NAMIBIA	3600.00	3600.00	3600.00	3600.00	3600.00	3600.00	994.00	365.62	888.80	966.50	2165.75	3506.00	4111.38	3612.00	3533.50	2334.25	4500.00	4477.00	4500.00	4500.00	4500.00	4500.00	4500.00	
PANAMA	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	3.20	23.50	0.00	13.00	31.34	21.80	1.50	25.00	12.00	-6.34								
PHILIPPINES	140.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	140.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	140.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	
SOUTH AFRICA	4400.00	4400.00	4400.00	4400.00	4400.00	4400.00	2065.00	1762.00	2572.50	4402.87	4025.92	2335.00	3738.00	2027.50	197.13	874.08	4400.00	5500.00	5500.00	4600.00	4900.00	4597.13	5274.08	
ST.VINCENT & GRENADINES	100.00	140.00	140.00	140.00	140.00	140.00	107.40	101.00	98.21	30.63	0.00	-0.73	38.27	41.79	144.37	175.00	106.67	139.27	140.00	175.00	175.00	140.00	140.00	
TR. & TOBAGO	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.40	0.00	0.00	3.30	0.00	24.60	25.00	25.00	21.70	25.00								
UK-OT	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	125.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
URUGUAY	440.00	440.00	440.00	440.00	440.00	440.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	440.00	440.00	440.00	440.00	440.00	550.00	550.00	550.00	550.00	550.00	550.00	550.00	
USA	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	n.a.	n.a.	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	
VANUATU	100.00	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	100.00				
<b>TOTAL CATCH</b>							<b>14280.10</b>	<b>14778.20</b>	<b>15543.38</b>	<b>18072.85</b>	<b>18896.09</b>													
Rec. number	13-06	16-07	16-07	16-07	16-07	16-07											13-06	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).

BELIZE: intends to use 62.5 t of its underages from 2019 in 2021 (Rec. 16-07, para 4a).

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 para 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 2016.

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).

GUYANA: Guyana is currently reviewing the reporting of this species to confirm that they have not confused it with northern albacore with respect to the information presented on page 3 of the document included here: [https://www.iccat.int/Data/ICCAT\\_maps.pdf](https://www.iccat.int/Data/ICCAT_maps.pdf). Until such time we will continue to report the stock as is.

N.B. This suspicion is guided by the reporting of this species under the northern stock in the past e.g. in 2019 Task 1 - Nomal Catches.

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 (para 4b 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).

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2021 adjusted quota is 11524.00 t (=9400+2124) due to the inclusion of 2019 underage and 2021 initial catch quota.

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 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).



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YEAR	Initial catch limits						Current catches						Balance					Adjusted quota/catch limit					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	13700	13700	13200	13200	13200	13200																	
BARBADOS	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	20.50	20.70	18.10	9.95	11.79	47.00	46.80	44.90	53.05	51.21	67.50	67.50	63.00	63.00	63.00	63.00	257.00
BELIZE	130.00	130.00	130.00	130.00	130.00	130.00	29.50	59.08	145.32	116.80	110.73	224.89	197.92	111.68	140.20	146.27	254.89	257.00	257.00	257.00	257.00	257.00	257.00
BRAZIL	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00	45.00	70.00	50.00	50.00	45.00	45.00	70.00	70.00	70.00	
CANADA	1348.00	1348.00	1348.00	1348.00	1348.00	1348.00	1558.89	1209.21	786.81	997.23	1343.00	481.33	860.99	1283.39	1047.97	502.20	2040.20	2070.20	2070.20	2045.20	1845.20	1970.20	
CHINA	75.00	75.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	86.49	81.31	86.49	91.56	96.17	2.44	8.60	3.95	2.40	7.78	137.50	88.00	90.44	93.96	103.95	102.40	
CHINESE TAIPEI	270.00	270.00	270.00	270.00	270.00	270.00	151.72	95.51	169.22	122.25	171.75	218.28	274.49	173.78	220.75	151.25	370.00	370.00	343.00	343.00	323.00	323.00	
COSTA RICA							21.64	36.12	39.59	17.68	14.23	-48.64	-84.76	-124.35	-142.03	-156.26	-27.00	-48.64	-84.76	-124.35	-142.03	-156.26	
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	27.45	21.13	57.40	21.80	27.58	47.55	53.87	12.60	48.20	35.02	75.00	75.00	70.00	70.00	62.60		
EL SALVADOR							0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00												
EU	6718.00	6718.00	6718.00	6718.00	6718.00	6718.00	5765.63	5773.66	4966.42	5740.22	5960.26	1625.07	1852.04	2419.28	1645.48	1625.44	7390.70	7425.70	7385.70	7385.70	7585.70	7485.03	7385.03
FRANCE (St. P&M)	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	0.00	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	108.75	108.75	
ICELAND											0.04												
JAPAN	842.00	842.00	842.00	842.00	842.00	842.00	397.70	406.00	289.30	394.99	406.80	740.50	1016.50	544.00	831.01	1056.21	1138.20	1422.50	833.30	1226.00	1463.01	1688.21	
KOREA	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	9.14	18.56	8.79	9.37	13.70	56.20	56.44	61.21	60.63	56.30	65.34	75.00	70.00	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	900.00	950.00	950.00	935.82	-50.00	50.00	-50.00	30.00	59.18	850.00	950.00	900.00	1000.00	995.00	1095.00	1101.66
MAURITANIA							0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00													
MEXICO	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	36.00	64.00	45.00	21.00	264.00	236.00	235.00	250.00	259.00	300.00	300.00	280.00	280.00	280.00	280.00	280.00	
PHILIPPINES	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	
SENEGAL	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	52.33	50.51	43.54	13.64	10.00	680.74	324.49	156.46	211.37	215.00	733.07	375.00	200.00	225.00	225.00	200.00	
ST VINCENT & GRENADINES	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	33.40	51.80	26.26	12.28	6.70	52.10	33.70	78.74	92.72		85.50	85.50	105.00	105.00	105.00	105.00	
TR. & TOBAGO	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	13.30	35.00	3.00	5.91	7.76	99.20	76.90	97.00	94.09	67.24	112.50	100.00	100.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	
UK-OT	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	2.36	0.00	0.00	1.46	5.92	50.14	52.50	49.00	47.54	43.08	52.50	52.50	49.00	49.00	49.00	49.00	
USA	3907.00	3907.00	3907.00	3907.00	3907.00	3907.00	1497.50	1404.81	1274.78	1736.49	1463.11	2970.55	3063.24	3218.27	2756.56	3029.94	4468.05	4468.05	4493.05	4493.05	4493.05	4493.05	
VANUATU	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	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	85.00	52.75	52.26	30.79	31.30	14.36	74.75	62.49	75.46	87.61	104.64	127.50	114.75	106.25	119.00	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							10715.86	10195.44	8919.81	10269.21	10620.71												
Rec. number	13-02	16-03	17-02	17-02	19-03	19-03											13-02	16-03	17-02	17-02	19-03	19-03	

BELIZE: intends to use 52 t of its underage from 2017 in 2019 (Rec. 17-02, para 3); receiving a transfer of SWO-N 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 SWO-N from Trinidad & Tobago: 75 t (Rec. 17-02, para 2b).  
 BELIZE: intends to use 52 t of its underages from 2019 in 2021 (Rec. 17-02, par. 3); receiving a transfer of SWO-N from Trinidad & Tobago: 75 t (Rec. 17-02, para 2b).  
 BRAZIL: (Q2018= OQ2018 (-50.25 to Mauritania)+B2017= 25+20= 50 (OQ from Rec. 17-02 and B from Rec. 13-02).  
 BRAZIL: (Q2019= OQ2019 (-50.25 to Mauritania)+B2018= 25+20= 45 (OQ from Rec. 17-02 and B from Rec. 16-03).  
 CANADA: all 2019 and 2020 catches are inclusive of dead discards.  
 CANADA: 2020 adjusted quota = 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).  
 CANADA: 2021 adjusted quota = initial allocation + transfers (from Senegal 150 t, Japan 35 t, Chinese Taipei 35 t, and the EU 200 t) + underage from 2019 (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 t.  
 CHINA: adjusted limit for 2019 = initial quota (100) - 12.726 (payback quota) + available balance of 2017 (6.69 t) = 93.964 t.  
 CHINA: adjusted limit for 2020 = initial quota (100) + available balance of 2018 (3.95 t) = 103.95 t.  
 CHINA: payback plan for the overharvest of 2015: payback 12 t in 2017, payback 12 t in 2018, payback 12.726 t in 2019.  
 KOREA: underage up to 50% of the initial catch quota has been carried over biennially.  
 KOREA: In 2015 2.29 t of dead discards were not included in the compliance table although they were reported in the Task 1 data.  
 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 St Pierre et Miquelon as provided for in Rec. 17-02.  
 EU: The EU adjusted quota for SWO-N takes into account the transfer of 0.01% of its initial quota to United Kingdom in 2021 and 2022.  
 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 SWO-N 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 carryover (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 carryover (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: 995 t = initial quota allocated to Morocco (850 t) + 150 t (transferred by Japan to Morocco) + 20 t (transferred by Chinese Taipei) + 25 t (transferred by Trinidad & Tobago) Rec. 19-03/para 1 amending Rec. 17-02 - 50 t overharvest in 2018.  
 MOROCCO: 2021 adjusted quota: the total of 1095 t has been confirmed for the year 2021, in addition to the current quota of 950 t (850 t + 100 t from Japan) and following the agreement of related CPCs, an additional quota of 95 t will be transferred to Japan (50 t), to Trinidad & Tobago (25 t) and to Chinese Taipei (20 t) + 50 t underharvest in 2019.  
 MOROCCO: 1101.66 t will be confirmed once Morocco has received, in addition to the current quota of 950 t, an additional quota of 95 t for 2022 that will be transferred from Japan (50 t), Trinidad and Tobago (25 t) and Chinese Taipei (20 t) + 56.66 t (15% initial quota) of underharvest from 2020.  
 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 + 20) = 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.  
 US: 2016-2017 adjusted limit includes 25 t transfer from US 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 2016 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, 132.41 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.  
 CHINESE TAIPEI: 2020 adjusted quota is 323 t (-270+270\*40%-35-20) due to the inclusion of 2018 underage and 2020 initial catch quota and the deduction of respective transfers of 35 t to Canada and 20 t to Morocco.  
 CHINESE TAIPEI: 2021 adjusted quota is 323 t (-270+270\*40%-35-20) due to the inclusion of 2019 underage and 2021 initial catch quota and the deduction of respective transfers of 35 t to Canada and 20 t to Morocco.

## SOUTH SWORDFISH

YEAR	Initial catch limits						Current catches					Balance				Adjusted quota/catch limit								
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
TAC	15000	15000	14000	14000	14000	14000																		
ANGOLA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	13.50	0.00	0.00	0.00		86.50	100.00	100.00	100.00								
BELIZE	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	149.60	166.01	115.22	55.33	2.12	137.90	108.99	172.28	219.67	272.88	287.50	275.00	287.50	275.00	275.00	275.00	274.94	
BRAZIL	3940.00	3940.00	3940.00	3940.00	3940.00	3940.00	2934.78	2406.03	2798.00	2858.83	2105.00	2137.22	2665.97	1880.00	1819.17	2573.00	5072.00	5072.00	4678.00	4678.00	4678.00	4728.00		
CHINA	313.00	313.00	313.00	313.00	313.00	313.00	222.22	301.58	354.85	210.91	88.54	119.68	13.76	37.05	115.85	261.51	341.90	315.34	391.90	326.76	350.05	375.60		
CHINESE TAIPEI	459.00	459.00	459.00	459.00	459.00	459.00	478.00	416.00	472.10	395.31	410.05	57.90	100.90	87.80	151.49	140.75	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	125.00	25.21	16.80	46.80	101.46	17.20	162.29	170.70	128.20	73.54	157.80	187.50	187.50	175.00	175.00				
EU	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	5461.54	5120.23	4776.32	4508.96	4750.20	139.52	104.15	187.20	419.19	261.00	5601.06	5224.38	4963.52	4928.15	5011.20	5243.19	5085.00	
GHANA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	36.00	55.10	6.10	0.00	0.00	64.00	44.90	93.90	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00			
GUYANA							5.63	8.70	4.50	1.70	4.52	-6.29	-14.99	-19.49	-21.19	-25.71		-6.29	-14.99	-19.49	-21.19	-25.71		
JAPAN	901.00	901.00	901.00	901.00	901.00	901.00	870.90	659.50	698.00	662.04	444.00	488.56	340.20	641.56	529.16	1007.00	1359.46	999.70	1339.56	1191.20	1451.00	1380.16		
KOREA	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	19.25	10.92	17.18	8.70	15.41	28.12	54.08	42.82	51.30	44.59	47.37	65.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	
NAMIBIA	1168.00	1168.00	1168.00	1168.00	1168.00	1168.00	466.00	717.00	881.00	811.28	789.24	1202.40	951.40	670.60	740.32	762.36	1668.40	1668.40	1551.60	1551.60	1551.60			
PHILIPPINES	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00			
S.T. & PRINCIPE	100.00	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	417.00	173.30	159.96	92.80	166.90	0.00	346.57	340.44	407.60	333.50	500.40	519.87	500.40	500.40	500.40	500.40	500.40		
SOUTH AFRICA	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	124.40	159.00	188.70	288.56	149.47	1126.90	1092.30	962.50	862.64	1001.73	1251.30	1251.30	1151.20	1151.20	1151.20	1151.20		
ST.VINCENT & GRENADINES							4.69	8.96	4.19	14.84	0.00	-4.69	-13.65	-17.84	-32.68	-32.68		-4.69	-13.65	-17.84	-32.68	-32.68		
UK-OT	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	37.50	32.50	32.50	30.00	30.00	37.50	32.50	32.50	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00
URUGUAY	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1627.60	1627.60	1627.60	1502.40	1502.40	1627.60	1627.60	1627.60	1502.40	1502.40	1502.40		
USA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	99.94	99.94	99.94	99.94	99.40	99.94	99.94	99.94	99.94	99.94	99.94	99.94	100.00
VANUATU	20.00	20.00					0.00	0.00				29.00	29.00				29.00	29.00						
<b>TOTAL CATCH</b>							<b>11048.92</b>	<b>10283.79</b>	<b>10455.76</b>	<b>10069.98</b>	<b>8775.75</b>													
Rec. number	15-03	16-04	17-03	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).

BELIZE: intends to use 25 t of its underages from 2019 in 2021 (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 carryover (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 carryover (para1(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.

SOUTH AFRICA: From 2016 to 2020, South Africa has transferred 50 t to Namibia in accordance with Recs. 16-04/17-03.

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 quota is 550.8 t (=459\*(1+20%)) due to the inclusion of 2019 underage and 2020 initial catch quota.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2021 adjusted quota is 550.8 t (=459\*(1+20%)) due to the inclusion of 2020 underage and 2021 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.

ICCAT REPORT 2020-2021 (II)

**MEDITERRANEAN SWORDFISH**

YEAR	Initial catch limits					Current catches					Balance					Adjusted quota/catch limit					
	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	517.49	501.975	486.94	472.33	528.00	517.49	500.95			5.49	0.00	1.02		533.49	517.49	501.975	486.94	472.33		
EGYPT																					
EU	7188.17	6972.52	6763.35	6560.44	6363.63	3937.33	5197.8	4820.4			3250.84	1774.74	1942.96		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	951.00			0.61	0.00	1.79		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	917.92			3.45	14.13	1.78		977.46	948.14	919.70	892.10	865.34		
TURKEY	427.77	414.94	402.4918	390.41705	378.70453	427.00	414.0	402.4			0.77	0.94	0.09		427.77	414.94	402.49	390.42	378.70		
<b>TOTAL CATCH</b>						<b>6879.33</b>	<b>8045.53</b>	<b>7592.66</b>													
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 t, as required by para 4 of Rec. 16-05. Over the period 2018-2022, the TAC should be gradually reduced by 3% each year.

## EAST BLUEFIN

YEAR	Initial catch limits						Current catch					Balance					Adjusted quota/catch limit							
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
TAC	19296	22705	28200	32240	36000	36000																		
ALBANIA	47.40	56.91	100.00	156.00	170.00	170.00	45.79	56.00	100.00	156.25	167.67	0.51	0.91	0.00	-0.25	2.08	46.30	56.91	100.00	156.00	169.75	170.00		
ALGERIE	202.98	243.70	1260.00	1446.00	1655.00	1655.00	448.39	1037.67	1299.99	1436.95	1648.68	4.59	6.03	6.01	9.05	6.32	452.98	1043.70	1306.00	1446.00	1655.00	1655.00		
CHINA	53.90	64.71	79.00	90.00	102.00	102.00	53.89	64.38	78.99	88.96	100.99	0.01	0.33	0.01	1.04	1.01	53.90	64.71	79.00	90.00	102.00	102.00		
CHINESE TAIPEI	58.28	69.97	79.00	84.00	90.00	90.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	48.28	59.97	29.00	34.00	40.00	48.28	59.97	29.00	34.00	40.00	40.00		
EGYPT	94.67	113.67	181.00	266.00	330.00	330.00	99.33	123.67	180.99	263.34	122.08	0.34	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	99.67	123.67	181.00	263.34	122.08	330.00		
EU	11203.54	13451.36	15850.00	17623.00	19460.00	19460.00	10974.35	13084.30	15584.70	17064.09	19134.03	229.19	367.06	265.30	558.91	325.97	11203.54	13451.36	15850.00	17623.00	19460.00	19411.60	19737.57	
ICELAND	43.71	52.48	84.00	147.00	180.00	180.00	5.76	0.42	0.00	0.00	0.70	37.09	52.06	84.00	147.00	179.30	42.85	52.48	84.00	147.00	180.00	180.00		
JAPAN	1608.21	1930.88	2279.00	2544.00	2819.00	2819.00	1578.37	1910.65	2269.76	2523.73	2781.63	4.84	0.23	9.24	20.27	57.64	1583.21	1910.88	2279.00	2544.00	2839.27	2876.64		
KOREA	113.66	136.46	160.00	184.00	200.00	200.00	161.08	181.19	207.97	232.43	247.27	2.58	0.27	2.03	1.57	4.30	163.66	181.46	210.00	234.00	251.57	254.30		
LIBYA	1323.28	1588.77	1846.00	2060.00	2255.00	2255.00	1367.80	1630.75	1791.60	2051.65	2228.20	5.48	8.02	8.40	8.35	26.80	1373.28	1638.77	1800.00	2060.00	2255.00	2255.00		
MAROC	1792.98	2152.71	2578.00	2948.00	3284.00	3284.00	1783.30	2141.20	2571.00	2920.00	3453.71	9.68	11.51	7.00	28.00	34.91	1792.98	2152.71	2578.00	2948.00	3488.62	3318.91		
MAURITANIA	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	0.00	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	5.00	5.00		
NORWAY	43.71	52.48	104.00	239.00	300.00	300.00	43.80	50.86	12.31	49.30	194.39	-0.09	1.53	91.69	189.70	117.56	43.71	52.39	104.00	239.00	311.95	315.00		
SENEGAL					5.00	5.00															5.00	5.00		
SYRIA	47.40	56.91	66.00	73.00	80.00	80.00	47.39	56.91	66.00	71.97	79.20	0.01	0.00	0.00	1.03	0.80	47.40	56.91	66.00	73.00	80.00	80.00		
TUNISIE	1491.71	1791.00	2115.00	2400.00	2655.00	2655.00	1490.58	1789.54	2102.09	2378.00	2653.38	1.13	1.46	12.91	22.00	23.62	1491.71	1791.00	2115.00	2400.00	2677.00	2757.82		
TURKEY	785.59	943.21	1414.00	1880.00	2305.00	2305.00	1324.30	1514.70	1283.70	1770.78	2257.88	137.52	260.30	130.30	109.22	47.12	1461.82	1775.00	1414.00	1880.00	2305.00	2305.00		
<b>TOTAL CATCH</b>							<b>19424.13</b>	<b>23642.23</b>	<b>27550.24</b>	<b>31000.91</b>	<b>35069.80</b>													
Rec. number	14-04	14-04	17-07	18-02	19-04	20-07											14-04	14-04	17-07	18-02	19-04	20-07	20-07	

EU: the EU adjusted quota for BFT takes into account the transfer of 0.25% of its initial quota to United Kingdom in 2021 and 2022.

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 carryover (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 (1.57 t) 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) from Egypt (3284+204.62 = 3488.62 t).

MOROCCO: 2021 national adjusted quota following the transfer of underage 34.91 t (3284 + 34.91 = 3318.91 t) in accordance with the Moroccan fishing plan adopted by Panel 2.

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 comply with the catch reporting rules defined in this 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 t (=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.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2021 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 comply with the catch reporting rules defined in this Recommendation. The catch shall be deducted from the unallocated reserve (Rec. 19-04, para 5).

SYRIA: In accordance with Rec. 19-04 para 10, Syria will transfer 79.2 t to Tunisia to be caught by vessel (MOHAMED ESSADOK, AT000TUN00051) only for this fishing season 2021.

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WEST BLUEFIN

YEAR	Initial catch limits						Current catches					Balance				Adjusted quota/catch limit							
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
TAC	2000	2000	2350	2350	2350	2350																	
CANADA	452.47	452.47	530.59	530.59	530.59	530.59	466.11	471.65	553.98	632.87	591.60	40.63	16.96	67.55	20.84	44.05	506.74	488.61	621.53	653.71	635.65	679.86	
FRANCE (St. P & M)	4.51	4.51	5.31	5.31	5.31	5.31	9.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.32	4.19	9.50	1.00	6.31	9.02	4.19	9.50	1.00	6.31		
JAPAN	345.74	345.74	407.48	407.48	407.48	407.48	345.49	345.83	407.00	406.29	407.58	1.34	1.25	1.73	2.92	2.82	346.83	347.08	408.73	409.21	410.40	410.30	
MEXICO	108.98	108.98	128.44	128.44	128.44	128.44	55.00	34.00	80.00	39.00	28.00	26.90	27.90	15.90	25.90	25.90	81.90	61.90	95.90	64.90	53.90	154.34	
UK-OT	4.51	4.51	5.31	5.31	5.31	5.31	0.00	0.46	0.41	0.34	1.42	8.00	8.56	10.21	9.87	9.20	8.00	9.02	10.62	10.21	10.62	10.62	
USA	1083.79	1083.79	1272.86	1272.86	1272.86	1272.86	1026.70	996.80	1028.26	1190.78	1183.49	165.47	195.37	352.98	209.37	216.66	1192.17	1192.17	1381.24	1400.15	1400.15	1400.15	
<b>TOTAL LANDING</b>							<b>1902.64</b>	<b>1848.74</b>	<b>2069.65</b>	<b>2269.28</b>	<b>2212.09</b>												
Discards																							
CANADA																							
JAPAN																							
USA																							
TOTAL DISCARDS																							
TOTAL REMOVAL																							
Rec. number	14-05	16-08	17-06	17-06	17-06	20-06											14-05	14-05	17-06	17-06	17-06	20-06	

CANADA: as of 2018, the Canadian fishing season opens on 24 June and closes on 23 June of the subsequent year. All 2019 and 2020 catches are inclusive of dead discards.

CANADA: Initial quota/catch limit includes 15 t allocation for bycatch, as per Rec. 17-06 para 6a & Rec. 20-06 Para 1 (4).

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.

France-Saint-Pierre & Miquelon: would like to transfer to Canada, the amount of 4.78 t of bluefin tuna from its 2020 and 2021 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).

MEXICO: transfer of 100.44 t of its adjusted quota in 2020 to Canada, Rec. 17-06, para 6d).

USA: Initial quota/catch limit includes 25 t allocation for bycatch, as per Rec. 17-06 para 6a & Rec. 20-06 Para 1 (4).

