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

**R E P O R T
for biennial period, 2022-23
PART I (2022) - Vol. 1
English version COM**

MADRID, SPAIN

2023

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

CONTRACTING PARTIES

(at 31 December 2022)

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, Türkiye, 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>	Angola, Belize, Brazil, China (P.R.), Côte d'Ivoire, European Union, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Namibia, Panama, Philippines, South Africa, St Vincent and the Grenadines, 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

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION (STACFAD)

Chair

D. WARNER-KRAMER, United States
(since 23 November 2021)

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH & STATISTICS (SCRS)

Subcommittee on Statistics: Pedro Lino (European Union), Convener

Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch: A. DOMINGO (Uruguay), A. HANKE (Canada), Conveners

C. BROWN, United States
(since 30 September 2022)

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

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FOREWORD

The Chairman of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas presents his compliments to the Contracting Parties of the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (signed in Rio de Janeiro, May 14, 1966), as well as to the Delegates and Advisers that represent said Contracting Parties, and has the honor to transmit to them the "**Report for the Biennial Period, 2022-2023, Part I (2022)**", which describes the activities of the Commission during the first half of said biennial period.

This issue of the Biennial Report contains the Report of the 23rd Special Meeting of the Commission (hybrid / Vale do Lobo, Portugal, 13-21 November 2022) 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 23RD SPECIAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT)

(Vale do Lobo/hybrid, 13-21 November 2022)

1. Opening of the meeting

The Commission Chair, Mr. Ernesto Penas, welcomed all the participants to the 23rd Special Meeting of ICCAT, held in a hybrid format, and introduced the local dignitaries, Ms. Maria do Céu Antunes, Minister of Agriculture and Food of Portugal, Mr. José Apolinário, Chair of the Regional Coordination Commission for Development of the Algarve, Mr. Vítor Aleixo, Mayor of the Municipality of Loulé and Ms. Teresa Coelho, Secretary of State for Fisheries, thanking them for attending the ICCAT opening ceremony. He also thanked the Secretariat for the efforts to make this meeting possible, and all the delegates and observers for attending. He highlighted priorities of ICCAT for this meeting and the role that ICCAT must play in the future regarding current issues such as biodiversity and marine ecosystems, multilateralism and defense of sustainable and responsible fisheries.

Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel, Executive Secretary, also welcomed the participants and thanked the government of Portugal and the local authorities for their hospitality and excellent arrangements for the meeting, as well as the European Union whose financial assistance has made the meeting possible.

The Minister of Agriculture and Food stressed the importance of the fisheries for the Algarve region, highlighting the contribution of some stocks such as bigeye and yellowfin to the social and economic stability of the national coastal communities and indicated that it is necessary to continue promoting and strengthening the fisheries sector and the people who dedicate their lives to this sector.

The Commission Chair reiterated his gratitude to the authorities. He recalled the key priorities of the meeting and also requested CPCs to pay closer attention to some global processes nearing completion, such as the Intergovernmental Conference on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) and the Convention on Biological Diversity, which could have a potential impact on the fisheries, so as not to jeopardize operation of responsible and sustainable tuna fisheries. The Commission Chair declared the meeting formally open.

The opening addresses of the Commission Chair and the Executive Secretary are contained in **ANNEX 3.1**.

2. Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements

Following the United States proposal to include a new section in point 9 on climate change, the Agenda was approved and is attached as **ANNEX 1**.

3. Introduction of Contracting Party Delegations

The Executive Secretary explained the meeting arrangements, the instructions for the zoom platform and how to request the floor. He listed the 47 Contracting Parties physically present and online: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Canada, China (P.R.), Côte d'Ivoire, Curaçao, Egypt, El Salvador, European Union, France (St Pierre and Miquelon), Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, 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, South Africa, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Statements, including on Ukraine, were submitted to the plenary session by Canada, the European Union*, Iceland, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Norway, United Kingdom, and the United States.

These are contained in **ANNEX 3.2**.

* Statement not included as in excess of word limit and not provided in the three official languages of ICCAT.

4. Introduction of observers

Five Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities attended the meeting: Bolivia, Chinese Taipei, Costa Rica, Guyana and Suriname. Two non-Contracting Parties (without cooperating status) also attended: Colombia, and the Republic of Montenegro. Moreover, six intergovernmental bodies were in attendance: Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC), Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Cooperation Services for Fishery Products in Africa (INFOPÊCHE), and the Ministerial Conference on fisheries cooperation among African States bordering the Atlantic Ocean (ATLAFCO/COMHAFAT).

The following twenty-five non-governmental organizations 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), Association euroméditerranéenne des pêcheurs professionnels de thon (AEPPT), Birdlife International (BI), Blue Marine Foundation, Brazilian Association of Fish Industries (ABIPESCA), Ecology Action Centre (EAC), EUROPÊCHE, Federation of European Aquaculture Producers (FEAP), Federation of Maltese Aquaculture Producers (FMAP), Global Tuna Alliance (GTA), International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), MEDISAMAK, OCEANA, Padi Aware Foundation, Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW), Pro Wildlife, SharkProject International, Stockholm Resilience Centre (SRC), The International Pole & Line Foundation (IPNLF), The Ocean Foundation, The Shark Trust, Tuna Producer Association (TPA), 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), Ecology Action Centre (EAC)*, EUROPÊCHE, Global Tuna Alliance (GTA)*, International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW)*, SharkProject International, Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF)*, The International Pole & Line Foundation (IPNLF)*, and The Shark Trust.

These are contained in **ANNEX 3.3**.

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

The SCRS Chair, Dr Gary Melvin, began by thanking the members of the SCRS and the Secretariat for their work and dedication in carrying out the work described in the *Report for Biennial Period 2022-2023, Part I (2022), Vol. 2*. Secondly, he presented the work of the SCRS over the course of the year, which included numerous intersessional meetings, as well as the work carried out by the different research programmes. Dr Melvin indicated that more details on individual species would be presented to the various panels, but that he would present a summary of SCRS activities over the past twelve months in the Plenary. This summary included the achievements and challenges of the SCRS, the activities of the Secretariat in the field of research and statistics, the reports of the intersessional meetings of the SCRS, an overview of the status of the stocks of fish species, the major research programmes (i.e. ICCAT Atlantic-Wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (GBYP) and Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP)) and the smaller research programmes (i.e. Small Tunas Year Programme (SMTYP), Shark Research and Data Collection Programme (SRDCP), Enhanced Programme for Billfish Research (EPBR) and the Albacore Year Programme (ALBYP) and Swordfish Year Programme (SWOYP)), the progress of the work related to Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE), recommendations to the Commission (including an overview of those with financial implications) and responses to the Commission.

The SCRS Chair indicated that hybrid meetings have advantages, such as their ease of planning and the larger number of participants, as well as disadvantages, such as the difficulties of different time zones, and the heavy workload on account of the huge number of meetings for all those involved. This includes for the Secretariat, which plays an essential role in the achievements of the SCRS, in particular, its support for coordination of meetings, its presence during meetings, the research programmes, development of the IOMS, Chapter 2 of the Manual, and management of statistics. He highlighted the time devoted to MSE, which

* Statement not included as in excess of word limit and not provided in the three official languages of ICCAT.

now covers several species, the 6 stock assessments conducted with broad participation (East and West Atlantic skipjack, Northeast Atlantic porbeagle, North and South Atlantic swordfish, and eastern and Mediterranean Atlantic bluefin tuna), 16 intersessional meetings, various virtual ad hoc meetings, many meetings on MSE, including 6 ambassador meetings to try to explain it, as well as the 39 responses to the Commission.

He also informed of the election of the new SCRS Chair, Dr Craig Brown (United States) and indicated that the data confidentiality policy was adopted for one year, pending comments from CPCs in 2022. No comments were received, but it must be extended for at least another year, especially to protect the Secretariat. The United States offered some technical edits to the document, which were accepted and the revised "Rules and Procedures for the Protection of, Access to, and Dissemination of Data Compiled by ICCAT" was adopted (**ANNEX 6.1**)

As regards MSE, he briefly summarized the history of MSE in ICCAT, which began in 2015, indicating that the important progress made on the four species is reflected in the roadmap. Regarding the MSE for tropical tunas, he suggested that a team of ambassadors be established in view of the excellent result of the bluefin tuna MSE.

Regarding the roadmap, one CPC raised concerns that some of the planned activities had not been carried out and another CPC noted the difficulty for managers to understand the MSE process and that it may therefore be better to focus on one species and hold off on the others. The SCRS Chair indicated that he understood that it is better for as much information as possible to be provided, because it is a very complicated subject. One CPC suggested that, given that the roadmap has not been updated, it could be included as an appendix to the report for CPCs to provide comments. The Chair indicated that it would be included as an appendix and adopted as part of the proceedings by correspondence (**ANNEX 6.2**).

As to the issue of interpretation during SCRS meetings, he indicated that priorities have been established through analyzes based on the number of participants. In this regard, one CPC expressed concern about the analyzes being carried out based on the number of participants at past SCRS meetings, indicating that the participation was probably lower for non-English speaking CPCs given that all the meetings were in English. The SCRS Chair signalled that he supports any action aimed at improving understanding in meetings.

The Commission Chair noted that it would be advantageous for ICCAT to become involved in the issue of marine biodiversity and that, in this case, more data would be requested from ICCAT. He therefore enquired how the SCRS would manage this increase in workload. The SCRS Chair indicated that participation of new people with different experience would be necessary. One CPC indicated that it is important to change the image of the fisheries sector in this regard, indicating that the Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch already exists and that this is a line of work that must be incorporated quickly, even though participation must be increased.

CPCs expressed their appreciation to the SCRS and the Secretariat for having completed all the work to date, and welcomed the new SCRS Chair, Dr Craig Brown (USA), wishing him success in his new role.

The delegates congratulated the outgoing Chair Dr Melvin, Vice-Chair Dr Haritz Arrizabalaga, and all SCRS scientists for their work during the year. CPCs also highlighted Dr Melvin's years of contribution to the scientific work in ICCAT, including his role as Rapporteur (Chair) for the Western Bluefin Tuna Species Group. For a long time, the ICCAT community has benefited from his guidance on the work of the SCRS and his communication of SCRS advice to stakeholders and decision makers.

The 2022 Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) which is contained in the *Report for Biennial Period 2022-2023, Part I (2022), Vol. 2*, was approved by the Commission.

6. Review of the reports of the 2022 Intersessional Meetings, and consideration of any necessary actions

It was agreed that the various reports would be considered by the relevant subsidiary bodies. The [Report of the First Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1](#) and the [Report of the Second Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1](#) were forwarded to Panel 1. The [Report of the First Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2](#), the [Report of the](#)

Second Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 on the Bluefin Tuna Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE), the Report of the Third Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 on the Bluefin Tuna Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE), the Report of the Fourth Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 on the Bluefin Tuna Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE), and the Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Mediterranean Albacore were forwarded to Panel 2. The Report of the 15th Intersessional Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM), the Report of the Meeting of the eBCD Technical Working Group (eBCD TWG), the Report of the First Meeting of the Working Group on Electronic Monitoring System (WG-EMS), the Report of the Second Meeting of the Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Systems (WG-EMS), the Report of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on a Catch Document Scheme, the Report of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Labour Standards (LSWG) and the Report of the Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity Building and Assistance were forwarded to the PWG. Finally, the Report of the Meeting of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group (WG-ORT) was forwarded to the Compliance Committee.

As regards the Third, Fourth and Fifth Meeting of the Virtual Working Group on Review of Rules of Procedure (VWG-RRP) of the Commission, the Commission Chair presented the result of these meetings. He also presented the Chair's "Non-paper of the Virtual Working Group on review of Rules of Procedure (VWG-RRP)" on possible procedural improvements. One objective was to avoid the situation whereby some delegations, especially the smaller ones, find themselves with insufficient time to study proposals and limited opportunity to engage in consultations. At the same time, several delegations noted the need for sufficient time to draft proposals that are based on new advice from the SCRS. The VWG-RRP looked for a way to balance these concerns in an equitable manner. The document includes three concepts:

- a) Election of officers: This work should be advanced as much as possible before the Annual Meeting to avoid lengthy discussions during the meeting.
- b) Presentation of proposals: Proposals are divided into two cases, those that require SCRS advice and those that do not. The objective is to avoid to the greatest degree possible proposals being submitted during the Annual Meeting. The Chair also indicated that if a Party does not wish to adopt a specific proposal, this Party should clearly explain its rationale to increase the possibility of finding consensus.
- c) Rapporteurs: As it is difficult to find rapporteurs, the same people always end up writing the reports. And when there is no rapporteur, the Secretariat, which is already sufficiently busy, performs this role. Moreover, everyone should have an opportunity to take on the role of rapporteur at meetings. In this respect, the paper considers the concept of assistant rapporteurs, who preferably speak the same language and know the subject to assist those who are new to the process. Another idea is to hire professional rapporteurs, which would be expensive. The Chair signalled, however, that this option might have to be explored further at least for some meetings if there were no other options available.

The Chair indicated that if, at the end of the week, his document could not be adopted, his intention was to refer it to STACFAD so the issues could be further considered, including what form any decisions might take, such as a guidance document or potentially amendment of certain Rules of Procedure.

The Chair submitted a revised version of the working paper that included comments from some CPCs, but there was no consensus to adopt the document. As regards the election process, the Chair suggested that it would be useful to apply the process set out in the document provisionally next year. The United States indicated that, unfortunately, it was not yet ready to adopt the document, even on a provisional basis. In light of the lack of consensus, the document was referred to STACFAD for further consideration, per the Chair's suggestion.

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

Given time constraints, it was proposed to consider this item at the 2023 Annual Meeting.

8. Assistance to developing coastal States and capacity building

The Chair indicated that the information is available in the document "Meeting Participation Fund". There were no comments from the attendees.

9. Cooperation with other organisations

9.1 Cooperation with other IGOs

The Executive Secretary presented the document "Collaboration with other international organizations" which explain the agreements with organizations such as Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP), with which the agreement has been renewed for a further 6 years, and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), with which there is no formal agreement, but a draft memorandum of understanding will be prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the ICES Secretariat and presented to the Commission for consideration.

Regarding ICCAT's collaboration with the Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC) and the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), draft letters of agreement had been prepared within the framework of the current cooperation agreement between ICCAT and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). As for WECAFC, the letter was sent after its meeting, although some shark experts are already collaborating with ICCAT. For its part, the GFCM indicated that it accepts the letter because it is in line with the previously signed memorandum. In the case of WECAFC, the proposed approach will be subject to further review by that organization, including its FAO legal advisors.

Modifications were proposed to the GFCM and WECAFC letters, which were endorsed by ICCAT, following these amendments. ICCAT's Executive Secretary will send these letters to WECAFC and GFCM, respectively, for their review and endorsement.

The Secretariat indicated that a memorandum of understanding had been signed in April with the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) after its approval by the Commission in 2021. The Secretariat also indicated that, based on a request for cooperation by the Sargasso Sea Commission (SSC) Secretariat, the SCRS, initially through its Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch, would consider possible areas of scientific cooperation with that organization. Based on that work, the ICCAT Secretariat would work with the SSC Secretariat to develop a draft memorandum of understanding to present to the Commission for consideration in 2023.

9.2 Update on progress of ABNJ2 and BBNJ processes, as appropriate

Regarding Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction 2 (ABNJ2), the Executive Secretary indicated that four aspects had been chosen for ICCAT's participation in this second phase: monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS), improving the ICCAT Integrated Online Management System (IOMS), ecosystem-based indicators and management, as well as coordination among t-RMFOs through a series of three joint technical meetings, to address common challenges in a harmonized manner.

As to the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) process, the Executive Secretary indicated a fifth session had been held in August and that it has been extended to include one more in February and that the main objective sought is participation by fisheries experts. The Chair indicated that, given the possible impact of this Convention on marine biodiversity, it is important that CPCs be involved in the process and that ICCAT should stay informed of related developments that may affect its work in the future. Broad discussions took place on this issue, with CPCs highlighting the need for the fisheries sector to become involved in collaborating on and contributing to a subject which may affect the fisheries. The Chair noted that ICCAT has to think about recommendations on conserving biodiversity and preserving sustainable fisheries activities. One CPC indicated that there are two areas of concern for RFMOs: area-based management (marine protected areas) and environmental impact, highlighting how important it is for the fisheries sector to become involved. The Chair suggested that while there is a tendency to regard established marine protected areas as the best way to manage marine biodiversity, in his view, they are not ideal for managing mobile resources such as tunas.

The Chair presented his proposal, a "Draft Resolution by ICCAT contribution in the conservation of marine biodiversity". One CPC (Canada) signalled that, while it acknowledged the importance of the issue and appreciated the Chair's draft, the proposed text was concerning in some respects, and given the late tabling and discussion of the proposal in plenary the time available might be insufficient to reach consensus. The Chair, therefore, signalled that since consensus could not be reached, he would withdraw the draft resolution.

9.3 Climate change

The United States presented the document "Draft Resolution by ICCAT on climate change", to initiate discussions on the impact of climate change on fisheries. It also proposed a joint meeting of experts between the SCRS and the Commission to initiate ICCAT's work on climate change without delay. Many CPCs agreed on the need to integrate climate change into fisheries management and the changes that it is bringing about. The SCRS Chair indicated that some elements related to climate change were already included in the stock assessments, as ICCAT has two environmental indicators, but that it is still a matter of considerable uncertainty. Numerous CPCs voiced support for the proposal, and two additional CPCs (Morocco and Korea (Rep.)) highlighted the need to build the capacity of developing countries to respond to this challenge, given that much further scientific data are required, which are not currently available.

One CPC (EU) voiced concerns as regards the workload that would be involved in this effort. The United States noted that the Commission, in consultation with the SCRS, must determine if a virtual meeting held over 3 days can be accommodated and noted flexibility on the length of the meeting. As regards the chair, this was a decision for the Commission. The United States noted its willingness to serve, which was accepted by the Commission. Finally, concerning the experts, the United States noted that they should not only be environmental or fisheries scientists but also climate scientists.

The Chair indicated that while there was broad support for the draft resolution, some delegations had also expressed some reservations. The United States submitted a new version of the document incorporating the suggested changes from various CPCs, which was adopted and is included in **ANNEX 5**.

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

The Chair of STACFAD, Ms. Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA), informed that the Committee had adopted the "2022 Administrative Report", "2022 Financial Report", "Follow-up of the ICCAT Performance Review – STACFAD", and situation of the Working Capital Fund, indicating that by year-end 2022 the fund will be above the recommended percentage. She indicated that due to the increase in intersessional meetings, it will be necessary to increase the Secretariat's resources in the next 2024-2025 biennial budget to include four additional posts.

The document "Detailed information on the accumulated debt of the ICCAT Contracting Parties and review of past-due contributions", was reviewed. The Committee expressed concern as regards the significant level of outstanding contributions, and strongly appealed to Contracting Parties to submit their repayment plans as soon as possible and to meet the financial obligations.

Regarding the rules applicable to the Meeting Participation Fund (MPF), it was noted that the revised rules adopted in 2020 had been used for the first time in 2022 and that some practical difficulties had arisen in relation to dates and deadlines for accessing financial assistance, as well as comprehension of what is meant by the term "official delegates" used in the guidance. Therefore, the rules would be revised as soon as possible by the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Finances for ICCAT.

In addition to the considering revision to the MPF rules, the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Finances for ICCAT will meet in 2023 to consider options to cover the costs of the annual meetings, additional funds to carry out the activities of the Commission, the punctuality in the payment of contributions, and to continue the study of the pool of rapporteurs available for meetings, taking into account the ideas included in the revised version of the "Commission Chair's non-paper on possible procedural improvements".

Under agenda item 11 of the STACFAD Agenda "Consideration of financial implications of ICCAT conservation and management measures proposed," the Committee was not able to review in depth the cover note template contained in the document "Financial implications of proposed draft recommendations", but it was agreed to simplify the template for 2023.

The revised version of the "Update of ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules" was approved, which, inter alia, modernises and provides flexibility on issues such as teleworking, parental and adoptive parent leave and conflict resolution (**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 7**).

The information on "SCRS research activities requiring funding for 2023" was reviewed and the revised proposal of the 2023 science budget was adopted, in the amount of €2,133,500.00, of which €1,250,000.00 corresponded to the GBYP (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 7**). However, the approved Commission budget includes only €416,635 for strategic research. The balance needs to be found from other sources, including voluntary contributions from other CPCs.

STACFAD presented several options for the 2023 ICCAT budget. Option B was approved, which included 17 days of simultaneous interpretation for SCRS intersessional meetings, including covering the Meetings of the Tropical Tunas, Sharks, and Small Tunas Species Groups, and the Meeting of the Subcommittee on Statistics, as well as the expenses associated with holding SCRS meetings in a hybrid format. The adopted budget, which reflects a 9.18% increase over the level initially adopted in 2021, is contained in **Tables 1-5 of ANNEX 7**.