YEAR	Initial catch limit/Threshold <sup>(1)</sup>						Current catches					Balance					Adjusted quota/catch limit						
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 <sup>(2)</sup>	2021	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
TAC	65000	65000	65000	65000	62500																		
ANGOLA					1.00		0.00	2.80	0.00	0.00													
BARBADOS					22.74		18.60	31.70	29.20	14.24	29.37												
BELIZE					1603.40		1764.10	1960.70	2135.20	2306.91	991.42										611.90		
BRAZIL					6043.00		7660.20	7258.20	5096.00	6249.36	6284.00												-241.00
CANADA					215.37		171.12	214.25	237.02	192.82	104.22												
CAP-VERT					1781.68		1679.74	1106.67	1417.67	880.21	576.14												1205.54
CHINA	5376.00	5376.00	5376.00	5376.00	4462.08	4462.08	5852.39	5514.36	4823.08	5718.49	3613.50	1330.01	1449.93	2359.32	1463.91	2254.90	7182.40	7182.40	7182.40	7182.40	5868.48	5599.68	
CHINESE TAIPEI	11679.00	11679.00	11679.00	11679.00	9226.41	9226.41	13115.00	11845.00	11630.00	11288.00	9226.00	3238.90	2171.45	2023.85	2365.85	1975.26	16353.90	14016.45	13653.85	13653.85	11201.26	10617.31	
COLOMBIA					0.00																		
COSTA RICA					0.00		1.16	4.20	4.47	1.30	0.50												
CÔTE D'IVOIRE					559.09		544.39	1238.90	1169.81	1997.95	140.55												
CURAÇAO	3500.00	3500.00	3500.00	3500.00	2558.87		3436.00	2597.44	3276.25	3027.77	1519.16												1039.71
EL SALVADOR	1575.00	1575.00	1575.00	1575.00	1552.77		1450.00	1825.65	2633.56	2463.83	1518.43												34.34
EU	16989.00	16989.00	16989.00	16989.00	13421.31	13421.31	18059.42	20220.53	17416.05	16910.53	11285.48	5729.68	168.52	2121.35	246.97	4557.17	23789.10	20389.10	19537.40	17157.50	15842.65	13668.28	13421.30
FRANCE (SP&M)					0.10		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00												
GABON					0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00												
GHANA	4250.00	4250.00	4250.00	4250.00	3716.00	3716.00	5193.60	3837.70	3635.50	2864.50	2932.50	-627.60	155.20	347.50	1610.70	1131.00	4566.00	3992.90	3903.00	4475.20	4063.50	4141.00	
GUATEMALA					913.93		640.27	2102.46	2824.00	2414.22	985.99												
GUINEA EQ.					10.53				6.90														
GUINÉE REP.					1000.22																		
GUYANA					29.27		52.73	37.00	52.00	1.90	3.82												
JAPAN	17696.00	17696.00	17696.00	17696.00	13979.84	13979.84	11238.00	9872.20	9840.50	9933.10	9294.30	8929.65	9408.20	5566.20	9347.22	3785.54	20167.65	19280.40	15415.88	19280.40	13079.84	14849.44	
KOREA	1486.00	1486.00	1486.00	1486.00	1000.00	1000.00	561.97	432.09	622.69	539.84	587.15	1518.93	1276.81	863.21	946.06	412.75	2080.90	1708.90	1485.00	1485.00	999.90	925.60	
LIBERIA					31.53			98.21	1.17	2887.18													
MAROC					342.13		350.00	410.00	500.00	850.00	1033.00												
MAURITANIA	3500.00	3500.00	3500.00	3500.00	0.83		20.40	21.00	0.00	0.00													
MEXICO					2.21		2.00	3.00	4.00	3.00	3.00												
NAMIBIA					301.08		359.00	122.30	109.00	69.15	567.62												
NICARAGUA					0.00																		
NIGERIA					0.00																		
PANAMA					1707.05		1617.11	1413.00	3312.48	3093.97	1612.44												94.61
PHILIPPINES	286.00	286.00	286.00	286.00	1767.59		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00												1767.59
S. TOMÉ & PRÍNCIPE					389.28		421.10	388.00															223.54
SENEGAL					1372.73		1500.30	2120.00	2865.60	2495.30	2700.50												
SOUTH AFRICA					225.70		107.30	249.60	308.20	413.00	356.61												
ST. VINCENT & GRENADINES					509.37		622.20	888.98	427.87	503.58	219.81												
THE GAMBIA																							0.19
TR. & TOBAGO					49.47		37.10	25.30	17.30	13.17	10.23												
UK-OT					52.65		77.10	70.42	45.19	4.30	1.30												
URUGUAY					0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00												
USA					844.65		567.94	836.40	920.87	829.04	816.42												
WANTUATU					4.90		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00													
VENEZUELA					193.73		156.00	317.80	163.16	282.4	0.00												
<b>TOTAL CATCH</b>					<b>77276.24</b>		<b>77276.24</b>	<b>78065.79</b>	<b>75304.60</b>	<b>74355.21</b>	<b>56324.82</b>												
Rec. number	16-01	16-01	16-01	16-01	19-02	19-02																	

<sup>(1)</sup> 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.

<sup>(2)</sup> 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.

CANADA: all 2019 and 2020 catches are inclusive of dead discards.

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.

EL SALVADOR: In the years previous to 2020, El Salvador was not subject to a limit (Rec. 16-01, para 3A.4), but to a fishing expectation, and therefore does not apply the limits, adjusted limits or balances. A limit is recognized for 2020 (Rec. 19-02).

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 carryover 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 carryover 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 carryover (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 discards.

JAPAN: current catch for 2019 includes 16.60 t of dead discards.

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.

KOREA: In 2015, 91 t of dead discards and/or releases were not included in the catch amount in the compliance table although they were reported in the Task 1 data

SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE: 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 13201.26 t = 9226.41 (initial quota) + 11679\*15% (carryover of 15% of 2018 initial quota pursuant to Rec. 16-01) + 223 t (transfer from Korea).

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2021 adjusted quota is 10617.31 t = 9226.41 (initial quota) + 11679\*10% (carryover of 10% of 2019 initial quota pursuant to Rec.19-02) +223 t (transfer from Korea).

USA: current catch for 2020 includes 11.5 t of dead discards.

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BLUE MARLIN																					
YEAR	Landings limit						Current landings					Balance					Adjusted landings limit				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
TAC	1985	1985	1985	2000	1670	1670															
BARBADOS	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	11.12	24.03	13.55	13.48	21.53	-24.84	-38.87	-42.42	-45.90	-57.43	-28.87	-32.42	-35.90	-47.43	
BELIZE	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	13.10	1.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	-3.10	5.82	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	
BRAZIL	190.00	190.00	190.00	190.00	159.80	159.80	79.19	63.30	37.00	19.91	13.00										
CANADA	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.11	0.28	0.18	0.06	0.00	9.89	9.72	9.82	9.94	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	
CHINA	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	37.90	37.90	49.71	40.31	42.19	46.40	37.24	0.63	5.27	3.44	3.87	4.10	45.63	50.27	41.34	41.77	
CHINESE TAIPEI	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	126.20	126.20	75.00	73.00	74.00	112.40	90.00	92.00	91.00	125.00	28.80	165.00	165.00	141.20	141.20		
COSTA RICA	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	51.04	79.41	41.39	27.45	15.15	-41.04	-110.45	-141.83	-159.28	-164.44	-100.45	-131.83	-149.28	-154.44	
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	126.20	126.20	50.61	43.61	14.54	163.45	40.89	114.39	121.39	150.46	1.55	100.31	165.00	165.00	141.20		
CURACAO	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00		48.00	2.30	0.00	0.00		-38.00	-20.30	-10.30	-0.30	-28.00	-10.30	-0.30	9.70	
EL SALVADOR	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00		0.41	0.00	3.08	1.43	10.00	9.59	10.00	6.92	8.57	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	
EU	480.00	480.00	480.00	480.00	403.80	403.80	355.07	338.75	120.79	79.62	138.82	52.56	76.00	341.96	448.38	310.98	528.00	528.00	449.80	449.80	401.80
GHANA	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	210.30	210.30	43.66	162.02	59.70	44.40	53.10	206.34	87.98	190.30	230.60	182.20	275.00	275.00	235.30	235.30	
GUATEMALA			10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	26.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	-16.00	-6.00	4.00	10.00	-6.00	4.00	10.00	10.00	
GUINEA EQ.			10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00			0.05	0.00					9.95	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00		
GUYANA				10.00	10.00	10.00				128.22	38.83				-118.22	-147.05			-108.22	-137.05	
JAPAN	390.00	390.00	390.00	390.00	328.10	328.10	412.40	308.10	352.20	336.89	285.10	16.60	120.90	54.40	92.11	82.00	429.00	429.00	367.10	367.10	328.10
KOREA	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	29.40	29.40	26.19	25.13	24.55	12.91	20.36	8.81	9.87	17.45	29.09	16.04	42.00	42.00	36.40	36.40	29.40
LIBERIA		10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	126.85	10.34	0.78	1.98	1.82	-116.85	-117.19	-107.97	-99.95	-91.77	-107.19	-97.97	-89.95	-81.77	
MAROC	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	7.40	82.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.60	-72.00	-62.00	-52.00	-42.00	-62.00	-52.00	-42.00	-32.00	
MEXICO	70.00	70.00	70.00	70.00	58.90	58.90	65.00	60.00	68.00	51.00	39.00	-9.00	1.00	3.00	22.00	26.90	71.00	73.00	65.90	58.90	
NAMIBIA		10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	32.00	57.00	84.00	52.72	51.41	-22.00	-69.00	-143.00	-185.72	-227.13	-59.00	-133.00	-175.72	-217.13	
PANAMA		10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00		23.79	0.00	3.00				-13.79	-3.79	3.21		-3.79	6.21		
S. TOME & PRINCIPE	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	37.90	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	50.50	12.52	25.88	35.00	0.00	0.00	47.48	34.12	25.00	66.00	50.50	66.00	66.00	50.50	50.50	
SOUTH AFRICA	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.74	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
ST. VINCENT & GRENADINES			10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00		2.01	1.98	1.18	2.07			7.99	8.02	8.82	7.93	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
TR. & TOBAGO	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	16.80	16.80	18.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-83.60	-63.60	-43.60	-23.60	-4.80	-43.60	-23.60	-4.80	14.00	
UK-OT	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	2.04	1.42	1.85	1.25	0.89	7.96	8.58	8.15	8.75	9.11	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
VENEZUELA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	84.10	84.10	82.51	97.41	61.54	60.49	42.46	27.49	-17.41	31.05	39.51	51.64	92.59	100.00	94.10	94.10	
TOTAL LANDINGS							1524.28	1605.87	932.66	996.78	915.50										
USA(# of bum+whm)	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	169.00	129.00	188.00	189.00	235.00	81.00	121.00	62.00	61.00	15.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
Rec. number	15-05	15-05	15-05	19-04	19-05	19-05											15-05	18-04	19-05	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.

BRAZIL: Balance and adjusted landings due to Rec. 19-05 para 9. 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 carryover from 2016 underage (Rec. 15-05).

JAPAN: 2018 adjusted limit = 390 t (Limit) + 16.6 t (2016 carryover (para 3 of Rec. 15-05)).

JAPAN: 2019 adjusted limit = 390 t (Limit) + 39 t (2017 carryover (390\*10%) (para 3 of Rec. 15-05)).

JAPAN-BUM: Japan's 2020 adjusted limit = 328.1 t (Limit) + 39 t (2018 carryover (390\*10%) (para 3 of Rec. 18-04)).

JAPAN-BUM: Japan's 2021 adjusted limit = 328.1 t (Limit) + 39 t (2019 carryover (390\*10%) (para 3 of Rec. 18-04)).

KOREA: Underage up to 20% of the initial catch quota is carried over biennially.

KOREA: In 2015, 1.47 t of dead discards were not included in the catch amount in the compliance table although they were reported in the Task 1 data.

NAMIBIA: Namibia reviewed its recorded catches and noted that, prior to the period in question, catches for targeted species were low. Thus, Namibia increased its effort to improve catch performance which could have resulted in increased blue marlin catches. Further scrutiny of the catches led to the conclusion that the increase in blue marlin catches reporting may also have resulted from misidentification. We suspect that the BUM catches should be black marlin. Namibia thus identified the need for further training in species identification of fishermen and observers. Namibia believes that such training will help to address this deficiency and may approach ICCAT for assistance in this regard, as in the past.

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 carryover pursuant to Rec. 18-04).

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2021 adjusted quota is 141.2 t = 126.2 (initial landing limit in 2021) + 150\*10% (2019 carryover 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.

USA: total marlin landings for 2020 include 74 BUM, 95 WHM, and 66 RSP.

VENEZUELA: is authorised to transfer 30 t to the European Union for 2017, Rec. 16-10.

VENEZUELA: transfer of 10% of the underage of its 2015 catch to its 2017 adjusted quota.

## WHITE MARLIN

YEAR	Landings limit						Current landings					Balance				Adjusted landings limit					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
TAC	355	355	355	400	355	355															
BARBADOS	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	14.23	17.40	17.50	11.50	14.36	-2.23	-7.10	-9.73	-8.60	-14.09	7.77	2.90	0.27	1.40	
BRAZIL	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	66.93	46.58	62.00	76.31	46.00										
CANADA	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	1.03	2.30	1.64	1.50	0.24	8.97	7.70	8.36	8.50	9.76	12.00	12.00	10.00		
CHINA	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.26	2.53	3.23	2.88	1.81	11.74	9.48	8.77	9.12	10.19	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	
CHINESE TAIPEI	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	11.00	7.00	9.00	3.00	17.72	44.00	48.00	46.00	52.00	37.28	55.00	55.00	55.00	55.00	
COSTA RICA	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00															
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.97	1.12	0.00	0.25	0.29	9.03	8.88	10.00	11.75	11.71	12.00	12.00	12.00		
CURAÇAO	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00			0.80	0.00	0.00			1.20	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
EL SALVADOR	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	1.80	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	
EU	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	101.54	14.67	0.17	0.70	3.07	-77.64	9.23	27.43	26.90	29.53	27.60	27.60	32.60	55.00	50.00
GHANA	2.00	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	2.00	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	1.89	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	
GUYANA	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	48.42	57.20	67.00	0.00	0.00	-47.06	-102.26	-167.26	-165.26	-163.26	-100.26	-165.26	-163.26	-161.26	
JAPAN	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	12.60	9.20	14.40	10.85	7.90	29.40	32.80	27.60	31.15	34.10	42.00	42.00	42.00	42.00	35.00
KOREA	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	0.00	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	19.86	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	20.00
LIBERIA		2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00			1.05	1.98					0.95				2.00		
MAROC	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.40	0.50	0.00	0.00	2.00	1.60	1.50	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
MEXICO	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	20.00	12.00	15.89	9.00	10.00	4.00	13.00	13.11	21.00	20.00	29.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	
PANAMA	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00		0.11	0.00	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	2.00	15.00	13.00				5.00	7.00				24.00	24.00			
SENEGAL	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00			0.22	0.00	0.00			1.78	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
SOUTH AFRICA	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
ST. VINCENT & GRENADINES			2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00		8.00	0.00	5.12	8.98		-6.00	-4.00	-2.00	-8.98	-4.00	-2.00	0.00	-6.98	
TR. & TOBAGO	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	19.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-79.20	-64.20	-49.20	-34.20	-19.20	-49.20	-34.20	-19.20	-4.20	
UK-OT	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.25	0.30	0.19	0.21	0.29	1.75	1.70	1.81	1.79	1.71	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
VENEZUELA	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	157.98	150.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	-107.98	-181.35	-131.35	-81.35	-31.35	-131.35	-81.35	-31.35	18.65	
<b>TOTAL LANDINGS</b>							<b>470.11</b>	<b>342.45</b>	<b>228.69</b>	<b>122.37</b>	<b>110.66</b>										
<b>USA (# of bum+whm)</b>	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	169.00	129.00	188.00	189.00	235.00	81.00	121.00	62.00	61.00	15.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
Rec. number	15-05	15-05	15-05	18-04	19-05	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.

BRAZIL: Balance and adjusted landings due to Rec. 19-05 para 9. 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 and 2020 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 carryover (35\*20%)) (para 3 of Rec. 15-05)).

JAPAN: 2019 adjusted limit = 35 t (Limit) + 7 t (2017 carryover (35\*20%)) (para 3 of Rec. 15-05)).

JAPAN: 2020 adjusted limit = 35 t (Limit) + 7 t (2018 carryover (35\*20%)) (para 3 of Rec. 18-04)).

JAPAN: 2021 adjusted limit = 35 t (Limit) + 7 t (2019 carryover (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.

USA: total marlin landings for 2020 include 74 BUM, 95 WHM, and 66 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 carryover pursuant to Rec. 18-04).

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2021 adjusted quota is 55 t = 50 (initial landing limit in 2021) + 50\*10% (2019 carryover pursuant to Rec. 18-04).



**NORTH ATLANTIC BLUE SHARK**

YEAR	Initial catch limits			Current catches	Balance	Adjusted quota/catch limit		
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2020	2020	2021	2022
TAC	39102	39102	39102					
EU	32578.00	32578.00	32578.00	16240.40	16337.60	32578.00	32545.42	32545.42
JAPAN	4010.00	4010.00	4010.00	1896.60	2113.40	4010.00	4010.00	4010.00
MAROC	1644.00	1644.00	1644.00	1497.80	146.20	1644.00	1644.00	1644.00
UK	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	32.58	32.58
<b>TOTAL LANDING</b>				<b>19634.80</b>				
Rec. number	19-07	19-07	19-07			19-07	19-07	19-07

EU: The EU adjusted catch limit for BSH takes into account the transfer of 0,10% of its initial catch limit to United Kingdom in 2021 and 2022.

Compliance with size limits in 2020

Species	SWO						BFT			
	AT.N	AT.S	Med	AT.E	AT.E	Adriatic	Med	AT.E	Med	AT.W
Area	17-02	17-03	16-05	19-04	19-04	19-04	19-04	19-04	19-04	17-06
Recommendation Number	§ 9-10	§ 6-7	§ 15-17	§ 35	§ 35	§ 35	§ 35	§ 34, 37	§ 34, 37	§ 88-9
Gear/fishery	all	all	all	BB, TROL; >17 m(1)	BB <17 m(2)	Adriatic catches taken for farming purposes(3)(4)	Coastal artisanal fisheries(5)	All other gears	All other gears	All gears
Min. weight (kg)	A=25 kg LW or B= 15 kg/ 15 kg DW	A=25 kg LW or B= 15 kg/ 15 kg DW	10kg RW or 9 kg GG or 7.5 kg DW	8 kg	6.4 kg	8 kg	8 kg	30 kg	30 kg	30 kg
Min. size (cm)	A=125 cm LJFL/ 63 cm CK or B= 119 cm LJFL/ 63 cm CK	A=125 cm LJFL/ 63 cm CK or B= 119 cm LJFL/ 63 cm CK	90 cm LJFL	75 cm FL	70 cm FL	75 cm FL	75 cm FL	115 cm FL	115 cm FL	115 cm FL
Alt-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	A=15% 25kg/125 cm;	5%	0%	100 t(2)	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	Number of fish per total landings	Weight or number of fish per total landings	Weight or number of fish per total landings of allocation	Weight per allocation of max 100t	Weight or number of fish per total catch	Weight or number of fish per total landings of allocation	Number of fish per total landings	Number of fish per total landings	Weight of the total quota of each CPC
PERCENTAGE (% OF TOTAL CATCH UNDER MINIMUM SIZE)										
Albania									0.9%	
Algérie	Non applicable	Non applicable	1%	Non applicable	Non applicable	Non applicable	0%	Non applicable		Non applicable
Angola										
Barbados	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Belize	0	0								
Bolivia										
Brazil		19.00%								
Cabo verde										
Canada	4.4									0
China	0	0	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	0	Not applicable	Not applicable
Chinese Taipei	1.62%( 125cm) 0%( 119cm)	1.36%( 125cm) 0%( 119cm)	na							
Costa Rica										
Côte d'Ivoire		0%								
Curacao										
Egypt			zero					zero		zero
El Salvador										
EU raw data under min. size				1227.52 t	100 t	776.51 t				
EU	A:14.02%	A	0.85%	0.0008%			1.14%		2.28%	
France (SPM)										
Gabon										
Ghana										
Grenada										
Guatemala										
Guinea Ecuatorial										
Guinée Bissau										
Guinée République										
Guyana	N/A	0% PS: individual weight data were only available 10 fishes of which the minimum weight recorded was 81 kg.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Honduras										
Iceland	0							0		
Japan	A: 0%	A: 0%	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	0.00%	Not applicable	0.00%
Korea	0	0	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	0	Not applicable	Not applicable
Liberia										
Libya								1%		
Maroc	0%	NA	0%	NA	NA	NA	0%	0%	NA	NA
Mauritanie										
Mexico	A: 14.7									0
Namibia		0%								
Nicaragua										
Nigeria										
Norway				0%	0%			0%		
Panama										
Philippines										
Russia										
Sao Tome										
Sénégal	3.10%	0.00%								
Sierra Leone										
South Africa		0%								
St. Vincent & Grenadines	4.29									
Suriname								0	0	
Syria										
Trinidad & Tobago	0	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Tunisie			5%				0%			
Turkey	n.a.	n.a.	0.01%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0.00%	n.a.
UK-OT	1	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	0
Uruguay										
USA	0									6.4
Venezuela										

**Compliance Summary Tables**

	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
Albania	No action necessary	<b>Category A</b>				Letter on reporting issues, while noting positively that recent years have reflected substantial improvements.
		<i>Compliance Tables</i>				
		<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				
		<b>Category B</b>				
		<i>Annual Report</i>				
		<i>Statistical data</i>		No Task 2 data		
		<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	Check Sheets received late (29 Sept 2021)		
		<b>Category C</b>				
		<i>MCS- species related</i>				
		<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14	No scientific observer data		
		<i>Port Controls</i>				
		<i>Vessel Controls</i>	Rec. 19-04	One infraction under JIS		
		<b>Other</b>				

		2021				
	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
Algeria	No action necessary	<b>Category A</b> <i>Compliance Tables</i> <i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				No action necessary.
		<b>Category B</b> <i>Annual Report</i> <i>Statistical data</i> <i>Other reports</i>				
		<b>Category C</b> <i>MCS- species related</i> <i>MCS General</i> <i>Port Controls</i> <i>Vessel Controls</i>				
		<b>Other</b>		ROP-BFT: PNCs contained in COC-305. Some payments for observer coverage received late		

					2021	
	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
Angola	Letter on recurring reporting issues, no list of designated ports (Rec. 18-09), and implementation of ICCAT requirements on domestic scientific observers.	<b>Category A</b>				Letter on recurring reporting issues and implementation of ICCAT requirements on domestic scientific observers, noting the possibility of identification next year under ICCAT's trade measure recommendation if substantial improvement is not made, and recommendation of technical assistance through the Secretariat.
		<i>Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>	Rec. 11-11	No compliance tables received	The failure to submit information was due to COVID-19 related difficulties. Angola will contact the Secretariat to submit the necessary information	
		<b>Category B</b>				
		<i>Annual Report</i>		No annual report received		
		<i>Statistical data</i>		No statistical data received		
		<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	No check sheets received		
		<b>Category C</b> <i>MCS- species related</i>				
		<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14	No information on scientific observer programme		
<i>Port Controls</i> <i>Vessel Controls</i>	Rec. 18-08	One vessel on IUU list				
<b>Other</b>		No reply to COC letter				

		2021				
	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
Barbados	Letter on no domestic scientific observer program in place and continued marlin overharvest.	<b>Category A</b>				Letter on reporting issues and lack of scientific observer program, but recognizing comprehensive response to 2020 letter and ongoing work to issue regulations and establish observer program.
		<i>Compliance Tables</i>			Some discrepancies between Compliance Tables and Task 1 data	
		<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				
		<b>Category B</b>				
		<i>Annual Report</i>				
		<i>Statistical data</i>				
		<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 19-02		Some Task 1 of tropical tuna species submitted for 2020 but no corresponding quarterly reports	
		<b>Category C</b>				
		<i>MCS- species related</i>				
<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14		No scientific observer programme	See AR and response to COC letter		
<i>Port Controls</i>	Rec. 18-09		No list of authorised ports received	See AR section 4		
<i>Vessel Controls</i>						
<b>Other</b>						

		2021				
Action 2020	Category (Res 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2021	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2021	
Belize	<b>Category A</b>				No action necessary.	
	<i>Compliance Tables</i>			Further clarification needed regarding alleged discrepancies since Compliance tables matches Task 1 data as submitted by Belize on 29th July 2021 [Note from Secretariat: differences resulted from area attribution but totals are the same; this will be resolved in Task 1 in the future so no compliance issue remains]		
	<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>					
	<b>Category B</b>					
	<i>Annual Report</i>					
	<i>Statistical data</i>					
	<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 18-05 and 18-06		Belize notified the Secretariat on 15 February 2021 that we had submitted our Check Sheets in 2020 and there had been no changes since then. However it was brought to our attention that additional information was added to the Check Sheet that required completion by CPCs. We made the amendments and submitted. While information on this item was submitted on time, the exclusion of the new information and notification thereto resulted in our submission being identified as submitted late.		
				Check sheets received late (28 Sept 2021)		
No action necessary						
	<b>Category C</b>					
	<i>MCS- species related</i>					
	<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 14-10	One vessel included on the ICCAT Record retroactively	Vessel included on the ICCAT record retroactively was as a result of an oversight. We have and will continue to ensure that vessels for inclusion on the ICCAT Record of vessels are submitted in a timely manner and in accordance with the Recommendation.		
	<i>Port Controls</i>					
	<i>Vessel Controls</i>	Rec. 18-08				
	<b>Other</b>					

		2021				
	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
Brazil	Letter on late BET quarterly reports, and missing compliance table size limits.	<b>Category A</b>		Overharvest of bigeye tuna		No action necessary.
		<i>Compliance Tables</i> <i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				
		<b>Category B</b>				
		<i>Annual Report</i> <i>Statistical data</i> <i>Other reports</i>				
		<b>Category C</b>				
		<i>MCS- species related</i> <i>MCS General</i> <i>Port Controls</i> <i>Vessel Controls</i>				
	<b>Other</b>					



		2021				
	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
Cabo Verde	Letter on reporting issues, implementation requirements on domestic scientific observers.	<b>Category A</b>				Letter on recurring reporting issues, implementation requirements on domestic scientific observers.
		<i>Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				
		<b>Category B</b>				
		<i>Annual Report</i>				
		<i>Statistical data</i>		No fleet characteristics data received		
		<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 16-15	No report on in-port transhipment		
			Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	Check sheets received late (29 Sept 2021)		
			Rec. 19-02	Some Task 1 of tropical tuna species submitted for 2020 but no corresponding quarterly reports		
<b>Category C</b>						
<i>MCS- species related</i>						
<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14	No scientific observer programme				
<i>Port Controls</i>						
<i>Vessel Controls</i>						
<b>Other</b>			No reply to COC letter			

		2021				
	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance- 2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
Canada	No action necessary	<b>Category A</b>				No action necessary.
		<i>Compliance Tables</i>		Some discrepancies between Compliance Tables and Task 1 data	The differences were due to rounding approaches between Task 1 and compliance tables, but Canada are fully committed to ensuring accurate reporting	
		<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				
		<b>Category B</b>				
		<i>Annual Report</i> <i>Statistical data</i> <i>Other reports</i>				
		<b>Category C</b>				
		<i>MCS- species related</i> <i>MCS General</i> <i>Port Controls</i> <i>Vessel Controls</i>				
		<b>Other</b>				

		2021				
	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
China	Letter on implementation of Rec. 18-09 requirements on designation of ports and late reporting on implementation of eastern bluefin measures.	<b>Category A</b>  <i>Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				Letter on implementation of Rec. 18-09 requirements on designation of ports, while noting improvement in ICCAT compliance.
		<b>Category B</b> <i>Annual Report Statistical data Other reports</i>				
		<b>Category C</b> <i>MCS- species related MCS General Port Controls</i>	Rec. 18-09	No list of authorised ports submitted	See COC-309	
			Rec. 16-15	PNCs under ROP-transshipment and responses contained in COC-305.		
		<b>Other</b>				

2021

	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>	
Côte d'Ivoire	Letter on reporting issues, implementation of requirements on national scientific observers.	<b>Category A</b>				Letter on reporting issues, implementation of requirements on national scientific observers.	
		<i>Compliance Tables</i>			Some discrepancies in historic data between Compliance Tables and Task 1		
		<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>					
		<b>Category B</b>					
		<i>Annual Report</i>			Some Task 1 data (or zero catch confirmation) missing for some species. Data received late		Côte d'Ivoire has taken due note of the deficiencies and commits to working with the Secretariat to meet all reporting obligations
		<i>Statistical data</i>			No billfish check sheet received; shark sheet received late (30 Sept 2021)		
		<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 18-05 and 18-06				
			Rec. 19-02		Some Task 1 of tropical tuna species submitted for 2020 but no corresponding quarterly reports		
		<b>Category C</b>					
<i>MCS- species related</i>	Rec. 01-21 and 01-22		SDP data for 2020 submitted late (first semester 10 Nov 2020, second semester 1 Oct 2021)				
<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14		No scientific observer programme	See response to COC letter			
<i>Port Controls</i> <i>Vessel Controls</i>							
<b>Other</b>							

		2021				
	Action 2020	Category (Res 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2021	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2021
Curaçao	No action necessary	<b>Category A</b>				No action necessary.
		<i>Compliance Tables</i>		Some discrepancies in historic data between Compliance Tables and Task 1	The differences between CP13 and Task 1 data originate from the fact that CP 13 data is produced in near real time and Task 1 data are produced at the end of the year and it originates from estimates that use more information than CP13. For this reason, Task 1 estimates can differ slightly from CP13 data. These differences might be higher for non-target species, which are not usually covered by regular port sampling rather being covered in the Faux-Poisson component (including billfish), which is reported for the entire purse seine fleet, rather than by flag state, in Task 1 data. With regard to billfish data from the artisanal fleet, these catches are minor for local consumption and Curacao is currently working to improve data collection for this fishery.	
		<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				
		<b>Category B</b>				
		<i>Annual Report</i>				
		<i>Statistical data</i>				
		<i>Other reports</i>				
<b>Category C</b>						
<i>MCS- species related</i>						
		<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 14-10	Retroactive inclusion of 13 vessels on ICCAT Record	Because of an administrative error we submitted the required information in an outdated format. And because we misinterpreted follow-up communications with the ICCAT Secretariat we unfortunately did not take any corrective action in a timely manner. To correct this mistake, we kindly request you to update the ICCAT vessel registry retroactively until 15 January 2020. This has been a challenging year, in many ways, on many levels. A mistake such as this would not have escaped us under normal circumstances. We therefore ask for your understanding, while committing ourselves to work hard to avoid repetition.	
		<i>Port Controls</i>				
		<i>Vessel Controls</i>				
		<b>Other</b>				

2021						
	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
Egypt	No action necessary	<b>Category A</b>				Letter on implementation of scientific observer program, while noting positively its request to Secretariat for technical assistance; no designated SWO-MED ports submitted, but small amount of SWO-MED reported in Task 1.
		<i>Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				
		<b>Category B</b>				
		<i>Annual Report</i>		Task 1 for BFT (zero catch reported) does not coincide with catches reported in compliance tables, weekly reports and ROP information	Revised Task 1 submitted 7 November 2021	
		<i>Statistical data</i>				
		<i>Other reports</i>				
		<b>Category C</b>				
		<i>MCS- species related</i>				
		<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14	Not clear if 5% observer coverage is being met	Would welcome continued help and technical support for the implementation of Rec. 16-14 and training of scientific observers	
		<i>Port Controls</i>	Rec. 16-05	No designated SWO-MED ports submitted, but small amount of SWO-MED reported in Task 1	A new team of staff is now managing the ICCAT file and is working to comply with all requirements and measures	
<i>Vessel Controls</i>						
<b>Other</b>						

		2021				
	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance- 2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
El Salvador	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).	<b>Category A</b>				Letter on no Task 1 data for blue marlin, while noting substantial improvement in El Salvador's compliance over the past 2 years.
		<i>Compliance Tables</i>		Some discrepancies between Compliance Tables and Task 1 data. Bigeye data have been corrected but no Task 1 data (ST02) have been received for blue marlin	The differences observed generally correspond to application of arithmetically acceptable rounding rules that substantively modify what has been reported on the relevant forms. To correct these differences, El Salvador has sent some corrections to the compliance tables, noting that there are no instances of overfishing.	
		<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				
		<b>Category B</b>				
		<i>Annual Report</i> <i>Statistical data</i> <i>Other reports</i>				
		<b>Category C</b>				
<i>MCS- species related</i> <i>MCS General</i> <i>Port Controls</i> <i>Vessel Controls</i>						
		<b>Other</b>				

Action 2020	Category (Res 16-17)	ICAT measures (Res/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance 2021	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2021
EU	Category A			Task 1 figures are 'scientific' data, based on sampling data from the application of scientific protocols. The estimation of catches and discards is made based on data from the Information and Sampling Network of the Observer Programs. Data in the compliance table result from the application of the EU and/or international fisheries control rules and therefore fed mainly by professional fishermen's catch declarations and validated by the EU Member States authorities; These data are considered "official data". Because the scientific data are only estimations, discrepancies may appear compared to the official data taken into account for the compliance table. EU will investigate any possible misreading of bilfish species, as well as possible dead discards / live releases of shortfin mako and report back on any findings	Letter on reporting (including potential issues with marlin and shortfin mako information), while positively noting improvements. Request further updates on EIBFT investigations (Tarantero Operation), while thanking for updates provided to date both on status of investigation and steps taken to strengthen implementation of requirements in EU.
	Compliance Tables		Some discrepancies between Compliance Tables and Task 1 data. Some potential issues with shortfin mako and bilfish catches		
	Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions				
	Category B				
	Annual Report				
	Statistical data		Some Task 1 data (or zero catch confirmation) missing for some species for EU-France. Some data received late. Some Task 2 data missing.	The missing / zero catch under Task 1 for 5 species of EU-FRA was due to an incomplete STO2B. We confirm that there was no related catch to be reported and that the corresponding blank fields shall be filled with a "0".	
	Other reports	Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	Check sheets received late (30 Sep 2021)	The delay was due to a misreading of the circular, and the understanding that there was no need to send the Check Sheets in 2021.	
	Category C				
	MCS- species related	Rec. 19-04	One vessel included on EIBFT catching list retroactively	The vessel was authorised as BFT catching vessel until 20/06/2021. Due to administrative oversight by the flag state (confusion with a vessel with the same name), the necessary prolongation of the authorisation was not notified on time but only on 12/07/2021. However, as the vessel had been authorised by the flag state and was fishing in that period, the recording of the authorisation with ICAT had to be done retroactively for the period as of 21/06/2021, which resulted in this formal non-compliance. We stress the importance of timely reporting and the respect of the 15-days rule with the concerned EU Member States but individual human errors or administrative oversight cannot be completely excluded.	
		Rec. 19-04	Possible overharvest of E-BFT and non-compliance with some MCS-measures under "Tarantero" operation	See <b>Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9</b> [COC-310-APP-1/2021].	
MCS General					
Port Controls					
Vessel Controls	Rec. 19-04	Four infractions under IS	Upon verification, we identified no less than 7 infractions under IS. In reply to ICAT Circular #8102-21, we have provided the Secretariat with a list with all the cases we have reported. Please see COC-303, Table 2A.		
Other		ROP-BFT-PNCs contained in COC-305. Some requests for observer coverage on farms received late	The EU submitted 4 late requests: 1 of them was submitted later than 15 days before the deployment, the other 3 later than the 96 hours deadline. No activities started before the Observers were present. In all cases, emails were sent to the concerned EU Member States administrations recalling the rules. The EU recognise the importance to comply with the deadlines when submitting request of Observers to ensure the deployments are correctly organised. However, these deadlines come from circulars of the ICAT Secretariat on the implementation of the RO Programme and are not established in any Recommendation. Therefore, a non-compliance with these deadlines should not be considered a proper non-compliance, particularly because no activity took place without Observer. Consequently, the EU considers that this table is not the most appropriate place to raise this issue.		



		2021				
	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance 2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
France (SPM)	Letter on late reporting.	<b>Category A</b> <i>Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				No action necessary.
		<b>Category B</b> <i>Annual Report Statistical data</i>				
		<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	Check sheets received late (30 Sept 2021)	A new team arrived in September 2021 to the Territories, Food and Sea directorates of SPM, who required time to understand reporting obligations. Furthermore, the agent in charge of these files was on sick leave until mid September.	
		<b>Category C</b> <i>MCS- species related MCS General Port Controls Vessel Controls</i>				
		<b>Other</b>				

		2021				
	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
Gabon	Letter on reporting issues	<b>Category A</b>				Letter on recurring reporting issues.
		<i>Compliance Tables</i>	Rec. 16-16	Compliance tables received late 29 Sept 2021		
		<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				
		<b>Category B</b>				
		<i>Annual Report</i>		Annual Report received late (29 Sept 2021) and one section missing. Some not - applicable answers without explanation.	Will revise report and resend	
		<i>Statistical data</i>		No fleet characteristics data received. No Task 2 data received. Some Task 1 data or confirmation of zero catches missing.	Gabon has no specific fleet which targets tuna	
		<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	Check sheets received late (30 Sept 2021)		
		<b>Category C</b> <i>MCS- species related</i>				
		<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14	No information on or from scientific observer programme	Observers are only deployed in non-tuna fisheries	
		<i>Port Controls</i> <i>Vessel Controls</i>				
<b>Other</b>						

ICCAT REPORT 2020-2021 (II)

		2021				
Action 2020	Category (Res 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Res/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2021	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2021	
The Gambia	Letter on reporting issues.	<b>Category A</b>			Letter on significant reporting issues, scientific observer program, and to inquiry about actions taken with respect to IUU vessels.	
		<i>Compliance Tables</i> <i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>	Rec. 16-16	Compliance tables received late 09 Sept 2021		
		<b>Category B</b> <i>Annual Report</i>		No AR received		
		<i>Statistical data</i>		Some Task 1 data (or zero catch confirmation) missing for some species. No Fleet characteristics data received. No Task 2 data received.		The tuna data. The Raw data on tuna species, sent to us, is the one we processed in the ICAT format Using codes provided by ICAT and sent to them. The data for 2019. However, licensing of vessels with the EU under the agreement (GMB, 2019) started after mid 2019 (July), looking at the data for 2020 it could be that not much fishing activities were done for the remaining months of 2019. In 2020 catches were recorded only in the month of March. No data was provided to us from the EU for 2019.
		<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	No check sheets received		
		<b>Category C</b> <i>MCS species related</i>				
		<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14	No information on or from scientific observer programme		
		<i>Port Controls</i>				
	<i>Vessel Controls</i>	Rec. 18-08	SAGE Vessel was registered in The Gambia by the Gambian Maritime Authority (GMA). The ministry of fisheries notified the GMA responsible for flagging of fishing vessels. Following this, action was taken to delist the vessel from the Gambian Register. A three month's fishing authorization was issued to the vessel on 09-10-2019 to 08-01-2020. After the expiry of this period no authorization was granted to the vessel SAGE. During the three months of authorization and upon issuance of license an Observer was posted on board the vessel. (Operated under the company called Consulting Business Agency. The owner of this company was from Chinese Taipei). -GMA have been written to and notified on the issue of Sage, according to GMA, they have been deregistered. To avoid registering other IUU listed vessels, The Ministry of Fisheries is in the process of signing an MOU with GMA. Information sharing particularly - data on the all registered vessels, among others. Furthermore, there are currently no vessels flying the flag of The Gambia in the ICAT record of vessels.			
	<b>Other</b>		Two vessels on IUU list (no longer registered to Gambia - see PWG-405 and COC-309)	Currently under prohibition under Rec. 11-15. Question raised to seek additional info on controls in place to address IUU listed vessels, and on status of FV's Maximus and Lisboa	While the EU has been made aware that the former Senegalese-flagged vessels MAXIMUS (IMO: 9038402) and LISBOA (IMO: 7929176), now named respectively LUCAS and KIKI, are now flying the flag of The Gambia. These are under the Senegalo-Gambia Agreement. The EU is of the view that The Gambia should clarify the activities of these vessels and their current location. These two vessels are registered by GMA under the agent Kansala (Abdou Sanyang) Activities of Kiki and Lucas: Distribution of food items to its own company fleets. Since 2008 to date, within the Senegalo-Gambian Waters. According to GMA, they are not involved in any form of fishing activities nor do they purchase any fishing gears onboard. Their current location - currently at the port of Dakar.	

		2021				
	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
Ghana	Letter on reporting issues.	<b>Category A</b>  <i>Compliance Tables</i> <i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				Letter on reporting issues, scientific observer program, noting positively request for technical assistance re. observer program.
		<b>Category B</b> <i>Annual Report</i> <i>Statistical data</i>	Rec. 19-02	No historical FAD data	To be examined first in Panel 1	
		<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	Check sheets received late (30 Sept 2021), and incorrectly reports no targeted/industrial fishery as exemption from Rec. 19-05	Had a problem with the link and could not find the correct form	
		<b>Category C</b> <i>MCS- species related</i>  <i>MCS General</i> <i>Port Controls</i> <i>Vessel Controls</i>	Rec. 16-14	No scientific observer programme	Indicates need for assistance	
		<b>Other</b>				

		2021				
	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
Grenada	Letter on recurring reporting issues, including no Annual Report, while noting improvement from previous years.	<b>Category A</b>				Letter on recurring reporting issues, including no Annual Report, no scientific observer program, and reminding Grenada of the possibility they will be identified under 06-13 trade measures recommendation if improvements are not made in this area.
		<i>Compliance Tables</i>	Rec. 11-11	No compliance tables received, but Task 1 shows catches of bluefin tuna with no quota assigned		
		<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				
		<b>Category B</b>				
		<i>Annual Report</i>	Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	No annual report received		
		<i>Statistical data</i>		No fleet characteristics data received. No Task 2 data received.		
		<i>Other reports</i>		No check sheets received		
			Rec. 19-02	Some Task 1 of tropical tuna species submitted for 2020 but no corresponding quarterly reports		
		<b>Category C</b>				
<i>MCS- species related</i>						
<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14	No information on or from scientific observer programme				
<i>Port Controls</i>	Rec. 18-09	No list of designated reports received				
<i>Vessel Controls</i>						
<b>Other</b>		No reply to COC letter				

		2021					
	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>	
Guatemala	Letter on reporting issues, implementation of national scientific observer program.	<b>Category A</b>  <i>Compliance Tables</i>  <i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>	Rec. 16-16	Compliance tables received late 21 Aug 2021. Some discrepancies in historic data between Compliance Tables and Task 1 data	Guatemala is working to reduce these discrepancies as far as possible	Letter on reporting issues and implementation of marlin Rec. 19-05.	
		<b>Category B</b> <i>Annual Report</i> <i>Statistical data</i>  <i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 18-05	Billfish check sheet received late (17 Sept 2021) and reports no targeted/industrial fishery as exemption for Rec. 19-05, which is an invalid response. Prohibits dead discards but does not provide citation of law/mechanism to prevent marlin from entering commerce	Guatemala may re-examine responses and submit a revised sheet if appropriate		
		<b>Category C</b> <i>MCS- species related</i> <i>MCS General</i> <i>Port Controls</i> <i>Vessel Controls</i>					
		<b>Other</b>					

2021

	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
Guinea Bissau	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. Prohibition under 11-15 for non submission of Task 1	<b>Category A</b>				Guinea Bissau experiences many problems in complying with the requirements and looks forward to receiving training and assistance to fill out the various forms
		<i>Compliance Tables</i>	Rec. 11-11	No compliance tables received		
		<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				
		<b>Category B</b>				
		<i>Annual Report</i>		No annual report received		
		<i>Statistical data</i>		No fleet characteristics data received. No Task 1 or 2 data received		
		<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	No check sheets received. Claim exemption of billfish and shark requirements on grounds that they do not have targeted/industrial fishery which is an invalid response		
		<b>Category C</b> <i>MCS- species related</i>				
		<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14	No information on or from scientific observer programme		
		<i>Port Controls</i> <i>Vessel Controls</i>				
<b>Other</b>		No reply to COC letter; Prohibition imposed under Rec. 11-15				

		2021				
<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance- 2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>	
Guinea Equatorial	No action necessary	<b>Category A</b>			Letter on reporting issues, scientific observer program.	
		<i>Compliance Tables</i> <i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>	Rec. 11-11	No compliance tables received		
		<b>Category B</b>				
		<i>Annual Report</i>				
		<i>Statistical data</i>		Some Task 1 data (or zero catch confirmation) missing for some species. No fleet characteristics data received. No Task 2 data received.		
		<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 19-02	Some Task 1 of tropical tuna species submitted for 2020 but no corresponding quarterly reports		
		<b>Category C</b>				
<i>MCS- species related</i>						
<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14	No scientific observer programme - assistance requested				
<i>Port Controls</i> <i>Vessel Controls</i>	Rec. 18-08	One vessel on IUU list				
<b>Other</b>						



					2021	
	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
Guinea Republic	Maintain identification due to recurring significant reporting issues, including no Annual Report received for three years in a row, while noting improvements.	<b>Category A</b> <i>Compliance Tables</i>  <i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				Maintain identification due to recurring significant reporting issues, including no Annual Report received for four years in a row, and no implementation of national scientific observer program, while noting positively its request for technical assistance from Secretariat.
		<b>Category B</b>			Guinea Rep. has been making concerted efforts since 2016 to improve but would welcome additional technical assistance	
		<i>Annual Report</i>		No Annual Report received		
		<i>Statistical data</i>				
		<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 18-05 and 18-06		No check sheets received	
		<b>Category C</b> <i>MCS- species related</i>				
		<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14	No scientific observer programme	See reponse to COC letter	
		<i>Port Controls</i>				
		<i>Vessel Controls</i>				
<b>Other</b>						

2021

	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
Honduras	Letter on recurring reporting issues, including late or (in case of 2020) non-submission of Annual Report multiple years in a row.	<b>Category A</b> <i>Compliance Tables</i> <i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				Letter on reporting issues, implementation of shark and billfish requirements
		<b>Category B</b> <i>Annual Report</i> <i>Statistical data</i>		Annual Report received late (23 Sept 2021) Task 1 (zero catch) data received late	Some late reporting due to changes in the fisheries authorities causing deadlines to be missed but undertake to try to meet deadlines in the future	
		<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	Check sheets received late (1 Oct 2021). Claim exemption of billfish and shark requirements on grounds that they don't have targeted/industrial fishery which is an invalid response and indicate N/A for marlin landing limit requirement in billfish check sheet which is an invalid response		
		<b>Category C</b> <i>MCS- species related</i> <i>MCS General</i> <i>Port Controls</i> <i>Vessel Controls</i>				
		<b>Other</b>		No reply to COC letter		

					2021	
	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
Iceland	No action necessary	<b>Category A</b> <i>Compliance Tables</i> <i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				No action necessary.
		<b>Category B</b> <i>Annual Report</i> <i>Statistical data</i> <i>Other reports</i>				
		<b>Category C</b> <i>MCS- species related</i> <i>MCS General</i> <i>Port Controls</i> <i>Vessel Controls</i>				
		<b>Other</b>				

2021						
	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
Japan	No action necessary	<b>Category A</b>  <i>Compliance Tables</i>  <i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>		Discrepancies between Compliance Tables and Task 1 data	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.	No action necessary.
		<b>Category B</b> <i>Annual Report</i> <i>Statistical data</i> <i>Other reports</i>				
		<b>Category C</b> <i>MCS- species related</i> <i>MCS General</i> <i>Port Controls</i>				
		<i>Vessel Controls</i>	Rec. 13-14	One chartering arrangement not notified at start of arrangement	The notification of commencement of the chartering agreement of Matsufuku Maru No.28 was delayed. (i) Matsufuku Maru No.28 conducted fishing in the Namibian EEZ under the charter arrangement with a Namibian company (the details are specified in CP53 form in accordance with Para 13 b)) from 18 March 2021 to 2 July 2021. (ii) The vessel requested Japan Tuna Fisheries Cooperation, to which the vessel belongs, to transmit the information to the Fisheries Agency so that the Agency can make necessary notification to ICCAT. However, Japan Tuna Fisheries Cooperation forgot to do it. The vessel started its operation in Namibia with the understanding that such notification had been already made. (iii) Upon finding the case, Japan retrospectively notified the chartering agreement to the Secretariat. Japan confirms in accordance with Para 4 of Rec. 13-14 that the vessel complied with the conservation management measures adopted by ICCAT during the chartering operation as listed in Attachment B. In order to ensure that the same mistake will not happen in the future, the Fisheries Agency cautioned Japan Tuna Fisheries Cooperation and reminded them of necessary procedures concerning chartering arrangements.	
		<b>Other</b>				

2021

	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
Korea	No action necessary	<b>Category A</b>				
		<i>Compliance Tables</i>		Some discrepancies between Compliance Tables and Task 1 data	For the 2015 North swordfish and 2015 bigeye tuna, our analysis suggests that the discrepancies resulted from the discarded and/or released amounts. Task 1 data included such amounts while the Compliance table did not. For South swordfish, reported Task 1 and compliance tables had differences of less than 1 t.	No action necessary.
		<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				
		<b>Category B</b> <i>Annual Report</i> <i>Statistical data</i>				
		<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 16-15	Report on transshipment submitted late	Submitted a few days late due to some difficulties locating the ROP reports, but undertake to submit on time in the future.	
		<b>Category C</b> <i>MCS- species related</i>				
		<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14	5% observer coverage not met in 2020	In 2020, there was no observer dispatched due to COVID-19 pandemic.	
		<i>Port Controls</i> <i>Vessel Controls</i>				
		<b>Other</b>				

		2021				
	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
Liberia	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.	<b>Category A</b>				
		<i>Compliance Tables</i>	Rec. 16-16	Compliance Tables received late (9 Sept 2021). Overharvest of blue marlin. Some discrepancies between Compliance Tables and Task 1 data	Liberia will check discrepancies and send any missing information to the Secretariat	Letter on reporting issues, implementation of domestic scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14), blue marlin overharvest, retroactive vessel registration.
		<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				
		<b>Category B</b>				
		<i>Annual Report</i>				
		<i>Statistical data</i>		No Task 2 data (catch and effort) received. Size data and Task 1 data received late.		
		<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	No check sheets received		
			Rec. 19-02	Some Task 1 of tropical tuna species submitted for 2020 but no corresponding quarterly reports		
		<b>Category C</b>				
		<i>MCS- species related</i>	Rec. 19-04	One vessel included on EBFT other list retroactively No scientific observer programme data, although existence of programme mentioned in Annual Report	Now have observers on board and an electronic data collection system, so will be able to submit data in the future	
<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14					
<i>Port Controls</i> <i>Vessel Controls</i>						
		<b>Other</b>		No reply to COC letter		

		2021				
<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>	
Libya  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.	<b>Category A</b>  <i>Compliance Tables</i>  <i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>		Discrepancies between Compliance tables and Task 1 data		Letter on reporting issues, on implementation of ICCAT requirements on national scientific observers (Rec. 16-14), controlled transfer issues.	
	<b>Category B</b> <i>Annual Report</i>					
	<i>Statistical data</i>		Statistical data received late; no size data received.	1st submission was on 7 September 2021, corrections demanded from ICCAT Secretariat and made on 15/09/2021 and it was confirmed by ICCAT in the same day.		
	<i>Other reports</i>					
	<b>Category C</b>					
	<i>MCS- species related</i>	Rec. 19-04	List of authorised ports received late	Oversight due to changes in national administration which did not complete earlier than the date of the submission.		
	<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14	No scientific observers deployed (according to AR: Not Applicable – BFT caught live and transported to other farming CPCs).			
	<i>Port Controls</i>					
	<i>Vessel Controls</i>	Rec. 19-04/18-09	Three infractions reported under the JIS, including possible non-compliance with para 15 of Annex 7. Control transfers carried out much later than event reported	CPC Libya has not received any notifications about the 3 PNC'S, although during this season (2021) we have received PNC and response was sent to ICCAT Secretariat and confirmed (clarified). <i>NOTE: Please see COC-303, Table 2 for more information.</i>		
<b>Other</b>	ROP-BFT: PNCs contained in COC-305. Some deployment requests and payments for observer coverage received late		After reviewing the (COC-305) final ROP Deployment request, please be notified that all payments and requests were not over due the deadline appointed from ICCAT Secretariat.			