A revised version of the eBCD system budget for 2023 was also approved, which is included as **eBCD Tables 1-5 of ANNEX 7**.

Finally, the Committee approved the renewal for 5 more years of the Executive Secretary, from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2028, and the Contracting Parties thanked the Executive Secretary for his leadership during his first term of office.

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. Paul Bannerman (Ghana), informed the Commission that Panel 1 had held two intersessional meetings, in June and October. The [Report of the First Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1](#), held in a hybrid format in Ponta Delgada (Azores, Portugal) from 28 to 30 June 2022, and the [Report of the Second Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1](#), held online on 13 October 2022, were approved by the Panel 1.

The Chair indicated that during the four sessions of Panel 1 the "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 21-01 on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas" was discussed and revised. He indicated that, following deliberations on the conservation measures and possible allocation criteria, the Panel ran out of time to finalize development of a new measure.

The Chair of Panel 1 suggested that, as there was no time to adopt the "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 21-01 replacing Recommendation 16-01 on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas", it could be adopted by correspondence.

Extensive discussions ensued, during which the majority of CPCs stressed the need to adopt an interim measure at this meeting given the need to avoid a legal vacuum. It was decided to adopt an extension of the current measure through 2023, and the bigeye tuna TAC would remain at 62,500 t. Furthermore, it was agreed to establish a roadmap to reach consensus on a new measure in 2023. Specifically, two intersessional meetings will be organized in 2023 to consider a more comprehensive text for the next management period (e.g. 2024-2028), including fishing possibilities. The Chair of Panel 1 presented the roll over proposal, which was adopted by the Commission and is contained in **ANNEX 4**.

In relation to the Report of the Second Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1, Honduras indicated that it was stated in the report that Honduras could not accept more than 70,000 t, which is an assertion that it never made. It has always maintained, together with other CPCs, that a TAC of more than 70,000 t is permissible based on SCRS advice, and it requested that this statement be placed on record.

Panel 1 also presented the "Draft Resolution by ICCAT on development of initial management objectives for western Atlantic skipjack", which was adopted by the Commission and is contained in **ANNEX 5**.

It was agreed that the Report of Panel 1 would be adopted by correspondence (**ANNEX 8**).

Panel 2

Mr. Shingo Ota (Japan), Chair of Panel 2, informed the Commission that Panel 2 had reviewed the results of four intersessional meetings and had approved the [Report of the First Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2](#), held online from 1 to 3 March 2022, the [Report of the Second Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 on Bluefin Tuna Management Strategy Evaluation \(BFT MSE\)](#), held online from 9 to 10 May 2022, the [Report of the Third Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 on Bluefin Tuna Management Strategy Evaluation \(MSE\)](#), held online on 14 July 2022, and the [Report of the Fourth Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 on the Bluefin Tuna Management Strategy Evaluation \(MSE\) held in Madrid, Spain and hybrid format on 14 October 2022](#). Panel 2 requested to hold its usual meeting in March 2023, to review the fishing and farming plans, but with an extra day added to discuss the allocation key for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna.

The Chair of Panel 2 reported that a new assessment of the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna stock had been carried out in 2022, but no advice on TAC had been provided due to the uncertainties. The advice on the TAC for 2023 should be decided within the framework of the MSE, with the management procedure having been selected.

Panel 2 discussed seven proposals, two of which had been submitted by Japan, were incorporated into the "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 21-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna". Panel 2, therefore, approved four draft recommendations and one draft resolution for consideration by the Commission, namely:

- *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-06 to establish a rebuilding plan for Mediterranean albacore*
- *Resolution by ICCAT on a pilot project for short-term live storage of bluefin tuna*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT establishing a Management Procedure for Atlantic bluefin tuna to be used for both the western and eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean management areas*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT for a conservation and management plan for western Atlantic bluefin tuna*

The Chair of Panel 2 stressed that it is important to adopt a management procedure for bluefin tuna, which will be the second to be adopted following that for North Atlantic albacore, and he thanked all those involved in the process.

All these Recommendations, including one with a minor amendment, were adopted and are contained in **ANNEX 4**, and the Resolution is contained in **ANNEX 5**.

Korea (Rep.) indicated that it wished to be placed on record that it had reluctantly accepted the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean*.

It was agreed that the Report of Panel 2 would be adopted by correspondence (**ANNEX 8**).

Panel 3

The Chair of Panel 3, Mr. Qayiso Mketsu (South Africa) informed that Panel 3 now had 16 members since Angola, Côte d'Ivoire and St Vincent and the Grenadines had joined, and that Curaçao is expected to become a member at the end of the year.

As regards the status of the southern albacore stock, the Chair of Panel 3 informed that it is in very good condition. Currently, it is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring, and with current catches, the probability of being in the green area of the Kobe plot is 98%. The next stock assessment is scheduled for 2026.

As to the compliance tables, Panel 3 identified significant discrepancies between the data sources available to ICCAT, in particular between the Task 1 data and the Secretariat data included in the tables; this issue was, therefore, referred to the Compliance Committee. Several CPCs notified their intention to carry over to 2023 the underharvests from the previous year: Brazil, China, European Union, Japan, Korea (Rep.), South Africa, United Kingdom, Uruguay and Chinese Taipei. Those CPCs wishing to carry out transfers were requested to work with the Secretariat to update the Compliance Tables.

During the discussions, the issue of whether CPCs that are not members of Panel 3 could receive allocations was raised. Some members considered that, based on the current practice, CPCs that are not members of Panel 3 should not receive quotas, while others noted that while it would be desirable for CPCs to be members of Panel 3 in order to receive a quota, there is no obligation to do so in the ICCAT Convention or ICCAT rules.

Panel 3 approved the *Recommendation on South Atlantic albacore catch limits for the period 2023-2026*.

The Commission adopted the measure proposed by Panel 3, which is contained in **ANNEX 4**.

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

Panel 4

The Commission Chair indicated that he had assumed the chair due to illness of the current Chair of Panel 4 Mr. Amar Belacel.

Panel 4 approved the following measures:

- *Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of the South Atlantic stock of shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries*
- *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)*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT replacing supplemental Recommendation 21-03 extending and amending Recommendation 17-03 for the conservation of South Atlantic swordfish and*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT replacing supplemental Recommendation 21-02 extending and amending Recommendation 17-02 for the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish*

The Commission adopted the four measures proposed by Panel 4, which are contained in **ANNEX 4**.

The United States expressed disappointment that its proposal "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT" was blocked again this year because, according to two CPCs, there is no evidence of shark finning. The United States offered to submit, as needed, photographs and other documentary evidence in 2023 pursuant to Rec. 08-09 to highlight incidents of finning throughout the Convention area and to illustrate the importance of adopting a more comprehensive measure for sharks to ensure effective conservation and management. It expressed its hope that those who continue to block the proposal will reconsider next year.

The observer from EUROPÊCHE indicated that, as regards finning, its intention was to uphold good practices, noting that the theft by Greenpeace of 30 km of longline from two longliners was not the way to proceed. The EU expressed its disappointment that the proposal has not been approved and indicated that illegal activities are not acceptable. The Chair noted that while ICCAT supports NGOs as they make valuable contributions to the discussions, it is not acceptable that they develop policing systems parallel to those in existence and cause heavy financial losses to fishers. Japan explained that in the past it had collaborated with several NGOs to identify illegal activities, but that this was a very serious incident and if Greenpeace does not provide any explanations, perhaps its observer status should be revoked.

It was agreed that the Report of Panel 4 would be adopted by correspondence. The report is contained in **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, informed the Commission that the COC had achieved many positive results, which reflects the constructive spirit of the members.

The COC had approved and was submitting for adoption the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the application of the Integrated Online Management System*, to establish a program for mandatory use of the IOMS, which will greatly enhance the ability of the COC to perform its work and will simplify the process for CPCs to comply with their reporting obligations. This Recommendation was adopted by the Commission and is contained in **ANNEX 4**. The [Report of the Meeting of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group](#), which was held online from 7 to 8 February 2022, was approved by the Committee.

The COC approved the revised version of the document "Draft schedule of compliance issues and corresponding actions", which was adopted by the Commission (**ANNEX 6.3**).

The Committee recommended that the Chair of the Compliance Committee send letters on compliance issues to 31 CPCs, and that the Commission identify five CPCs under Recommendation 06-13. The Commission supported COC's recommendation to send letters to the 31 CPCs and the five identifications, as reflected in the column "Actions taken in 2022" of the "Compliance Summary Tables", (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9**). Senegal expressed its dissatisfaction with the action indicated by the COC for its country since neither Senegal's actions nor what was communicated by Senegal was reflected, and requested that its grievance be placed on record.

The COC recommended that the Commission renew Cooperating status for all current Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (Bolivia, Chinese Taipei, Costa Rica, Guyana and Suriname) and the Commission concurred.

As to non-CPCs, the COC recommended sending letters to non-CPCs that had previously received letters, as appropriate depending on the status of the circumstances that led to the 2021 letters. In 2022 letters were sent to Dominica, Dominican Republic, Gibraltar, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Santa Lucia expressing concerns or requesting continued cooperation. In addition, letters were sent to Israel, Jamaica, Lebanon, Montenegro inviting them to consider becoming members of ICCAT.

The COC approved all compliance tables, with provisional approval of the bigeye table pending revisions to the footnote to reflect a different interpretation by 3 CPCs that would affect their adjusted quotas. The footnote was corrected in a revised version of the compliance tables. Curaçao's blue marlin table was provisionally approved pending approval by the Commission in 2023 of a payback plan, which is reflected in the table.

The COC also discussed its strategic plan to prioritize its work at the 2023 meeting, the main topics of which will include Rec. 16-04 on scientific observers, shortfin mako, capacity building and implementation of the new "Schedule of compliance issues and corresponding actions" that has been adopted. The priorities will be updated based on input from CPCs and the Secretariat in the intersessional period.

The COC noted the automatic application, on 1 January 2023, of an ICCAT species retention ban, in accordance with Recommendation 11-15, for CPCs that have not submitted Task 1 data or confirmed the absence of captures of any species: Angola, The Gambia, Grenada and Guinea Bissau.

It was agreed that the Report of the Meeting of the Conservation and Management Measures 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), informed the Commission that the PWG had adopted the [Report of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on a Catch Document Scheme](#), which met online on 4-5 April 2022, and had fully endorsed its work plan for 2023, including future meetings of that working group. He encouraged CPCs to complete the questionnaire to facilitate that Group's tasks. The PWG also adopted the [Report of the Meeting of the Technical Working Group on eBCD](#), which met online on 6-7 April 2022, which will continue to carry out new developments during 2023. The Commission adopted these reports.

With respect to the eBCD systems, the PWG approved the "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-18 on the application of the eBCD system" which extended validation exemptions for the EU through 2024. This proposal was adopted by the Commission and is contained in **ANNEX 4**.

At the request of Panel 2, the "Discussion paper on BFT processing vessels" was also discussed and approved by the PWG, to include discussion by the eBCD TWG of the technical feasibility of amending the eBCD system to include processing information and reject implausible processing and discussion by IMM of administrative and control requirements. Based on this intersessional work, amendments to Rec. 18-13 shall be considered in 2023. The Commission agreed to this way forward.

The PWG also considered the possibility of making public the signatures and validation seals of the statistical document programs, in a format that does not allow their misuse, and while there was general support, some CPCs indicated that they required more time to consult on the matter. Therefore, it was agreed that the Secretariat would wait for confirmation before starting work.

As to observer programmes and electronic monitoring systems (EMS), the PWG adopted the [Report of the First Meeting of the Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Systems](#), held online on 28 February 2022, and the [Report of the Second Meeting of the Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Systems](#), held online on 6-7 June 2022, endorsing the work plan of that working group for 2023, including future meetings of that Group in 2023. The PWG also adopted the "Draft Resolution by ICCAT establishing a pilot project to test the use of stereoscopic cameras during first transfer and the automation of video footage analysis". Both reports and the proposal for the pilot project (**ANNEX 5**) were adopted by the Commission.

Regarding transshipment requirements, the PWG approved the "Document number of transshipment declaration – Proposal to amend the transshipment declaration", which was a proposal to add a place to the transshipment declaration form (CP-19), to voluntarily include a document number. This proposal was adopted by the Commission (**ANNEX 6.4**).

Regarding inspection programmes and sightings, the PWG adopted a revised version of the document "Modification of the E-BFT and SWO Joint Inspection Schemes (JIS) to include specifications for boarding ladders" (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**). The proposal to amend these two schemes was adopted by the Commission¹. In addition, the PWG was informed of the experience of some CPCs in the implementation of Resolution 19-17 and encouraged CPCs to continue conducting voluntary exchanges of inspection personnel.

The Chair of the PWG informed the Commission that a revised version of the "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for a Joint International Inspection Scheme in the Convention area beyond national jurisdiction" had also been submitted to the PWG, on which, following lengthy discussions, no consensus had been reached, and the proposal was referred to plenary for further discussion. During these discussions, many Parties stressed that it is important for ICCAT to have a programme of this type, but Uruguay indicated that, while it was not against the spirit of the proposal, it had concerns and needed more time. For the moment, therefore, it could not accept the proposal. Parties were urged to continue collaborating so that this proposal can be adopted in the future.

¹ After the close of the 2022 ICCAT Annual Meeting, it was determined that these amendments must follow the Convention's entry into force procedures to become legally binding given that they amend two ICCAT recommendations adopted under Article VIII of the Convention. Toward that end, Rec. 22-08, Annex 7, will be revised to include the agreed text on boarding ladders for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery and the Secretariat will circulate a supplementary recommendation modifying Rec. 16-05, Annex 1, to include the similar text for Mediterranean swordfish.

The Chair of the PWG informed that the PWG had approved the [Report of the Meeting of the Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity Building and Assistance](#), which was held online on 13 June 2022, indicating that it will continue strengthening the port inspection programmes in 2023. In addition, the Group discussed possible exceptions to the requirements for registration on the ICCAT Record of Vessels authorized to take ICCAT species as bycatch and agreed to continue discussions intersessionally.

The PWG also forwarded to the plenary for adoption a revised version of the "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to replace 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", which replaces Rec. 06-14.

The Chair of the PWG informed the Commission that the [Report of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Labour Standards \(LSWG\)](#), which was held online on 14-15 March 2022, had been adopted and that it had been recommended that this working group continue its work. The Commission adopted the report of this meeting and endorsed this recommendation that the working group continue its work.

As regards the IUU vessel list, the PWG noted some minor changes to the draft IUU list, and the Commission approved the final IUU list (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 10**).

As to the second performance review, the Group forwarded the document "Follow-up of the ICCAT Performance Review" to the 2023 meeting of the IMM Working Group. Finally, the PWG adopted the [Report of the 15th Intersessional Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures \(IMM\)](#), which was held online on 8-10 June 2022. The Commission adopted the report of this meeting.

The Commission adopted the following recommendations proposed by the PWG, which are included in **ANNEX 4**, the following resolution, which is contained in **ANNEX 5**, and the following reference document which is contained in **ANNEX 6.4**.

- *Recommendation by ICCAT to replace 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*
- *Resolution by ICCAT establishing a pilot project to test the use of stereoscopic cameras during first transfer and the automation of video footage analysis*
- *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-18 on the application of the eBCD system*
- *Document number on transshipment declaration*

It was agreed that the Report of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) would be adopted by correspondence. The report is contained in **ANNEX 10**.

14. Intersessional meetings in 2023

It was noted that given the large number of meetings required for 2023, it would be advisable for all those that can be held online, to be held virtually.

It was agreed that Panel 1 will require two meetings to address the TAC, allocations and conservation measures, and that it would be better if these were in-person meetings, and that a one-day meeting on western skipjack MSE was also required.

As to Panel 2, it was agreed that a hybrid meeting will be necessary in March.

As regards the Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue between Scientists and Fisheries Managers (SWGSM), several CPCs questioned the need to hold a meeting next year and finally, given the number of meetings planned, it was decided not to hold a meeting.

Regarding Panel 4, it was agreed to hold three meetings on the MSE for North Atlantic swordfish, including one in October after the meeting of the SCRS Species Groups.

The United States offered to chair the Climate Change Expert Meeting, which will be held online.

As to the PWG, it was agreed that, since most of its groups have worked well in online meetings, the meetings will be held online with the exception of the IMM Working Group, whose meeting will be hybrid.

As regards STACFAD, it was agreed that the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Finances for ICCAT (VWG-SF) would hold a one-day meeting online.

One CPC highlighted the need, in the case of developing CPCs, to enable attendance by a manager and a scientist through the Meeting Participation Fund (MPF).

15. Streamlining of conservation and management measures

The Commission Chair presented the document "Streamlining of ICCAT Recommendations", which proposed removal of Rec. 14-02 from the active Compendium. No objections were raised.

16. Other matters

There were no comments under this item.

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

Egypt offered to host the next meeting of the Commission. The EU indicated that EU-Cyprus also offered to host the meeting but as there were two offers, it did not mind hosting the 2024 meeting. Côte d'Ivoire congratulated the Chair for his moderation of the meeting as well as the Secretariat and the interpreters for their excellent support and also expressed its willingness to host the 2023 meeting.

The Chair suggested that, with three offers, the meeting be held in 2023 in Egypt, in 2024 in EU_Cyprus and in 2025 in Côte d'Ivoire. This was agreed.

18. Adoption of the report and adjournment

It was agreed that the report would be adopted by correspondence. Thanks were extended to the Commission Chair, the Secretariat and the interpreters. The Executive Secretary bid farewell to Cristobal García who is retiring after 42 years of service at the Secretariat and thanked all the staff for their excellent work. The Chair ended the meeting by thanking all the participants, in-person and online, for their flexibility, noting that ICCAT is a success.

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)
6. Review of the reports of the 2022 Intersessional Meetings, and consideration of any necessary actions
7. Review of progress on follow up on the Second Performance Review of ICCAT 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
 - 9.2 Update on progress of ABNJ2 and BBNJ processes, as appropriate
 - 9.3 Climate change
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 2023
15. Streamlining of conservation and management measures
16. Other matters
17. Date and place of the next meeting of the Commission
18. Adoption of the report and adjournment

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OPENING ADDRESSES & STATEMENTS TO THE PLENARY SESSIONS

3.1 Opening addresses

By Mr. Ernesto Penas Lado, Commission Chairman

Minister for Agriculture and Food
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 Secretary of State for Fisheries
 President of the Regional Coordination Commission for Development of the Algarve
 Mayor of the Loulé municipality
 Distinguished delegates of the CPCs
 Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me first of all thank the Portuguese authorities for hosting this annual meeting in this magnificent region of the Algarve. Likewise, I wish to thank the European Commission for providing funds necessary for the holding of this annual meeting in a hybrid format, after 3 years of sub-optimal conditions due to the pandemic. My thanks also to the ICCAT Secretariat for all the impressive work done to make this meeting possible.

In a few minutes we will start our work on the management of tuna stocks. As ever, this will keep us very busy and will demand the best of our will and our ability to find workable solutions that will preserve the effectiveness of our Commission to manage our stocks sustainably. I wish to draw your attention to a certain number of issues that, this year, constitute essential priorities for our work:

- We need to ensure the continuity of measures for those species which expire this year, even if only a roll over (swordfish, southern albacore, ...) to avoid any legal vacuum in the management of these stocks;
- Despite the efforts these last years, Panel 1 has not been able to reach an agreement for a new measure on tropical tunas. This is fundamental and pressing;
- The Panel 2 Management Procedure for Atlantic bluefin tuna is also an essential priority where we cannot fail;
- We should continue our efforts to secure adequate funding in the regular budget to cover the key activities that are still largely funded by voluntary contributions, mainly the meetings and the science;
- We also need to encourage CPCs to volunteer for hosting of meetings.

But over and beyond these priorities for this year, it is my strong view that the work of ICCAT in the years to come will not, cannot be just business as usual. Fisheries management has evolved considerably in recent times. When I started out, many years ago, we only talked about fish. Today, we also talk about marine ecosystems and biodiversity. And we all know this new paradigm is there to stay, so we have to ensure that the ICCAT of the immediate future is up to the task.

As you know, very soon we will probably have two new international instruments that may pose an existential challenge to our fisheries: the United Nation's BBNJ Convention and the Biodiversity 30x30 objective of the Convention on Biological Diversity. These two instruments may have an important bearing on tuna fisheries. And, while the objective of preserving marine biodiversity is one that I am sure we all agree upon, we should also do our best to ensure that such objective does not undermine the conduct of responsible and sustainable tuna fisheries.

Science tells us that fish is the healthiest animal protein in the world. Science also tells us that the carbon footprint of fisheries is generally lower than that of most land-based sources of animal protein, which means fish should be a strategic food source for the world under climate change. And we should also remember that among the Millennium objectives of the United Nations for 2030, the first and foremost is the "elimination of hunger and poverty", which in turn reminds us of the crucial role that fish and fisheries can play in achieving such objective.

This is why, while agreeing to implement the new international obligations on the preservation of marine biodiversity, we have to ensure that these do not prevent our fisheries from playing the crucial role they must have in the near future as a healthy, climate-friendly and sustainable source of food for people. In this context, easy solutions such as simply kicking out fisheries from very large oceanic areas will not be the best solution. There are practical ways to preserve biodiversity while continuing to conduct sustainable fisheries, and I am convinced that ICCAT can and should play a fundamental role in defining such solutions in the years to come.

The second challenge for our Commission is that of multilateralism. My experience at the European Union shows that ocean governance in general, and that of the fisheries in particular, will be multilateral or will not occur. But multilateralism has an essential condition: that of giving all countries a real opportunity to participate actively in decision making and election of officers. Presenting small countries with the fait accompli, the decisions having already been taken by the large countries, is not true multilateralism.

This is why I attach great importance to the discussion on decision taking methods, in particular in the context of the virtual working group that I have had the honour to chair these past few months. It is very important that all the Contracting Parties of our Commission feel truly involved in the decision-making process, and fairly so. I shall spare no effort to achieve a system which, while affording the necessary flexibility, provides an opportunity to all delegates to feel fully involved in consensus building.

The third major challenge for our Commission in the next few years is to uphold sustainable and responsible fishing in a world that is ever more dominated by the information society, where, unfortunately, it is increasingly easy to find public campaigns against worthy fishing activity. And these campaigns are neither innocent nor harmless: they contribute to giving fishing activity a poor image that has consequences for political decision making, and determination of consumer behaviour.

It is true that there are undesirable activities related with the fisheries: overexploitation of some resources, illegal fishing, and even slavery onboard some fishing vessels in the 21st century. These practices exist. But let there be no confusion: these activities do not affect the entire fishing industry. Against those who mix undesirable with responsible activity, and against those who talk about the fishing industry as if all those involved act in the same way, it is also ICCAT's responsibility to lead the fight against misunderstandings and biased information that undermine the entire fisheries sector, because of these few. Alongside illegal and abusive fishing, there is also legal, compliant, sustainable, transparent and socially responsible fishing.

Insofar as ICCAT is capable of ending overfishing, and combatting illegal fishing and socially unacceptable practices, we will have full legitimacy to uphold, clearly and without complexes, good, legal, transparent, sustainable, and socially responsible fishing, which will play an essential role in the supply of food for people and in the fight against poverty in the world under climate change.

I invite you all to work together to make our tuna fisheries an example for the whole world.

By Mr. Camille Jean Pierre Manel, ICCAT Executive Secretary

Minister of Agriculture and Food,
Ministers in attendance,
Secretary of State for Fisheries,
Chair of the Regional Coordination and Development Commission of the Algarve,
Mayor of the Municipality of Loulé,
ICCAT Chair,
ICCAT Vice-Chairs,
Commission Officers,
Delegates,
Partners,
Interpreters,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Colleagues,

Following two years in which the pandemic has put us at a distance, it is with great joy that I bid you a warm welcome. Despite the exceptional moments that we have all lived through, our resilience has enabled us to experience new realities which will certainly constitute an integral part of our environment. These include the possibility of holding hybrid meetings like the meeting that is currently being held in this magnificent place, Vale do Lobo, here in the Algarve. It is the occasion to heartily thank the Portuguese authorities for hosting this meeting, and also the European Union for its funding.

ICCAT Chair, delegates, continued strengthening of its pillars through an adaptive response is essential for the dynamics of our work environment. Within the framework of anticipation, this year, the Secretariat is pleased to propose to the Commission the update of the Staff Regulations and Rules. In the same vein, it continues the development of its policies on information security, personal data protection and the guidelines for remote working, which are processes that have been particularly delayed due to an overloaded schedule.

In fact, as raised in the past few years, the Secretariat continues to face an increase in the work overload as evidenced by the record number of meetings this year, accompanied by their list of related tasks. While it is true that the need for measures taken by the Commission for better conservation and management of the stocks is beyond any doubt, it is reiterated the pressing invitation for adjustment of the Secretariat's means. Nevertheless, the Secretariat will continue its strong performance in spite of the challenges.

This is why I would like to express my exceptional satisfaction to all the Secretariat staff who, with the support of the Commission and the participation of the partners, demonstrate great professionalism and tireless work that often result in performance beyond expectations. Dear colleagues, I am very proud of you!

By Ms. Maria do Céu Antunes, Minister of Agriculture and Food of Portugal

President of the Municipal Chamber of Loulé, Vítor Aleixo
Chair of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
Chair of the Regional Coordination and Development Commission of the Algarve, José Apolinário
Delegates,
Participants

It is with great satisfaction that Portugal, on behalf of the European Union, is hosting, over the course of this week, the 23rd Annual Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, and extends its thanks to the European Commission for all its support.

I am very pleased to welcome you to this beautiful place, located in the Algarve region, where fishing is one of the dominant activities, along with tourism.

The geomorphological characteristics of this region can certainly account for how important the fisheries sector is today; its main components being capture, aquaculture and the fish processing industry.

Allow me to point out that the Algarve region accounts for, on average, close to 22% of the value of the fresh fish landed nationally.

It is also the region with the largest number of different types of aquaculture businesses, such as nurseries (bottom), ponds and floating structures (longlines and cages). The latter include two tuna structures (traps and farm), which have a special interest in the decisions that result from this meeting.

Given that ICCAT has 52 Contracting Parties, with interests that sometimes differ, I sincerely hope that this forum can build the best consensus for adoption of the regulatory measures under discussion.

Only this way will we manage to achieve suitable results for sustainable management, environmentally, economically and socially, of the resources regulated by this Regional Fisheries Management Organisation, in particular, highly migratory fish.

Finally, I would like to highlight the positive contribution of some stocks, in particular, bigeye and bluefin tuna, to the economic and social balance of the national coastal communities, in particular, the Portuguese outermost regions that carry out sustainable fishing, which is very selective and seasonal, using small-scale vessels.

The fisheries sector is fundamental in the sustainable development of our country. Not only does fish play an essential role in a balanced and healthy diet, with a prominent place in our prized Mediterranean diet, fish is also considered to be key in cohesive socio-economic growth.

With increasing knowledge and innovation, we seek to, and will, continue to foster and promote the fisheries sector as well as, of course, the people who devote their lives to this sector.

I wish you all a very good and fruitful meeting.

3.2 Statements by Contracting Parties

Canada

Canada is very pleased to be a part of the 23rd Special Meeting of ICCAT. Over the last few years Contracting Parties have demonstrated exceptional commitment while continuing to make progress virtually. We are delighted to gather with most ICCAT Contracting Parties this week in person again, in Vale do Lobo, Portugal. We are grateful to the EU, and Portugal, for providing us with such a beautiful venue, and wonderful hospitality for what we are sure will be a productive meeting.

After seven years of work to build and conduct a management strategy evaluation for both stocks and areas of Atlantic bluefin tuna, the Commission now has an array of candidate management procedure variations from which to select, according to the tradeoffs between different management priorities. It is important that the Commission come to consensus and select a management procedure that is consistent with the best available scientific advice and the precautionary approach and that effectively and equitably manages both stocks and both areas, and move into the implementation phase without delay.

This meeting provides a vital opportunity to make meaningful incremental reforms to the tropical tunas management measure. For both bigeye and yellowfin tunas, juvenile mortality rates must be addressed as they continue to threaten the future of these stocks. The Commission must also ensure that the total allowable catch levels set for tropical tuna species are consistent with the best available science in order to assure a sustainable future for these fisheries. For Canada, among others, it will also be important that the category of CPCs that harvest relatively small amounts of bigeye tuna continue to hold catch limits outside of the allocation key.

Canada remains committed to establishing a Joint International Inspection Scheme in ICCAT, and with the encouragement of other CPCs we have submitted a more ambitious proposal for a single scheme that covers all areas beyond national jurisdiction in the Convention area. This enhanced proposal reflects the importance of using all tools at our disposal to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, thereby supporting the sustainability of fish stocks and the livelihoods that depend on them.

Canada will also join the rest of ICCAT's members in seeking progress on the management of several important non-tuna species. These include the sustainable management of Atlantic swordfish, strengthened conservation and management of shortfin mako sharks, reduction of the impacts on ICCAT fisheries on sea turtles, and modernization of shark management to include requirements for fins to remain naturally attached. The Commission's management of non-tuna and bycatch species is gaining attention in the wider world and has an increasing impact on ICCAT's credibility as stewards of shared environmental resources.

Finally, we note from the 2022 Administrative Report that five CPCs have ratified, accepted, or approved the Palma de Mallorca Protocol. In particular, we welcome Belize's ratification of the Protocol in February. Given the importance of a modernized Convention to strengthen the effectiveness of the Commission, Canada encourages other CPCs to continue making progress toward ratification, acceptance or approval of the Protocol.

Canada on Ukraine

Canada is pleased to be a part of the 23rd Special Meeting of ICCAT in Vale do Lobo, Portugal.

However, Canada must also take this opportunity to stand with the international community to condemn Russia's unjustifiable and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. The international community must remain seized with this issue. This is not just an attack on Ukraine: this is an attack on international law, including the United Nations Charter, as well as on democracy, freedom, and human rights. In launching this war, Russia is seeking to destroy the freedom of a people and to overthrow the democratically elected government of a sovereign nation.

We must continue to act with one global voice to condemn President Putin's aggressive actions. What Russia has done cannot be normalized. We must hold Russian leadership to account, call on it to abandon this path of war, and return to good-faith diplomacy. The world must reject President Putin's behaviour.

Canada stands with the government of Ukraine and with its brave and resilient people.

European Union on Ukraine

At the outset let me express the European Union' ('EU') and its Member States' full solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. The EU condemns in the strongest possible terms Russia's unprovoked and unjustified act of aggression against Ukraine, which grossly violates international law and the UN Charter, and undermines international security and stability. The EU demands that Russia immediately cease its military actions, withdraw all its troops from the entire territory of Ukraine and fully respect Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence within its internationally recognised borders and abide by UN General Assembly resolution titled "Aggression against Ukraine" supported by 141 States at the 11th emergency special session. The EU resolutely supports Ukraine's inherent right of self-defence and the Ukrainian armed forces' efforts to defend Ukraine's territorial integrity and population in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter. At all times Russia must respect its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, including with respect to the protection of civilians, women and children. Russia also needs to stop its disinformation campaign and cyber-attacks.

The EU condemns in the strongest possible terms the reported atrocities committed by the Russian armed forces in a number of occupied Ukrainian towns, that have now been liberated. Haunting images of large numbers of civilian deaths and casualties, as well as destruction of civilian infrastructures show the true face of the brutal war of aggression Russia is waging against Ukraine and its people. The massacres in the town of Bucha and other Ukrainian towns will be inscribed in the list of atrocities committed on European soil.

Iceland on Ukraine

The delegation of Iceland is engaged in the 23rd Special Meeting of the ICCAT Commission, 14-21 November 2022 and expects that the meeting will be both productive and constructive between all Contracting Parties, for the conservation and management of ICCAT species.

However, the delegation of Iceland must underline Iceland's full solidarity with the people of Ukraine. Iceland condemns in the strongest terms the invasion of the Russian Federation, which is in flagrant violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

Iceland reiterates its unwavering support of the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Ukraine, within its internationally recognized borders.

Iceland would like to make clear that the unacceptable actions of the Russian Federation impact our interaction in all international fora.

Japan

On behalf of the Japanese Delegation, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Government of Portugal as well as the European Union for hosting this important meeting in this beautiful location, Vale do Lobo. We also thank the ICCAT Secretariat staff for the excellent preparation and arrangement of the 23rd Special Meeting of the Commission.

For the last two years, the Commission could not meet in person, and even though it made its utmost effort to address many issues and indeed achieved several important progresses, we have to admit that virtual meetings are not the best format to discuss very complicated and controversial issues.

This year's Commission meeting will tackle one of the most difficult negotiations, TAC and allocation, for the symbolic species of ICCAT, bluefin tuna and bigeye. There are also many other important issues to be discussed this year. Japan wishes to cooperate with the respective Chairpersons and other CPCs to produce good outcomes for these issues.

The Commission has been discussing the introduction of effective management measures on bigeye for years. While the stock assessment in 2021 shows a somewhat optimistic result including potential increase of the TAC, it is still challenging to accommodate the growing aspirations of developing CPCs. Maintaining or even increasing the productivity of the stock is essential in order to accommodate a wide range of interests of CPCs.

Japan commends the hard work and dedication of all the scientists involved and developers who have almost completed necessary work for the adoption of MP for BFT. It has been a long journey, and the Commission is now in a position to introduce a more robust management scheme to this important species. While agreeing on one MP is not an easy task, Japan is willing to participate in the discussion in a constructive and flexible manner.

With regard to BFT farming, Japan, as one of the responsible market CPCs, has been expressing concern about very high growth ratios. Several significant progresses have been made in 2022 such as update of growth rate table and pilot study on automatic length measurement. Taking into account these developments, Japan would like to discuss how to improve the management of BFT farming.

Last but not least, Japan strongly encourages other CPCs to expedite their respective internal acceptance procedures for the Protocol to amend the ICCAT Convention so that this Protocol may enter into force as soon as possible.

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

Korea (Rep.)

Korea would like to invite the Panel to consider the amendment of Recommendation 19-02 (Rec. 21-01).

Paragraph 4 of Rec. 19-02 describes the method for setting catch limits for bigeye tuna. Korea would like to note that in this paragraph two criteria were used for the basis in setting catch limits: historical catch stipulated in paragraph 3 of Recommendation 16-01 and recent average catch as defined in the footnote.

Korea notes that in subpara a) and b), catch limits in paragraph 3 of Recommendation 16-01 is the basis for setting catch limits for CPCs listed in paragraph 3 of Recommendation 16-01. However, in subpara c) this reference of catch limit in paragraph 3 of Recommendation 16-01 is not mentioned.

Korea believes this was an oversight by the Panel during the last-minute difficult negotiations in 2019.

In this regard, Korea would like to suggest the following amendments to para 4 of Recommendation 19-02 to be considered at the next intersessional meeting:

- “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 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 or a catch limit in para 3 of Rec. 16-01 between 1,000 and 3,500 t shall apply a catch limit that is 10% less than their recent average catch or catch limit in para 3 of Rec. 16-01.
 - d) Those CPCs with recent average catch of less than 1,000 t are encouraged to maintain catch and effort at recent levels.”

In 2020, through a circular, a CPC reminded the Commission that CPCs conducting transfers should have a hard catch limit set.

As Korea was explicitly authorized by the Commission to conduct a transfer of its fishing possibilities of bigeye tuna in paragraph 8 of Recommendation 19-02 and 21-01, Korea would like to have a hard catch limit set applying the method used for setting catch limits in subpara a) and b).

Korea seeks the understanding of the Panel that this editing of paragraph 4 subpara c) of Rec. 21-01 is not a substantial change in the Recommendation or affects any CPCs, but in our view, is a fair and appropriate application of the method agreed in 2019 to set catch limits and is making the measure complete to enable implementation of other measures of the Recommendation.

Norway on Ukraine

Norway condemns Russia's attack on Ukraine in the strongest possible terms. Russia's aggressive actions are a clear violation of Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

The actions of Russia, with the assistance of Belarus, in blatant disregard of the sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine will have lasting repercussions for the standing of Russia and Belarus in international and multilateral cooperation.

Russia must end the war in Ukraine and withdraw all troops immediately.

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom extends its greetings to all those attending the 23rd Special Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

The United Kingdom extends its deepest thanks to the Secretariat as well as the Chairs of the Commission, the Panels and other ICCAT bodies for the excellent preparations for this meeting. We would furthermore like to thank the government of Portugal for hosting the meeting, and the staff at the excellent venue at which we meet.

We are most grateful for the opportunity to meet again in person/hybrid format, and we intend to utilise this opportunity to make many new acquaintances and work in a spirit of collaboration and cooperation to address the many important matters facing us.

Among those matters we hope to make good progress on the management of tropical tunas and South Atlantic mako shark, on the landing of sharks with fins naturally attached, and on the need to ensure investigations of alleged IUU fishing extend to all potential beneficiaries. A further important issue will be how we take the impacts of climate change into account in the management of ICCAT fisheries. We thank the CPCs who have tabled proposals on these and several other topics, providing an excellent basis for discussion this year.

The UK has also submitted an additional written statement in respect of the Russian assault on Ukraine, which will be made available shortly.

The UK wishes all of our friends and colleagues at ICCAT a productive meeting.

United Kingdom on Ukraine

Russia's assault on Ukraine is an unprovoked, premeditated attack against a sovereign democratic state. The UK and our international partners stand united in condemning the Russian government's reprehensible actions, which are an egregious violation of international law, including the UN Charter.

As a Permanent Member of the UN Security Council, Russia has a particular responsibility to uphold international peace and security. Instead, it is violating the borders of another country and its actions are causing widespread suffering.

The Russian Government has shown that it was never serious about engaging in diplomacy – it has deliberately worked to mislead the world, in order to mask its carefully planned aggression.

As the UN Secretary-General has said, such unilateral measures conflict directly with the United Nations Charter – the use of force by one country against another is the repudiation of the principles that every country has committed to uphold.

Russia must urgently de-escalate and withdraw its troops. It must be held accountable and stop undermining democracy, global stability, and international law.

United States

The United States extends its gratitude to the European Union and the Government of Portugal for their gracious hosting of the 23rd Special Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). We welcome the return to a format that allows for in-person attendance, which is made all the more special by the lovely setting here in Vale do Lobo, Portugal. We are sincerely grateful to the Executive Secretary and his staff for the time and effort spent preparing for this hybrid meeting and all of the intersessional meetings that preceded it. Below, the United States highlights a few of our priorities that we look forward to progressing together with other CPCs this year during ICCAT.

Earlier this month, the United States tabled a proposal on climate change. Climate change is the issue of our time, and ICCAT must not fail to prepare for the challenges it will bring. This is imperative, particularly given the changes we are beginning to observe in our respective fisheries. We have already received very positive feedback from other CPCs with respect to this measure, and we look forward to its adoption and to starting the important work contemplated within it.

ICCAT will also consider the adoption of a management procedure for bluefin tuna based on testing through management strategy evaluation (MSE). This tool will allow the Commission to manage bluefin tuna more effectively in the face of identified uncertainties and more clearly evaluate management tradeoffs. We welcome this important development and congratulate the SCRS on the massive efforts that got us to this point. We also welcome the work underway to prepare the new MSE for North Atlantic swordfish. As we await that, and in view of the outcome of the 2022 stock assessment, we have proposed a simple one-year rollover of the existing rules for that fishery. We are hopeful there can be speedy adoption of this proposal during this meeting.

Panel 1 has been seeking agreement on a new, comprehensive tropical tuna conservation and management measure for four years now. We cannot continue to delay adoption of a balanced, strong, and effective management measure for these fisheries, and it is critical that the Panel cooperate with the Panel 1 Chair to work toward a successful conclusion of these negotiations. These stocks support a critically important fishery for the United States; any new measure must take this into account while ensuring the sustainability of the resource into the future.

In Panel 4, we have retabled important proposals to (1) require sharks be landed with their fins naturally attached, which would strengthen catch and landings data and simplify the enforcement of ICCAT's ban on shark finning; and (2) mitigate the impact of ICCAT shallow-set longline fisheries on threatened and endangered sea turtles, using methods recommended by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS). ICCAT has delayed action on these two measures for too long, and we hope we can find a way past our differences and do the right thing for these species.

This is only a short list of the issues ICCAT will be facing during its 2022 Annual Meeting. Important proposals have also been tabled on conservation and management of South Atlantic shortfin mako; western Atlantic bluefin tuna, South Atlantic swordfish; monitoring, control, and surveillance matters, including control of nationals and an international joint inspection scheme; management objectives to support the western skipjack MSE; and more. We have a substantial workload this week, but with goodwill and flexibility from all CPCs, we believe ICCAT can successfully address the important issues before it this year.

The United States looks forward to constructive dialogue with all ICCAT parties at this meeting, whether in the room or online, to achieve successful outcomes on these pressing issues.

United States on Ukraine

It has been nearly nine months since Russia launched a full-scale war in Ukraine and brought catastrophic loss of life and human suffering, and environmental damage. Russia alone is responsible for the death and destruction this attack has brought, and the world must hold Russia to account.