2021

	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
Mauritania	Letter on reporting issues, implementation of requirements on national observer programs.	<b>Category A</b>				Letter or recurring reporting issues, implementation of requirements on national observer programs.
		<i>Compliance Tables</i>	Rec. 11-11	No compliance tables received		
		<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				
		<b>Category B</b>				
		<i>Annual Report</i>		Annual report incomplete as old format used	Mauritania submitted a revised version 19 November 2021	
		<i>Statistical data</i>		No fleet characteristics data received. No Task 2 data received		
		<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	No check sheets received		
		<b>Category C</b>				
		<i>MCS- species related</i>				
		<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14	No information on or from scientific observer programme		
		<i>Port Controls</i>				
<i>Vessel Controls</i>						
<b>Other</b>						



		2021				
	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
Mexico	No action necessary	<b>Category A</b> <i>Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				No action necessary.
		<b>Category B</b> <i>Annual Report Statistical data Other reports</i>				
		<b>Category C</b> <i>MCS- species related MCS General Port Controls Vessel Controls</i>				
		<b>Other</b>				

		2021				
<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>	
Morocco	No action necessary	<b>Category A</b>				No action necessary.
		<i>Compliance Tables</i>			The differences between the Compliance tables and the eBFT Task 1 data and the historic data of NSW0 was corrected. This revision was reported to the ICCAT Secretariat on 26/10/2021. Concerning eBFT and to rectify the small difference (1.19 t) between the eBFT Task 1 data and the data of the compliance tables, the Task 1 data were reviewed and transmitted to ICCAT on 28/10/2021.	
		<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				
		<b>Category B</b> <i>Annual Report</i>				
		<i>Statistical data</i>		Task 2 data received late	During the 2021 season Morocco found certain difficulties to report the data, in particular those related to scientific requirements (Task 1 and 2) within the deadline established by ICCAT. In fact, these difficulties result from the COVID-19 pandemic, where certain scientific investigators responsible for collecting these data, and even managers were interrupted by the COVID-19 (see our correspondence addressed to the Secretariat in this regard dated 31/07/2021. It should be noted that these constraints were reported in section 5 of the AR.	
		<i>Other reports</i>				
		<b>Category C</b> <i>MCS- species related</i>				
		<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14	5% scientific observer coverage not met (Noted on ST09: Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, no observation at sea could be made in 2020)		
		<i>Port Controls</i> <i>Vessel Controls</i>				
		<b>Other</b>				

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		2021				
	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
Namibia	<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>	<b>Category A</b>				<p>Maintain identification due to reporting issues, recurring overharvest of blue marlin for 5 years in a row.</p>
		<i>Compliance Tables</i>		Some discrepancies in historic data between Compliance tables and Task 1. Possible misidentification of BUM/WHM	Namibia reviewed its catches recorded and noted that, prior to the period in question, catches for targeted species were low. Thus, Namibia increased its effort to improve catch performance which could have resulted in increased blue marlin catches. Further scrutiny of the catches lead to the conclusion that the increase in blue marlin catches reporting may also have resulted from misidentification. We suspect that the BUM catches should be Black Marlin. Namibia thus identified the need for further training in species identification of fishermen and observers. Namibia believe that such a training will help to address this deficiency and may approach ICCAT for assistance in this regard, as in the past. Namibia had consultations with the harvesters and operators and we developed measures by submitting weekly, monthly quarterly reporting to track and manage our BUM catches.	
		<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				
		<b>Category B</b>				
		<i>Annual Report</i>		Some "not applicable" entries without explanation		
		<i>Statistical data</i>				
		<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	Check sheets received late (30 Sept 2021)	Namibia will improve on that	
		<b>Category C</b>				
		<i>MCS- species related</i>				
		<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14	5% scientific observer coverage not met in 2020	See Annual Report for explanations. Namibia has a National Observer Program and does not have a Scientific Observer Program according to Rec. 16-14 National Observer Program mandate is to observe the harvesting, processing and handling of marine resources and to collect biological data on board commercial fishing vessels and to ensure compliance at sea. One of the challenges is the limited availability of trained Observers to collect and analyze the much needed biological and research scientific data from commercial fishing activities, there is also limited capacity, both in terms of availability of resources, to carry out dedicated scientific research on ICCAT managed species. The lack of the right skill-set of trained and competent workforce. Why? Because it takes a long period to train observers to fully fledged scientific observer. Funding is costly for developing States such as Namibia and the retaining scientific observer's salary issues.	
<i>Port Controls</i>						
<i>Vessel Controls</i>	Rec. 13-14	One chartering arrangement not notified at start of arrangement	Administration error. We will improve on that and strive to fully comply with Rec. 13-14.			
	Rec. 16-15	One PNC under ROP-transshipment and response contained in COC-305.	Responses contained in COC-305.			
<b>Other</b>						

		2021				
	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
Nicaragua	Letter on recurring reporting issues (no Billfish Check Sheet (Rec. 18-05) or updated Shark Check Sheet (Rec. 18-06)).	<b>Category A</b>				Letter on late reporting (including Annual Report not submitted until during Annual Meeting).
		<i>Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				
		<b>Category B</b>				
		<i>Annual Report</i>		No annual report received	Annual report sent on 15 November 2021	
		<i>Statistical data</i>				
		<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	Shark Sheet and Billfish Check Sheet received late		
		<b>Category C</b> <i>MCS- species related MCS General Port Controls Vessel Controls</i>				
		<b>Other</b>		No reply to COC letter		

2021

	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
Nigeria	Letter on reporting issues, including no Annual Report, no notification of designated ports (Rec. 18-09), no Billfish Check Sheet (Rec. 18-05).	<b>Category A</b> <i>Compliance Tables</i> <i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				Letter on reporting issues (including incomplete Annual Report) and implementation of billfish and shark requirements.
		<b>Category B</b>				
		<i>Annual Report</i>		Annual Report incomplete		
		<i>Statistical data</i>				
		<i>Other reports</i>		Claim exemption of billfish and shark requirements on grounds that they do not have targeted/industrial fishery which is an invalid response		
		<b>Category C</b> <i>MCS- species related</i> <i>MCS General</i> <i>Port Controls</i> <i>Vessel Controls</i>				
		<b>Other</b>		No reply to COC letter		

2021						
	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
Norway	No action necessary	<b>Category A</b> <i>Compliance Tables</i> <i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				No action necessary.
		<b>Category B</b> <i>Annual Report</i> <i>Statistical data</i> <i>Other reports</i>				
		<b>Category C</b> <i>MCS- species related</i>				
		<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14	5% scientific observer coverage not achieved as in 2020 the Norwegian Government did not allow national or international observers on board the fishing vessels, due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.	The Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries made a risk assessment in August 2020 for national inspectors/observers, concluding that they would not be allowed on board vessels. The risk assessment concluded that it would be nearly impossible to keep a sufficient distance between the inspector/observer and the rest of the crew. Consequently, having an inspector or observer on board would increase the risk of transmitting Covid-19 to/from the crew on the vessel, and the severe risk of potential life-threatening outcome. However, technicians from the Institute of Marine Research (IMR) sampled BFT's when the BFT's were landed. About 50 % of the BFT's landed in 2020 were sampled. A total number of 395 genetic samples, 359 spines (fin rays) and 163 pair of otoliths have been taken from large specimen in 2020, which are substantially more samples than in 2019. Each vessel was also required to designate one person as a "Non-ROP" and send a detailed activity report to the Directorate of Fisheries every week as long as the vessel was active in the fishery. The Directorate of Fisheries forwarded these reports to the ROP every week. Based on these reports, Norway has been able to gather enough information to complete the ST09 form. Despite observers not being allowed on Norwegian BFT-vessels in 2020, Norway has therefore been able to submit a substantial amount of scientific data to the SCRS.	
		<i>Port Controls</i> <i>Vessel Controls</i>				
<b>Other</b>						

		2021					
	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>	
Panama	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.	<b>Category A</b>  <i>Compliance Tables</i>  <i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>	Rec. 11-11	Compliance tables received late. Overharvest of S. ALB		Letter on recurring reporting issues and overharvest of SALB.	
		<b>Category B</b>  <i>Annual Report</i>		Annual Report received late (14 November 2021)			
		<i>Statistical data</i>		Statistical data received late. No fleet characteristics data received.	We have had many problems arising from COVID-19 but have managed to get most reports in albeit late.		
		<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	Check Sheets received late			
				Rec. 19-02	Some Task 1 of tropical tuna species submitted for 2020 but no corresponding quarterly reports		
				Rec. 16-15	Transshipment reports received late		
		<b>Category C</b> <i>MCS- species related</i>					
		<i>MCS General</i>		Rec. 16-14	Not clear if 5% observer coverage has been reached; ST09 submitted but coverage not indicated.		Panama has more than 5% on purse seine vessels but not on the longline fleet but is currently working to achieve this.
		<i>Port Controls</i>					
		<i>Vessel Controls</i>					No longer flagged to Panama (see PWG-405A)
<b>Other</b>			No response to COC letter				

2021

	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
Philippines	Letter on continued reporting issues, including no annual reports or statistical data three years in a row, while noting receipt of confirmation of zero catch during 2020 proceedings.	<b>Category A</b> <i>Compliance Tables</i> <i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				No action necessary.
		<b>Category B</b> <i>Annual Report</i> <i>Statistical data</i> <i>Other reports</i>				
			Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	Check Sheets received late (30 Sept 2021)		
		<b>Category C</b> <i>MCS- species related</i> <i>MCS General</i> <i>Port Controls</i> <i>Vessel Controls</i>				
		<b>Other</b>				



		2021				
	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
Russia	Letter on late reporting, while noting improvement in reporting compared to previous years.	<b>Category A</b> <i>Compliance Tables</i> <i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				No action necessary.
		<b>Category B</b> <i>Annual Report</i> <i>Statistical data</i>				
		<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 19-02	Some Task 1 of tropical tuna species submitted for 2020 but no corresponding quarterly reports	According to the Rec. 19-02, this requirement applies to countries involved in specialized fishing for tunas. Russia has not conducted a specialized ICCAT fishery after 2009. Russian observers at sea collect materials on tuna fish (99,85% - small tunas) from by-catch of trawls conducted a specialized fishery for horse mackerel, sardine and scomber on the West Africa shelf. In by-catch there are no species such as yellowfin and bigeye tunas. In this regard, we believe that the comment cannot refer to Russia and we kindly ask you to exclude it from the version of COC-308A/2021.	
		<b>Category C</b> <i>MCS- species related</i> <i>MCS General</i> <i>Port Controls</i> <i>Vessel Controls</i>				
		<b>Other</b>				

2021

	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
São Tomé and Príncipe	Letter on reporting issues, while noting improvement from previous years.	<b>Category A</b> <i>Compliance Tables</i> <i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>	Rec. 11-11	No compliance tables received		Letter on significant and recurring reporting issues, noting possibility of identification under Rec. 06-13 on Trade Measures if significant improvements are not made.
		<b>Category B</b> <i>Annual Report</i>		No annual report received		
		<i>Statistical data</i>		No fleet characteristics data received. No Task 2 data received		
		<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	No check sheets received		
			Rec. 19-02	Some Task 1 of tropical tuna species submitted for 2020 but no corresponding quarterly reports		
		<b>Category C</b> <i>MCS- species related</i>  <i>MCS General</i>  <i>Port Controls</i> <i>Vessel Controls</i>	Rec. 16-14	No information on or from scientific observer programme		
		<b>Other</b>		No reply to COC letter		

		2021				
<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>	
Senegal	<p><b>Category A</b></p> <p><i>Compliance Tables</i></p> <p><i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i></p>		Some discrepancies in historic data between Compliance Tables and Task 1. Overharvest of BET 2020	Senegal has taken measures in 2021 to reduce capacity to avoid future overharvests. Regarding discrepancies, Senegal has some concerns regarding the reliability of the methodology being used to estimate Task 1	Letter on reporting issues including historical FAD data, implementation of requirements on national scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14), discrepancies between reported NSWO catch and exports, BET overharvest.	
	<p><b>Category B</b></p> <p><i>Annual Report</i></p> <p><i>Statistical data</i></p> <p><i>Other reports</i></p>	Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	Check sheets received late 29 Sept /1 Oct 2021)	Will try to improve timeliness of reporting in future		
	<p><b>Category C</b></p> <p><i>MCS- species related</i></p>	Rec. 01-21 and 01-22	SDP data for 2020 submitted late (20 Oct 2020 first semester and 1 Sept 2021 for second semester). Apparent discrepancy between reported NSWO catch (10T) and NSWO exported to a single CPC (311 t), which also indicates possible overharvest of NSWO (quota of 225 t)	Senegal experienced some problems with the data base, but this is currently being resolved.		
	<p><i>MCS General</i></p>	Rec. 16-14	Scientific observer programme not yet implemented	See Annual report. In progress, data submission expected next year. The recommendation on minimum conditions for scientific observers has been transposed into national legislation by an Order. Training and establishment of a new team of observers, launch of the process to digitalise the observers report and sheets are in progress, with the support of the JCAP2 project.		
	<p><i>Port Controls</i></p>					
	<p><i>Vessel Controls</i></p>	Rec. 18-08		See PWG-405A, Appendix 5. Mario 11 which is suspected of having carried out IUU activities, has been included in the draft IUU list even though Senegal has provided responses to the Secretariat throughout the ICCAT 2020 correspondence period, and bilaterally with the United States. A request for removal of the vessel concerned from the record of active vessels has been made to the ICCAT Secretariat and obtained. Therefore, Senegal requests removal of its name as the country of nationality of Mario 11 from the 2021 IUU list which only had a provisional nationality.		
	<p><b>Other</b></p>			One vessel on IUU list		No reply to COC letter

2021

	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
Sierra Leone	Letter on late reporting and no scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14)	<b>Category A</b> <i>Compliance Tables</i> <i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>	Rec. 11-11	No compliance tables received	IT issues	Letter on significant and recurring reporting and no scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14), noting possibility of identification under Rec. 06-13 on Trade Measures if significant improvements are not made.
		<b>Category B</b> <i>Annual Report</i> <i>Statistical data</i> <i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	No annual report received No statistical data received No check sheets received	Will soon be sent	
		<b>Category C</b> <i>MCS- species related</i> <i>MCS General</i> <i>Port Controls</i> <i>Vessel Controls</i>	Rec. 16-14	No information on or from scientific observer programme		
		<b>Other</b>		No reply to COC letter		

		2021				
<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance- 2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>	
South Africa	Letter on reporting issues.	<b>Category A</b>		Some differences in historic figures between Compliance tables and Task 1		No action necessary.
		<i>Compliance Tables</i>			There were historical differences between data submitted in the Compliance tables and Task 1, these have however been rectified in collaboration between South Africa and the Secretariat.	
		<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				
		<b>Category B</b>				
		<i>Annual Report</i>				
		<i>Statistical data</i>		Some Task 1 data (confirmation of zero catches for two species) received late. All non-zero catches were reported within the deadline.	All Task 1 data was submitted to the Secretariat on 30/07/2021.	
		<i>Other reports</i>		For billfish check sheets - Confirms prohibition of dead discards but does not provide citation of law/mechanism to prevent marlin from entering commerce		
<b>Category C</b>						
<i>MCS- species related</i>						
<i>MCS General</i>						
<i>Port Controls</i>						
<i>Vessel Controls</i>						
<b>Other</b>						

2021

	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>	
St.Vincent and the Grenadines	Letter on late reporting issues, implementation of requirements for national scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14), late submission of compliance tables, and overharvest.	<b>Category A</b>				Letter on late reporting issues, implementation of requirements for national scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14).	
		<i>Compliance Tables</i>	Rec. 16-16 and Rec. 11-11	Compliance Tables received late (30 Sept 2021). Overharvest of WHM			
		<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>					
		<b>Category B</b>					
		<i>Annual Report</i>					
		<i>Statistical data</i>		No fleet characteristics data received			
		<i>Other reports</i>	18-05 and 18-06	Check sheets submitted late (30 Sept 2021)			
		<b>Category C</b>					
		<i>MCS- species related</i>					
		<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14	No scientific observers deployed in 2020	Possibly due to COVID? See Annual Report Section 4 on observer programme and coverage		
		<i>Port Controls</i>					
		<i>Vessel Controls</i>					
		<b>Other</b>					

		2021				
	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
Syria	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.	<b>Category A</b> <i>Compliance Tables</i>  <i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				Letter on reporting issues including regarding implementation of national scientific observer requirements (Rec. 16-14), while noting request for technical assistance in 2019 COC response letter.
		<b>Category B</b> <i>Annual Report</i> <i>Statistical data</i>  <i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 18-06	Shark check sheet received late (17 Sept 2021)		
		<b>Category C</b> <i>MCS- species related</i>  <i>MCS General</i>  <i>Port Controls</i> <i>Vessel Controls</i>	Rec. 16-14	No information on or from scientific observer programme		
		<b>Other</b>				

2021

	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
Trinidad & Tobago	Letter on reporting issues and implementation of requirements on scientific observer program (16-14).	<b>Category A</b> <i>Compliance Tables</i> <i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>	Rec. 11-11	Overharvest of WHM	Landing of WHM has been prohibited, along with exports since 2017.	Letter on reporting issues, implementation of requirements on scientific observer program (16-14), and WHM, while noting positively all of the actions taken or planned that have been notified to ICCAT.
		<b>Category B</b> <i>Annual Report</i> <i>Statistical data</i> <i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	Annual Report submitted late (17 September 2021)  Check sheets received late (1 Oct 2021)	Slightly late due to some difficulties caused by COVID-19  Late reporting due to a misunderstanding of the requirement this year	
		<b>Category C</b> <i>MCS- species related</i>				
		<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14	No scientific observer programme	See response to COC letter	
		<i>Port Controls</i> <i>Vessel Controls</i>				
		<b>Other</b>			Trinidad & Tobago are currently revising their fisheries legislation which should improve compliance but would welcome any available technical and/or financial assistance. Additional information in response to questions from EU are contained in Appendix 1 to document COC-322.	



		2021				
	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
Tunisia	Letter on reporting issues and implementation of requirements on scientific observer program (16-14).	<b>Category A</b>		Some discrepancies in historical data between compliance tables and Task 1 EBFT	Revised Task 1 data submitted to include by-catch and bring figures in line.	No action necessary.
		<i>Compliance Tables</i>				
		<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				
		<b>Category B</b>				
		<i>Annual Report</i> <i>Statistical data</i> <i>Other reports</i>				
		<b>Category C</b>				
<i>MCS- species related</i> <i>MCS General</i> <i>Port Controls</i>						
<i>Vessel Controls</i>	Rec. 19-04	Six infractions under JIS	See COC-303, Table 2 for more information			
<b>Other</b>	ROP-BFT: PNCs contained in COC-305. Some payments for observer coverage received late					

				2021	
Action 2020	Category (Res 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance- 2021	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2021
Turkey	<b>Category A</b> Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions				No action necessary.
	<b>Category B</b> Annual Report Statistical data				
	<i>Other reports</i>	Rec.18-06	Billfish Check Sheet received late (29 Sept 2021)	In relation to conservation and management measures regarding billfish caught in the ICCAT Convention area; Turkey has no industrial or non-industrial fisheries that interact with billfish, blue marlin or white marlin/spearfish. Turkey notified the issue to Billfish Species Group on 27/08/2019 to get an exemption for the requirement of submission of the Check Sheet for these species. Correspondingly, Billfish Check Sheet / M:BL01 has been reported as Not Applicable since 2019. Notwithstanding, upon Secretariat's request on the subject, an updated Billfish Check Sheet was submitted on 29/09/2021. Turkey's request for an exemption from this reporting obligation that was brought to the agenda in the SCRS in August 2019, is still pending and a clarification/instructions from the relevant subsidiary body are needed on how we should proceed in fulfilling the Check Sheet in each year. As for the details of implementation of and compliance with shark conservation and management measures, Shark Check Sheet / M:SHK05 has been sent on 12/08/2021 without any late submission. Turkey also responded to additional questions from USA with regard to the billfish Check sheet, through document COC-319/2021.	
	<b>Category C</b> MCS- species related MCS General Port Controls				
	<i>Vessel Controls</i>	Rec. 19-04	19 infractions under JIS	Turkey has been informed with these infringements with the related JIS reports by the EU and Tunisia. The reported infringements were related to absence of a pilot ladder on some of the vessels and some of the logbooks not filled. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MoAF) initiated an investigation in respect to each infringement reported by the EU and Tunisian inspectors with an official notification to the concerned operators. The results of investigations/clarifications and actions taken for the reported infringements were submitted in details to the EU, Tunisia and the Secretariat on 23/08/2021. As a result of investigations, depending on the infringement reported, necessary administrative sanctions/fines have been imposed on the related operators in accordance with the Turkish Fisheries Law No.1380, which were deemed necessary by the MoAF. MoAF has thoroughly investigated the operational steps that involve at sea transfer, taggings subsequently, that are relevant to the reported potential infringements. No irregularities were detected in terms of number/weight of fish as to the findings obtained by the Ministerial Inspectors (see COC-303, Table 2 for more information). Additional responses were also provided to questions raised by USA through document 318/2021	
	<b>Other</b>				

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2021

	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance- 2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
United Kingdom	No action necessary	<b>Category A</b> <i>Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				Letter on implementation of national scientific observer requirements (Rec. 16-14), while noting response from UK on challenges and actions planned for certain fisheries.
		<b>Category B</b> <i>Annual Report Statistical data</i>				
		<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	Check Sheets received late (1 Oct 2021)	We apologise for not submitting the Check Sheets by the required deadline. We had not submitted the Check Sheets as there had been no change which required an update to our previous returns and we therefore did not think new versions were required. We responded as soon as we were informed of this gap and had consulted relevant colleagues.	
		<b>Category C</b> <i>MCS- species related</i>				
		<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14	Unclear if 5% observer coverage is being reached (see AR for more information). ST09 submitted with no data.	Currently the relevant UK-OTs do not have national scientific observer programmes due to the challenges posed by the vessel sizes in operation and their remote geography, with associated capacity and resource challenges. COVID-19 has also prohibited the movement of observers internationally in recent times. The UK of course agrees with the principle and importance of observer requirements and for this reason we are currently actively examining options to address this, for example, a Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) trial is starting on St Helena to focus on collecting the scientific data required under Rec. 16-14. We would note that the fishery on St Helena is rod and reel only, with catches landed at a single central location where significant data collection takes place; Bermuda has one longline vessel, which is also trialling an EMS. In addition, the UK-OTs are conducting research through the tuna tagging programme that contributes to AOTTP objectives.	
		<i>Port Controls Vessel Controls</i>				
		<b>Other</b>				

2021						
	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
United States of America	No action necessary	<b>Category A</b>		Some discrepancies between Compliance Tables and Task 1 for BET	The discrepancy between the Task 1/Compliance Tables for bigeye tuna can be explained by the reporting of dead discards. Adding the 11.5 mt of reported dead discards to the Task 1 landings for the United States (804.9 mt) results in the 816 mt value reported in the updated Task 1 tables	No action necessary.
		<i>Compliance Tables</i>				
		<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				
		<b>Category B</b>				
		<i>Annual Report Statistical data Other reports</i>				
		<b>Category C</b>				
<i>MCS- species related MCS General Port Controls Vessel Controls</i>						
<b>Other</b>						

		2021				
	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
Uruguay	No action necessary	<b>Category A</b> <i>Compliance Tables</i> <i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				No action necessary.
		<b>Category B</b> <i>Annual Report</i> <i>Statistical data</i> <i>Other reports</i>				
		<b>Category C</b> <i>MCS- species related</i> <i>MCS General</i> <i>Port Controls</i> <i>Vessel Controls</i>				
		<b>Other</b>				

		2021				
	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
Venezuela	Letter on continued reporting issues, no designated ports submitted (Rec. 18-09), no compliance table received.	<b>Category A</b>				Letter on continued reporting issues and implementation of ICCAT requirements related to turtle bycatch, and national scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14).
		<i>Compliance Tables</i>		Some discrepancies between Compliance Tables and Task 1 data		
		<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				
		<b>Category B</b>				
		<i>Annual Report</i>		Annual report received late (27 Sept 2021)		
		<i>Statistical data</i>				
		<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 05 and Rec. 06	No Check Sheets received		
			Rec. 19-02	Tropical tuna capacity table received late; No fishing plan		
			Rec. 19-02	Some Task 1 of tropical tuna species submitted for 2020 but no corresponding quarterly reports		
		<b>Category C</b>				
		<i>MCS- species related</i>	Rec- 10-09/13-11	Response on measures relating to turtle by-catch does not seem pertinent		
		<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14	No observer programme in 2020, no explanation provided		
		<i>Port Controls</i> <i>Vessel Controls</i>				
<b>Other</b>		No reply to COC letter				

		2021				
	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
Bolivia	Letter on late reporting issues. Cooperating status renewed.	<b>Category A</b> <i>Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				No action necessary.
		<b>Category B</b> <i>Annual Report Statistical data</i>				
		<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 18-05 and Rec. 18-06	Check Sheets received late	Bolivia has no fleet in the Convention area and no ports, but still seeks to improve compliance. Late reporting due to an oversight.	
		<b>Category C</b> <i>MCS- species related MCS General Port Controls Vessel Controls</i>				
		<b>Other</b>				

		2021				
<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>	
Chinese Taipei	No action necessary	<b>Category A</b>				Letter on potential issues with shortfin mako reporting.
		<i>Compliance Tables</i>		Some discrepancies in billfish figures between Compliance Tables and Task 1 data	The reason for such differences might be 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.	
		<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				
		<b>Category B</b> <i>Annual Report Statistical data Other reports</i>				
		<b>Category C</b> <i>MCS- species related MCS General</i>				
		<i>Port Controls</i>	Rec. 18-09	One infraction reported under Port Inspection Scheme	Explanation provided through password protected web site	
		<i>Vessel Controls</i>		Rec. 16-15	PNCs under ROP-transshipment and responses contained in COC-305.	
		<b>Other</b>		Vessel sighting reported by USA	Chinese Taipei has investigated the case and concluded that the vessel complied with ICCAT measures and domestic regulation. The investigation report has been submitted and circulated to CPCs. See also COC-303, Annex 9 for full report of investigation.	