Russia's actions constitute a clear violation of Article 2 of the United Nations Charter, which states that all member states shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state.

We call upon the Russian government to immediately cease its use of force against Ukraine and refrain from any further unlawful threat or use of force against any UN member state. We join Secretary-General Guterres's urgent plea for Russia to immediately withdraw all its military forces from the territory of Ukraine.

3.3 Statements by Observers from Non-Governmental Organizations

Associação de Ciências Marinhas e Cooperação (Sciaena)

Sciaena is grateful for the possibility to attend the 2022 Special Meeting of ICCAT as an observer. We would like to acknowledge the Secretariat, Chairs and CPCs for their efforts during the Covid-19 health crisis. We are particularly glad that this year's meeting is taking place in the region where we are based and we would like to highlight three decisions that we consider crucial for a successful outcome.

Ensure sustainable management of bigeye tuna

Bigeye tuna (BET) continues to show signs of recovery but the uncertainties around the stock assessment still exist. Therefore, Sciaena recommends that the TAC for BET does not exceed 70.000 tons, in order to give an increased probability of the stock not being overfished or under overfishing in future years.

To help prevent overfishing, we are hopeful that CPCs will be able to define a new allocation key that includes all fleets, taking into account historical catches but also the aspirations of developing countries, as well as criteria such as reduced juvenile mortality and other factors that have negative impacts on the stock and the ecosystem it depends on.

Sciaena also urges the Commission to follow the SCRS recommendation to maintain or decrease juvenile BET catches; adopt measures to increase accountability for FAD sets (such as a FAD registry and a FAD marking scheme); and increase observer and remote electronic monitoring coverage of the fleets that catch BET and the other tropical species.

Adopt a bluefin tuna Management Procedure

Sciaena has followed with great interest the development of the MSE for Atlantic bluefin tuna (BFT) and believes the Management Procedures to be the future of management of the stocks under ICCAT's remit. While important details remain to be decided, Sciaena strongly encourages all the CPCs to come together and adopt a Management Procedure for Atlantic BFT at this year's ICCAT annual meeting.

Extend the measures for shortfin mako shark to the South Atlantic population

We welcome the proposal tabled by the European Union in order to extend the measures adopted in 2021 for North Atlantic shortfin mako to the South Atlantic population, as the two are closely connected and the latest assessments show a similar downward trend in both. We encourage all CPCs to support this proposal.

In conclusion, Sciaena calls on the decision makers gathered in the Algarve during the next days to make this an historic ICCAT meeting, by achieving these and other decisions that ensure sustainable management of pelagic fisheries in the Atlantic, contributing to the health of these ecosystems.

Europêche

Management of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT

Europêche proposes to amend ICCAT's conservation measure concerning the Conservation of Sharks caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT (Rec. 04-10) to prohibit shark finning - which is the practice of removing fins from a shark's body with the retention of fins while the body is discarded - and to require that all fins of any shark caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT remain naturally attached until the point of first landing.

The above would allow for better species identification of sharks and contribute to the conservation of sharks within the ICCAT area, which is consistent with United Nations General Assembly's (UNGA) resolutions on sustainable fisheries adopted annually since 2007.

European Union fishing companies are the first defenders of fishing activities through good, respectful, legal and sustainable practices in all areas, and that protect our marine environment, which provides sustainable livelihood for coastal communities and the best food and protein to give to the population.

To this end, while the European Union fishing fleet conduct their activity in the ICCAT management area, in compliance with the rules, whereas EU companies are working with international scientific organizations to improve the collection of data on ICCAT species, Europêche notes with concern the illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing observed from GREENPEACE's vessel ARCTIC SUNRISE.

Recently, GREENPEACE has stolen 30 kilometers of fishing gear in North Atlantic from two Spanish longliners, and declared that seven swordfish, seabreams and barracuda were trapped in the longlines. There is no information whether those catches of ICCAT species were landed or declared.

Europêche strongly denounces this IUU activities and unilateral actions and ask for the support of all CPCs in the defense of all fishing vessels that conduct their activities under the most rigorous control and regulatory ICCAT standards.

International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF)

The impacts of COVID-19 continue to present challenges to RFMOs. Even under these challenging circumstances, ICCAT must ensure the uninterrupted, sustainable management of the tuna stocks and marine ecosystems under its purview.

This statement focuses on those critical measures and issues on which ICCAT must take action in 2022, which align with the ISSF global priorities for tuna RFMOs.

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 eastern and western Atlantic skipjack stocks were reassessed in 2022 and resulted in a similar picture of stock status to the previous (2014) assessment, reiterating that the stocks are in a healthy condition. In 2021 the estimated catches of tropical tunas decreased. Bigeye catches continue to be below the TAC and yellowfin catches are slightly higher than the TAC. Nevertheless, catches of both bigeye and yellowfin have substantially exceeded the TACs for years and CPCs with overcatches could not always be identified because there were no full allocations. The TACs need to be completely allocated so that CPC-specific non-compliances can be identified. In addition, ISSF continues to be concerned with overcapacity in the ICCAT region, even though some purse seine vessels left the Atlantic Ocean during the last year. 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. 21-01 to ensure that the bigeye and yellowfin stocks are maintained at sustainable levels and their catches are maintained within the TACs by:
 - (i) Adopting a bigeye TAC in line with SCRS advice to allow for the stock to shift to the green quadrant of the Kobe plot with high probability. A TAC of 70,000 tonnes or less would achieve this objective.

- (ii) Adopting a precautionary yellowfin TAC that is aligned with SCRS advice. A TAC of 120,000 tonnes or less would achieve this.
- (iii) Maintaining the current 72 day 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.

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. The Commission has requested the SCRS to advise on several matters related to FADs (e.g., limits on FAD sets or FAD deployments), but the SCRS has been unable to respond because historical and current data submissions from CPCs are incomplete. In addition, 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?

Submission of required FAD data continues to be incomplete, thus hindering regional analyses by SCRS. This problem has been ongoing since 2014. In 2021 these submissions were finally reviewed by the Compliance Committee and this process must continue, including possible sanctions. 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. 21-01 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, including alerting relevant coastal States;
 - (iv) Require vessels to provide complete near-real time (with a maximum time lag of 90 days) FAD position data and acoustic records from echosounder buoys for scientific use;
 - (v) Set a clear timeframe to transition to FADs made primarily with biodegradable materials and, in the interim, encourage further large-scale biodegradable FAD sea trials and for fleets to deploy a percentage of FADs made of biodegradable materials; and
 - (vi) Require observer coverage on supply and tender vessels.
2. Develop and adopt a FAD marking scheme by 2023 for all new FAD deployments, regardless of vessel type, that requires that FADs be marked on both the buoy and the FAD structure.
3. Mandate that the Compliance Committee continue to address non-compliance with FAD data reporting requirements, and recommend corrective measures, including those in paragraph 31 of Rec. 21-01.
4. Develop and adopt by 2023 FAD ownership rules and definitions; and
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 current MSC-established deadlines for harvest strategy (HS) and HCR (Principle 1) conditions, if not met, could result in certifications being suspended.

What is ISSF asking ICCAT to do?

In 2022, adopt a harvest strategy for western and eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna. In 2023, accelerate the development of harvest strategies for all tropical tuna stocks.

Bycatch and sharks

What are the issues?

ICCAT needs to improve measures and strengthen bycatch-mitigation efforts and maximize these vulnerable species' post-release survival in both purse seine and longline fisheries. In addition, science-based conservation and management measures to limit fishing mortality on sharks must be adopted and implemented. Data collection and reporting is essential. Landing sharks with fins naturally attached aids in data collection, species identification and monitoring and enforcement. Both WCPFC (see CMM 2019-04) and IOTC (see Res. 17-05) have shark conservation measures that include provisions for fins naturally attached, with some exceptions (e.g., in the IOTC it applies to only sharks landed fresh) or alternatives. Shortfin mako sharks are fished for food, their fins and sport, with no international catch limitations in place for the South Atlantic stock.

Why are we concerned?

In ICCAT, a proposal for fins-naturally attached gains more co-sponsors each year it is tabled; however, some CPCs continue to oppose such a measure. In the North Atlantic, the SCRS has noted it could take ~25 years to rebuild the shortfin mako shark stock even if fishing mortality rates were cut to zero. In 2021, ICCAT adopted a prohibition on retention of North Atlantic shortfin makos for 2022 and 2023 (Rec. 21-09) and asked the SCRS to calculate a possible shortfin mako retention allowance. SCRS has calculated this to be 0 tonnes in 2023.

What is ISSF asking ICCAT to do?

1. Extend the retention ban for shortfin mako in the North Atlantic and adopt a complementary prohibition for the South Atlantic stock.
2. Support work by the SCRS and CPCs to identify shark mortality mitigation measures through gear changes.
3. Require all sharks be landed with fins naturally attached without exceptions.

Monitoring, Control and Surveillance

Observer coverage and Electronic Monitoring

What are the issues?

Comprehensive observer coverage on vessels is critical to sustainable fisheries management for tropical tunas. The COVID-19 pandemic affected observer coverage in the purse seine and longline fisheries in most oceans. The situation would have been different if there were minimum standards for Electronic Monitoring (EM) in place. At its 2022 meeting, the SCRS adopted minimum standards for the collection of scientific data in longline fisheries through EM.

Why are we concerned?

ICCAT currently requires 10% observer coverage for longline fisheries targeting tropical tunas. In the past, the SCRS has highlighted that in order to provide reasonable estimates of total bycatch it recommends increasing coverage to 20%. The paucity of data from longline fisheries hinders the development of effective conservation measures. In 2021, ICCAT established an Electronic Monitoring Systems Working Group that has made positive progress and should consider incorporating the minimum standards adopted by the SCRS.

What is ISSF asking ICCAT to do?

1. Develop and adopt by 2023 minimum standards for an EMS program and a 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. 21-01).
3. Require 100% observer coverage (human and/or electronic) for all industrial ICCAT fisheries, and all vessels engaged in at-sea transshipment, by 2024.

Port State Measures

What are the issues?

Port State Measures are also an essential tool for combatting IUU fishing and ensuring fish or fish products from such activities do not enter the market.

Why are we concerned?

ICCAT's Recommendation 18-09 on an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspections in Port, must be strengthened and aligned with best-practice standards and the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures.

What is ISSF asking ICCAT to do?

Adopt further amendments to modernize Rec. 18-09 and bring it in line with global best practices, such as by: (i) outlining minimum standards for inspector functions; (ii) outlining minimum standards for inspection reports; and (iii) requiring all inspection reports to be transmitted to flag State of the vessel and relevant States and parties, such as other RFMOs and FAO.

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. Mandatory data reporting on FADs needs more review.

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](#), and adopt the severity of actions table. Continue to review FAD data reporting and take corrective measures as needed.

Capacity management

Vessel registry and fleet capacity

What are the issues?

Experts agree that there is overcapacity in the global tuna fleets.

Why are we concerned?

ISSF continues to be concerned with the global growth of fishing capacity in ICCAT. Fishing fleet overcapacity increases pressure to weaken management measures, and eventually it leads to stock overexploitation.

What is ISSF asking ICCAT to do?

Establish limited entry through closed vessel registries, and develop a common currency to measure fishing capacity, such as cubic meters of well volume.

ISSF global priorities for tuna RFMOs

Implementation of rigorous management procedures, 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 and fully non-entangling without netting and biodegradable FAD designs.

Increased member compliance with all measures adopted, 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, including requiring all sharks be landed with fins naturally attached.

Did You Know?

ISSF is leading research on [biodegradable FADs](#) in collaboration with fleets operating in the Atlantic Ocean, coastal nations, and other stakeholders.

ISSF develops resources for the vessel community, including [skippers guidebooks on bycatch-mitigation techniques](#) and as well as reports on [electronic monitoring](#) and [vessel monitoring systems \(VMS\)](#).

ISSF also offers [guidelines for implementing non-entangling and biodegradable FADs](#).

Five [ISSF conservation measures](#) focus on shark and bycatch mitigation.

Two [ISSF conservation measures](#) focus on FAD management.

SharkProject International

Sharks and rays are in a crisis

Sharks and rays are in a crisis globally and in the Atlantic, where sharks are a major bycatch in ICCAT fisheries targeting tuna and swordfish. In 2021 [N. Pacoureaux et al.](#) warned that more than half of all pelagic shark and ray species are globally endangered or even critically endangered by extinction and that due to the impact of industrial fishing the abundance of pelagic sharks and rays has decreased by more than 71% over the last 50 years. Late sexual maturity, low fecundity, and a high spatial overlap with fishing operations in the High Seas make these pelagic species most vulnerable to overfishing, but nevertheless they have been massively targeted over many decades by both, industrial and artisanal fisheries.

As a result of decades of overfishing without effective management and little if any reporting of total mortality many stocks are now at the brink of collapse, like the Northern Atlantic stock of *Isurus oxyrinchus*, or they have an uncertain stock status due to the widespread non reporting or under-reporting of catch efforts and discards. The SCRS has for many years raised concerns about this non-compliance with reporting requirements and this is also highlighted in a [recently published report, which reviews reporting of Task 1 and Task 2 data at ICCAT for shortfin mako between 2018 and 2020](#). No data means no certainty, and without certainty no effective management measures will get implemented – a vicious cycle that has severely affected the stocks of these top predators in the Atlantic.

Isurus oxyrinchus - North Atlantic

Since 2017 the SCRS has warned that the stock of shortfin mako in the North Atlantic is at the brink of collapse and that even at a total mortality of zero this stock will continue to decrease at least until 2035 and will take at least 50 years to recover to BMSY. Yet it took ICCAT more than four years until finally agreeing on adequate measures to stop overfishing and start the rebuilding of this stock during last year's Commission Meeting.

The [2022 SCRS report](#) shows, that also in 2021 reporting of discards has stayed very poor and requires improvement. However, even the reported total mortality of 1431 tonnes (571 tonnes of landed catch and 881 tonnes of reported dead discards) for 2021 exceeds the agreed limit of 250 tonnes ([Rec. 21-09](#)) by more than a factor of five.

Only 147 tonnes* of live releases were reported for 2021, which is less than 15% of all reported discards. This ratio of live releases also varied significantly between CPCs, from less than 10% to as high as 70% respectively 60% of animals released alive by Canada and USA.

We therefore ask the Commission

- to drive improvements for compliance with reporting requirements allowing for more accurate estimates of total mortality in the next years and for the upcoming stock assessment in 2024.
- to immediately agree on a systematic mortality reduction plan consisting of two major elements and agreed targets in line with the max total mortality limit of 250 tonnes.
- to avoid bycatch in the first place by agreeing on spatial and /or temporal closures of “hotspots” for shortfin mako. This will be most effective to reduce mortality mid to long term.
- to define immediate measures to increase the percentage of live releases to an overall level of more than 60 or 75% through improved on-board handling and safe release practice.
- to evaluate gear modifications including, inter alia, banning shark wires and steel leaders to reduce the bycatch of mako sharks and increase overall chances of survival at the time of hauling back and post release.

* 2022 SCRS report - SMA Table 1 v2 and Table 17.5.1.

Isurus oxyrinchus - South Atlantic

Till today no measures are in place for the Southern stock, although the SCRS has warned since 2017 that this stock also experiences overfishing and concluded in its 2019 assessment that since the biological characteristics of the stock are similar, there is a significant risk that the Southern stock could follow a similar history as in the North, and once overfished will require a long time for rebuilding even after significant catch reductions.

The SCRS also concluded that the combined probability of the Southern stock being overfished was 32.5% and that of experiencing overfishing was 41.9% despite the uncertainty of the assessment caused by the conflict of catch and CPUE data. As [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.

Pursuing the stated objective of ICCAT to maintain the stocks at levels which will permit the maximum sustainable catch and immediately counteract overfishing and gradually achieve biomass levels sufficient to support maximum sustainable yield (MSY) has been long-time overdue for shortfin mako and must therefore now include precautionary management measures as described in [proposal PA4_804_SPONS_1/2022 submitted by the European Union and the United Kingdom](#).

We specifically ask the Commission

- to support the measures proposed in proposal PA4_804_SPONS_1/2022 and agree on a retention ban for shortfin mako in the South Atlantic for 2023 and 2024.
- to define total mortality as all landings, dead discards, and live discards (assuming a post release mortality rate as advised by the SCRS).
- to limit the future total mortality for the Southern stock based on the most recent Kobe II strategy matrix and scientific advice provided by the SCRS in 2024 or whenever new stock assessment data become available.
- to commit to implement a rebuilding plan providing a probability of success of more than 60% (at least between 60 and 70%) to rebuild the stock by 2070 at the latest if the stock assessment in 2024 (or a later stock assessment) concludes the stock as being overfished.
- to agree that potential future retention shall be subject to an agreed allocation scheme and to all other provisions and reporting requirements as defined already in Rec. 21-09 for the North Atlantic, thereby introducing consistent regulations for both parts of the Commission area to overall facilitate implementation and monitoring of compliance.
- to require that all CPCs and non-CPCs but Cooperating Parties, as part of their annual Task 1 and 2 data submissions, provide all relevant data for South Atlantic shortfin mako, including estimates of dead discards and live releases using the methods approved by the SCRS.
- to harmonise other provisions as agreed for the North thereby supporting the monitoring and enforcement of compliance with reporting requirements according to Rec. 21-09.

Isurus paucus

Due to the look alike potential of this species there is a risk that catches and landings or discards of shortfin mako may be reported as longfin mako and thereby disguise the total mortality of shortfin mako hindering assessment of total mortality of shortfin mako and hindering future stock assessments. Although the SCRS has not been able to detect any increases in the reporting of *Isurus paucus* the overall reporting of this species has also been very poor and has indeed decreased during the last couple of years. Therefore, the SCRS recommends in its 2022 report, "that the Secretariat undertake an analysis of catch data for longfin mako shark as per Rec. 21-09 as it has for other species".

We therefore ask the Commission

- to ask the Secretariat to undertake this analysis for both, the North and the South Atlantic.
- to request all parties to provide all relevant data for longfin mako as part of their annual Task 1 and 2 data submissions.

Prionace glauca

[Rec. 19-08](#) highlights the obligation of CPCs to annually report Task I & II data for sharks in accordance with ICCAT data reporting procedures and the Recommendation by ICCAT on the Development of Harvest Control Rules and of Management Strategy Evaluation (Rec. 15-07).

It defines an annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 28,923 tonnes for South Atlantic blue shark and proposes that an allocation of the TAC shall be provided in 2021. Furthermore, it defines that “based on the next stock assessment of South Atlantic blue shark, the SCRS shall provide, if possible, options of HCR with the associated limit, target and threshold reference points for the management of this species in the ICCAT Convention area.”

However, none of this has been accomplished till date but the stock assessment and all measures postponed to 2023 instead.

Landings from the South Atlantic in 2020 and 2021 have exceeded the limit of Rec. 19-08 by more than 4,000 tonnes each year, or by 17%. In addition, discards of around 200 tonnes were reported only by Japan, Korea and Chinese Taipei, while none of the other CPCs has so far reported any discards in the South Atlantic at all, despite the obligation to do so. Thus, total mortality has been far above the agreed 28,923 tonnes for two years in a row.

We therefore ask the Commission

- to immediately, in 2022 fully allocate the current TAC for blue sharks in the South Atlantic until full HCRs can be developed and adopted in 2023 including total mortality limits, precautionary target and reference threshold points for the management of this species as advised by SCRS.
- to intensify scientific research to provide information on “key biological/ecological parameters, life-history, migrations, post-release survivorship and behavioural traits” of blue sharks and provide this information to the SCRS.
- to develop and implement HCRs also for blue sharks in the North Atlantic by 2023 applying the same approach as for the South Atlantic.

Lamna nasus

We support the [SCRS recommendation](#) not to increase total removals for any of the porbeagle stocks in the Atlantic and to require all CPCs to implement requirements for releasing all live animals also in their coastal fisheries.

Due to the low compliance with reporting requirements for discards and live releases the extent of total removal is most probably underestimated and any further increase over current removal mortality or even targeted fisheries for porbeagle must be avoided to ensure recovery of all porbeagle stocks in the Atlantic.

We therefore ask the Commission

- to follow scientific advice and adopt measures as recommended by SCRS.
- to improve requirements for and compliance with reporting of discards and live releases.

Fins Naturally Attached (FNA)

An FNA policy prohibits the removal, retention, and transshipment of fins on board of vessels and requires all sharks that are landed to be landed with all fins naturally attached to the body of the animal. This allows unambiguous quantification of the number and species of animals caught and is therefore globally acknowledged as the best practice to prevent finning from happening and to enforce compliance with finning bans as it is evident that an offense has happened when detached fins are discovered on board or at the time of first landing, providing clear evidence and allowing successful prosecution of offenses. All other policies including fins to carcass ratios or the artificial reattachment of fins after cutting are known to be full of ambiguity and loopholes and offenses are almost impossible to detect let alone to prosecute.

Therefore, many of ICCAT's CPC have introduced a strict FNA policy already, some of them more than a decade ago in their commitment to finally stop finning, a wasteful and cruel practice that severely hinders the evaluation of total mortality and thereby also the outcome of stock assessments.

However, ICCAT has till date failed to adopt an FNA policy while other RFMOs like NAFO or GFCM have already done so several years ago.

It should also be noted that the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), one of the biggest ecolabels, has introduced a strict FNA requirement as part of its recently published [new Fisheries Standard 3.0, now requiring an FNA policy to be in place](#) at the lowest scoring eligible for certification - without exemption. Therefore, all fisheries aspiring MSC certification will have to demonstrate that an FNA or non-retention policy is in place and enforced with a 'very high degree of accuracy' if catching Selachimorphae or Rhinopristiformes either as a target or bycatch species.

The [2022 Secretariat Report on Research and Statistics \(PLE_105/2022\)](#) shows that only 76% of flag CPCs, including 7 late-reporting flag CPCs, have reported T2CE in 2021, while at least 18 flag CPCs (24%) have not yet properly submitted their T2CE statistics. For sharks this is specifically evident, has been substantially hindering stock assessments in the past, and thereby failed the implementation of effective management measures to prevent overfishing.

We therefore ask the Commission

- to adopt proposal PA4_805 "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT" and to introduce a Fins Naturally Attached policy – without exemptions for all sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries.
- to improve reporting of catch efforts and dead or live discards as part of the Task 2 reporting for all sharks, as these are vital data for stock assessments and scientific Kobe II plot model projections.
- to require measures being implemented to avoid bycatch by designing research plans to identify, define and thereafter close (spatial and/or time closures) of shark hot spots for pupping or nursery areas.
- To improve gear selectivity by banning the use of shark wires and steel leaders which can significantly decrease shark bycatch and improve the overall rate of survival for all bycatch species.

Measures and targets to reduce the bycatch of Endangered, Threatened and Protected (ETP) species

We appreciate the proposed measures in PA4_803/2022 and PA4_806_SPONS_1/2022 for the conservation of turtles, which we propose to discuss by combining the good intents of both but deleting some weaknesses. As such especially the implementation of maximum potential bycatch thresholds, based on advice from the SCRS as proposed in PA4_803/2022 is an important step into the right direction to require fisheries to continuously reducing their bycatch of ETP species in the first place and to reduce the mortality of this bycatch.

However, modification of gear and fishing practices to increase selectivity and reduce mortality are also important improvements needed and will also benefit other bycatch species.

We therefore ask the Commission

- to require the use of fishing gear modifications to reduce bycatch and increase post release survival of turtles and other bycatch.
- to require the use of large circle hooks and the use of finfish bait inter alia as other, improved measures become available and recommended by SCRS for shallow set longlines.
- to apply these measures to the complete Commission area.
- to require species specific best handling practices for the release of bycatch and minimisation of post release mortality.
- to task SCRS to also propose precautionary bycatch thresholds for all other ETP (endangered, threatened and protected) species caught as a bycatch - including many Chondrichthyans - in ICCAT fisheries, at least until effective management measures can be developed and implemented.

Accelerate the adoption and implementation of comprehensive, precautionary harvest strategies

This is a mandatory prerequisite for any long-term sustainable management of fisheries and therefore a longtime overdue task for many species caught in association with ICCAT fisheries.

In an ecosystem-based fishery management however, this must apply to all species, whereas MSY may not be a suitable reference point for all. Large predator species such as sharks should be managed at 80% of MSY instead.

We therefore ask the Commission

- to fully allocate existing Total Allowable Catch (TAC) limits and to adopt procedures to identify and address non-compliance with TAC allocations
- to agree on and implement comprehensive, precautionary HCRs for all species, including all major shark species, caught by ICCAT fisheries
- to define limits, targets and threshold reference point for sharks following a precautionary approach

Strengthen drifting FAD management provisions

Proposal PA1_501/2022 tries to strengthen the management of dFADs. We certainly welcome this approach but hope to see more ambitious objectives than those that were made in Rec 21/01 last year.

We therefore ask the Commission

- to extend the closure period to meet the targets of reduced TACs and to continuously review best timing for these closures and update as needed.
- to further reduce the number of dFADs in use by each vessel to at least 250.
- to strengthen Appendix 5 by explicitly requiring using only fully non-entangling dFAD designs without any netting or meshed materials, as the current wording is still too unspecific in this aspect. In addition, all dFADs with entangling or lower entangling constructions (i.e., rolled up netting) must be removed from the water when encountered by a vessel and this removal must be documented and reported in a timely manner.
- to agree on a binding timeline for a timely transitioning to 100% biodegradable FADs, noticing that the initial target of 2021 has not been met.
- to require the timely provision of all dFAD data necessary to confirm/validate the implementation and assess the efficacy of the dFAD closure in advance of the next ICCAT Annual Session.
- to require at the latest by 2023 the provision of near real-time dFAD position and acoustic records data for broad scientific use.
- to develop a fully transparent dFAD-recovery policy, a dFAD marking scheme, clearer rules for dFAD ownership and stronger rules for activation and deactivation of dFAD buoys.
- to improve reporting on discards of bycatch species at species level.
- to require best handling practices being applied and the installation of technical improvements, like release ramps, double conveyor belts, and manta grids, to minimise time to release, on board mortality and post release mortality.
- to increase research on spatial distribution of bycatch to advise spatial and/or time closures and specifically protect juvenile silky sharks and oceanic whitetip sharks, which are especially vulnerable to being caught around dFADs due to the high habitat overlap with this fishing practice and the high at vessel and post release mortality.

Increasing independent observation

The development of minimum standards for an electronic monitoring program and a timeline for the implementation of an ICCAT EM Program must be accelerated through the EMS Working Group.

We therefore ask the Commission

- to require 100% observer coverage (human and/or electronic) for all industrial ICCAT fisheries, including support vessels and all those engaged in at sea transshipment, by 2024 and encourage reporting for artisanal fleets.
- to promote the use of EMS as a measure to increase coverage of independent monitoring and substitute such for small vessels unable to carry human observers.
- not to see EMS as an alternative to reduce the requirement for human observer coverage which is essential for biologic sampling and verification of bycatch levels detected by EMS.

Our opinion on the proposed CITES listings of Carcharhinidae sharks

We are aware that fisheries at ICCAT are concerned about the proposal to list all Carcharhinidae on CITES App II at CITES COP19 in Panama next week.

Therefore, we would want to remind the Commission that this proposal should not be seen as competing with or even contradicting ICCAT's objectives for the sustainable management of all species caught by ICCAT fisheries. On the contrary this should be considered as a trigger to progress pending tasks the Commission has committed to, specifically to develop and implement Harvest Control Rules and Harvest Strategies for blue sharks and at least total mortality limits with full quota allocations for other shark species taken by ICCAT fisheries as a target or a bycatch species.

We note that ICCAT has so far however failed to implement HCRs and HSs for blue sharks and other commercially exploited shark species despite Rec 19/08 and Rec 19/07 requiring these to be developed for blue sharks by 2021. These are inevitable prerequisites for a sustainable stock management, but till today only Total Allowable Catch limits exist for Northern and Southern Atlantic blue shark and in the South Atlantic this TAC has not even been allocated and therefore been exceeded ever since.

Therefore, a CITES App II listing should be considered as an incentive to progress with the implementation of effective management measures, as CITES regulates the trading of listed species but trading is allowed to continue based on a CITES non detrimental finding for the introduction from the High Seas and the export if the harvesting has been demonstrated to be sustainable. This also applies to blue sharks.

SHARKPROJECT International and its country organisations in Germany, Austria and Switzerland is a marine conservation NGO focusing on healthy shark populations, a 'conditio sine qua non' for healthy oceans that support seafood supplies for this and future generations and can help to combat climate change.

Therefore, SHARKPROJECT calls for a global [transition to an ecosystem based fishery management](#), for ALL stocks, whether a target species or a bycatch, applying best available science and following a precautionary approach in the absence of sufficient data to immediately stop overfishing and to rebuild overfished stocks with a high probability of success.

The Shark Trust

The Shark Trust appreciates this opportunity to encourage ICCAT action to improve fishery management for sharks through mako protections, blue shark allocation, and finning ban improvement.

One year ago, ICCAT at last took critical steps to protect exceptionally vulnerable and valuable shortfin makos in the North Atlantic. We are eager to see the essential ban on retention extended at least until rebuilding is demonstrably underway and expanded to the South Atlantic, as proposed by the EU and the UK, to facilitate enforcement and address that population's likely increasing risk.

We remind Parties that retention bans are:

- straight forward 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
- particularly promising for sharks with high post-release survival rates, such as makos
- less restrictive than closing entire fisheries.

We also urge Parties to improve upon this year's shortfin mako proposal by adding safeguards for similarly vulnerable longfin makos and establishing the probability of success standard at 70%, as is appropriate for such slow growing species.

More broadly, the need for measures to minimize mako bycatch and associated mortality – such as closed areas and circle hooks – continue to be pressing throughout the Atlantic.

Regarding blue sharks, we are concerned that the success of ICCAT's ground-breaking South Atlantic TAC is being jeopardized by overages stemming from the lack of Party allocations. To ensure sustainability of the population and fishery, we urge such action without further delay.

We once again welcome the exceptionally popular proposal to strengthen ICCAT's shark finning ban by requiring sharks to be landed with fins naturally attached. Such a policy is widely accepted as the best practice for finning ban implementation and can also facilitate sorely needed, species-specific data on shark catches. These benefits led the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) to require fins-naturally-attached policies for all fisheries that retain sharks under its newly released Standard. A recent Mongabay exposé demonstrates that wasteful, illegal shark finning is still a significant global problem. It is high time that ICCAT left problematic fin-to-carcass ratios in the past and eased finning ban enforcement by adopting PA4-805.

We urge elevated priority for ensuring compliance with ICCAT shark measures. In particular, we remind Parties of the obligations and penalties associated with timely reporting of shark catches, including dead discards.

Last, to benefit all species under ICCAT purview, a significant increase in observer coverage, particularly for longline fisheries, is urgently needed.

In short, difficult-to-enforce half measures are not enough to conserve vulnerable sharks. We urge ICCAT to take these critical steps.

RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY ICCAT IN 2022

22-01	TRO
RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT REPLACING RECOMMENDATION 21-01 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 latest Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) advice indicates that the yellowfin stock status is not overfished and not subject to overfishing, and that the bigeye tuna stock is currently overfished;

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 2023, 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 BMSY 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 2023. The TAC for 2024 and future years shall be considered in 2023 on the basis of SCRS advice.
4. As an interim measure for 2023, the following provisions shall apply:
 - a) CPCs with catch limits greater than 10,000 t in paragraph 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 catch¹ 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 paragraph 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.

¹ 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 2023².
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
2023	2025

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 2021 shall be added to/or deducted from their 2023 annual catch limit, subject to 10% of initial quota restrictions noted in paragraphs 9 a) and 10 of Rec. 16-01.

Monitoring of catch

13. CPCs shall report quarterly to the ICCAT 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 ICCAT 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.

² 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.

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 2023 annual meeting, which may include a revised TAC, closures or allocated catch limits.
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 2023, will provide a declaration by 31 January 2023.
 - 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 ICCAT 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 Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) shall be prohibited during a seventy-two-day period in 2023, as indicated in paragraph 28 below.
28. 1 January to 13 March 2023, 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 2023.
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:

- 2023: 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 2023 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 2023 the required historical FAD set data in the format required by SCRS (Task 2 catch and effort through Form ST03-T2CE) for a minimum of the last five years. 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 2023 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 2023.

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 buoy³, 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 FAD⁴)
 - 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;

³ 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 FAD's owner).

⁴ 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 1 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 bycatch 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 starting in 2024, 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 2023 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 2023 CPCs are encouraged to conduct trials on electronic monitoring and report the results back to the IMM and the SCRS in 2023 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 ICCAT Secretariat:
- a) The SCRS shall explore the efficacy that full fishery closures along the lines of those proposed in PA1-505A/2019⁵ 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;

⁵ 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 the first half of 2023 to discuss the bigeye tuna TAC, develop an approach to allocate the TAC with particular attention to the interests of developing coastal States, review provisions related to the carryforward of underharvest and payback of overharvests and review other measures relevant to the conservation and management of tropical tunas.
68. This Recommendation replaces Rec. 21-01 and shall be reviewed by the Commission in 2023.
69. All CPCs commit to implement the present Recommendation on a voluntary basis as of 1 January 2023.

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

Annex 2

FAD logbook

<i>FAD marking</i>	<i>Buoys ID</i>	<i>FAD type</i>	<i>Type of visit</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Position</i>		<i>Estimated catches</i>			<i>By-catch</i>				<i>Observations</i>
						<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>	<i>SKJ</i>	<i>YFT</i>	<i>BET</i>	<i>Taxonomic group</i>	<i>Estimated catches</i>	<i>Unit</i>	<i>Specimens released alive</i>	
(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 specimens.
- (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 ¹
BUOY	Tagging	Deployment of a buoy on FOB ²
	Remove buoy	Retrieval of the buoy equipping the FOB
	Loss	Loss of the buoy/End of transmission of the buoy

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

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

List of deployed FADs and buoys on a monthly basis

Month:

<i>FAD Identifier</i>		<i>FAD & 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.

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, transshipments:

1. Dates and port of landing/transshipments
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 observers

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		
Specify 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

22-03

SWO

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT REPLACING SUPPLEMENTAL
RECOMMENDATION 21-02 EXTENDING AND AMENDING RECOMMENDATION
17-02 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), the Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 19-03 for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish (Rec. 20-02), and the Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Extending and Amending Recommendation 17-02 Amending the Recommendation 16-03 for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish (Rec. 21-02);

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

CONSIDERING the results of the 2022 North Atlantic swordfish stock assessment, which show that a constant catch at the current TAC level of 13,200 t will result in a 60% probability of the stock being in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot in 2033;

SUPPORTING the Commission's work toward the development of Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for North Atlantic swordfish 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 North Atlantic swordfish* (Res. 19-14), 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 2023 SCRS swordfish workplan, including two manager-scientist dialogue meetings with Panel 4, 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 2023, with a view to the adoption of a management procedure to set TACs for 2024 and onward;

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

DESIRING to give clearer effect to the provisions of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the UK and the EU, which established their respective shares of certain ICCAT stocks, 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)*, as extended and amended by the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT Extending and Amending Recommendation 17-02 Amending the Recommendation 16-03 for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish (Rec. 21-02)*, shall be further extended through 2023 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, 2022, and 2023:
- b) The annual catch limits as shown in the table below shall be applied for the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023:

CPCs	Catch limit** 13,200 (t)
European Union ***	6,717.33*
United States***	3,907*
Canada	1,348*
Japan***	842*
Morocco	850
Mexico	200
Brazil	50
Barbados	45
Venezuela	85
Trinidad & Tobago	125
United Kingdom	35.67
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

* Notwithstanding the adjustment of the EU quota by 0.67 t in light of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the UK and the EU, which established their respective shares of North Atlantic swordfish and other stocks, 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, 2022, and 2023

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, 2022, and 2023, 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, 2022, and 2023

From Chinese Taipei to Morocco: 20 t for each of 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023

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, 2022, and 2023 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
2023	2025

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 six-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 six-year period. Any underages or overages from the 2018-2023 management period shall be applied to the subsequent management period to be decided by the Commission in 2023.”

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

“5. The SCRS shall continue to refine the MSE and test candidate management procedures in 2023. In support of this effort, the SCRS and Panel 4 shall hold two MSE dialogue meetings in 2023. At the 2023 ICCAT Annual Meeting, the Commission shall review the final candidate management procedures and select one for adoption and application to establish the TAC for 2024 and future years, including pre-agreed management actions to be taken under various stock conditions.”

2. This Recommendation replaces and repeals the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT extending and amending Recommendation 17-02 amending the Recommendation 16-03 for the Conservation of North Atlantic swordfish* (Rec. 21-02).

22-04

SWO

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT REPLACING SUPPLEMENTAL
RECOMMENDATION 21-03 EXTENDING AND AMENDING RECOMMENDATION
17-03 FOR THE CONSERVATION OF SOUTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH**

NOTING the need to continue with sound management for the sustainable exploitation of the South Atlantic swordfish stock;

CONSIDERING that in 2022 the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) provided an assessment of the status whereby it noted that the stock status is overfished and subject to overfishing and reported that the current Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 14,000 t is unlikely (3% probability) to achieve the objective of bringing the stock to a green quadrant of a Kobe plot by 2033 and that catches at levels below 10,000 t would accelerate rebuilding of the stock;

RECOGNISING that the SCRS recommended that the current levels of exploitation not be exceeded under the current exploitation patterns;

CONFIRMING the commitment of CPCs to not increase their fishing efforts so as to ensure that catches will not exceed 10,000 t while acknowledging that the extension of current measures in no way prejudices any future measures or discussions, including the existing allocation;

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

TAC and catch limits

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 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026 with the following amendments:
 - A. Paragraph 1 shall be replaced with:
 - "1. **TAC and catch limits**
 - a) The total allowable catch (TAC) shall be 10,000 t for South Atlantic swordfish for the years 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026.
 - b) The annual catch limits as shown in the table below shall be applied for the years 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026:

TAC: 10,000 t	
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Catch Limit (Unit: t)</i>
Brazil ¹	3,940
European Union	4,824
South Africa	1,001
Namibia	1,168
Uruguay	1,252
United States ²	100
Côte d'Ivoire	125
China	313
Chinese Taipei ²	459
United Kingdom	25
Japan ²	901
Angola	100
Ghana	100
St. Tomé & Príncipe	100
Senegal	417
Korea	50
Belize	125

- (1) 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.
- (2) Japan, United States, and Chinese Taipei may carryover unused portions of their respective catch limits specified in this table during 2023-2026, but such carried over amounts each year shall not exceed 600 t, 100 t and 300 t, respectively.

Transfers shall be authorized in accordance with paragraph 5.

- c) If the annual catch exceeds the TAC of 10,000 t, CPCs that have exceeded their individual catch limits shall pay back their overharvest in accordance with paragraph 2 of this Recommendation. Any amount of the overharvest remaining after such adjustment shall be deducted from the annual catch limit of each CPC in the year following the excess, on a prorata basis of the catch limits in Table 1 b) above.”

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>
2021	2023
2022	2024
2023	2025
2024	2026
2025	2027
2026	2028

However, the maximum underage that a party may carryover in any given year shall not exceed 10% of the quota of the previous year.”

2. The SCRS will monitor the catch levels in 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026 and report to the Commission annually.
3. This *Recommendation* repeals and replaces the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT on Recommendation 17-03 amending the Recommendation 16-04 for the conservation of South Atlantic Swordfish* (Rec. 21-03).

22-05

ALB

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING THE RECOMMENDATION 21-06
TO ESTABLISH A REBUILDING PLAN FOR MEDITERRANEAN ALBACORE**

RECALLING the 2021 Recommendation by ICCAT to establish a rebuilding plan for Mediterranean albacore (Rec. 21-06);

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;

CONSIDERING the outcome of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Mediterranean albacore meeting held online on 9-10 February 2022 ; and

FURTHER CONSIDERING the trilateral discussions between European Union, Egypt and Türkiye at the 2022 ICCAT Annual meeting;

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, 2023 and 2024, a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) shall be set at 2,500 t for albacore tuna (*Thunnus alalunga*) in the Mediterranean.
3. a) For 2022, the following quotas shall be allocated:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Quota (t)</i>
EU	2,169.68
Egypt	177.27
Libya	23
Morocco	10
Syria	1.8
Türkiye	118.25
Total	2,500

- b) As of 2023, the following quotas shall be allocated:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Quota (t)</i>
EU	2,089.93
Egypt	150.27
Libya	23
Morocco	10
Syria	1.8
Türkiye(*)	225
Total	2,500

(*) Türkiye transfers to EU 75 t in 2023, 75 t in 2024 and for the following years, any part of the unused quota up to maximum of 75 t.

4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. The marketing of Mediterranean albacore caught in sport and recreational fishing shall be prohibited.

8. 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.

9. 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.
10. In 2024, 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 8, as well as the minimum size to be implemented for Mediterranean albacore.
11. By the end of 2024, 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.
12. 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.
13. This Recommendation repeals and replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish a rebuilding plan for Mediterranean albacore* (Rec. 21-06).