	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance- 2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>	
Costa Rica	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.	<b>Category A</b>				Maintain identification under ICCAT Rec. 06-13 on Trade Measures due to recurring reporting issues, and significant overharvest of ICCAT species, as well as fishing for ICCAT species while under Rec. 11-15 prohibition of retention of ICCAT species, and implementation of ICCAT requirements related to turtle bycatch, and national scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14). Note that continuing non-compliance will have bearing on ICCAT decision whether to renew Costa Rica's Cooperating Non-Party status in future. Also reiterate concern expressed by Chair and COC members about Costa Rica's response to 2020 COC meeting letter reflecting an incorrect interpretation of certain ICCAT requirements as not applying to Costa Rica in its national waters or to vessels under a certain size.	
		<i>Compliance Tables</i>	Recs. 11-11 and 18-07	No compliance tables submitted late. Indication of catches of North albacore, northern swordfish (no quota assigned, but fleet capacity of 764t reported), bigeye, skipjack, yellowfin, blue marlin and blue shark but quantities unknown/not reported. Some differences between compliance tables and Task 1 data.			
		<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>					
		<b>Category B</b>					
		<i>Annual Report</i>	Ref. 12-13 and Rec. 18-07	Annual report received late (24 Sept 2021)	Requests for information were sent to obsolete contact points and not received by the correct authorities		
		<i>Statistical data</i>	Res. 66-01; Rec. 05-09; Rec. 11-15	Statistical data received late and Task 1 incomplete, no catch data included. Could not be processed. No Task 2 data received.	Costa Rica did not report catches as it does not have a Programme of Observers Onboard due to the length of the national fishing fleet. Costa Rica has taken note that they need to send additional information and have an obligation to comply with ICCAT requirements, and will work to improve compliance in the future		
		<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 18-06	Shark check sheet received late (21 Sept 2021)			
		<b>Category C</b>					
		<i>MCS- species related</i>	Rec. 17-02	N. SWO fishing plan received late	Requests for information were sent to obsolete contact points and not received by the correct authorities.		
			Rec- 10-09/13-11	Response on measures relating to turtle by-catch does not seem pertinent			
		<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14	No scientific observer programme implemented.	The vessels involved in the fishery are very small, but would seek some technical assistance to determine alternative measures to collect the data required		
		<i>Port Controls</i>					
		<i>Vessel Controls</i>					
		<b>Other</b>		Letter of prohibition for all species sent 2021; as catch data was not sent (Task 1 form with note: required data not available), prohibition has not been lifted			

2021							
	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>	
Guyana	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.	<b>Category A</b>					
		<i>Compliance Tables</i>	Rec. 11-11	Continued overharvest of BUM, WHM and SWO. Some discrepancies in previous years between Compliance tables and Task 1 data	A cease order was issued on 13 August 2021 to the only operator that fishes for tuna to immediately stop the harvesting of BUM, WHM and SWO. The company has on the same date acknowledge receipt of the cease order and their intentions to comply with the same. The Operator was also warned of the fishing in areas beyond national jurisdiction. The statistical department of ICCAT is being contacted to address discrepancies with stock identification.	Maintain identification due to continued significant overharvest of ICCAT species. Letter to also note continued reporting issues and issues with implementation of ICCAT requirements for a national scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14), and that failure to make improvements could result in future non-renewal of cooperating status, trade restrictive measures, or other actions.	
		<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>					
		<b>Category B</b>					
		<i>Annual Report</i>		Annual report submitted late (17 Sept 2021). Some not - applicable answers without explanation	The previous officer with reporting responsibility to ICCAT retired in Mid-2021. A recently Masters Graduate was assigned to be totally dedicated to deal with ICCAT reporting and all other ICCAT related matters in August 2021.		
		<i>Statistical data</i>		Statistical data received late	Submissions were done along with Annual Report on 17 September 2021 to email: info@iccat.int. The files submitted were: (1) ST01 - T1FC (2) St02 - T2NC (3) BillCkSheet (4) ShkCkSheet.		
		<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	Check sheets received late (1 Oct 2021)	See above		
		<b>Category C</b>					
		<i>MCS- species related</i>					
		<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14	No information on or from scientific observer programmes	A logbook system, Vessel monitoring systems, Cameras and observers were put in place on vessels targeting tunas.		
<i>Port Controls</i> <i>Vessel Controls</i>							
<b>Other</b>							

	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2021</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken in 2021</i>
Suriname	No action necessary	<b>Category A</b> <i>Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				No action necessary.
		<b>Category B</b> <i>Annual Report</i>				
		<i>Statistical data</i>		No Task 2 data received	Revised Task 1 confirming zero catches has been submitted. Because Suriname had no vessels catching tuna and tuna like species in 2020 and the years before which is also stated in our Annual Reports we didn't know it was necessary to send Task 2 data. As detected deficiencies were due to misunderstandings in the requirements, Suriname is now in the process of revising/normalizing the statistics with ICCAT (with the support of the Secretariat)	
		<i>Other reports</i>				
		<b>Category C</b> <i>MCS- species related MCS General Port Controls Vessel Controls</i>				
		<b>Other</b>				

## Addendum 1 to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9

### Additional Responses from EU on Compliance Issues

#### Tarantelo operation

As we have communicated on previous occasions, including in the EU's response of 1 October 2021 to the COC Chair's compliance letter (see COC 309), the EU has addressed the Tarantelo case, as well as the loopholes that the case revealed, at several levels: (i) at EU level in terms of improving EU Member States' legal framework, (ii) at EU level in terms of beefing up controls, (iii) at EU level through the judicial process and (iv) at ICCAT level through the leading role that the EU has endorsed in the revision of the ICCAT rules for the BFT fisheries, notably Recommendation 19-04.

#### *(i) Improving EU Member States' legal framework and compliance*

The European Commission has carried out a series of verifications and audits in all Member States with active BFT farms and traps. The verifications found shortcomings in some of them and as a result, the EU Commission launched an infringement procedure against one Member State and formally asked another Member State to launch an administrative inquiry into its domestic BFT control system. The EU Commission is closely monitoring progress made by these Member States to ensure that control rules are adapted to provide a rigorous and effective control system. This possibility to audit the fisheries control systems in the different EU Member States and take action in cases of non-compliance, are tools that the European Commission has been endowed with to ensure that EU control rules are correctly implemented in the different Member States. Below some examples of improvements triggered by these initiatives in one Member State:

- Provision of seals to cage rings: putting official seals on all transport cages which were attributed with the cage numbers. The objective of this provision is to avoid manipulation or changes in cage numbering.
- Caging Operations: all caging operations are being conducted with both stereoscopic camera systems and also conventional videos underwater. At the time of the operation, officers monitor all the footage. In addition, each stereoscopic footage is analysed by the Department's officials. On a caging-by-caging basis and where a discrepancy of over 10% is identified an investigation is launched accordingly.
- Sealing of cage doors: After each caging operation, each cage door/s is sealed with Authorities' official seals in order to avoid any manipulation of the BFT after caging. These seals are randomly checked at inspections on the farm areas.
- Harvesting Operations: All harvesting operations are conducted under the supervision of the Maltese Authorities officials. Data collected from the harvesting operations is submitted daily to the BFT control team for the purpose of cross-checking of the allowable growth rates and validation of respective sections (Harvest) of the relevant eBCDs. Malta has succeeded in developing a working table whereby growth rates are monitored to the nearest day, i.e. till the day of harvesting.
- Processing Vessels: All reefers entering Malta for the purpose of harvesting operations are issued with an authorisation to harvest following an inspection by DFA officials on the subject vessel. Each reefer vessel must be equipped with a VMS transmitting positions which must be received by the Malta FMC in real time. Each reefer vessel is to be equipped with a CCTV covering the processing area of each vessel. The relevant footage is saved on an external drive. The objective of this provision is to deter any illegal harvesting out of the control period. These footages are then collected by the Maltese Authorities prior to the final departure of the subject vessel.
- All processing vessels present on BFT Farms are inspected at arrival in Malta and prior to initialisation of harvesting operations. Each vessel is again inspected at every entry into port for the purpose of unloading, prior to the unloading operations and also after the concluding of the unloading of the previously harvested BFT into freezer containers.

- Surprise monitoring: The surveillance operations of the Maltese Authorities are not limited only to during scheduled operations, but also includes other checks on all farms within the designated aquaculture area.
- Underwater drones: The Maltese Authorities have acquired underwater drones that will aid in the better underwater control in relation to all farming activities.
- Random Control Transfers. Following the caging season, the Authorities conduct Random Control Transfers in line with the procedures as established within the Annex V of the JDP Decision. In cases where the random control transfers result in discrepancies action is taken.
- Memoranda of Understanding: The Maltese Authorities concluded discussions and signed two Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with the Malta Customs and the Malta Police Force, in 2021.

**(ii) Judicial proceedings**

In the latest update given by the Spanish authorities on the judicial proceedings (October 2021) the authorities informed that the case is in the Central Instruction Court nº 3 under the Nacional Audiencia, the process is still in a pre-trial phase, and that more work still needs to be done at this stage. Once this phase is completed, the Court will begin taking statements from the arrested and accused persons.

The long judicial process is explained by the large scale of the operation, possibly unprecedented in fisheries. There were 29 simultaneous searches of companies and wholesale markets and a dozen fishing societies, distributed in 12 different provinces, with 79 people arrested. This was preceded by several months of previous investigations which included surveillance and interceptions of communications. These are tools which are not normally available for fisheries control, and required a significant effort in terms of resources, but which clearly show the commitment to act when cases of illegal fishing become known to the authorities.

**(iii) Improvements at ICCAT level**

The EU has been the driving force behind the ongoing ambitious revision of Recommendation 19-04, especially as the chair of the BFT Species Group. The EU has made very substantial efforts to identify possible weaknesses in the ICCAT rules that could have made this illegal activity possible, and to identify ways to address them. The background preparation of this revision has represented a very substantial investment in time and resources for the EU and the EU hopes that it will be adopted at the ICCAT annual meeting 2021. After this is adopted, the EU considers that there might still be some room for improvement of the BFT rules. The EU is considering other avenues to even further strengthen them in the months to come, for instance by amending the list of serious infringements to include farming and associated activities.

**(iv) Strengthening control at EU and EU Member States' level**

As has already been reported, procedures have been established in the Mediterranean and Eastern Atlantic Joint Deployment Plan (JDP) and in particular its Annex V (Specific control procedures for the BFT fishery), which includes procedures which go beyond the current ICCAT requirements. The JDP is the EU instrument to ensure coordination and harmonization of control and inspection activities in the EU by Member States, with the involvement of the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA).

Among the measures adopted in the above-mentioned Annex are:

- the sealing with official seals of all farm cages containing BFT;
- standard operational procedures for the control of caging operations,
- protocols for the conduct of investigations when discrepancies are found, including its follow-up in case discrepancies are confirmed,
- protocols for collaboration and exchange of information between Member States;
- minimum standards and protocols for the conduct of random controls and carry-over assessments, including measures for their follow-up.

Lastly, we would like to point out that the relative figures quoted by the United States seem to be very improbable estimates (*estimates placing the annual illegal catch at double those of legal limits*). We are aware that there have been contradictory figures given in press releases about the operation, but the initial and preliminary estimate by the Guardia Civil and Interpol during the investigation was 2,500 tonnes. This estimate should be taken with caution as well as it is a rough estimate disclosed by the authorities at the beginning of the operation and have not been confirmed. The EU notes however that this figure is significant but is substantially smaller than the quantities legally caught and sold (the EU BFT quota for 2018 was 15,850 tonnes and the EU farms, and in particular Malta, receive a significant amount of tuna from other CPCs).

The EU will keep informing ICCAT of developments in the investigation as soon as details can be made public or rulings are issued in the cases that are before the courts. Until then, it is not possible to accurately estimate the scope and extent of the smuggling operation.

## **Working Group for the Development of an Online Reporting System – 2021 Status Report**

### **Overview of Working Group Activities for 2021**

During 2021, the ICCAT Secretariat continued progress in the development of the Integrated Online Management System (IOMS), completing Phase 1 (IOMS database, IOMS core application, and IOMS annual report Part I/Annex 1 and Part II/Section 3). The most up-to-date version of IOMS was released into production and announced in ICCAT Circular #5773/21. In that circular, ICCAT CPCs were encouraged to use IOMS to submit Part I/Annex 1 and Part II/Section of the 2021 Annual Report. By the end of September 2021, three CPCs submitted Part I/Annex 1 and four CPCs submitted Part II/Section 3 of the 2021 Annual Report using IOMS with the support of the Secretariat. The Secretariat is considering further enhancements, including additional standardized responses for specific data fields, to resolve problems identified during this experimental year.

The Technical Working Group on Online Reporting met virtually 16-18 February 2021 to review progress on the development of the IOMS and provide input on its continued development and release into production. The report from the meeting is available as [COC-306/2021](#). With Phase 1 complete, the Working Group approved the following Phase 2 and 3 activities in priority order<sup>1</sup>:

#### **Phase 2:**

- Dynamic help system;
- Module 1: Vessel record manager;
- Module 2: Port authorization manager;
- Workshop sessions.

#### **Phase 3 to commence in June 2022:**

- Module 1: Task 1 nominal catches manager;
- Module 2: Compliance tables manager;
- Module 3: Statistical documents manager (Swordfish and Bigeye);
- Module 4: Bluefin tuna (weekly and monthly) catches manager.

The IOMS development team is now continuing work on Phase 2 as agreed to by the Working Group and outlined in its revised workplan (**Addendum 1 to Appendix 6 to ANNEX 9**). Since March 2021, the list of identified bugs and proposed enhancements have been addressed by the Secretariat and the IOMS was released in production as planned (1 August 2021). Since the IOMS release, the Secretariat has been working with the CPCs to integrate the 2021 Annual Reports (Part I/Annex 1 and Part II/Section 3) submitted in Word into the IOMS. The Secretariat is also adapting the 2018, 2019 and 2020 Annual Reports for upload into the IOMS. This task has suffered some delay due to the complexity of transforming older structures of the annual reports into the current IOMS structures. Both tasks are expected to be completed by the 2021 Commission annual meeting.

The Working Group proposed repealing and replacing *Recommendation by ICCAT to Continue the Development of an Online Reporting System* [Rec. 19-12] [see [COC\\_313/21](#)] to allow the Working Group to remain active and continue its work identified in its workplan, until such time as the Commission decides otherwise.

### **Proposed 2022-2023 Budget**

During the 26th Regular meeting of ICCAT in 2019, the Commission agreed to provide funding for 2020-2021 the continued development of the IOMS consistent with the recommendation of the Online Reporting Working Group. This line item has again been included in the draft 2022-23 regular budget of the Commission, which the Secretariat circulated 28 July 2021. The STACFAD will address this item, and additional details for the IOMS Phase 3 development are included in **Addendum 2 to Appendix 6 to ANNEX 9**.

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<sup>1</sup> NOTE: An error in the text under Item 7 of the WG-TOR report ([COC-306/2021](#)) incorrectly placed the port authorization module in Phase 3. It will occur in Phase 2, as correctly identified in the workplan in the report's Annex 3 and in Addendum 1 of this document.

## Addendum 1 to Appendix 6 to ANNEX 9

## IOMS revised workplan, covering the ongoing and future development phases

Phase	Priority	Module/ Task	Description	Data requirements	Develop. State	RefDateEnd	Budget	Remarks
1	1	Module	IOMS core/databas e	n/a	COMPLETE	2021-08-01	COM	Completed (Under IOMS general maintenance only).
1	2	Module	IOMS annual report (Part II/Section 3, Part I /Annex 1)	S:GEN01, M:GEN01	COMPLETE	2021-08-01	COM	Completed (Under IOMS general maintenance only).
1	3	Task	IOMS in production		COMPLETE	2021-08-01	COM	Completed (Under IOMS general maintenance only).
1	1	Task	Training workshop sessions		n/a	TBD	COM	Postponed to 2022 (for further WG-TOR discussion in 2022)
2	1	Module	Dynamic Help system (module)	n/a	Implementati on / Content	2022-03-31	CPC	12 months
2	1	Module	ICCAT Vessel Manager	Up to 21 data requirements (Vessel registration, 11 authorisation lists, carriers, chartering arrangements, transshipment authorizations , previous year activity, etc.)	Design / Implementati on	2022-03-31	COM	Restart Oct/2021 (6-month dev.). Will require additional time, depending on the functionalities prioritized (to be decided by the WG-TOR in 2022).
2	2	Module	Port Manager	M:BFT21, M:SWO10	Analysis	2022-05-31	COM	Planned (2 months dev.)
2	1	Task	Workshop sessions		n/a	TBD	COM	Planned (for Vessel record in production).
3	1	Module	T1NC (nominal catches) manager	S:GEN03	Planning			Start (pending study on time required)
3	2	Module	Compliance tables manager	M:GEN03	Planning			Start (pending study on time required)
3	3	Module	SDP programs (SWO, BET)	M:TRO06, M:SWO01	Planning			Possible postponed to Phase 4 (depending on Vessel manager module)
3	4	Module	Bluefin tuna (BFT) weekly and monthly reports Manager	M:BFT22, M:BFT23  (M:TRO14 weekly BET)	Planning			Possible postponed to Phase 4 (Depending on Vessel manager module)
4	...	...	Future phases/tasks to be determined/proposed by the WG-TOR.					



## Addendum 2 to Appendix 6 to ANNEX 9

## Information on the IOMS Phase 3 development planned for the two-year period 2022-2023

**Table 1.** Description of the projects (modules, enhancements, tasks) planned for the IOMS Phase 3.

<i>Project</i>	<i>Proposed outcome</i>	<i>Indicative Timing</i>
<b>Module 1 - Task 1 Nominal Catches (T1NC) manager</b>	To handle the CPC submissions of Task 1 nominal catches (T1NC, yearly total catches estimations in live weight, dead discards, live discards and alive BFT catches transferred to farms. Information will be provided in standard formats).	8 months
<b>Module 2 - Compliance tables manager</b>	To manage information on the ICCAT Compliance reporting tables (M:GEN03), with respect to last year's catches with balances and adjusted quota where applicable as well as percentage of undersized fish and over-underage. This information will be provided in standard formats.	5 months
<b>Module 3 - Statistical Document Programs (SDP) for SWO and BET</b>	To collect and administer the bi-annual statistical document program submissions of importing data.	4 months
<b>Module 4 - Bluefin tuna (BFT) weekly and monthly reports manager</b>	To manage CPC submissions on Bluefin tuna monthly and weekly catch reports.	7 months

**Table 2.** Estimations of the consolidated budget for the IOMS Phase 3 development.

<i>Work Component</i>	<i>Development Time (months)</i>	<i>Estimated cost (€)</i>
Module 1	8	110,000
Module 2	5	70,000
Module 3	4	55,000
Module 4	7	100,000
Testing and Integration	*	25,300
Infrastructure	*	25,800
Capacity building	**	23,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>409,600</b>

\* Indicates continuous work over the budget cycle 2022-2023.

\*\* The Working Group will identify specific activities such as trainings, manuals, webinars, etc., in 2022.

The budget for 2024/25 (IOMS Phase 4 and beyond) will be presented in 2023, together with a list of priority items for continued development of reporting modules.

**Appendix 7 to ANNEX 9****Working Paper on Draft Schedule of Actions: Severity of types of non-compliance with specific ICCAT provisions**

Res. 16-17 stipulates that: *To facilitate CPCs' comprehensive understanding of what constitutes minor or significant non-compliance in the context of existing Recommendations, the COC will develop a reference document, including a simple summary or table that lists the level of severity of types of non-compliance with specific ICCAT provisions, understanding that mitigating and aggravating considerations will also be taken into account as specified above.*

No timeframe for the development of the above-mentioned document was indicated, and to date the COC has not yet done this.

In order to facilitate the drafting of the document, the Secretariat, in consultation with the COC Chair, has drawn up a brief "severity table" for consideration by CPCs, as attached. The Compliance Committee may wish to consider additional actions, such as recommending priority for technical assistance or 'compliance missions'. While each case would need to be evaluated before final decision, the schedule below is intended to provide some guidance to the Committee and ensure coherence among cases and over time.

**Draft severity schedule and corresponding actions to be taken**

PNC = Potential non-compliance

M = Minor non-compliance

S = Significant non-compliance

	Type of PNC issue	Severity	Warranted Action by COC	Mitigating circumstances	Aggravating circumstances
Category A	Catches/landings exceed limits required by ICCAT	Year 1 = M Subsequent years = S	<p>1. Year 1 – ensure required payback is reflected in adopted compliance table; request that the CPC rectify the overage within 2 years and submission of action plan.</p> <p>2. Subsequent years – <b>Identification</b></p> <p>3. If no rectification after 2 years, consider whether to recommend ICCAT responsive actions in accordance with para 6 of <i>Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures (06-13)</i><sup>2</sup></p> <p>4. All years: consider capacity building and technical assistance options to recommend/facilitate</p>	Degree of overharvest; demonstrated actions to prevent reoccurrence, including reduction in future years, monitoring and enforcement actions, strengthened laws and regulations	Continued failure to take corrective action; degree of overharvest; increasing level of overharvests
	Failure to adhere to fleet size or other capacity limitation required by ICCAT	Year 1 = M Subsequent years = S	<p>1. Year 1, request rectification and submission of action plan</p> <p>2. Subsequent years – <b>Identification</b></p> <p>3. Year 2 – In coordination with relevant Panel, consider recommending adoption by ICCAT of additional fishery restrictions</p> <p>4. Year 3 – If no rectification after 3 years, consider whether to recommend</p>	Degree of overcapacity; demonstrated implementation of capacity reduction plan	Repeated or frequent; degree of overcapacity

<sup>2</sup> Rec. 06-13 para 6, in the pertinent part, provides “In the case of CPCs, actions such as the reduction of existing quotas or catch limits should be implemented to the extent possible before consideration is given to the application of trade restrictive measures. Trade measures should be considered only where such actions either have proven unsuccessful or would not be effective.”

	Type of PNC issue	Severity	Warranted Action by COC	Mitigating circumstances	Aggravating circumstances
			ICCAT responsive actions in accordance with para. 6 of <i>Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures (06-13)</i> .		
	Failure to implement time/area closures	Year 1 = M Subsequent years = S	1. Year 1, request rectification 2. Year 2 – <b>Identification;</b> in coordination with relevant Panel, consider recommending adoption by ICCAT of additional fishery restrictions 3. Year 3 – Consider whether to recommend ICCAT responsive actions in accordance with para 6 of <i>Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures (06-13)</i>	None	Repeated or frequent
	Failure to implement minimum size restrictions	Year 1 = M Subsequent years = S	1. Year 1, request rectification 2. Year 2 – <b>Identification;</b> in coordination with relevant Panel, consider recommending that ICCAT impose enhanced MCS requirements 3. Year 3 – Consider whether to recommend ICCAT responsive actions in accordance with para 6 of <i>Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures (06-13)</i>	None	Repeated or frequent and proportion of catch under minimum size
	Failure to implement gear restrictions/requirements/limitations, and/or safe handling and release requirements	Year 1 = M Subsequent years = S	1. Year 1, request rectification 2. Year 2 – <b>Identification;</b> in coordination with relevant Panel, consider imposing enhanced MCS requirements	None	Repeated or frequent

	Type of PNC issue	Severity	Warranted Action by COC	Mitigating circumstances	Aggravating circumstances
			and/or temporary quota reductions 3. Year 3 - Consider whether to recommend ICCAT responsive actions in accordance with para 6 of <i>Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures (06-13)</i> .		
Category B	Failure to report statistical and other required data	S	1. Year 1 = Request rectification 2. Year 2 = <b>Identification;</b> requirement to submit a data improvement and/or reporting plan with required reporting on implementation 3. Year 3 = Limitations on or loss of right to implement certain ICCAT recommendations, such as to charter or conduct at sea transshipment. 4. If no improvement after 4 years, consider whether to recommend ICCAT responsive actions in accordance with para 6 of <i>Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures (06-13)</i>	Advance notification of delay or inability to submit the report may be considered by COC. Request for technical assistance has been made but could not be met; minimal impact on the SCRS's or Commission's ability to carry out needed work	Repeated or frequent, lack of corrective action, no response to requests for data or COC Chair's letters; significant impact on the SCRS's or Commission's ability to carry out needed work or ensure intersessional compliance with measures
	Delay in reporting statistical and other required data	If delay is short = M If recurring over several years or delay is significant (e.g., information submitted during meeting) = S	1. Year 1 = Request rectification 2. Year 2 = <b>Identification;</b> requirement to submit a data improvement and/or reporting plan with required reporting on implementation 3. Year 3 = Limitations on or Loss of right to implement certain ICCAT recommendations, such as to charter or conduct at sea transshipment.	Major problems in communication occurred due to <i>force majeure</i> . First instance of failure to correctly apply the requirement, due to confusion, particularly if reporting date has recently changed; minimal impact	Repeated or frequent, lack of corrective action, no response to requests for data or COC Chair's letters; Significant impact on the SCRS's or Commission's ability to carry out needed work or ensure intersessional

	Type of PNC issue	Severity	Warranted Action by COC	Mitigating circumstances	Aggravating circumstances
			4. If no improvement after 4 years, consider whether to recommend ICCAT responsive actions in accordance with para 6 of <i>Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures (06-13)</i>	on the SCRS's or Commission's ability to carry out needed work	compliance with measure
	Failure to submit reports	Severity will depend on type and number of reports not submitted. Annual Report = S Other reports may be M unless recurring	1. Year 1 = Request rectification 2. Year 2 = <b>Identification;</b> requirement to submit a data improvement and/or reporting plan with required reporting on implementation 3. Year 3 = Limitations on or loss of right to implement certain ICCAT recommendations, such as to charter or conduct at sea transshipment. 4. If no improvement after 4 years, consider whether to recommend ICCAT responsive actions in accordance with para 6 of <i>Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures (06-13)</i>	Advance notification of delay or inability to submit the report may be considered by COC	Repeated or frequent, lack of corrective action, no response to requests for data or COC Chair's letters; Significant impact on the SCRS's or Commission's ability to carry out needed work or ensure intersessional compliance with measures
	Delay in submitting reports	If delay is short = M If recurring over several years or delay is significant (e.g., information submitted during meeting) = S	1. Year 1 = Request rectification 2. Year 2 = requirement to submit an action plan on improved reporting 3. Year 2 and subsequent = Possible identification, depending on gravity and extent of late reporting	Major problems in communication occurred due to <i>force majeure</i> . First instance of failure to correctly apply the requirement, due to confusion, particularly if reporting date has recently changed	Repeated or frequent, lack of corrective action, no response to requests for data or COC Chair's letters; Significant impact on the SCRS's or Commission's ability to carry out needed work or ensure intersessional compliance with measures.