22-06

ALB

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON THE SOUTHERN ATLANTIC
ALBACORE CATCH LIMITS FOR THE PERIOD 2023-2026**

NOTING the conclusions of the 2020 SCRS Report, that the southern Atlantic albacore stock is, most probably, not overfished and overfishing is not occurring;

FURTHER NOTING that the SCRS concluded that southern Atlantic albacore stock projections at a constant catch level of 28,000 t would result in an 83% probability of being in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot by 2033;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the southern Atlantic albacore catches have been well below the current Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 24,000 t, except for 2021;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that total annual declared catches have been considerably lower than Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY);

RECOGNISING the objective of the Convention is to maintain populations at levels that will support maximum sustainable catch (usually referred to MSY);

FURTHER RECOGNISING the interests of developing coastal States to develop their fishing opportunities;

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

1. The annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for albacore caught in the Atlantic Ocean south of 5°N shall be 28,000 t for the period 2023-2026.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1, should the total reported southern Atlantic albacore catches in 2022, as reported to the 2023 ICCAT meeting, exceed 28,000 t, the TAC for 2024 shall be reduced by the full amount of the 2022 catch in excess of 28,000 t.
3. The annual catch limits for southern Atlantic albacore shall be as follows:
 - a)

	<i>Catch limits (t)*</i>
Angola	60
Belize	300
Brazil	2,600
China	240
Chinese Taipei	10,340
Côte d'Ivoire	120
Curaçao	60
European Union	1,765
Japan	1,630
Korea	170
Namibia	4,320
South Africa	5,280
St Vincent and Grenadines	170
United Kingdom ¹	120
Uruguay	530
Philippines	30

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

From Brazil to Japan: 100 t in 2023-2026
From Uruguay to Japan: 100 t in 2023-2026
From South Africa to Japan: 100 t in 2023-2026

¹ The United Kingdom became a member of ICCAT in 2020 and it includes the Overseas Territories of the United Kingdom.

- b) All other CPCs not listed above shall limit their catches to 30 t.
 - c) The catch limits described in this Recommendation do not constitute long term rights and are without prejudice to any future process of allocation.
4. Any unused portion or excess of the individual annual catch limits may be added to/shall be deducted from, according to the case, the respective catch limit during or before the adjustment year, in the following way for southern Atlantic albacore:

- a) Underages of the annual quota may be added to the respective quota for each CPC, to the maximum limit of 25% of their original quota, in the following way:

<i>Year of catch</i>	<i>Adjustment year</i>
2022	2024
2023	2025
2024	2026
2025	2027
2026	2028

- b) By the time of the Commission Meeting, those CPCs with underages in the previous year shall inform the amount of their underage they intend to use in the following year. The total underage from the TAC from one given year, minus the underages to be used by those CPCs wishing to do so, may be shared among those CPCs wishing to complement their quota, irrespective to their underages, to the limit of 25% of their original quota.
 - c) In the case the total amount of underages requested by all CPCs exceeds the total amount made available under this mechanism, the amount of underages shall be shared pro rata among those CPCs requesting complementation of their quotas, in the proportion of their original quotas.
 - d) In respect of the 2022 catches and TAC, underages may only be used to the extent of the available underage of total TAC.
 - e) The carry-over of underages is only applicable to those CPCs specifically referred to in paragraph 3 a).
 - f) In respect of South Africa, Brazil and Uruguay, should any of these CPCs reach their individual catch limits by 31 December, and any other aforementioned CPCs have underage available within the same year, then any or all of their underage available shall automatically transfer, up to a maximum of 1,000 t collectively, in proportion to their respective original quotas to any of the three CPCs which has reached its catch limit for that year, on condition that such transfer of underage does not prejudice the transferring CPCs respective maximum underage allowance as set out in paragraph 4 b). Such transfers shall be reported in CPC Compliance Reporting Tables and be communicated to all CPCs through an ICCAT Circular.
5. Should a given CPC exceed its quota, the over-catch must be deducted from its original quota by 100% of the total exceeded amount in accordance with the schedule in paragraph 4 and that CPC will be prohibited of requesting any underages made available under the present mechanism in the following year.
6. Notwithstanding the *Recommendation by ICCAT regarding the temporary adjustment of quotas* (Rec. 01-12), all CPCs specifically referred to in paragraph 3 a) may transfer a portion of their quota to another CPC subject to both CPCs agreeing and providing prior notification to the ICCAT Secretariat in terms of the quantity to be transferred. The Secretariat shall disseminate this notification to all CPCs.

7. Those CPCs that are catching southern Atlantic albacore, shall immediately improve their catch reporting systems to ensure the reporting of accurate and validated southern Atlantic albacore catch and effort data to ICCAT in full accordance with the ICCAT requirements for provision of Task 1 and Task 2 catch, effort and size data. In addition, port states CPCs in the South Atlantic shall report the results of their port inspections to the ICCAT Secretariat in accordance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT on port state measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing* (Rec. 18-09). The ICCAT Secretariat shall forward the reports to the flag CPC.
8. The next stock assessment of southern Atlantic albacore shall be conducted in 2026. Scientists of entities actively fishing for southern Atlantic albacore are strongly encouraged to analyse their fisheries data and to participate in the 2026 assessment.
9. All aspects of the southern Atlantic albacore catch limit and sharing arrangement shall be reviewed and revised at the 2026 ICCAT Commission meeting, taking account of the results of the updated southern Atlantic albacore stock assessment to be conducted in 2026. This review and revision shall also address any over-harvests made in excess of the 2023 to 2026 TAC.
10. CPCs shall issue specific authorizations to vessels 20 meters LOA or greater flying their flag that are authorized to fish southern Atlantic albacore in the Convention area. Each CPC shall indicate which of such vessels it has so authorized on its vessel list submitted pursuant to the *Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 meters in length overall or greater authorized to operate in the Convention area* (Rec. 21-14). Such vessels not entered into this record or entered without the required indication that fishing southern Atlantic albacore is authorized are deemed not to be authorized to fish for, retain on board, tranship, transport, transfer, process or land southern Atlantic albacore.
11. CPCs may allow bycatch of southern Atlantic albacore by vessels not authorized to fish southern Atlantic albacore pursuant to paragraph 10 only, if the CPC establishes a maximum per trip onboard bycatch limit of no more than 5% for such vessels and the bycatch is accounted for within the CPC's catch limit. Each CPC shall provide in its Annual Report the maximum per trip bycatch limit it allows for such vessels and the total amount of southern Atlantic albacore harvested as bycatch. That information shall be compiled by the ICCAT Secretariat and made available to CPCs.
12. The Recommendation repeals and replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the southern albacore catch limits for the period 2017 to 2020* (Rec. 16-07) and further repeals and replaces the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 16-07 on South Atlantic albacore catch limits for the period 2017-2020* (Rec. 21-05).

22-08

BFT

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING THE RECOMMENDATION 21-08
ESTABLISHING A MULTI-ANNUAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR BLUEFIN TUNA IN THE
EASTERN ATLANTIC AND THE MEDITERRANEAN**

ACKNOWLEDGING the advice from the 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 has completed a management strategy evaluation (MSE) to establish a management procedure (MP), which includes harvest control rules (HCR), and the Commission has decided 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 various provisions in Recommendation 21-08 were identified that would benefit from being clarified or otherwise improved and reinforced;

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 2023 based on the Management Procedure (MP) as in *Recommendation by ICCAT establishing a management procedure for Atlantic bluefin tuna to be used for both the western Atlantic and eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean management areas* (Rec. 22-09).

Definitions

2. 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 (except for voluntary and control transfers);
- 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

3. 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.
4. The total allowable catches (TACs), inclusive of dead discards, for 2023 to 2025 shall be set at 40,570 t, in accordance with the MP. The TACs for 2026 and thereafter shall be decided at the 2025 Commission Annual Meeting in accordance with the MP.

40,570 t shall be allocated in 2023 to 2025 in accordance with the following scheme:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Annual Quota in 2023-2025 (t)</i>
Albania	264
Algeria	2,023
China	112
Egypt	513
European Union	21,503
Iceland	224
Japan	3,114
Korea	221
Libya	2,548
Morocco	3,700
Namibia	50
Norway	368
Syria	129
Tunisia	3,000
Türkiye	2,600
United Kingdom	63
Chinese Taipei	101
Subtotal	40,533
Unallocated Reserves	37
TOTAL	40,570

This table shall not be interpreted to have changed the allocation keys shown in Recommendation 14-04. The new keys shall be established in the future for consideration by the Commission.

Mauritania may catch up to 5 t for research in each year, if they respect the rules of reporting of catches defined in this Recommendation. The catch shall be deducted from the unallocated reserve.

Senegal may catch up to 5 t for research in each year, if they respect the rules of reporting of catches defined in this Recommendation. The catch shall be deducted from the unallocated reserve.

Depending on availability, Chinese Taipei may transfer up to 50 t of its quota to Korea in 2023 to 2025.

5. 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.
6. Automatic carry-over of any unused quota is not authorized. A CPC may request to transfer a maximum of 5% of its annual quota from one year to the following year. The CPC shall include this request in its annual fishing/capacity plans for endorsement by the Commission.

7. No chartering operation for the bluefin tuna fishery is permitted.
8. Notwithstanding the provision of Recommendation 01-12, all CPCs specifically referred to in the table in paragraph 4, 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.
9. 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.

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

10. 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 12 - 13.
 - 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 14 - 19.
 - 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 20 - 23, 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 200 - 206.
11. Prior to 31 March each year and in line with paragraph 234 of this Recommendation, unless otherwise decided by the Commission, the Commission shall convene an intersessional meeting of Panel 2 to analyze and, as appropriate, endorse the plans referred to under paragraph 10. This obligation may be done by electronic means if the Commission so decides. 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

12. 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.
13. 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

14. 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 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.
15. The annual fishing capacity management plan as referred to in paragraph 10 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 10 above.
16. 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.
17. 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.
18. The requirements for adjustments and for the number of traps defined in paragraphs 15, 16 and 17 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 10;
 - 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).
19. 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 15 and 17, except when the CPCs concerned fish mainly in the Exclusive Economic Zones of Norway or Iceland.

Farming capacity

20. 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 21 and 23. Revised farming management plans, if appropriate, shall be submitted to the Secretariat by 1 June each year. 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.

21. 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.
22. 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 10 of this Recommendation. This clause should be reviewed as from 2022.
23. 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.
24. 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

25. Based on new available scientific information, including where relevant the result of the trials on Artificial Intelligence referred to in paragraph 166, the SCRS should consider reviewing and updating the growth table published in 2022, as soon as possible and present those results at the latest to the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Commission.
26. Farm CPCs shall endeavor to ensure that the growth rates derived from the eBCDs are coherent with the growth rates published by the SCRS in 2022. If significant discrepancies are found between the 2022 SCRS tables and growth rates observed, that information should be sent to the SCRS for analysis. Import CPCs and farm CPCs shall be encouraged to cooperate in monitoring the growth rates in a comprehensive manner through exchange of relevant data, without prejudice to applicable rules on the protection of personal data, and to report the result of the monitoring to Panel 2, as appropriate.
27. A functionality within the eBCD system to automatically monitor growth rates shall be considered by the eBCD TWG in 2023.

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 12 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 bycatches

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 10 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 228 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 by ICCAT amending Recommendation 21-18 on the application of the eBCD System* (Rec. 22-16).

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 4.
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 Northeast 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 10 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 2 a). That record shall consist of the following lists:
- a) catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna, as per paragraph 2 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 10 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 12 to 13, 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 10 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 transshipments

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 10.

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 10 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 5 working days after the transshipment in port as per Recommendation 21-15. 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:
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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 provisions of paragraph 95, for releases of tuna from farms, only the regional observer, and not the national observer, shall be present on the towing vessel.

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 and harvesting operations. In cases of *force majeure* that have been confirmed by the farm CPC authority, or in cases where neighboring farms, as authorized and controlled by the farm CPC, operate jointly as one unit, 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.
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 and, to the extent possible, the ICCAT Secretariat and the provider responsible for the ROP shall ensure the observer has a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag, fishing vessel and farm or trap CPC. The requirements that the regional observer not be of the same nationality as the observed vessel, farm or trap will only take priority in cases where 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:
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Section D – Transfers of live fish

General provision

108. This section applies to all transfers as defined in paragraph 2 i) of this Recommendation.

109. In accordance with paragraph 10 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 63 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 donor operator 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 seiner, 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 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 10 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 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 1d 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), including under the framework established by Resolution 22-07, 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 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 more than 10% 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 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 using **Annex 15**:
- 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.

195. The Commission shall consider reflecting “Processing on board” in the eBCD at its 2023 Annual Meeting. To this end, IMM WG and then eBCD TWG shall discuss the technical, administrative and control requirements and report the results to the Commission.

Part IV:

Control measures

Section F – Control activities in farms after caging

Intra-farm transfers

196. 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.
197. Notwithstanding the definition of caging in paragraph 2 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.
198. 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.
199. 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

200. 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.
201. 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 208 to 215.
202. 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.
203. 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.
204. 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.
205. 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.

206. 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

207. 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

208. The farm CPC competent authority shall carry out random controls in farms under their jurisdiction. The minimum random controls referred to in paragraph 209 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).

209. 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 10 of this Recommendation.

210. 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.

211. 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.

212. 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.

213. 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.
214. 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.
215. 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

216. 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.
217. 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.
218. 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)

219. CPCs shall implement a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) for their fishing vessels with a length equal to or greater than 15 m referred to in paragraph 2 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.
220. 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.
221. 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.
222. 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.
223. 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

224. 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.
225. 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 229 to 232 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

226. 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.

227. 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 and/or fines.

**Part IV:
Control measures**

Section I - Market measures

Market measures

228. 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 Recommendation 21-18 on the application of the eBCD System* (Rec. 22-16) 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 3 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**

229. 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**.

230. The Scheme referred to in paragraph 229 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).

231. 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 10.

232. 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

233. 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.

Review clause

234. In accordance with paragraph 11, 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 10 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

235. 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

236. 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 9.

Transitional period for the implementation of sealing of bluefin tuna cages

237. For the implementation of the measures related to the sealing of bluefin tuna cages set out in paragraphs 128, 159, 164, 217, **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 16th Meeting of the IMM Working Group in 2023.

Repeals

238. This Recommendation repeals and replaces *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).

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 vessels 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, handliners 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.

Annex 2**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.

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.							

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.

LOCATION OF TRANSHIPMENT

<i>Port</i>	<i>Sea 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 transshipments
											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 transshipment:

1. The original of the transshipment declaration must be provided to the recipient vessel (processing/transport).
2. The copy of the transshipment 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 transshipment 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			
1 - TRANSFER OF LIVE BFT DESTINATED FOR FARMING					
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.:	1st 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.:	2nd towing vessel name (2): Flag: ICCAT Register No.: External identification: Transport cage number:	Name destination farm (3): ICCAT Register No:		
		3rd towing vessel name (2): Flag: ICCAT Register No.: External identification: Transport cage number:	Name destination farm (3): ICCAT Register No:		
2 - FIRST TRANSFER INFORMATION					
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: 1st receiving vessel: 2nd receiving vessel: 3rd 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):			
3 - FURTHER TRANSFERS (7)			
FURTHER TRANSFER 1			
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:	Donor Cage No.:	Master of donor vessel name and signature:
		Receiving Cage No.:	Master of receiving vessel name and signature:
No. individuals transferred and estimated weight (kg)(4): Further transfer: Voluntary transfer: Control transfer: In case of voluntary or control transfer: i. Information on the receiving towing vessel: Name: Flag: ICCAT Register No.: External identification: ii. Transport cage number:	Number of BFT that died during transfer:		
FURTHER TRANSFER 2			
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:	Donor Cage No.: Receiving Cage No.:	Master of donor vessel name and signature: Master of receiving vessel name and signature:
N° individuals transferred and estimated weight (kg)(4) Further transfer: Voluntary transfer: Control transfer: In case of voluntary or control transfer i. Information on the receiving towing vessel: Name: Flag: ICCAT Register No.: External identification: ii. Transport cage number:		Number of BFT that died during transfer:	
FURTHER TRANSFER 3			
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:	Donor Cage No.: Receiving Cage No.:	Master of donor vessel name and signature: Master of receiving vessel name and signature:
No. individuals transferred and estimated weight (kg)(4) Further transfer: Voluntary transfer: Control transfer: In case of voluntary or control transfer i. Information on the receiving towing vessel: Name: Flag: ICCAT Register No.: External identification: ii. Transport cage number:		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.

Joint Fishing Operation (JFO)

<i>Flag CPC</i>	<i>Vessel Name</i>	<i>ICCAT No.</i>	<i>Duration of the operation</i>	<i>Identity of the operators</i>	<i>Vessels individual quota</i>	<i>Allocation key per vessel</i>	<i>Fattening and farming farm destination</i>	
							<i>CPC</i>	<i>ICCAT No.</i>

Date:

Validation of the flag CPC:

Annex 6

**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 observers

- 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;
 - r) not providing to ICCAT inspectors a boarding ladder meeting the requirements of IMO Resolution A.889(21) to facilitate safe access to any fishing vessel which requires a climb of 1.5 metres or more.

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 of this **Annex**, 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 of this **Annex** and carrying an inspector unless the vessel is actually carrying out fishing operations, in which case it shall stop immediately once it has finished such operations. The master** of the vessel shall permit the inspection party, as specified in paragraph 10 of this **Annex**, to board it and must provide a boarding ladder meeting the requirements of IMO Resolution A.889(21), to facilitate safe and convenient access to any vessel which requires a climb of 1.5 metres or more. For compliance with the requirements of boarding ladders, a transitional period is allowed for vessels operating in the Atlantic, until January 2024.

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

* Replaced by Rec. 21-13.

** Master refers to the individual in charge of the vessel.



minimize interference with fishing activities or stowage of product and, to the extent practicable, avoid action which would adversely affect the quality of the catch on board. Inspectors shall limit their enquiries to the ascertainment of the observance of the Commission's Recommendations in force in relation to the flag CPC of the vessel concerned. In making the inspection, inspectors may ask the master of the fishing vessel for any assistance he/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; margin: 0;">INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNA ICCAT</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">INSPECTOR IDENTITY CARD</p> <hr style="width: 30%; margin: 10px auto;"/> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 100px; margin-right: 10px;"></div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Contracting Party:</p> <p>Inspector Name:</p> <p>Card No.:</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 20px;"> <p>Issue Date:</p> <p>Validity five years</p> </div>	 <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">ICCAT</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">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: 20px;"> <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) A copy of the 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 and 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**.

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 JFOs 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), 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 (FL_i) 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_{min,i} , FL_{max,i}]**

FL_{min,i} = FL_i - (FL_i * error%): is the minimum value for the fork length range for each sample (i)

FL_{max,i} = FL_i + (FL_i * 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_{min,i} , RTW_{max,i}]**

RTW_{min,i}: is the minimum value of the round weight range for each sample (i)

RTW_{max,i}: 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

[RTW_{average}_{min}, RTW_{average}_{max}]

RTW_{average}_{min} = $\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n RTW_{min,i}$: is the minimum value for the average round weight range

RTW_{average}_{max} = $\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n RTW_{max,i}$: is the maximum value for the average round weight range

4. Calculation of the margin of error percentage (%) of the system:

$$\frac{(RTW_{average_{max}} - RTW_{average_{min}}) / 2}{RTW_{average}} * 100$$

RTW_{average}: 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. **RTW_{total} = (RTW_{average} * Number BFT)**

Thus, the range limits are calculated as follows:

The lowest range figure = RTW_{total} - (margin of error system * RTW_{total} / 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.

ICCAT Release Report		Document No:
1 – CATCHING/CAGING DETAILS		
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:		
2 – DETAILS OF THE RELEASE OPERATION		
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:
Presence of Observer (Y/N)	Reasons for disagreement:	Rules or procedure not respected:

(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 3); BFT remaining after harvesting that is not covered by an eBCD; excess of BFT found following a control transfer or carry-over assessment.

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 the catch and first transfer

3. The bluefin tuna that die during the catch and 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. Section 2 shall include all individuals caught. The total quantities reported in Sections 3 (Live fish trade) and 4 (Transfer) of the eBCD (including dead individuals) 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.
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).

Reporting of fish that die during further transfers and towing operations		
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
TOTAL		

(*) 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

ICCAT Caging Declaration		Document No:	
1 - CAGING OF BLUEFIN TUNA			
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⁾ :			
2 - CAGING INFORMATION - FARM OPERATOR AND ICCAT OBSERVER ⁽²⁾			
	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:
3 - CAGING INFORMATION - CPC FARM AUTHORITIES ⁽³⁾			
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.

Annex 13**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.

	From... to	From... to	From... to	From... to	From... to
Zones					
Species					
Fishing gear					
Other conditions					

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

Template for a processing declaration and harvesting declaration

Processing / Harvesting (please circle either)
Date of harvesting(d/m/y): / /
Farm / Trap (please circle either)
Cage(s) number(s):
Number of individuals harvested:
Live weight in kg of the harvested bluefin tuna:
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: Name: Flag: ICCAT Registration No.:
Destination of the harvested tuna (export, local market, or other) (please circle) In case of other, please specify:
Validation by the ICCAT regional observer or CPC observer, as appropriate: Observer Name: ICCAT No.: Signature:

22-09

BFT

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ESTABLISHING A MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE FOR ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA TO BE USED FOR BOTH THE WESTERN ATLANTIC AND EASTERN ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN MANAGEMENT AREAS

NOTING that the objective of the Convention is to maintain populations of tuna and tuna-like species at levels that will support Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY);

RECALLING that the Commission often had difficulties in deciding the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) based on advice from the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS);

ALSO RECALLING that the SCRS had difficulties in providing robust scientific advice to the Commission due to various uncertainties such as the low quality of data;

RECOGNIZING that Harvest Control Rules (HCRs) and Management Procedures (MPs) developed using Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) provide a more robust management framework than that based on a conventional stock assessment, ensuring a more precautionary approach and better stability of TACs;

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

NOTING the *Resolution by ICCAT on developing initial management objectives for eastern and western bluefin tuna* [Res. 18-03], which outlined the conceptual objectives for the Atlantic bluefin tuna MSE;

RECALLING that the Commission requested the SCRS to continue testing various candidate MPs in 2022 and to meet with Panel 2 to review the results and support the Panel in selecting one to adopt and apply for 2023 as anticipated in the 2021 Recommendations, the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 17-06 for an interim conservation and management plan for western Atlantic bluefin tuna* (Rec. 21-07) and *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) and for this purpose Panel 2 held four intersessional meetings in 2022;

STRESSING the importance that all the stakeholders are involved in the MSE process since the MP automatically calculates the TAC to be adopted by the Commission unless it encountered an exceptional circumstance that is not envisaged by the MP;

APPRECIATING the efforts of all the scientists involved in the MSE process who made tremendous contribution not only to the scientific work but also to better communication of the results to various stakeholders involved in the bluefin tuna fisheries, including through informal ambassador meetings in three languages;

RECOGNIZING that the bluefin tuna MSE framework evaluated the status of the stock over the course of a 30-year projection period ending in 2052;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that the relative biomass statistic (lowest depletion or LD value, which is the spawning biomass relative to dynamic SSB_{MSY}) will be evaluated across years 11-30 in this projection period to provide time for the MP to rebuild stocks given that the MSE operating models have been designed to cover a wide range of plausible scenarios, including scenarios that depict the stocks in a depleted state in the first 10 years of the 30-year projection period;

NOTING the importance of establishing an exceptional circumstances protocol in 2023 that could result in suspending or modifying the application of the MP;

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 for Atlantic bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) in the Convention area shall implement the following MP. This MP shall be used to calculate the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for both the western Atlantic management area (hereafter called “the western management area”) and the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean management area (hereafter called “the eastern management area”).

Management Objectives

2. The management objectives for Atlantic bluefin tuna are:
 - a) Stock Status:
 - Both the western and eastern stocks should have a 60% or greater probability of occurring in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot (no overfishing occurring and not overfished);
 - b) Safety:
 - There should be a 15% or less probability of either stock falling below B_{LIM}^1 ;
 - c) Yield:
 - Maximize overall catch levels in both the western and eastern management areas; and,
 - d) Stability:
 - Any change in TAC between consecutive management periods in both the western and eastern management areas should be no more than a 20% increase or a 35% decrease.

Performance Measures (indicators) used to evaluate the performance of MPs for each management objective are found in **Annex 1**.

**Part II
Management Procedure and Catch Limits**

3. Consistent with the management objectives specified in paragraph 2, the BR management procedure has been selected and is fully described in **Annex 2**.

TAC Setting

4. The first TACs derived from the MP shall apply in 2023, 2024, and 2025. The management cycle length shall be three years; therefore, the MP shall be applied every three years.
5. Notwithstanding the stability management objective in paragraph 2d, there will be a phase-in period of one management cycle where the decrease in TAC shall be no more than 10%.
6. If the TAC change as a result of the application of the MP is less than 50 t for the western management area and 1,000 t for the eastern management area, the TAC shall not be changed.
7. According to the timeline set out in **Annex 3**, the SCRS shall run the MP specified in **Annex 2** and advise the Commission of the resulting TAC for both the western management area and the eastern management area.

¹ For the purposes of this bluefin tuna MSE, the Commission has agreed to use a B_{LIM} of 40% of the dynamic spawning stock biomass at Maximum Sustainable Yield.

8. The Commission shall then adopt the TACs based on the outcome of the MP, unless the SCRS identifies exceptional circumstances that require consideration of alternative management actions to be taken by the Commission.
9. The SCRS shall assess the occurrence of exceptional circumstances annually and the Commission shall act in accordance with the exceptional circumstances protocol, developed based on scientific advice provided by the SCRS and adopted by the Commission.

TAC Implementation

10. The MP shall be applied according to the determined schedule and procedure and the resulting TACs for the eastern and western management areas shall be implemented and monitored according to the provisions set out in the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 21-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* (Rec. 22-08) and the *Recommendation by ICCAT for a conservation and management plan for western Atlantic bluefin tuna* (Rec. 22-10).

Part III Final Provisions

11. A review of the performance of the MP by the Commission and the SCRS shall be completed by 2028 and every 6 years thereafter. The aim of the review is to ensure the MP is performing as expected and to determine whether there are conditions that justify its continuation, or that warrant: reconditioning the MSE operating models; retuning the existing MP; including new indices into a new MP; and/or considering alternate candidate management procedures or development of a new MSE framework. Based on that review and subsequent SCRS advice, the Commission shall decide on future management measures, approaches, and strategies, including, *inter alia*, regarding TAC levels, for bluefin tuna stocks in both management areas.
12. Panel 2, with scientific guidance from the SCRS, shall develop the exceptional circumstances protocol for this MP, for review and adoption by the Commission at its 2023 annual meeting. The protocol will become **Annex 4** of this Recommendation once adopted.
13. This Recommendation repeals and replaces *Resolution by ICCAT on development of initial management objectives for eastern and western bluefin tuna* (Res. 18-03).

Annex 1

Table of Operational Management Objectives and Performance Measures

Performance Measures are calculated based on 48 simulations/replicates for each of the 48 operating models of a 30-year projection under a CMP.

Management Objectives	Primary Performance Measures	Secondary Performance Measures
<p>Status Both the western and eastern stocks should have a 60% or greater probability of occurring in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot (no overfishing occurring and not overfished) (To be evaluated at intermediate points between zero and 30 years, and at the end of the 30-year period)</p>	<p>PGK: Probability of being in the Kobe green quadrant (i.e., $SSB \geq \text{dynamic } SSB_{MSY}^1$ and $U < U_{MSY}^2$) in year 30 of the management period (2052).</p>	<p>Br30 – Br (i.e., biomass ratio, or spawning stock biomass (SSB) relative to dynamic SSB_{MSY}) after 30 years. AvgBr – Average Br over projection years 11-30. Br20 – Br after 20 years. POF – Probability of overfishing ($U > U_{MSY}$) after 30 projected years. PNRK – Probability of not being in the red Kobe quadrant ($SSB \geq SSB_{MSY}$ and/or $U < U_{MSY}$) after 30 projected years. OFT – Overfished Trend, SSB trend if $Br_{30} < 1$.</p>
<p>Safety There should be a 15% or less probability of either stock falling below B_{LIM} at any point during the years 11-30 of the projection period.</p>	<p>LD* – Lowest depletion (i.e., the lowest SSB relative to dynamic SSB_{MSY}) over years 11-30 in the projection period. LD* value is evaluated relative to B_{LIM} (40% of dynamic SSB_{MSY}). LD*_{15%} (15th percentile) is used as the primary performance measures.</p>	<p>LD* – LD*_{5%} (5th percentile) and LD*_{10%} (10th percentile) are presented in the secondary performance measures.</p>
<p>Yield Maximize overall catch levels in both western and eastern management areas.</p>	<p>AvC10 – Median TAC (t) over years 1-10. AvC30 – Median TAC (t) over years 1-30.</p>	<p>C1 – TAC in first 3 years of MP (i.e., 2023-25). AvC20 – Median TAC (t) over years 1-20.</p>
<p>Stability Any change in TAC between consecutive management periods in both the western and eastern management areas should be no more than a 20% increase or a 35% decrease, except during the first application of the MP, where any TAC change shall not exceed a 20% increase or a 10% decrease.</p>	<p>VarC – Variation in TAC (%) between management cycles.</p>	

¹ Dynamic SSB_{MSY} is a set fraction of dynamic SSB_0 , which is the spawning stock biomass that would occur in the absence of fishing, historically and in the future. Dynamic SSB_{MSY} can change over time since it is based on current recruitment levels, which fluctuate due to time-varying dynamics in the models.

² The exploitation rate (U) is annual catch (in tonnes) divided by the total annual biomass in tonnes. U_{MSY} is the fixed harvest rate (U) corresponding with $SSB/SSB_{MSY}=1$ at year 50.

Description and formulae for calculating TACs for western Atlantic and eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna management areas using the BR Management Procedure

The BR MP is empirical, based on inputs related to abundance indices which are first standardised for magnitude, then aggregated by way of a weighted average of all indices available for the East or for the West areas as appropriate (**Table A1**, five indices in each management area), and finally smoothed over years to reduce observation error variability effects. TACs are then set based on the concept of taking a fixed proportion of the abundance present, as indicated by these aggregated and smoothed abundance indices.

Aggregate abundance indices

An aggregate abundance index is developed for each of the East and the West areas by first standardising each index available for that area to an average value of 1 over the past years for which the index appeared reasonably stable, and then taking a weighted average of the results for each index, where the weight is inversely proportional to the variance² of the residuals used to generate future values of that index in the future modified to take into account the loss of information content as a result of autocorrelation. The mathematical details are as follows:

The indices, I_y^i , are first standardised to an average value of 1 over the past years for which the index appeared reasonably stable:

$$I_y^{i*} = \frac{I_y^i}{\sum_{y_1}^{y_2} I_y^i / (y_2 - y_1 + 1)} \tag{A1}$$

where y_1^i and y_2^i specify the period to which each index (i) is standardised (**Table A1**).

$J_y^{E/W}$ is an average index over n series ($n=5$ for the East area and $n=5$ for the West area):

$$J_y^{E/W} = \frac{\sum_i^n w_i \times I_y^{i*}}{\sum_i^n w_i} \tag{A2}$$

where $w_i = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\sigma^i}}$ (i.e., effective inverse variance to the power ¼ weighting). σ^i is computed as $\sigma^i = \frac{SD^i}{1-AC^i}$, where SD^i is the standard deviation of the residuals in log space and AC^i is their autocorrelation, averaged over the OMs, as used for generating future pseudo-data. **Table A1** lists these values for w_i .

For the West, the weights computed above for US_RR_66_144, JPN_LL_West2 and CAN_SWNS have been multiplied by 3 (i.e., $w_i \rightarrow 3w_i$). This change has been implemented to avoid a steep drop in the median TAC for the West area during the 2030s.

In case of a missing index value in year y , $J_y^{E/W}$, is computed by setting w_i to zero, i.e., that index is disregarded when averaging over indices for that year only.

The actual index used in the MP, $J_{av,y-2}^{E/W}$, is the average over the last three years for which data would be available at the time the MP would be applied, hence:

$$J_{av,y-2}^{E/W} = \frac{1}{3} (J_{y-2}^{E/W} + J_{y-3}^{E/W} + J_{y-4}^{E/W}) \tag{A3}$$

where the $J_{av,y-2}^{E/W}$ applies either to the East or to the West area.

² This is modified somewhat in a few cases to provide the smoother TAC trend over time., as explained further below.

MP specifications

The BR Fixed Proportion MP sets the TAC (in mt) every management cycle simply as a multiple of the J_{av} value for the area at the time (**Figure A1**), but subject to the change in the TAC for each area being restricted to a maximum of 20% up and 35% down (10% down for the phase-in period).

For the East area:

$$TAC_{E,y} = \begin{cases} \left(\frac{35032.31}{J_{2017}^E}\right) \cdot \alpha_y \cdot J_{av,y-2}^E & \text{for } J_{av,y-2}^E \geq T^E \\ \left(\frac{35032.31}{J_{2017}^E}\right) \cdot \alpha_y \cdot \frac{(J_{av,y-2}^E)^2}{T^E} & \text{for } J_{av,y-2}^E < T^E \end{cases} \quad (A4a)$$

$$\alpha_y = \begin{cases} \alpha_0 + \Delta\alpha(y - 2023) & \text{for } 2023 \leq y \leq 2027 \\ \alpha_0 + 4\Delta\alpha & \text{for } y > 2027 \end{cases}$$

For the West area:

$$TAC_{W,y} = \begin{cases} \left(\frac{2269.362}{J_{2017}^W}\right) \cdot \beta_y \cdot J_{av,y-2}^W & \text{for } J_{av,y-2}^W \geq T^W \\ \left(\frac{2269.362}{J_{2017}^W}\right) \cdot \beta_y \cdot \frac{(J_{av,y-2}^W)^2}{T^W} & \text{for } J_{av,y-2}^W < T^W \end{cases} \quad (A4b)$$

$$\beta_y = \begin{cases} \beta_0 + \Delta\beta(y - 2023) & \text{for } 2023 \leq y \leq 2030 \\ \beta_0 + 7\Delta\beta & \text{for } y > 2030 \end{cases}$$

The values 35,032.314 mt and 2,269.362 mt used in equations A4a and b respectively are the ICCAT Task 1 catch by management area in 2020 as at April 2022.

Note that in equation (A4a), setting $\alpha_y = 1$ would amount to keeping the East area TAC the same as the corresponding catch in 2020 (as explained above) if the abundance indices stayed at their 2017 level. If α_y or $\beta_y > 1$ harvesting would be more intensive than at that time, and for α_y or $\beta_y < 1$ it would be less intensive.

Below T , the law is parabolic rather than linear at low abundance (i.e., below some threshold, so as to reduce the proportion taken by the fishery as abundance drops); this is to better enable resource recovery in the event of unintended depletion of the stock. For the BR MP, the choices of $T^E = 1$ and $T^W = 1$ have been made.

Constraints on the extent of TAC increase and decrease

$$\Delta TAC^{E/W} = \frac{TAC_y^{E/W}}{TAC_{y-1}^{E/W}} \quad (A5)$$

with $TAC_y^{E/W}$ from equation A4. $\Delta TAC^{E/W}$ is then modified as follows:

$$\Delta TAC^{E/W'} = \exp(\ln(\Delta TAC^{E/W}) VarCadj) \quad (A6)$$

with a control parameter, $VarCadj$, taken for the BR MP to be 0.5. This parameter is introduced to reduce the magnitude of the TAC changes; the smaller the value of this parameter the smaller the TAC change.

$\Delta TAC^{E/W'}$ is then constrained to a maximum of 20% up and 35% down and 10% down for the phase-in period,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{if } \Delta TAC^{E/W'} > (1 + maxUp^{E/W}) \text{ then } \Delta TAC^{E/W'} &= (1 + maxUp^{E/W}), \text{ or} \\ \text{if } \Delta TAC^{E/W'} < (1 - maxDown^{E/W}) \text{ then } \Delta TAC^{E/W'} &= (1 - maxDown^{E/W}) \end{aligned}$$

The TAC is then computed as:

$$TAC_y^{E/W'} = TAC_{y-1}^{E/W} \cdot \Delta TAC^{E/W'} \tag{A7}$$

Minimum TAC change constraints lead to the addition of the following rules:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{if } & |TAC_{y-1}^{E/W} - TAC_y^{E/W'}| < \min \Delta TAC^{E/W} \\ \text{then } & TAC^{E/W''} = TAC_{y-1}^{E/W} \end{aligned} \tag{A8}$$

where values for $\min \Delta TAC^{E/W}$ are 50 t for the West and 1,000 t for the East.

Table A1. The index periods y_1^i and y_2^i (equation A1) and w^i weights used when averaging over the indices to provide composite indices for the East and the West areas (equation A2).

<i>i</i>	Index	East			West			
		y_1^i	y_2^i	w^i	Index	y_1^i	y_2^i	w^i
1	FR_AER_SUV2	2014	2017	1.33	GOM_LAR_SUV	2006	2017	1.33
2	MED_LAR_SUV	2012	2016	1.66	US_RR_66_144	2006	2018	2.55
3	GBYP_AER_SUV_BAR ³	2015	2018	1.06	MEXUS_GOM_PLL2	2006	2018	1.39
4	MOR_POR_TRAP	2012	2018	1.43	JPN_LL_West2	2010	2019	3.96
5	JPN_LL_NEAtI2	2012	2019	1.33	CAN_SWNS	2006	2017	2.88

Table A2. Control parameter values for the MP (equation A4). A TAC variation reduction adjustment factor with VarCadj=0.5 has been applied.

CMP name	PGK	Cycle	stability	α_0	$\Delta\alpha$	β_0	$\Delta\beta$
B360	60	3	+20/-35	1.235	0.204	0.810	-0.032

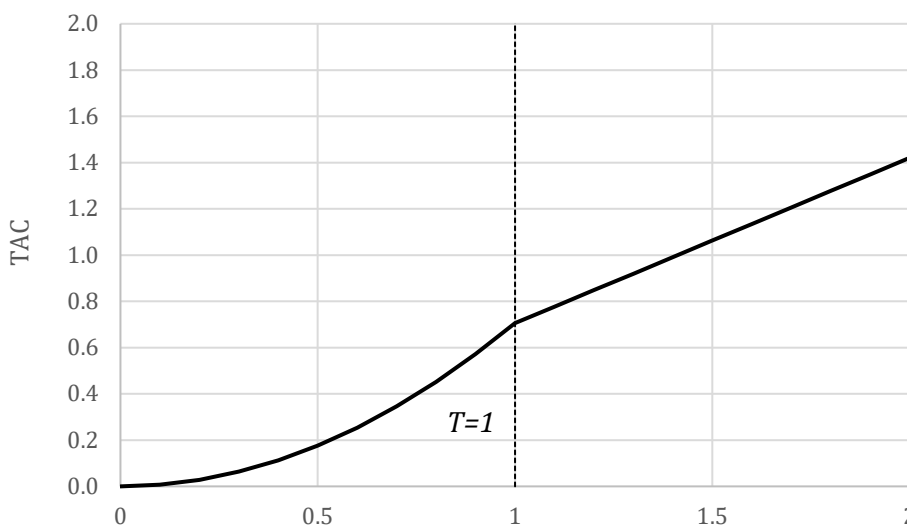


Figure A1. Illustrative relationship (the “catch control law”) of TAC against $J_{av,y}$ for the BR MP, which includes the parabolic decrease below T .

³ For the GBYP aerial survey, there is no value for 2016 and that year was therefore omitted from this averaging.

Schedule for Management Procedure implementation

3 Year Cycle

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
SCRS check for exceptional circumstances		X	X	X	X	X	X
SCRS runs MP	X			X			X
Commission endorses and implements TAC based on MP (unless other action is needed due to exceptional circumstances)	X			X			X
TAC in effect		X	X	X	X	X	X
SCRS MP review						X	X
Status Check/Assessment					X*	X*	
Commission assesses SCRS review and next steps							X

*The Commission shall decide the timing of the next stock assessment in consultation with the SCRS.