	Type of PNC issue	Severity	Warranted Action by COC	Mitigating circumstances	Aggravating circumstances
Category C	Failure to implement MCS measures	Year 1 = M, Subsequent years = S	<p>1. Year 1 = Request rectification</p> <p>2. Year 2 and subsequent: <b>Identification</b> and consideration of limitations on or loss of right to implement certain ICCAT Recommendations related to MSC measures.</p> <p>3. Year 3 and subsequent = Consider whether to recommend ICCAT responsive actions in accordance with para 6 of <i>Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures (06-13)</i></p> <p>4. All years: consider capacity building and technical assistance options to recommend/facilitate</p>	<p>MCS measure requires major investment of resources or technology not available to the CPC.</p> <p>Transparency regarding implementation challenges. Request for technical assistance has been made but could not be met</p>	<p>Repeated or frequent, lack of corrective action, no response to requests for data or COC Chair's letters. Lack of transparency regarding implementation challenges.</p>
	Failure to exercise port CPC controls	Year 1 = M, Subsequent years = S	<p>1. Year 1 = Request rectification</p> <p>2. Year 2 and subsequent = <b>Identification.</b> Year 2 = Request submission of a plan of action to implement the provisions of the relevant Recommendation(s)</p> <p>3. Year 3 and subsequent = Consider whether to recommend ICCAT responsive actions in accordance with para 6 of <i>Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures (06-13)</i></p> <p>4. All years: consider capacity</p>	<p>MCS measure requires major investment of resources or technology not available to the CPC.</p> <p>Transparency regarding implementation challenges. Request for technical assistance has been made but could not be met</p>	<p>Repeated or frequent, lack of corrective action, no response to requests for data or COC Chair.s letters. Lack of transparency regarding implementation challenges.</p>

	Type of PNC issue	Severity	Warranted Action by COC	Mitigating circumstances	Aggravating circumstances
			building and technical assistance options to recommend/facilitate		
	Failure to exercise flag CPC controls	Year 1 = M, Subsequent years = S	1. Year 1 = Request rectification 2. Year 2 = <b>Identification</b> ; request submission of a plan of action to implement the provisions of the relevant Recommendation(s) with the intent of rectifying the failure 3. Year 3= Consider whether to recommend ICCAT responsive actions in accordance with para 6 of <i>Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures</i> (06-13) 4. All years: consider capacity building and technical assistance options to recommend/facilitate	None (CPCs should not authorize vessels to participate in ICCAT fisheries if they cannot fulfil their obligations as flag CPC)	Repeated or frequent, systematic failure to control fleet, lack of corrective action, no response to requests for data or COC Chair's letters

#### Appendix 8 to ANNEX 9

##### Statement by the EU on the “Working Paper on Draft Schedule of Actions: Severity of types of non-compliance with specific ICCAT provisions” (COC-307)

We would like to welcome again this initiative of the Chair of the Compliance Committee (COC) which we consider important as it has the potential to improve the work and effectiveness of the COC. This document will contribute to promoting the implementation and enforcement of the ICCAT rules and also to improve the level playing field between the different CPCs.

We have already commented on the first version (“*Working paper on draft schedule of actions: Severity of types of non-compliance with specific ICCAT provisions*” COC-307). We thank the Chair of the COC for incorporating into the revised document (latest is COC-307B) several of the oral comments we made during the first COC session and note below some additional, still preliminary, comments.

- The Resolution indicates that non-compliance can range from minor to significant. We see this as providing elbow room to have levels between the two extremes in particular within the minor category. This scale could be broken down into a limited number of additional non-compliance levels;
- All non-compliance cases under category A have similar warranted action by the COC, while we think that the first two (overfishing and exceeding fleet capacity) are more serious as they may have greater impact on the stock and therefore should trigger stronger action than the others. In addition, this category provides objective indicators of non-compliance. It would be easier to take action on them.



- In contrast, the three other types of non-compliance issues in category A are related to technical measures (closed areas or periods, minimum size, fishing gear) and should in our opinion lead to less, relatively, severe actions.
- The measure for an action plan contemplated in category B “reporting”, could be appropriate also for the technical measures under category A. In addition, mitigating measures could be also considered here (e.g. in the case of not enforcing closed areas, that the CPC is in the process of implementing a VMS system or an effective FMC).
- The difference between failure to report and delays in reporting, the latter being a less serious non-compliance, has been considered, but only for reports and not for statistical data; we would like to understand the reasons behind. A quantification here might be necessary in terms of magnitude (how many reports, how important, how long the delay, etc.).
- The difference between the three components of category C is not clear and should be clarified.
- On the layout of the proposal, we would like to recall that Resolution 16-17 lays down a 2-step approach. In the first step the non-compliance is determined and in the second step both mitigating and aggravating considerations are taken into account to determine the significance of non-compliance. In this regard we suggest that the columns with these elements are moved before the column with an indication on the severity. The severity would then have to reflect the effects of these considerations on the assessment and therefore should foresee different outcomes.

## Appendix 9 to ANNEX 9

### Statement by Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW) to COC

The Pew Charitable Trusts appreciates the efforts of the Secretariat and Compliance Committee (COC) to convene a two-day session of the COC this year. We recognize that the COC agenda is full, compounded by the cancellation of the 2020 meetings. As such, we encourage the COC to prioritize the below items to ensure progress is made to improve the likelihood CPCs and their fleets are complying with ICCAT Recommendations.

Over the past year, Pew and ISSF jointly convened compliance experts from around the globe through a series of workshops to discuss constructive ways RFMOs could improve overall compliance with adopted measures (as reported [here](#)). *We encourage ICCAT to consider the recommendations of these workshops, including adoption of improved compliance data collection, information management, and reporting, in addition to development of tools to improve RFMO compliance, which has particular relevance to this year’s COC meeting.*

As laid out in the workshops, a tool that ranks the severity of non-compliance in the context of existing ICCAT Recommendations would be an important step towards delineating minor versus significant infractions and would assist the Commission in allocating its limited resources to address non-compliance. We appreciate the positive step outlined in Res. 16-17 to develop a reference document and ranking table of infractions. *However, we urge COC to endorse the concept of a “severity table” as embodied in the Chair’s paper (see [COC\\_307](#)) and agrees to formulate a workplan with set timelines to ensure this work progresses in a reasonable timeframe.*

At the same time, it is also necessary for the Commission and COC to better understand the reasons for non-compliance at the CPC level so that responses can be tailored accordingly. In some instances, non-compliance may occur due to genuine capacity challenges highlighting the need for greater assistance from the Commission, whereas in other cases, a targeted response is warranted due to insufficient justification for non-compliance. *We therefore recommend that ICCAT develops ways to better understand the underlying reasons for non-compliant CPCs, in order to design appropriate tools to improve CPC compliance.*

These measures would greatly improve the transparency, predictability, and consistency of ICCAT’s compliance review process and its responses to non-compliance. And, by helping to ensure agreed conservation measures are followed, they would ultimately support ICCAT’s mandate to ensure the sustainability of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean.

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

### 1. Opening of the meeting

The Chair of the Permanent Working Group (PWG), Mr. Neil Ansell (European Union), opened the meeting and welcomed the delegates.

### 2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The Chair indicated that in the absence of any CPC volunteering to provide a rapporteur, the Chair would work with the Secretariat to compile the report.

### 3. Adoption of the Agenda

Following some slight modification, the Agenda was adopted and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 10**.

The Chair explained that those Agenda items with active proposals and/or documents would be prioritized. To capitalize on the time available and modalities of the meeting the Chair proposed to CPCs that proposals would be introduced chronologically and then revisited as they correspond to the appropriate Agenda items.

### 4. Review of the Report of the 14th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) and consideration of any necessary actions

The Chair introduced the [Report of the 14th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures \(IMM\) \(Online, 14-17 June 2021\)](#).

The Chair informed the Group that the IMM meeting was attended by 22 CPCs and 7 observers. He provided an overview of the main discussions that took place noting that three draft proposals had been endorsed by IMM for consideration by PWG and would be discussed under the relevant Agenda items. In addition, several other proposals which had been discussed but on which agreement had not been reached had been presented with modifications for consideration by PWG.

The Group recommended that the report be forwarded to the Plenary for adoption.

### 5. Consideration of the effectiveness and practical aspects of implementation of:

#### 5.1 *Catch Documentation and Statistical Document Programs*

##### *eBCD program and technical considerations*

The Chair brought to the attention of the PWG to the [Report of the Technical Working Group on electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document Scheme \(eBCD-TWG\) \(Online, 8-9 June 2021\)](#). This meeting was held back-to-back with the IMM meeting.

He noted that in general the system was being fully implemented with no significant issues reported. He went on to summarize a number of points that were highlighted by the eBCD-TWG as needing particular discussion by the IMM/PWG. Although some were dealt with by IMM, further deliberations would be needed in 2022, and he suggested that the TWG meet in early 2022 to continue their work. He also noted that the TWG may also be tasked to look at issues that could arise considering the ongoing review of the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 19-04 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean* (Rec. 20-07). He thanked the ongoing support of TRAGSA and the Secretariat on the full implementation of the programme.

### *European Union (EU) derogation*

The European Union (EU) presented a “Report on the implementation of the derogation to validate BCDs for trades of BFT between Member States of the EU in 2020 (Paragraph 5b and 5d of the *Recommendation by ICCAT to amend Recommendation 18-12 on the application of the eBCD System, Rec. 20-08*)” (**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10**).

The United States thanked the EU for its report and noted that in the report presented the previous year containing 2019 data, a section on Others had appeared (“non-EU member States”) but was not included in the current report containing 2020 data. In addition, the United States noted that the EU had indicated that there were no infringements relating to traceability of bluefin tuna products and asked the EU to confirm whether there were any transactions following verifications that were not in accordance with the required conservation and management measures.

Regarding the Other category, the EU responded that the report submitted in 2021 considered all the commercial operations but indeed was more focused on the major Member States involved in the trade of E-BFT. Regarding the verification and the identification of the percentage of transactions outside of the eBCD system, the EU noted that the objective focused on whether products were consistent with the accompanied documents in order to detect inconsistencies.

It was noted by the Chair that in accordance with Rec. 20-08, the possible extension of this derogation was due to be reviewed in 2021. The Chair went on to put forward a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to amend Rec. 20-08 on the application of the eBCD System” with a view to extending this derogation into 2022 until such time as a full debate on the issue could be undertaken by the PWG. There was an agreement for this to be presented to plenary for adoption. The EU noted its interest in pursuing a more permanent arrangement in the future.

Norway tabled a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to amend Recommendation 18-13 by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 11-20 on an ICCAT bluefin tuna catch documentation program”. Norway explained that this text sought to clarify the existing measure, in particular that trades of consignments of E-BFT in excess of individual quotas was possible on the condition that i) CPCs take the necessary measures to prevent catch which is over its total allowable catch (TAC) being exported to other CPCs and ii) the value of traded fish is subject to confiscation. With a small editorial change, there was an agreement for the revised proposal to be forwarded to plenary for adoption.

### *Statistical and Catch Documentation Programs*

The Chair stated that there had been several exchanges in recent years in IMM/PWG regarding ICCAT Statistical Document Programs (SDPs), noting in particular those for swordfish and bigeye tuna adopted in 2001, and there had been a strong interest by some CPCs for these measures to be updated and/or replaced by Catch Document Scheme(s) (CDS).

Japan presented a “Draft Resolution by ICCAT Establishing an ICCAT Working Group on Catch Document Scheme” which aimed to establish a Working Group tasked with determining whether additional catch document scheme(s) would be needed and, if so, for which species and their objectives and scope. Although related in technical aspects, Japan noted that the work of the new group would be distinct from that of the eBCD-TWG. Morocco underlined the link with the experiences and work of the eBCD-TWG and suggested that the meeting of the future Working Group be held, if possible, back-to-back with the eBCD-TWG to ensure complementary dialogue and exchange of experience.

There was general support for the proposal although it was agreed that the date of the first meeting would have to be determined at the Plenary session in the context of the overall meeting schedule for 2022. Additional language to reflect these points was included in the draft which the PWG agreed to forward to Plenary for adoption.

## **5.2 Observer Programs**

Following on from discussion at the IMM meeting, the EU presented the “Draft Resolution by ICCAT establishing a pilot project for the implementation of Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) on bluefin tuna

processing vessels”, underlining the rationale for the initiative being that the majority of the eastern bluefin tuna passed through processing vessels and, hence, represented a critical link in the control chain, including potential means of verifying the number of fish as well as estimates of their size and weight. The EU stressed that the proposal contemplated a pilot project which could be undertaken on a voluntary basis and was not intended to introduce binding measures and/or a requirement to participate. They also presented and noted the direct link with the “Draft Resolution for the establishment of a Working Group in the International Commission on the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) on the use of Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS-WG)”. They went on to explain that the potential new EMS Working Group would monitor the progress of the Pilot Project and ICCAT could capitalize on the use of the results and lessons learned from the Pilot Project in their future discussions in this area. The EU believed that following the discussions in IMM and the widespread support for this initiative, the work of the EMS-WG should be initiated as soon as possible.

The United States presented some useful suggestions to the text, including concerning the Chairmanship of the EMS-WG and its focus. Japan noted that while they did not oppose the Pilot Project on bluefin tuna processing vessels they would not directly participate in the Pilot Project on REM on bluefin tuna processing vessels.

There was an agreement for both proposals to be forwarded to plenary for adoption.

### ***5.3 At-sea and in-port transshipment requirements***

The United States presented a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on transshipment”, which they explained aimed at addressing weaknesses in the current measure, including by phasing out the use of non-CPC flagged carrier vessels, introducing reporting requirements on supplying activities, ensuring that only longliners with IMO numbers could transship, requiring centralized VMS and establishing an international boarding and inspection scheme. The measure also incorporated requirements for access by observers to adequate safety equipment. The United States referred to the fruitful discussions which had already taken place in IMM and thanked those CPCs who had engaged with them bilaterally to improve the measure.

There was general support for the proposal, although there was some opposition. Following extensive discussions on the substance and after some substantial changes to the text, the revised proposal was agreed and forwarded to the plenary for adoption.

### ***5.4 Rules for chartering and other fishing arrangements***

The Chair noted that a summary of chartering arrangements and associated reports from CPCs as well as information on access agreements have been compiled in the Secretariat’s Report to the ICCAT Conservation and Management Compliance Committee. PWG did not discuss any specific point under this Agenda item.

### ***5.5 At-sea vessel sighting and inspection programs***

A “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for a Joint International Inspection Scheme (JIS) in the Western Atlantic” was put forward by Canada. Canada explained that the proposed scheme sought inspiration from and was similar to the JISs currently being operated in the eastern Atlantic bluefin and Mediterranean swordfish fisheries although the proposal would not be limited to any particular ICCAT stock in the western Atlantic.

Some CPCs noted their support for the proposal and further, their preference for an ocean- wide JIS covering all species under the remit of ICCAT. There was broad support for the proposal although a few CPCs expressed reservations. One CPC indicated that it considered the proposal inconsistent with the provisions of the ICCAT Convention and believed that such a scheme was premature. It was noted by others that such a scheme had been previously agreed by the Commission in 1975, and, therefore, no inconsistency with the Convention existed.

A revised proposal was produced but no consensus was reached and some CPCs expressed their desire to continue discussions on this subject intersessionally in 2022.

### **5.6 Port inspection schemes and other port State measures**

The Chair reminded the Group of the response provided to the FAO on ICCAT's implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA). The Chair thanked CPCs, in particular Norway, for assisting in the drafting, and reported that the final response submitted to the PSMA Secretariat had already been circulated.

Norway noted that, pursuant to paragraph 1 of the *Resolution by ICCAT on harmonization and improved observer safety* (Res. 19-16), the Commission was asked to evaluate 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. They informed the Group that while the report from this Working Group was delayed, it was now published on the FAO website. The Chair thanked Norway for this information and suggested that the IMM consider this point in 2022 in accordance with the provision in Res. 19-16.

The Chair of the Port Inspection Expert Group on Capacity Building and Assistance (PIEG) presented a brief update on the work of the Group and the ICCAT Training Module which had been developed by an external agency. Several CPCs expressed their support for this work and, while recognizing the value of onsite country assessments and trainings, noted that some progress could be made virtually in the meantime. As a result, the PWG recommended that the Commission facilitate an online meeting of the Group in 2022 with a view to facilitating more in person country assessments and trainings as soon as the pandemic allowed.

### **5.7 Vessel listing requirements**

A "Draft Recommendation amending Recommendation 13-13 by ICCAT concerning the establishment of an ICCAT record of vessels 20 metres in length overall or greater authorized to operate in the Convention area" was jointly tabled by the European Union and the United States. The EU explained that this measure sought to clarify several improvements already discussed in 2021 as well as the broadening of the scope of the measure to include species taken in association with tuna and tuna-like species. Such a broadening would bring the language into consistency with other ICCAT instruments, such as ICCAT's recommendation on transshipment.

There was consensus within the PWG to forward the proposal to plenary for adoption.

### **5.8 Vessel Monitoring Satellite (VMS) System requirements**

The Chair noted that the fields for inclusion in the transmission and exchange of VMS messages relating to bluefin tuna vessels had been adopted in 2007 (*Recommendation by ICCAT concerning data exchange format and protocol in relation to the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for the bluefin tuna fishery in the ICCAT Convention area*, Rec. 07-08) and that there had been many developments since requiring this measure to be updated. Following discussion with the Secretariat a proposal had been agreed at the IMM Working Group and was now presented to the PWG as the "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation by ICCAT concerning data exchange format and protocol in relation to the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for the bluefin tuna fishery in the ICCAT Convention area".

The Chair thanked the Secretariat for its initiative and work in this regard. The proposal was agreed by the Group and forwarded to plenary for adoption.

### **5.9 Flag State responsibilities**

A "Draft Resolution by ICCAT establishing a process to address the use of forced labor in ICCAT fisheries" was presented by the United States, who underlined that this practice contributed to unfair competition and IUU fishing and ICCAT should consider what could be done, individually and collectively, to address this issue. There was general support for the proposal. One CPC, however, suggested that the working group should be able to consider labor issues in ICCAT fisheries more generally and offered amendments to the proposal to that effect. The revised version, "Draft Resolution by ICCAT Establishing a Process to Address Labor Standards in ICCAT Fisheries", was agreed and forwarded to the Plenary for adoption.

The European Union presented a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to promote compliance by nationals of Contracting Parties, cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities with ICCAT conservation and management measures repealing and replacing Recommendation 06-14”. The proponent clarified that the proposal does not intend to require CPCs to amend their existing domestic laws and regulations to implement the new elements but urged CPCs to take actions that can be taken under the existing laws and regulations. While there was broad support for the measure, one CPC considered it premature and requested further time to explore how best to accommodate such measures into their national law.

### **5.10 Other issues**

No issues were raised under this Agenda item.

## **6. Consideration of additional technical measures needed to ensure effective implementation of ICCAT’s conservation and management measures**

No additional issues were raised under this Agenda item as it was considered that these had been taken into account in the points previously discussed under item 5.

## **7. Review and establishment of the IUU vessel list**

The Chair explained that the “2021 Draft IUU List - List of vessels presumed to have carried out IUU fishing activities”, incorporated changes to the IUU vessels lists of other RFMOs where supporting evidence had been made available, as well as three new vessels included on the basis of information submitted by the EU. It was noted that some discrepancies existed in the details of some vessels among different RFMOs and the PWG was requested to provide guidance as to which information should be included on the ICCAT list.

Namibia put forward a request for the removal of the Mario 11 which had been reflagged to Namibia and renamed as Halifax. Several CPCs requested additional information, some of which was supplied, but it was established that the information provided did not fully meet the concerns raised and that the matter would continue to be dealt with intersessionally.

The 2021 Draft IUU list, as amended, was agreed by the PWG and referred to the Plenary for adoption. The adopted 2021 IUU list is included as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**.

The Chair introduced two draft proposals that had been put forward by the IMM Working Group: “Draft Recommendation on vessels without nationality” and “Proposal to amend Recommendation by ICCAT on establishing a list of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities”. He explained that both were linked and intended to increase the scope of the listing measure to any vessels conducting IUU fishing activities rather than only vessels flying the flag of a CPC or of a non-CPC, and, secondly, to ensure that Stateless vessels be considered as undertaking IUU and included in the IUU List. Some revisions were introduced to the latter proposal, and both proposals obtained consensus and were forwarded to plenary for adoption.

The Chair also briefly presented the issues for clarification concerning cross-listing of vessels to the ICCAT IUU vessel list, which had already been deliberated by IMM. The PWG endorsed the interpretation of the IMM that only vessels listed directly by RFMOs included in the footnote in paragraph 11 of Rec. 18-08 should be cross listed by ICCAT on its IUU vessel list. If an RFMO included in Rec. 18-08 cross-lists a vessel from an RFMO not included in paragraph 11 of Rec 18-08, ICCAT should not cross-list that vessel. Finally, those vessels listed on other RFMO IUU lists would not be included on the Draft ICCAT IUU List if supporting information on the listing decision was not provided to ICCAT. Instead, these vessels would be circulated to CPCs via ICCAT circulars from the Secretariat for information.

## **8. Recommendations to the Commission based on findings of the above**

The Chair noted that the following 11 proposals should be forwarded to Plenary.

- “Draft Recommendation on Vessels without Nationality”
- “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 18-08 on establishing a List of Vessels presumed to have carried out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing activities”
- “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 20-08 on the application of the eBCD System”
- “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 18-13 replacing Recommendation 11-20 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program”
- “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Transshipment”
- “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 13-13 concerning the establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 metres in length overall or greater authorized to operate in the Convention area”
- “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 07-08 concerning data exchange format and protocol in relation to the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for the bluefin tuna fishery in the ICCAT Convention area”
- “Draft Resolution by ICCAT establishing an ICCAT Working Group on Catch Document Scheme”
- “Draft Resolution by ICCAT establishing a process to address labor standards in ICCAT fisheries”
- “Draft Resolution by ICCAT establishing a pilot project for the implementation of Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) on bluefin tuna processing vessels”
- “Draft Resolution by ICCAT for the Establishment of an ICCAT Working Group on the use of Electronic Monitoring systems (EMS)”

## **9. Election of Chair**

The United States nominated Mr. Neil Ansell to continue as Chair of the PWG. China (P.R.) seconded the nomination. Mr. Ansell was re-elected as Chair of the PWG for the 2022-23 biennial period.

## **10. Other matters**

The Chair noted that only one issue relating to streamlining ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures had been raised by the Secretariat but that this issue had already been agreed at Plenary and, hence, no further action was required at this stage.

Statements to PWG were made by Oceana and World Wildlife Fund for Nature\* (**Appendices 4 and 5 to ANNEX 10**).

## **11. Adoption of the report and adjournment**

The PWG agreed to adopt its report by correspondence and the meeting was adjourned.

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\* Statement in excess of word limit and not provided in the three official languages of ICCAT, therefore included in original language only.

**Appendix 1****Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Review of the Report of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) and consideration of any necessary actions
5. Consideration, taking into account the findings of point 4, of the effectiveness and practical aspects of implementation of:
  - 5.1 Catch Documentation and Statistical Document Programs
  - 5.2 Observer Programmes and EMS
  - 5.3 At-sea and in-port transshipment requirements
  - 5.4 Rules for chartering and other fishing arrangements
  - 5.5 At-sea vessel sighting and inspection programs
  - 5.6 Port inspection schemes and other port State measures
  - 5.7 Vessel listing requirements
  - 5.8 Vessel Monitoring Satellite System requirements
  - 5.9 Flag State responsibilities
  - 5.10 Other issues
6. Consideration of additional technical measures needed to ensure effective implementation of ICCAT's conservation and management measures
7. Review and establishment of the IUU vessel list
8. Recommendations to the Commission based on findings of above
9. Election of Chair
10. Other matters
11. Adoption of the report and adjournment



## Report on the implementation of the derogation to validate BCDs for trades of BFT between Member States of the EU in 2020 (Paragraph 5b and 5d of ICCAT Recommendation 18-12)

### Introduction

As other ICCAT CPCs, the European Union (EU) has implemented the eBCD system since 26 May 2016 for the Bluefin tuna (BFT) caught by the purse seine vessels and traps, and since 1 July 2016 for the fish caught by other gears. All operators fully implement the system as from January 2017.

Paragraph 5b of Recommendation [18-12] provides a derogation to validate BCDs for trades of BFT between Member States of the EU. Para 5d of Recommendation [18-12] offers an alternative approach for providing weight of tagged fish. Both provisions are up for review in 2021, and in the meantime, the EU is required to provide the Commission with a report on its implementation.

### Derogation under paragraph 5b of ICCAT Recommendation [18-12]

The data presented hereunder corresponds to the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 and has been partially extracted through the functionality in the eBCD system.

The scope of this report has been restricted to the trade events for Bluefin tuna from seller EU Member States, in order to avoid duplication, and because the selling Member State is responsible of the validation of the trade in eBCD.

In 2020, the EU Member States recorded 118,860 trade events in the eBCD system involving 38,728.77 t. Regulation (EU) 640/2010<sup>1</sup> provides the obligation to register trade events inside of the EU-Member states, consequently, 81% of the trades recorded in the eBCD by the EU are internal trades inside EU Member States territories (96,205 trades). The remaining trades include 5,220 exports to other CPCs (4%), and 17,443 trades between EU Member States (15%).

The quantities involved amounted to 9,869.26 t (25%) for internal trades, and 26,166.13 t (68%) for exports. Trades between EU Member States amounted to 3,505.81 t, which only represents 9% of the total weight traded (**Figure 1**).

42% (49,485) of the total trades were validated, and 58% (69,376) were exempted of validation, for a quantity of 33,525.20 t (87%) and 6,634.44 t (17%) respectively (**Figure 2**). The exemption was related to both the derogation under paragraph 5b of Recommendation [18-12] and exemption for tagged fish according to para 13c of Recommendation [18-13].

Regarding the trade events exempted of validation, 5,302 concerned trades between EU Member States (derogation para 5b) (8%), and 25,562 involved tagged fish (26%) for a quantity of 615.36 (9%) and 1,724.30 t (26%) respectively (**Figure 4**). The remaining exempted events are related to internal trades (**Figure 3**). Tagged fish concerned both trades between EU Member States and internal trades.

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) No 640/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2010 establishing a catch documentation programme for bluefin tuna *Thunnus thynnus*.

The average quantity by trade was 116.06 kg for trades exempted of validation because the derogation 5b, and 67.46 kg for trades of tagged fish (**Figure 5**).

Additional details by EU-Member state are provided in **Addendum 1 to Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10**.

### **Use of the Alternative in Para 5d of Recommendation 18-12**

The European Union no longer use the alternative given to CPCs in para 5d of Recommendation 18-12 to indicate an approximate weight estimated by sampling. For tagged fish, the actual weight of every specimen is recorded and linked to a tag number in the eBCD.

### **Verifications**

In terms of verifications of the information in the eBCD, as part of the standard procedure for validation, the control authorities perform verifications and crosschecks of all relevant documents including logbook data, landing declarations, sales notes, ICCAT authorizations, etc. Consistent with the EU legislation, the control authorities perform physical verifications and inspections at landing, in the market inside and at the entry in EU Member States based on risk assessment, and all catches are officially weighed at landing.

At the point of exit and entry from and into EU, verifications include crosschecks of eBCDs with airbills and sales notes, as well as physical verifications. Imports into the European Union follow customs procedures.

In 2020, Member States of the European Union performed 70,790 crosschecks and verifications and 103 trades were rejected due to inconsistencies.

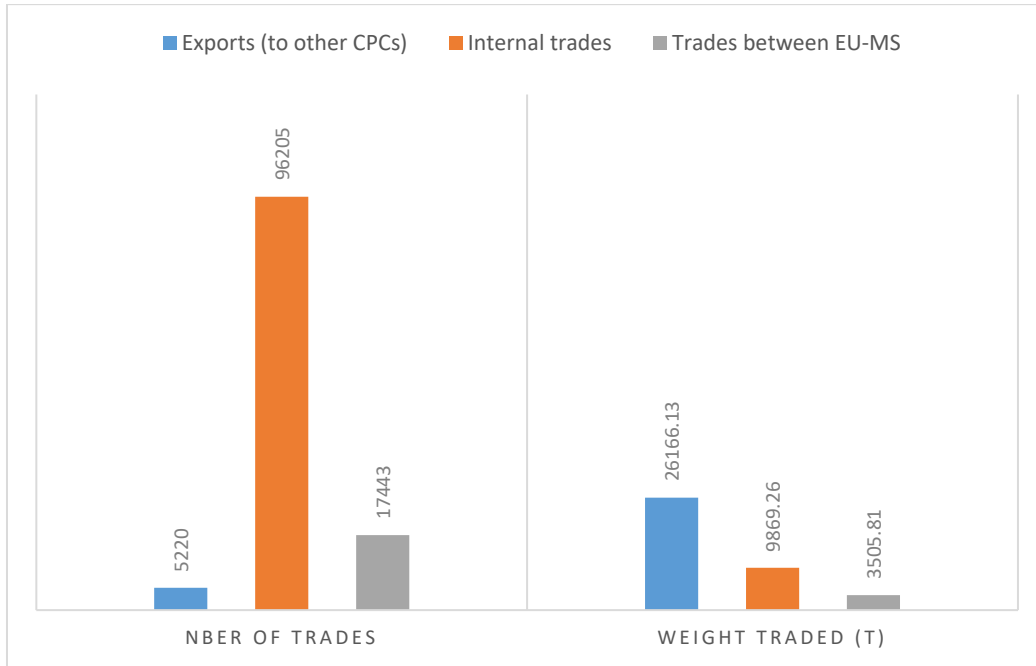
All eBCD subject to validation were crosschecked. Even when validation is not required, the control authorities perform crosschecks with catch declarations and the eBCDs information in conjunction with other Member States concerned, which enables efficient monitoring of operations exempted from validation. In addition, the control authorities verify the validation of catch or tags details and analyse the coherence of the timing of the validation messages as well as the possible alert messages in eBCD.

Data extraction functionalities, crosschecks and verifications through the eBCD system itself enable Member states to establish improved risk assessment procedures to specifically target trades events for crosscheck and verification.

### **Conclusion**

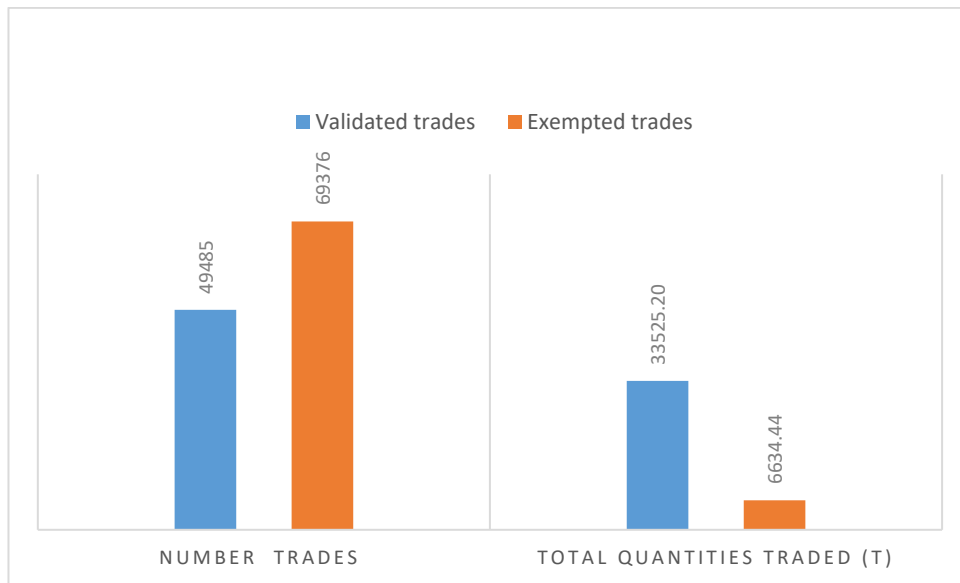
The number of trades concerned by the derogation in para 5b of Recommendation [18-12] is significant but generally involves small quantities of Bluefin tuna as it involves fillet (FL) and other (OT) presentations. Additionally, 81% of the trades recorded by EU are internal trades within EU Member States contributing to the traceability of the fish through the chain.

The derogation under para 5b of Recommendation [18-12] removes a significant administrative burden related to validation, and contributes towards achieving a more level playing field between the EU and the other ICCAT CPCs, and is also consistent with the principle of free market inside of the EU. It is important to note that at this stage no information is available in relation to a possible negative impact of these measures on the traceability of BFT products.

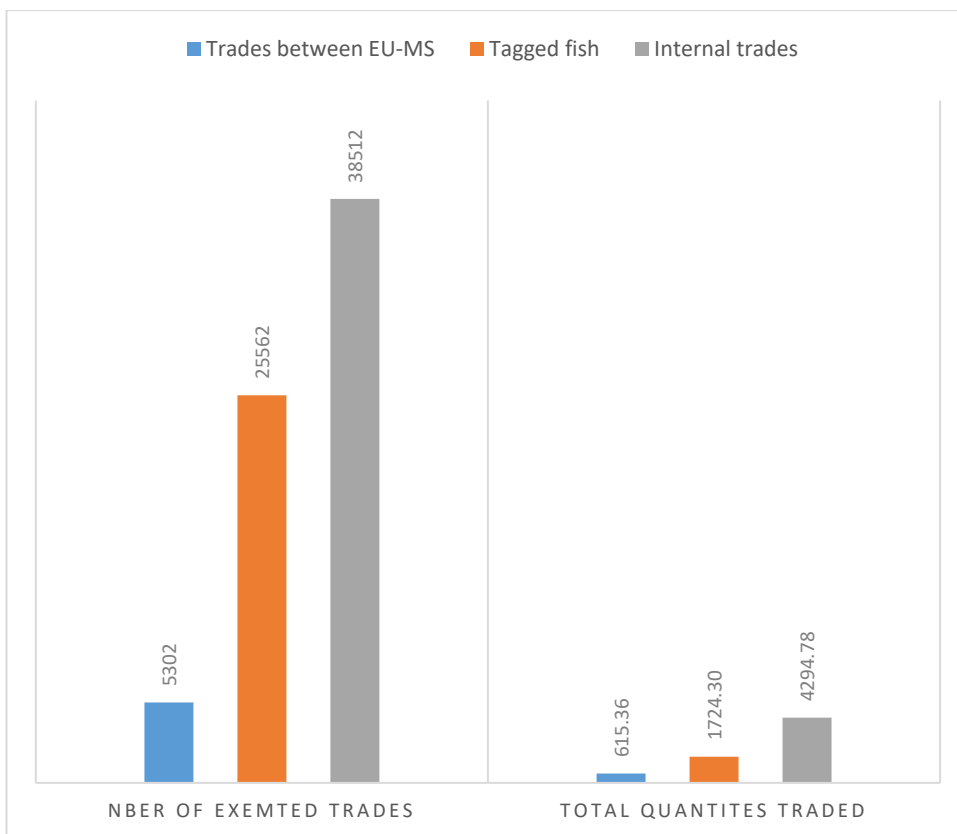


**Figure 1.** Number and quantities (t) of trades from EU Member States.

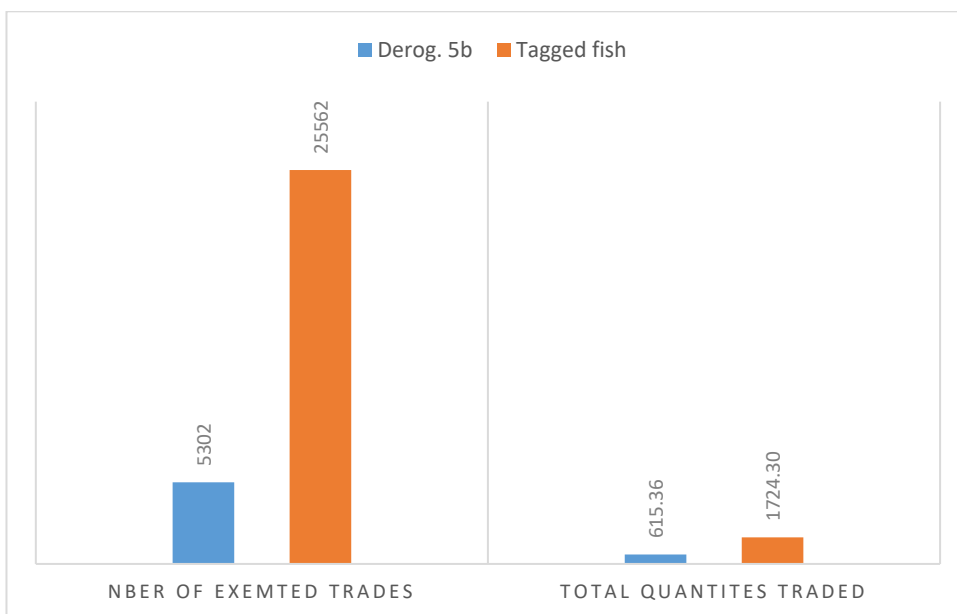
*Exports: trades from the EU to other CPCs. Trades between EU-MS: trades between EU Member states. Internal trades: trades inside EU Member States territories.*



**Figure 2.** Proportion of validated and exempted trades.

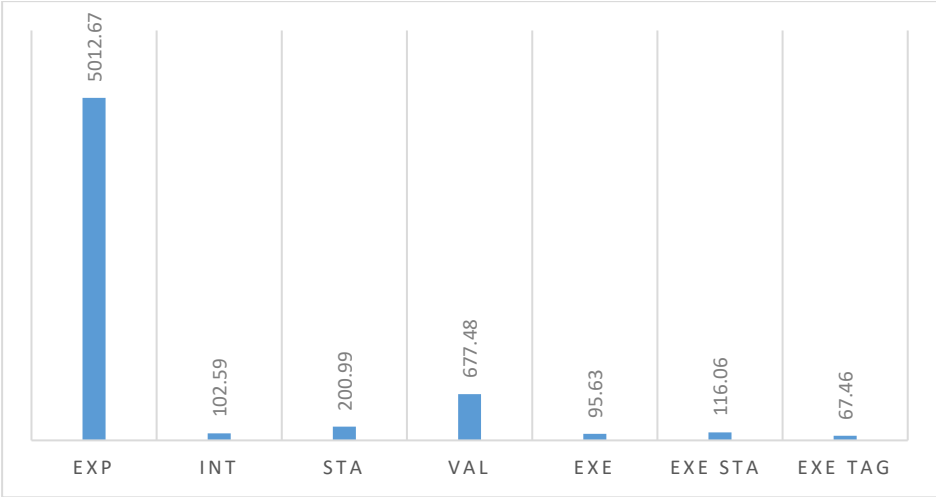


**Figure 3.** Comparison between the number of trades between EU Member States validated and those subject to derogation.



**Figure 4.** Proportion of trades exempted of validation due to derogation in para 5b or tagged fish.

*Note: trades exempted of validation due to derogation 5b do not include trades with tagged fish. Trades with tagged fish concern both trades between EU Member States and internal trades inside an EU Member State.*



**Figure 5.** Average quantity (kg).

*EXP (trades from the EU to other CPCs), STA (trades between EU Member states), INT (internal trades inside EU Member States territories), VAL (trades validated), EXE (trades exempted of validation), EXE STA (trades between EU Member states exempted of validation – derogation 5b), EXE TAG (exempted trades of tagged fish).*

## Addendum 1 to Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10

## Details by EU-Member state

(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>
Total trades	108	43009	19295	3959	3148	44725	2645	1971
Weight (t)	53	12922	1494	359	3307	3680	16686	228

(2) Number of trades and amount of tonnage for which an exemption from validation (EXE)<sup>2</sup> 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>
EXE	Trades	100	33717	19293	3959	567	11262	0	478
	(t)	53	4184	1493	359	9	499	0	39

(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>
EXE STA	Trades	31	9630	1891	2469	705	1246	776	695
	(t)	50	658	281	243	60	1207	965	43
EXE TAG <sup>3</sup>	Trades	37	2904	1568	0	33	282	0	478
	(t)	98	203	257	0	1	18	0	39

(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>
EXP	Trades	0	2985	28	694	289	35	1104	85
	(t)	0	6613	812	58	3132	1	15545	5

(5) Total volume of trades between EU Member States not including internal trades (STA):

		<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>Spain</i>	<i>France</i>	<i>Greece</i>	<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Italy</i>	<i>Malta</i>	<i>Portugal</i>
STA	Trades	31	9630	1891	2469	705	1246	776	695
	(t)	50	658	281	243	60	1207	965	43

(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>
INT	Trades	77	30394	17378	796	2156	43446	767	1191
	(t)	3	5652	1212	59	115	2472	175	181

<sup>2</sup> Include trades between EU Member States, trades of tagged fish and internal trades of non-tagged fish.<sup>3</sup> Tagged fish may concern both trades between EU Member States and internal trades inside an EU Member State.

**Recommendation 18-08: ICCAT IUU List**  
**2021 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	

<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>
20060002	Not available	SOUTH AFRICA - vessel had no VMS, suspected of having no tuna licence and of possible at-sea transshipments	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		LL
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

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
20080005	Not available (former ICCAT Register number AT000LIB00 041)	ICCAT Chairman information	27/06/2008	1226	Unknown	Libya (Previously Isle of Man)	GALA I	MANARA II (previously ROAGAN)	NO INFO	MANARAT AL SAHIL Fishing Company	AL DAHRS. Ben Walid Street	MEDI	Purse seiner
20090001	7826233	IOTC. Contravention of IOTC Resolutions 02/04, 02/05 and 03/05	09/03/2020	E20-02026	Panama	Equatorial Guinea	XING HAI FENG	OCEAN LION	3FW5	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	E11-05762	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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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
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).	09/09/2021	E21-08650	Unknown	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., Liouciuo 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

PWG REPORT

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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	E13-06833	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	E13-06833	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 IndoonesiaPT	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	Unknown	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	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	Unknown	Equatorial Guinea	Pescacisne 1, Pescacisne 2	Zemour 1; Kadei; Songhua; Yunnan; Nihewan; Huiquan; Wutaishan Anhui 44; Yangzi Hua 44; Trosky; Paloma V	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		

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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		

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	5IM813	High Mountain Overseas S.A	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 IOCT 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		

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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
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		
20180002		IOTC Circular 2018-015    Contravention of IOTC Resolution 17/03	23/06/2021	E21-05559	Somalia	Unknown; 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	23/06/2021	E21-05566	Cameroon	Djibouti; Thailand	PROGRESO	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; SUPPHERMNAV EE 21	Unknown (HSN5282 )	Unknown / (Marine Renown SARL)	Unknown		
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	CHOTCHAINA VEE 35		Unknown	Green Laurel International SARL / Master/Patron : Mr Prawit Kerdsuwan			

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20190002	7330399	SEAF0 (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)	18/06/2021	E21-05716	Unknown	Tanzania, Re. of; Nigeria; Mongolia; Togo; Sierra Leone	Baroon	Lana; Zeus; Triton I	5IM376	Vero Shipping Corporation (Vero Shipping Corporation; 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)			

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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. (Meteora 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			
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			

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
										(South Atlantic Fishing NV; Snoek Wholesalers; Areapesca S.A.; 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)	09/09/2021	E21-08650	Unknown	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; 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		



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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) and from NEAFC IUU-listed vessel (Last known location: NEAFC RA (29 October 2007)	24/09/2019	E19-09119	Guinea Conakry	Unknown	LABIKO	Claude Moinier; Maine	Unknown (3XL2)	Unknown	Unknown		

Serial No.	Lloyds/IMO Number	Reporting CPC/RFMO	Date Informed	Reference #	Current Flag	Previous Flag	Name of Vessel (Latin)	Name (Previous)	Call Sign (Previous)	Owner/ Operator Name	Owner/ Operator Address	Area	Gear
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		
20200008	7816472	IOTC (Date 1st included: Dec 2019)    NEAFC	26/10/2021	E21-10217	Unknown	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: AT000VUT0 0017; 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.	13/10/2021	E21-09829	Unknown	Vanuatu (2016) / Bolivia (2012)	Ocean Star No. 2	Wang FA (2006-2012)	YJRU6	Unknown; Ming Shun Fishery Co LTD	Unknown; Port Vila, Vanuatu	Atl Ocean	Tuna LL
20200011	8529533 (former ICCAT Register Number: AT000SENO 0031)	USA: the U.S. Coast Guard observed approximately 250 shark fins strung from lines throughout the vessel's decks.	05/10/2021 (15/09/2020)	E21-09607 (E20-08757)	Namibia	Senegal	Halifax	Mario 11	V5IW (6WMR)	South Wolf Holdings (PTY) LTD (HSIN FEI Trading Investment Co. Ltd)	P. O. Box 305, LUDERITZ, NAMIBIA	ATL	LL
20200012	4000354 (as per <a href="http://uvicolombia.org/#">http://uvicolombia.org/#</a> )	EU : suspects this vessel, may be engaging in fishing activities in ICCAT Convention Area.	02/09/2020	E20-09219	Unknown	Tanzania	Haleluya		5IM615	Imanely SAS / NIT: 900076756 / Reg No.: 21591712 / Status: Active / Country: Colombia	Barrio Bosque Transversal 52, No 21A-62, Cartagena de Indias, Colombia		LL

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		Believed by Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) this vessel without nationality, to be flagged or previously flagged to Tanzania (See Doc. COC-312/2020)								Mr. Chin Tien Chen / ID n°: 3264069 / Chinese Taipei			
20210001	Not available	IOTC Circular 2021-19	E21-05566	23/06/2021	Sri Lanka	Unknown	IMULA 0730 KLT	Unknown	4SF4482	Unknown	Unknown	IN	
20210002	Not available	IOTC Circular 2021-19	E21-05566	23/06/2021	Sri Lanka	Unknown	IMULA 0846 KLT	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	IN	LL
20210003	Not available	IOTC Circular 2021-19	E21-05566	23/06/2021	Sri Lanka	Unknown	IMUL-A-1028-TLE	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	IN	
20210004	Not available	IOTC Circular 2021-19	E21-05566	23/06/2021	India	Unknown	IND-TN-15-MM8297	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	IN	LL
20210005	8808654	CCAMLR Commission Report Fishing without authorisation (08 Jun 2019)	E21-05716	28/06/2021	Unknown	Panama	NIKA	Unknown	HP6686	Jiho Shiping Ltd.	Republic of Korea		
20210006	8004076	EU: 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.	E21-09714	08/10/2021	Oman	Unknown; Belize (AT000BLZ00061); Indonesia; Thailand; Japan	ISRAR 1	MEGA No. 2; MARCO No. 21; TERANG SURYA; TUNA INDAH NO. 3; KATSUEI MARU NO. 88	A4BB5; V3RD8	Almuran International LLC / IMO# 6232179	PO Box 2932, pc112, Ruwi, Muscat, Oman	IN	LL

<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>
20210007	8568694	EU: 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.	E21-09714	08/10/2021	Oman	Unknown; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines ; Tanzania; Vanuatu	ISRAR 2	RICOS NO. 6; MARIO NO. 6; YUH PAO NO. 6	A4BA3; J8QK4; 5IM455; YJSP6	Almuran International LLC / IMO# 6232179	PO Box 2932, pc112, Ruwi, Muscat, Oman	IN	LL
20210008	8568682	EU: 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.	E21-09714	08/10/2021	Oman	Unknown; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Tanzania; Vanuatu	ISRAR 3	RICOS NO. 3; MARIO NO. 3; YUH PAO NO. 3	A4BA5; J8QK5; 5IM454; YJSP5	Almuran International LLC / IMO# 6232179	PO Box 2932, pc112, Ruwi, Muscat, Oman	IN	LL

(\*) 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 used to be on the IOTC IUU list also, since 21 June 2019, as communicated on 17/09/2019 (E19-08760) (Serial No. 20150048), but it has been removed by IOTC (see IOTC Circular 2021-19 in ICCAT Entrada # E21-05566 on 23/06/2021).  
 (\*\*\*) It is the last known National Registry Number. The IMO number is unavailable.

### **Background notes for the IUU list in 2021**

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>
- Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC):  
<https://www.iattc.org/VesselRegister/IUU.aspx>
- Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC):  
<https://www.iotc.org/iotc-iuu-list>
- Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR):  
<https://www.ccamlr.org/en/compliance/contracting-party-iuu-vessel-list>  
<https://www.ccamlr.org/en/compliance/iuu-vessel-lists>
- Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT):  
<https://www.ccsbt.org/en/content/lists-iuu-vessels>
- General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM):  
<http://www.fao.org/gfcm/data/iuu-vessel-list>
- North Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO):  
<https://www.nafo.int/Fisheries/IUU>
- North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC):  
<https://www.neafc.org/mcs/iuu/alist> and  
<https://www.neafc.org/mcs/iuu/blist>
- South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO):  
<http://www.seafo.org/Management/IUU>

Note: Photos of some the IUU vessels listed could be found in the websites of these nine RFMOs.

### Summary of the 2021 IUU Vessel Lists' cross-listing carried out and updates/changes made

All nine RFMOs	Incorporation to ICCAT IUU List	Removal from ICCAT IUU List	Some changes in ICCAT IUU List from the other lists or following new information communicated by CPCs	No changes or minor rectifications	Total of actions
Total	5	3	3	125	136

The ICCAT 2021 Draft IUU Vessel List should include 129 vessels.

#### Information for the ICCAT IUU Vessels List in 2021

1. Regarding the five vessels included by ICCAT by cross-listing from other RFMOs (para. 11 of Rec. 18-08):
  - 1.1 Following communication from IOTC, received by ICCAT on 23/06/2021 (E21-05566), four IUU vessels were cross-listed (ICCAT SNs assigned: 20210001 to 20210004) after the 28/07/2021 deadline set by ICCAT Circular # S21-04638 of 28/06/2021 for any CPC objections,
  - 1.2 Following communication from CCAMLR, received by ICCAT on 28/06/2021 (E21-05716), one IUU vessel was cross-listed (ICCAT SNs assigned: 20210005) after 14/08/2021 deadline set by ICCAT Circular # S21-05351 of 15/07/2021 for any CPC objections.
2. Regarding the three vessels promptly removed by ICCAT following their removals by IOTC (para. 12 of Rec. 18-08), (ICCAT SNs assigned: 20150048, 20180001 and 20200007), communicated by this RFMO on 03/03/2021 (E21-01711) for the second and on 23/06/2021 (E21-05566) for the first and the third.
3. Regarding the three vessels, already cross-listed by ICCAT, and whose information has been changed/updated by other RFMOs:
  - 3.1 IOTC for the 2 first ones with ICCAT SNs 20180002 (MARWAN 1 - change to its Flag from "Stateless" to "Somalia"), as received by ICCAT from IOTC on 23/06/2021 (E21-05559) and 20180003 (AL WESAM 5 a change to its Name: "PROGRESO") as received by ICCAT on 23/06/2021 (E21-05566),
  - 3.2 CCAMLR for the third one with ICCAT SN 20190005 (BAROON from its previous Flag: "Tanzania" to "Stateless") as received by ICCAT from IOTC on 28/06/2021 (E21-05716).
4. Regarding the two vessels communicated by The Gambia to the EU on 2 August 2021 (Ref. No. 436/01(13), and the ICCAT CoC Chair on 09/09/2021 (E21-08650, **Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**, here attached), these have been removed from the Gambian Register of Vessels. Accordingly, these appear in the ICCAT 2021 Draft IUU List as "Stateless".
5. Following the discussions maintained in 2020 in the PWG, Colombia submitted on 25 January 2021, a preliminary technical study (E21-00567) gathering the evidences and determining the existence or absence of an alleged vessel infringement « HALELUYA / National ID No.: 4000354 / IRCS: 5IM615 / ICCAT IUU SN: 20200012 (see Circular ICCAT No. 0508 dated 27 January 2021).
6. In response to Circular 5351 dated 15 July 2021, Panama submitted information (E21-09218) on 23/09/2021, on the vessel NIKA / IMO No. 8808654 /ICCAT IUU SN: 20210005, regarding the modification of the ICCAT IUU list based on the information transmitted by CCAMLR (**Addendum 2 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**).

7. In response to Circular 7141, dated 20 September 2021, Chinese Taipei submitted, on 13/10/2021, an update (E21-09829) of its report concerning investigations carried out regarding the IUU vessel «OCEAN STAR No. 2 / IMO 8665193 / IRCS: YJRU6 / ICCAT IUU SN: 20200010 (**Addendum 3 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**). Chinese Taipei's report concluded that its compatriots are not owners of this vessel, in particular, at the time the fishing activities took place in April 2020, as notified by the United States of America. The name of the owner therefore changed from Ming Shun Fishery Co LTD to Unknown.
8. In response to Circular 8102 dated 22 October 2021, Belize submitted an enquiry on 26/10/2021 (E21-10217), supported by a Cancellation certificate of Registration, to change the flag of IUU vessel «OKAPI MARTA / IMO 7816472 / ICCAT IUU SN: 20200008 » from «Belize» to «Unknown».
9. Information on three vessels identified as currently flying the Oman flag, submitted by the European Union in accordance with paragraph 5 of Rec. 18-08, on 8 October 2021 (E21-09714), subject matter of ICCAT Circular No. 7779/21 of 8 October 2021. The Secretariat is awaiting a response from the Sultanate of Oman to the email sent to it on 11 October 2021 (N<sup>o</sup> 7820/21) regarding these three vessels.
10. Modification of the ICCAT IUU list through use of the updated information of CCAMLR (October 2021), on the 2021 Draft List of vessels presumed to have carried out IUU fishing activities as regards the four vessels with ICCAT IUU series numbers: 20150024 (ASIAN WARRIOR), 20150033 (PESCACISNE1, PESCACISNE2), 20150047 (ATLANTIC WIND) and 20210005 (NIKA) which have been discussed by the Secretariats of ICCAT, IOTC, CCAMLR and other RFMOs, within the framework of the Tuna Compliance Network (TCN), following Circular No. 8361/21 of 4 November 2021 which also indicates inclusion of the IUU vessel El Shaddai / IMO: 8025082 / IRCS: ZR6358 (deadline for eventual objections: 4 December 2021).
11. Request from Namibia on 5 October 2021, for the reflagging, with changes to vessels characteristics and ownership, of the Senegal-flagged inactive vessel "Mario 11/ IMO 8529533 / ICCAT IUU SN: 20200011" with the request for its removal from the ICCAT IUU Vessels List which should be in accordance with the "Intersessional removal from the Final IUU Vessel List" - guidelines of Rec. 18-08.

**Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**

ANF 436/01(13)

2 August 2021

Head of Unit DG Mare - 84  
Rue Joseph II99 - 03/30 1049  
Bruxelles Belgium

**RE: EU /GAMBIA-COOPERATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST IUU FISHING - IUU VESSELIN THE LATEST LISTOFVESSELS REGISTERED IN THE GAMBIA**

The Administration hereby acknowledges receipt of your email dated 22/07/ 2021 on the above subject matter.

Further to that please note below our reaction to some of areas of concern highlighted in your email:

- F/V Sage has been deleted from the Gambian register on receipt of same request from ICAAT Secretariat through our Fisheries Department in November 2020. Attached is a copy of the deletion certificate for your perusal and guidance.
- F/V Sea Urchin applied for a Provisional Certificate of Registry in August 2015 to allow her sail to Gambia for survey and permanent registration, the Provisional Certificate of Registry was valid for Three months. Upon issuance of the certificate Sea Urchin never show up at the shores of the Gambia and therefore her Provisional Certificate of Registry expired on the elapse of the three months. Her inclusion on the list of fishing vessels on the Gambian Register was an input error.

Trust you will find this in order and never hesitate to request for further clarification.

Cc: PS- MFWR, DG, DDG, HODS, File





**The Republic of The Gambia**



**Gambia Maritime Administration**



No. 4 Clarkson Street Banjul, The Gambia West Africa.

Telephones: Office: 4229943, Fax: 4229943, email: info@gambiamaritime.org

Merchant Shipping Act 2010.

Made under PART III 21(1)

**DELETION CERTIFICATE**

NAME OF VESSEL	OFFICIAL NUMBER	IMO NO.	GROSS TONNAGE	NET TONNAGE
LAGP	1090	782818	554	239
NAME OF REGISTERED OWNERS		ADDRESS OF REGISTERED OWNERS		
YU CHENG OCEANIC CO. LTD		TAIWAN		
TIME OF DELETION				09/01

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that-

- the vessel described above has been deleted from the register; and
- at the time of deletion the following encumbrances were registered on the vessel

NIL

The Gambia

Date: 8TH FEBRUARY 2021

Signature and Stamp of

Issuing Authority

*U.S. Gambia*  
 Gambia Maritime Administration  
 08/02/21

**Addendum 2 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10****Office of Technical Cooperation and International Fisheries Affairs**

Panamá, 14 September 2021  
**DCI-ARAP-190-2021**

Honorable  
**Camille Jean Pierre Manel,**  
Executive Secretary of ICCAT

Dear Mr. Manel:

I should like to express my greetings to you and would like to refer to ICCAT Circular # 5351/21, dated 15 July 2021, regarding the modification of the ICCAT List of vessels carrying out INDNR activities, based on the information provided by the Commission for the Conservation of Living Marine Resources in the Antarctic (CCAMLR) (June 2021), in particular the inclusion of the fishing vessel NIKA, with IMO 8808654, and flying a Rep. of Panama Flag.

In this regard, we would like to inform you that this vessel is no longer registered under the Flag of the Rep. of Panama since 16 March 2020. This information was transmitted to CCAMLR (see attached) following Panama's inclusion of this vessel in the INDNR list of CCAMLR.

Considering the above, we would like to support the inclusion of the vessel in the Commission's INDNR list, eliminating Panama as current Flag of the vessel.

Please accept the assurance of my highest consideration and my sincere gratitude towards the efforts made concerning our request.

Sincerely,

**RAUL DELGADO**  
Director General

RD/mea/rk

**Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de Panamá Edificio Riviera,  
Ave. Justo Arosemena, Calle 45 Bella Vista  
Central 511-6000, Apartado Postal 0819-05850- [www.arap.gob.pa](http://www.arap.gob.pa)**

Tuesday, 12 January 2021

COMM CIRC 21/05

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## Information submitted by Panama in relation to the *Nika*, vessel included in the IUU fishing vessels lists

Response deadline(s):

For submission of  
comments:  
19 January 2021

TO ALL COMMISSION MEMBERS

Please find attached the information submitted by Panama, indicating that the *Nika*, a vessel included in the IUU CP list, has been struck from Panama's Record of vessels.

If in the next seven (7) days comments are not received on the information submitted, the Secretariat will update the information in the IUU-CP List of fishing vessels in relation to the *Nika* to reflect the fact that the *Nika* has ceased to fly the Panamanian flag.

Regards

Dr David  
Agnew  
Executive  
Secretary

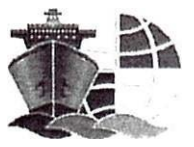
Attach

---

Post PO Box 213, North Hobart, Tasmania  
+61 3 6210 7002 Australia  
Address 181 Macquarie Street, Hobart,  
8744  
Tasmania 7000 Australia

Web [ccamlr.org](http://ccamlr.org)  
Email [ccamlr@ccamlr.org](mailto:ccamlr@ccamlr.org)

Landline  
1111  
Fax +61 3 6224



MARITIME AUTHORITY OF  
**PANAMA**

Directorate General of the Merchant Navy

Panama. 11 May 2020  
Note No. 106-01-232-DGMM

To Mr Levy:

This is in response to Note DGIVC/0147/2020, dated 27 April 2020, whereby advice was sought from us as to whether the vessel **NIKA** was de-registered or whether, on the contrary, it remained active under Panamanian flag.

In this regard, our Directorate General advises that the vessel **NIKA** was de-registered from the Panamanian shipping vessel register by means of decision No. 106-CA-10-DGMM, dated 16 March 2020, which was duly implemented on 23 March 2020.

Having nothing further to add, I present my kind regards.

RAFAEL N. CIGARRUISTA G.  
Director General

Engineer  
**FERNANDO LEVY**  
Director General for Inspections, Surveillance and Monitoring  
Authority for Aquatic Resources of Panama  
Legal Representative in Panama

RNCG/JLC/GF

**Addendum 3 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10****Updated report from Chinese Taipei on the investigation into F/V OCEAN STAR NO.2****1. Background**

On 21 May 2020, the ICCAT Secretariat circulated a report from the United States (U.S.) on alleged illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing by F/V Ocean Star No. 2. According to the investigation by the U.S., it was found that Ming Shun Fishery registered in Vanuatu as well as the Ming Shun Fishery Co. Ltd registered in Chinese Taipei being listed as the owner of the vessel at issue. Given that its nationals might be involved, Chinese Taipei immediately launched an investigation into this case by cross-checking relevant internal databases, correspondence with countries concerned, etc. It was preliminarily concluded that Ming Shun Fishery Co. Ltd registered in Chinese Taipei has nothing to do with the operation of F/V Ocean Star No. 2, since it was dissolved in 2017. In addition, the shares of the Ming Shun Fishery registered in Vanuatu was 100% transferred from a national of Chinese Taipei to a Filipino named Ronnie Castro in 2016. The ownership of the vessel in question therefore no longer belongs to any Chinese Taipei's national.

F/V Ocean Star No.2 was later included on the IUU vessels list adopted by ICCAT in 2020. For details of this case and the investigation report previously submitted by Chinese Taipei, please refer to ICCAT Circular 3326/2020 and 6741/2020.

**2. Updated progress**

In January and April 2021, Chinese Taipei received responses from the Philippines and Vanuatu respectively with regard to the investigation results. Based on its records, the Government of the Philippines stated that it has not issued any Commercial Fishing Vessel License nor a Distant Water Fishing Permit to a vessel Ocean Star No. 2. It also has no record of any fishing vessel owned by the alleged owner, Mr. Ronnie Castro.

The investigation conducted by Vanuatu reveals the historical records of the ownership of Ming Shun Fishery, which are summarized as below.

The company was established by a national of Chinese Taipei back in 2001, and it was subsequently sold for a total of 8 times between 2003 and 2017 to other owners whose nationalities range from Chinese Taipei to the Philippines and Belgium. The details as provided by Vanuatu confirms our preliminary conclusion that Ming Shun Fishery was indeed sold in 2016 to a Filipino, Mr. Ronnie Castro, who then transferred the company to Mr. Jurgen Jozef P. Smet, a Belgian, in November 2017.

In September 2018, Mr. Jurgen Jozef P. Smet applied to wind up the company, and after internal procedures, the Government of Vanuatu removed the company register in December 2018.

Furthermore, 2 vessels, Ocean Star No. 1 and 2, were registered under Ming Shun Fishery. When Vanuatu withdrew from ICCAT, these 2 vessels were de-registered in June 2016. With the application of winding up Ming Shun Fishery by Mr. Jurgen Jozef P. Smet, it implies that the 2 vessels were sold to new owner(s) sometime in 2018, but the Government of Vanuatu does not have access to information on the transactions as the vessels were not Vanuatu-flagged anymore.

As such, Vanuatu stated that F/V Ocean Star No. 1 and 2 were neither Vanuatu-flagged nor under the control of a Vanuatu citizen or company. The extract of Vanuatu's letter with respect to the content on the investigation results is included as **Attachment 1 to Addendum 3 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**.

**3. Conclusions**

In light of the information provided by Vanuatu, Chinese Taipei concludes that F/V Ocean Star No. 2 is not owned by its national, particularly at the time of the alleged IUU activities in April 2020 as reported by the U.S. New information or intelligence that indicates otherwise is certainly welcome, and Chinese Taipei, as always, remains collaborative to fulfill its roles under international rules and to jointly combat IUU fishing.

**Attachment 1 to Addendum 3 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**

**Extract of Vanuatu's letter with respect to  
the content on the investigation result of F/V Ocean Star No. 2**

- The Ming Shun Fishery Company was established in Vanuatu on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2001 by Mr. MAI Ching-Kang, a Chinese Taipei national;
- The company was subsequently sold to other owners a total of eight times between 2003 and 2016. Ownership details and dates provided to us are as follows:
  - Mr. MAI, Ching-Kang, Chinese Taipei, 20010621 to 20030812
  - Mr. CHEN, Tsung-Ming, Chinese Taipei, 20030812 to 20050407
  - Mr. LEE, Yuan-Yao, Chinese Taipei, 20050407 to 20061106
  - Mr. KO, Peng-Yuan, Chinese Taipei, 20061106 to 20090819
  - Mr. LU, Yu-Chu, Chinese Taipei, 20090819 to 20091224
  - Mr. Castro Ronnie, Filipino, 20091224 to 20120316
  - Mr. LU, Yu-Chu, Chinese Taipei, 20120316 to 20160701
  - Mr. Castro Ronnie, Filipino, 20160701 to 20171106
  - Mr. Jurgen Jozef P. Smet, Belgian, 20171106 to 20180914.
- The company registered two vessels, Ocean Star #1 and Oceans Star #2 on the Vanuatu International Shipping Registry in March 2012. The owner at that time was Mr. LU Yu-Chu;
- The former names of the vessels were Hsing Fa (Ocean Star #1) and Wang Fa (Ocean Star #2). Both vessels are understood to have been previously registered in Bolivia;
- When Vanuatu terminated its membership of ICCAT these vessels left the Vanuatu registry;
- Their deregistration certificates, dated 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016, state clearly their intention to re-flag in St. Vincent & Grenadines, but apparently this did not occur.
- Mr. LU Yu-Cha then transferred the company to its previous owner Mr. Ronnie Castro, on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2016. Mr. Castro subsequently transferred the company to Mr. Jurgen Jozef P. Smet, a Belgian national, on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017;
- Jurgen Jozef P. Smet applied to wind up the company on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018, because the company was said to be no longer trading and without assets or liabilities;
- This implies that the Ocean Star #1 and #2 were sold to one or more new owners sometime in 2018, but because the vessels were no longer Vanuatu-flagged we do not have access to information on these transactions;
- Following the procedures of the Vanuatu Financial Services Commission (VFSC), the company was then removed from the Vanuatu Company Register 90 days later, on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018;
- The Vanuatu Financial Services web site indicates that the company was struck off the Companies Register on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020. This is incorrect, and is a result of inaccurate transfer of data from the old VFSC website to the new one. We are aware of other companies whose registration information shown on the VFSC website is also wrong. The agents for Ming Shun Fishery Company Ltd are seeking to have the website information corrected;
- In summary, therefore, the Ocean Star #1 and 2 were neither Vanuatu-flagged nor under the control of a Vanuatu citizen or Vanuatu company at the time of the alleged IUU incident reported to ICCAT in April 2022.

***International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize***

Tels: 501-2-35026 / 31

Fax: 501-2-35048 / 70

Marina Towers, 204, Newtown Barracks, Belize City, Belize C.A.  
"IMMARBE HEAD OFFICE"

Belize, February 15, 2016

**Resolution No. EX-002-16**

WHEREAS the undersigned is  
empowered to ensure compliance of national and international  
regulations applicable to all vessels enrolled under the Belize flag;

CONSIDERING that the vessel "OKAPI MARTA" registered with the International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize under the ownership of "OKAPI INVERSIONES 2012 S.L. of Avda. Cesar Augusto 44, 3A, of 4-Zaragoza, Spain with IMO#7816472, Call Letters V3ZR6 and Registration Number 021320188;

CONSIDERING that owners of the vessel violated the regulations of the HSFA 2013, by being non-compliant of the following:

- Vessel operated with expired Transhipment License
- Failure to submit transhipment reports for the 2 consecutive years (2014-2015)
- Failure to place an active monitoring unit on board

FURTHER CONSIDERING that due to the above offences, a fine was imposed against the vessel, the amount of **US\$20,000.00** which reflected the severity of the offence(s) committed and the seriousness by which the Belize Administration viewed this blatant disregard of its regulations/directives;

FURTHERMORE, the vessel has outstanding Annual Taxes for the periods 2015 & 2016 in the amount of **US\$8131.69**;

MINDFUL OF THE FACT that the Merchant Ships Act, 2010 as amended, and our Disciplinary Regulations (S.I. No. 56 of 1999) empowers the International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize to ensure compliance of national and international laws as well as all Registry requirements applicable to all Belize registered ships and to take disciplinary actions in cases including de-registration of vessels where it is proven that serious non-compliance with the established laws have occurred;

NOW, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to cancel via *ex-officio* the registration of the **M/V "OKAPI MARTA"** with immediate effect due to the aforesaid violations;

This Resolution is deemed to be the document of notification to the vessel's agent, owners, and or master, that the subject vessel has been de-registered from the Belize Registry. Therefore, the vessel has been given thirty (30) days from the date of the present communication to file directly or through a duly authorized representative, to obtain an official deletion certificate from the Registry.

**BE IT NOTIFIED AND EXECUTED**



*Annette Garel*  
ANNETTE GAREL

SENIOR DEPUTY REGISTRAR

**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 10****Statement by Oceana to PWG**

In advance of ICCAT's 2021 PWG and other annual Commission meetings, Oceana would like to take the opportunity to express gratitude towards CPCs, the PWG Chair and ICCAT's Secretariat for their ongoing efforts to continue the essential work of ICCAT during these past challenging years. The upcoming PWG meeting presents an important opportunity to bring ICCAT back on track towards advancing ICCAT's conservation and management measures, to ensure that ICCAT is effectively fulfilling its objective in line with international best practices in RFMOs.

Oceana wishes like to draw your attention to proposal PWG-415/2021 submitted by the European Union for a Recommendation repealing and replacing ICCAT Recommendation 06-14 to promote compliance by nationals of Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or fishing Entities with ICCAT conservation and management measures. Currently, the applicability of the existing Recommendation is limited to nationals who were found to have engaged in IUU fishing activities. Proposal PWG-415/2021 aims to expand the scope of this Recommendation to require that CPCs investigate and verify allegations and take appropriate, effective and deterrent action against nationals who benefited from or supported the activities described (i.e., IUU fishing) explicitly referring to the role that nationals can take as operators, owners, including beneficial owners, logistics and service providers, including of insurance and other financial services.

As RFMO IUU vessel lists are publicly accessible, 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. Furthermore, as private sector interest in Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) issues is on the rise, the businesses concerned can seamlessly integrate checks of these lists into existing due diligence processes. Most importantly, as these businesses can screen for and avoid contracts with IUU fishing vessels, they should have a mandated responsibility to do so, ensuring they are not indirectly profiting from illicit activities that are significantly harmful to the marine environment. Through taking this approach, ICCAT can help to dismantle the global network of beneficiaries and service providers that support IUU fishing.

At the upcoming PWG meeting, we strongly urge PWG members to support proposal PWG-415/2021 for a Recommendation repealing and replacing ICCAT Recommendation 06-14 and to forward it to the Commission Plenary for final adoption. Noting also that this is aligned with recently adopted measures in other RFMOs including CCAMLR, SPRFMO, SIOFA and GFCM, adopting this proposal would bring ICCAT in line with global best practices in the fight against IUU fishing.

Finally, Oceana would also like to draw particular attention to PWG-408/2021, PWG-411/2021, PWG-414/2021, PWG-416/2021 and PWG-418/2021. Each of these proposals would also help to improve ICCAT's performance in addressing IUU fishing and we encourage that CPCs support and advance these proposals as well.



### Statement by World Wildlife Fund for Nature to PWG

The Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF), Oceana, The Nature Conservancy, The Pew Charitable Trusts and WWF are working together in a coalition of non-governmental organisations to ensure that the EU's engagement with Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) and key partners leads to strong transparency and anti-illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing measures worldwide.

In a coalition report titled "[Achieving transparency and combating IUU fishing in RFMOs](#)", we outline the minimum transparency and anti-IUU fishing measures that we consider essential for RFMO Contracting Parties, Cooperating non- Contracting Parties (CPCs) and fishing entities to adopt and implement in order to end IUU fishing.

This document details vital measures for discussion and adoption at the next meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

To promote transparency and tackle IUU fishing, we ask ICCAT CPCs to prioritise the following actions:

- Amend Recommendation 06-14 and strengthen the implementation of Recommendation 18-08, in order to prevent CPC nationals from deriving benefit from or supporting IUU fishing

Recommendation 06-14 promotes compliance by nationals of CPCs 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 the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO), the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA) and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (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.

We urge ICCAT CPCs to amend Paragraph 1 of Recommendation 06-14 by explicitly stating that CPCs must investigate and take appropriate action if any natural or legal persons subject to their jurisdiction are not only engaged in but also responsible for, benefits from or supporting IUU fishing activities (e.g. as operators, effective beneficiaries, owners, logistics and service providers, including insurance providers and other financial service providers).

We also encourage ICCAT to increase the accuracy, completeness, and transparency, wherever possible, of information relating to vessels on ICCAT's IUU vessel list, as required by Recommendation 18-08, including beneficial ownership and documents informing of and evidencing activities which justify the inclusion of vessels on the list. This information would assist due diligence processes carried out by any relevant entity to identify and avoid contracts that support IUU fishing activity.

- Amend Recommendation 16-15 on transshipment to require all vessels involved in transshipment events to be flagged to a CPC and for relevant information to be shared in near-real time

Recommendation 16-15 regulates transshipment events in the Convention Area by establishing a record of carrier vessels authorised to receive transshipments, monitoring these activities and establishing notification requirements. Discrepancies in transshipment data reports<sup>4\*</sup> show that current ICCAT monitoring and regulatory controls over at-sea transshipment are inadequate. These gaps in oversight create opportunities for the movement of IUU caught fish and other illicit activities, such as trafficking in weapons, drugs, and people.

There is very little transparency or reporting on transshipment events in the ICCAT convention area conducted by non-CPC flagged vessels and ICCAT has limited ability to hold non-CPC flagged vessels accountable for incidences of non-compliance.

We therefore urge ICCAT to update Recommendation 16-15 to require all vessels involved in transshipment events within the ICCAT Convention Area to be flagged to a CPC and that transshipment authorisations, declarations and observer reports be sent to all relevant authorities – including the ICCAT Secretariat – in near-real time.

This will minimize opportunities for transshipment to facilitate the laundering of illegally caught fish through the supply chain and will improve effective control and transparency over such events.

- Amend Recommendation 13-13 to expand IMO number reporting requirements to all eligible vessels

Recommendation 13-13 requires CPCs to submit to the ICCAT Executive Secretary the list of their fishing vessels of 20 metres in length overall or greater that are authorised to operate in the ICCAT Convention area, together with other relevant information (Paragraph 2). The latter includes, amongst other data fields, “IMO or LR number (if assigned)”.

In December 2017, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Assembly adopted Resolution A.1117(30), expanding the IMO Number eligibility criteria to all motorised inboard fishing vessels, including wooden ones, down to a size limit of 12 metres authorised to operate outside waters under the national jurisdiction of the flag State. Since then, a number of RFMOs, such as the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) have amended their resolutions to align with the new criteria. The expansion of the IMO eligibility criteria was acknowledged by ICCAT’s Compliance Committee in its 2018 annual report<sup>5\*</sup>.

We urge ICCAT CPCs to amend Recommendation 13- 13 on the application of IMO Numbers, changing the qualifier “(if assigned)” to “(if eligible)” in Paragraph 2, in order to ensure that all eligible fishing vessels above 12 metres have an IMO number in line with international best practice and with the latest IMO eligibility criteria.

In addition, we would like to draw CPCs’ attention to the *mutatis mutandis* clauses in Recommendations 16-05 and 18-02 which establish authorised vessel lists for swordfish, albacore and bluefin tuna operations respectively. These clauses extend the IMO number requirements established in Recommendation 13-13 to Recommendations 16-05 and 18-02. Specifically, authorised vessels relevant to all three of these Recommendations that are eligible to obtain an IMO number must do so, as per Article 5bis. Thus, in addition to all fishing vessels of 20 metres LOA or greater, vessels down to 12 metres LOA that target bluefin tuna, albacore and swordfish and that are authorised to operate outside waters under national jurisdiction of the flag State, are eligible and required to obtain an IMO number. In total, over 1800 fishing vessels 12 to 19.99 metres in length overall are listed on the ICCAT Record of Vessels. IMO numbers can be issued for free by IHS Markit on behalf of the IMO<sup>6\*\*</sup>.

<sup>4\*</sup> [https://www.iccat.int/com2019/ENG/COC\\_312\\_ENG.pdf](https://www.iccat.int/com2019/ENG/COC_312_ENG.pdf)

<sup>5\*</sup> International Committee for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, Report for biennial period, 2018-2019, Part I (2018) - Vol. 1, [https://www.iccat.int/Documents/BienRep/REP\\_EN\\_18-19\\_I-1.pdf](https://www.iccat.int/Documents/BienRep/REP_EN_18-19_I-1.pdf)

<sup>6\*\*</sup> Individual vessel applications can be made online for free at <http://imonumbers.ihs.com>. Alternatively, flag States can apply for IMO numbers for multiple vessels at one time by contacting IHS Maritime at [ship.imo@ihs.com](mailto:ship.imo@ihs.com) to receive a multiple IMO request form in spreadsheet format.

Alternatively, or in the future, the scope of the IMO number requirement in ICCAT should be expanded to include all eligible vessels of any size down to 12 metres, targeting any species managed under ICCAT, in line with international best practice.

- Adopt a new measure to ensure safe and decent working and living conditions for crew members

As acknowledged by the member states of the IMO, the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) during the 4th FAO/ILO/IMO Joint Working Group meeting on IUU Fishing and other related matters in Torremolinos, Spain, on 23-25 October 2019, vessels with substandard safety and working conditions of fishers and fisheries observers on vessels are frequently linked to IUU fishing activities.

The increasing global attention to instances of poor labour conditions and mistreatment of crews, including forced and child labour on board fishing vessels, requires CPCs to take action. This should include adopting generally accepted international minimum labour standards for the responsible conduct of fishing operations.

The EU IUU Coalition acknowledges the efforts that ICCAT CPCs have made in recent years in improving the conditions and welfare of observers on board fishing vessels with the newly adopted Recommendation 19-10 by ICCAT on protecting the health and safety of observers in ICCAT's regional observer programs. However, it is now time to acknowledge the equal importance of the welfare of crew members.

We urge CPCs to adopt a new measure establishing minimum standards regulating crew labour conditions and to ensure adequate enforcement. This would include identifying and prosecuting breaches of relevant national laws relating to the treatment of crew by vessel operators landing fish in their ports or operating in their waters.

As a best practice example, in December 2018, the WCPFC adopted a Resolution on Labour Standards for Crew on Fishing Vessels. Although this measure is a non-binding resolution, this is the first time that a labour proposal was tabled at an RFMO. This example should be followed.

- Develop a work plan and timeline for the development and implementation of a comprehensive electronic monitoring program

Recommendation 19-02 which was adopted in November 2019, instructs the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM), in cooperation with the SCRS, to develop and recommend minimum electronic monitoring (EM) specifications to the Commission for endorsement at its 2021 annual meeting.

Considering the negative impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on fisheries oversight, including the removal of observers from vessels, it is now clearer than ever that ICCAT needs to accelerate the development of an EM programme to ensure that independent data collection can occur in the future, regardless of circumstances.

We urge CPCs to support this work in developing a robust EM programme and see that the commitments undertaken in 2019 are seen through by agreeing to a workplan and timeline for its development and implementation by 2022 at the latest.

## BIENNIAL REPORTS OF THE COMMISSION

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