22-10

BFT

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT FOR A CONSERVATION AND
MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR WESTERN ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA**

NOTING that the objective of the Convention is to maintain populations of tuna and tuna-like species at levels that will support Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY);

MINDFUL that, in anticipation of completing a 20-year rebuilding program in 2018, the Commission adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT for an interim conservation and management plan for western Atlantic bluefin tuna* (Rec. 17-06);

RECALLING that the SCRS, being unable to resolve recruitment uncertainty, provided short-term management advice in 2017 based on a fishing mortality rate ($F_{0.1}$) that the SCRS considered to be a reasonable proxy for F_{MSY} and that accounted for the effect of recruitment changes on stock biomass, which provided the basis for interim stock management pending development of a Management Procedure (MP) through the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) process;

RECALLING FURTHER that Rec. 17-06 was amended and extended through 2021 by the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 17-06 for an interim conservation and management plan for western Atlantic bluefin tuna* (Rec. 20-06) and that it was amended and extended again through 2022 by the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 17-06 for an interim conservation and management plan for western Atlantic bluefin tuna* (Rec. 21-07), which included an increase in the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) after taking into consideration SCRS advice in 2021;

FULLY AWARE of the intention to replace the interim conservation and management plan first adopted in 2017 with a conservation and management plan based on an MP tested through MSE in order to manage bluefin tuna fisheries more effectively in the face of identified uncertainties;

APPRECIATING the substantial work undertaken by ICCAT to advance MSE for bluefin tuna, including adoption of the *Resolution by ICCAT on development of initial management objectives for eastern and western bluefin tuna* (Res. 18-03), and intersessional activities aimed at finalizing 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);

RECOGNIZING the completed MSE framework developed by the SCRS that has been used to test candidate MPs to demonstrate tradeoffs between management objectives identified by Panel 2 with regard to stock status, safety, stability, and yield and considering the outcome of that testing, which also included examination of 2- and 3-year management cycles and the possible establishment of a minimum TAC change threshold;

WELCOMING the adoption of an MP in 2022 to establish TACs for both the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean and western Atlantic bluefin tuna management areas starting in 2023;

RECOGNIZING that an important element of the MP is its review and that the SCRS has recommended that the first review be completed by 2028 to ensure the MP is performing as expected and to determine whether there are conditions that warrant reconditioning the MSE operating models; retuning the existing MP; and/or considering alternate candidate management procedures or a new, full MSE;

HIGHLIGHTING the value of continued research on the stock, including increased fisheries and biological sampling, to provide additional support toward addressing some key uncertainties in the stock assessment and the MSE, including size structure of catches and releases, genetic samples for stock identification and genetic mark-recapture studies, age and growth estimation, and electronic tagging for monitoring stock migrations and rates of mixing;

RECOGNIZING the Resolution by ICCAT on Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities (Res. 15-13);

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

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

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities (CPCs) whose vessels have been actively fishing for bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic shall implement the following conservation and management plan starting in 2023, including establishing TACs based on the application of the bluefin tuna management procedure (MP) adopted in Recommendation by ICCAT establishing a management procedure for Atlantic bluefin tuna to be used for both the western Atlantic and eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean management areas (Rec. 22-09).

Effort and capacity limits

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

TACs, TAC allocations, and catch limits

3. In accordance with the application of the MP established in Rec. 22-09, an annual TAC, inclusive of dead discards, of 2,726 t is established for 2023, 2024, and 2025. The TACs for the 2026-2028 period shall be established at the 2025 ICCAT annual meeting, in accordance with the application of the MP.
4. CPCs shall update abundance indices and fishery indicators annually and provide them to the SCRS when requested in support of the annual assessment by the SCRS of the occurrence of exceptional circumstances, as specified in Rec. 22-09 and for other relevant scientific purposes as determined by the SCRS.
5. The allocation of the annual TAC, inclusive of dead discards, shall be 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 5 a), the remainder of the annual TAC will be allocated as follows:

	<i>If the remainder of the annual TAC is:</i>			
CPC	<2,413 t (A)	2,413 t (B)	>2,413-2,660 t (C)	>2,660 t (D)
United States	54.02%	1,303 t	1,303 t	49.00%
Canada	22.32%	539 t	539 t	20.24%
Japan	17.64%	426 t	426 t + all increase between 2,413 t and 2,660 t	24.74%
United Kingdom (in respect of Bermuda)	0.23%	5.5 t	5.5 t	0.23%
France (in respect of 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 5 b), the annual TACs for 2023-2025 result in the following CPC-specific quota allocations, not including bycatch allowances listed in 5 a):

Annual TAC for 2023-2025: 2,726 t

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 quota in each year of 2023-2025 to Canada to support cooperative research as specified in paragraph 14.
- e) Depending on availability, the United Kingdom (in respect of Bermuda) can transfer up to the amount of its adjusted quota in each year of 2023-2025 to the United States to support cooperative research as specified in paragraph 14.
- f) Depending on availability, France (in respect of St. Pierre & Miquelon) can transfer up to the amount of its adjusted quota in each year of 2023-2025, to Canada to support cooperative research as specified in paragraph 14.
- g) CPCs planning to engage in the cooperative research activities specified in paragraphs 5 d), 5 e), and 5 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.

6. A CPC's total quota shall include its allocations in paragraph 5, adjusted for underharvest or overharvest consistent with the remainder of this paragraph. Each year shall be considered as an independent management period for the remainder of this paragraph.
 - a) Any underharvest of a CPC's total quota in a given year may be carried forward to the next year. However, in no event shall the underharvest that is carried forward exceed 10% of the CPC's initial quota allocation under paragraph 5, with the exception of the United Kingdom (in respect of Bermuda), France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon), and Mexico (i.e., those with initial allocations of 149.34 t or less), for which the underharvest that is carried forward shall in no event exceed 100% of the initial allocation under paragraph 5 (i.e., the total quota for such CPC shall not exceed twice its annual quota in any given year).
 - b) If, in the applicable management period, and each subsequent management period, any CPC has an overharvest of its total quota, its initial quota for the next subsequent management period will be reduced by 100% of the excess of such total quota, and ICCAT may authorize other appropriate actions.
 - c) Notwithstanding paragraph 6 b), if a CPC has an overharvest of its total quota during any two consecutive management periods, the Commission will recommend appropriate measures, which may include, but are not limited to, reduction in the CPC's total quota equal to a minimum of 125% of the overharvest amount and, if necessary, trade restrictive measures. Any trade measures under this paragraph will be import restrictions on the subject species and consistent with each CPC's international obligations. The trade measures will be of such duration and under such conditions as the Commission may determine.

Minimum fish size requirements and protection of small fish

7. CPCs shall prohibit the taking and landing of western Atlantic bluefin tuna weighing less than 30 kg or, in the alternative, having a fork length of less than 115 cm.
8. Notwithstanding the above measures, CPCs may grant tolerances to capture western Atlantic bluefin tuna either weighing less than 30 kg, or in the alternative, having a fork length of less than 115 cm, provided they limit the take of these fish to no more than 10% by weight of the total bluefin tuna quota for each CPC, and institute measures to deny economic gain to the fishermen from such fish. Any overharvest of such tolerance limit from one year must be subtracted from the tolerance limit applicable in the next year or the year after that. CPCs granting such a tolerance will prohibit the taking and landing of western Atlantic bluefin tuna having a fork length of less than 67 cm, except as the subject of a research project notified to the SCRS, developed taking into consideration the recommended research priorities of the SCRS, and conducted by individuals duly permitted by the CPC to undertake such research.
9. CPCs shall prohibit fishermen from selling or offering for sale recreationally harvested fish of any size.
10. CPCs will encourage their commercial and recreational fishermen to tag and release all fish less than 30 kg or, in the alternative, having a fork length less than 115 cm and report on steps taken in this regard in their Annual Report.

Area and time restrictions

11. There shall be no directed fishery on the bluefin tuna spawning stock in the western Atlantic spawning grounds (i.e., the Gulf of Mexico). In light of advice received from the SCRS pursuant to paragraph 18, the Commission shall consider revising this measure and the need for alternative management actions, taking into account the efforts of Mexico and other CPCs to conserve western Atlantic bluefin tuna, including reducing bycatch.

Transshipment

12. Transshipment at-sea shall be prohibited.

Scientific research and data and reporting requirements

13. Canada, the United States, Japan, Mexico, and, as appropriate, other CPCs harvesting western Atlantic bluefin tuna shall continue to collaborate in the improvement of existing indices of abundance and the development of new combined indices.
14. CPCs that harvest Atlantic bluefin tuna in the western Atlantic 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. With a view to facilitating the reconditioning of the MSE operating models and supporting review of the MP by 2028, CPCs should support the SCRS in carrying out the four strategic initiatives it has identified in the SCRS report:
 - coordination of BFT tagging,
 - coordination of larval surveys,
 - coordination of BFT biological sampling,
 - advanced genomic approaches to population size estimation (CKMR/Gene tagging).
15. In carrying out the work specified in paragraph 14, as contributions to SCRS research, CPCs should make or continue special efforts to enhance Atlantic bluefin tuna fisheries sampling, including: providing information on fish lengths and/or weights by fleet, month, and area; and, the collection of biological samples, including tissue and otoliths, which are critical for genetic close-kin mark-recapture and stock of origin analyses.
16. All CPCs shall monitor and report on all sources of fishing mortality, including dead discards, and shall minimize dead discards to the extent practicable.
17. Each CPC shall ensure that its fishing vessels landing bluefin tuna are subject to a data recording system, in accordance with the *Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the recording of catch by fishing vessels in the ICCAT Convention area* (Rec. 03-13).
18. Further to paragraph 11, the SCRS shall review any new available information related to the identification of specific spawning times and areas of bluefin tuna within the western Atlantic Ocean, including from those CPCs that harvest western Atlantic bluefin tuna, and advise the Commission on the results of this review for its consideration. Concerned CPCs are encouraged to work through the SCRS to develop advice for managing any identified times and specific areas under a precautionary approach. In addition, the SCRS shall advise on the efficacy of the Gulf of Mexico directed fishery restriction to reduce mortality of spawning age bluefin tuna.
19. Each CPC shall report its provisional monthly catches of bluefin tuna. This report shall be sent to the ICCAT Secretariat within 30 days of the end of the calendar month in which the catches were made.
20. The ICCAT Secretariat shall, within 10 days following the monthly deadline for receipt of the provisional catch statistics, collect the information received and circulate it to CPCs together with aggregated catch statistics.
21. All CPCs shall provide the best available data for the assessment of the stock by the SCRS, including information on the catches of the broadest range of all age classes encountered in their fisheries, consistent with minimum size restrictions.
22. SCRS should provide guidance on a range of fish size management measures for western Atlantic bluefin tuna and their impact on yield per recruit and spawner per recruit considerations. The SCRS should also comment on the effect of fish size management measures on their ability to monitor stock status.
23. This Recommendation repeals and replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT for an interim conservation and management plan for western Atlantic bluefin tuna* (Rec. 17-06) as amended by *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 17-06 for an interim conservation and management plan for western Atlantic bluefin tuna* (Rec. 21-07).

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BYC

RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON THE CONSERVATION OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC STOCK OF SHORTFIN MAKU CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH ICCAT FISHERIES

RECOGNIZING that South 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 2019 SCRS assessment concluded that since fishery development in the South predictably follows that in the North and that the biological characteristics of the stock are similar, there is a significant risk that South stock could follow a similar history to that of the North stock. If the stock declines it will, like the North stock, require a long time for rebuilding even after significant catch reductions;

ACKNOWLEDGING that in 2019 the SCRS concluded that the combined probability of the stock being overfished was 32.5% and that of experiencing overfishing was 41.9% with the results for the South Atlantic considered to be highly uncertain owing to the conflict between catch and CPUE data

RECALLING that according to its Convention, the stated objective of ICCAT is to maintain the stocks at levels which will permit the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY);

COMMITTED to immediately taking actions to end likely overfishing of the South Atlantic shortfin mako stock, as the first step in the development of a fishery management framework;

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;

AWARE that precautionary management measures should be considered particularly for stocks where there is the greatest biological vulnerability and conservation concern, and for which there are very few data and/or great uncertainty in assessment results;

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;

ALSO RECALLING the approach agreed for North Atlantic shortfin mako and given the difficulty of reaching agreement it would be sensible to follow a similar approach;

ALSO 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:

Management plan objectives

1. The Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as “CPCs”), shall implement a fishery management plan for South Atlantic shortfin mako shark starting in 2023 to counteract overfishing immediately and gradually achieve biomass levels sufficient to support Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY). In 2024, following the results of the South Atlantic shortfin mako stock assessment, and upon analysis of the Kobe II strategy matrix provided by the SCRS, CPCs shall agree on a catch level that ensures that the stock is in the green zone of the Kobe II strategy matrix with a probability of between 60 and 70% by 2070 (using catch increments of 100 t and time increments of 5 years).
2. Toward that end and pending the results of the 2024 assessment (including the Kobe II strategy matrix), the total fishing mortality (the sum of any retention, dead discards, and post-release mortality of live discards) for South Atlantic shortfin mako shall be no more than the minimum reported annual catch in the last five years of the assessment (i.e., 2,001 t) as set out in the 2019 SCRS Report.

First step in managing the stock and process to determine permissible retention

3. CPCs shall implement a maximum retention allowance in 2023 and 2024 of 60% of their average annual catch, as reported to ICCAT between 2012 and 2021. CPCs with average annual catches of more than 500 t will implement a cap on landings of 40% of their average annual catch, as reported to ICCAT between 2012 and 2021. This is expected to allow for a total retention allowance of 1,295 t. The objective being that this retention allowance combined with the sum of estimated dead discards and post release mortality, results in a total mortality that is below the SCRS advice:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Mean catches 2012-2021 (t)</i>	<i>Retention allowance (t)</i>
Angola	3	2
Belize	26	15
Brazil	347	208
China PR	4	2
Chinese Taipei	101	61
Côte d'Ivoire	29	18
Curaçao	0	0
El Salvador	0	0
European Union	1,258	503
Guatemala	0	0
Japan	103	62
Korea	6	4
Namibia	640	256
Panama	0	0
Senegal	14	8
South Africa	256	154
United Kingdom	0	0
Uruguay	4	2
TOTAL	2,791	1,295

4. The retention allowances described in paragraph 3 do not constitute any long term right and are without prejudice to any future process of allocation.

5. For 2025 onwards, the total fishing mortality tonnage associated with the probability level to be established in paragraph 1 shall be based on the most recent Kobe II strategy matrix provided by the SCRS in 2024 for South Atlantic shortfin mako (the probability of both $F < F_{MSY}$ and $B > B_{MSY}^1$). Following the 2024 stock assessment, the SCRS shall present the Kobe II strategy matrix consistent with the objectives established by paragraph 1.
6. Permissible retention shall be pursuant to the following process:
 - a) Following the stock assessment in 2024 the SCRS shall use the approach in **Annex 1**, or alternative approaches after having their appropriateness confirmed by the SCRS, for determining the amount of permissible retention of South Atlantic shortfin mako in the future. 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) Starting in 2024 and annually thereafter, the SCRS will use **Annex 1** 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.
 - c) Starting in 2024 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 6 b).
7. CPCs whose fishing vessels retain South Atlantic shortfin mako shall prohibit transshipping, whole or in part, South Atlantic shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries.
8. From 1 January 2025, any retention permissible 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 South 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.

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 South 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 South 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.

¹ Or an acceptable proxy as determined by the SCRS during the assessment (e.g., spawning stock fecundity).

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 South 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 South 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. This report shall be sent to the ICCAT Secretariat within 30 days of the end of the calendar month in which the catches were made and annually for dead discards, live releases and total catches. The ICCAT 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 as established for 2023 and 2024, and for subsequent years, as calculated in paragraph 6, 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. Transfers of underages by CPCs to future years shall not be permissible.
13. No later than 31 July 2023, CPCs that reported annual average catches (landings and dead discards) of South 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 South Atlantic shortfin mako, including estimates of dead discards and live releases using the methods approved by the SCRS in paragraph 13. The ICCAT Secretariat shall ensure that the Table 1 of the Executive Summaries have space to record also the reported live releases. If the Compliance Committee determines that CPCs that authorize their vessels to retain on board and land South Atlantic shortfin mako pursuant to paragraph 6 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 South 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 endeavour to gradually increase the observer coverage, including EMS, of all longline fishing vessels in ICCAT fisheries that may have potential interaction with South 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 South 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. 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 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 South 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 2024, and whenever new information becomes available, updated advice on mitigation measures aimed at further reducing shortfin mako mortality. For that purpose, by 30 April 2024, 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 South Atlantic shortfin mako sharks, except the CPCs that have already provided this information to the ICCAT 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 2025 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 of South Atlantic shortfin mako by 2024, including producing a Kobe II strategy matrix that reflects the timeframe for ensuring the stock is in the green zone of the Kobe II strategy matrix. Further assessments shall be carried out by 2030 and 2035, 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 this fishery management plan.

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 tradeoff for the catches of the target species by fishery.

Review and repeal

26. At its 2024 annual meeting, the Commission shall review this measure against the objectives of established in paragraph 1 of this Recommendation, taking into account advice received from the SCRS, including advice relating to paragraphs 21 a) and b), as well as discussions at Panel 4.
27. The Commission shall review this measure no later than the annual meeting 2025 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 1 a) is subtracted from the figure established by paragraph 4 (this will include all the figures from the range of probabilities in the Kobe matrix that are between 60 and 70%). 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 1 b) is equal to or less than zero, CPCs shall prohibit retaining onboard, transshipping and landing, whole or in part, South Atlantic shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries in year Y+1.
 - d) If the retention allowance established by **Annex 1**, paragraph 1 b) 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 1 d), 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 14 and 16) 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 14 and 16) 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 ICCAT 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 South Atlantic shortfin mako sharks 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 ICCAT 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, 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)

22-12

BYC

**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)**

RECALLING that the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 10-09 on the bycatch of sea turtles in ICCAT fisheries* (Rec. 13-11) stated that upon receipt of advice from the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), the Commission shall consider additional measures to mitigate sea turtle bycatch in ICCAT fisheries, if necessary;

RECOGNIZING that additional measures could be undertaken to reduce sea turtle bycatch and mortality in tuna fisheries;

CONSIDERING mortality from the incidental catch of sea turtles' species in relation to fishing activities may seriously affect sea turtles' populations within the Convention area;

RECOGNIZING that the SCRS and its Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch (SubComECO) have confirmed annual rates of bycatch and mortality of threatened and endangered sea turtles in some ICCAT longline fisheries, particularly in shallow-sets, and have recommended that the Commission consider adopting for shallow-set longline fisheries at least one of the following mitigation measures: (1) use of large circle hooks; (2) use of finfish bait; (3) other measures considered effective by the SCRS;

MOTIVATED BY recommendations made by the SCRS Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch, including in 2022, identifying that experimental and meta-data analyses indicate that large circle hooks are an effective measure to reduce sea turtle bycatch and could also increase post-release survival;

GUIDED BY the work undertaken throughout the world that has led to advancements in best practices and technologies such as, type of baits and large circle hooks to limit bycatch of sea turtles;

FURTHER RECALLING that the Report of ICCAT's Second Independent Performance Review supporting the recommendations of the SCRS Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch to adopt measures to reduce sea turtle bycatch such as the use of circle hooks;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the obligations of Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) under the *Recommendation by ICCAT on information collection and harmonization of data on bycatch and discards in ICCAT fisheries* (Rec. 11-10) and the *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish minimum standards for fishing vessel scientific observer programs* (Rec. 16-14) to report their fisheries' interactions with sea turtles using the SCRS statistical form;

ACKNOWLEDGING the need to reduce the impacts of ICCAT fisheries on threatened and endangered sea turtle species within the Convention area;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING the important role that fishermen can play to both avoid sea turtle interactions and minimize the adverse consequences of such interactions when they occur;

RECOGNIZING the threats that sea turtles face throughout their life cycle, both on sea and land, and the urgent need to reduce the impacts of ICCAT fisheries, in particular on endangered sea turtle species; and

NOTING that the mitigation measures in the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean *Recommendation on the mitigation of fisheries impacts for the conservation of sea turtles* (GCFM/44/2021/14) become binding in 2026;

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

1. In order to reduce bycatch and increase post-release survival of threatened and endangered sea turtle populations within the Convention area:
 - a) CPCs with longline vessels that fish in a shallow-set manner¹ shall, while operating ICCAT fisheries, employ or implement at least one of the following methods:
 - i. Use of only large circle hooks²;
 - ii. Use of only finfish bait; or
 - iii. Use of [an] other measure[s] or approach[es] that [has] have been reviewed and considered effective by the SCRS and approved by the Commission to be capable of reducing the interaction rate of sea turtles in shallow set longline fisheries.
 - b) Any CPC that achieves and maintains 10% scientific observer coverage and complies with the data reporting requirements of Recs. 11-10, 16-14, and paragraph 6 below, may request from Paragraph 1 a) an exemption for one or more of its ICCAT fisheries above by submitting relevant scientific information to the SCRS. The SCRS will evaluate that information and advise the Commission on sea turtle interactions and mortality. The Commission shall make decisions on any requested exemption in light of the SCRS advice.
2. CPCs, while operating ICCAT fisheries, shall:
 - a) reduce and eliminate, to the extent practicable, interactions with sea turtles in ICCAT fisheries where encounters with sea turtles have been documented and reported to the SCRS, through the use or continued use of at least one of the following bycatch mitigation measures:
 - i. alternative or new gear types and gear modifications;
 - ii. time-area fishing restrictions and closures based on advice from the SCRS, as appropriate, in instances where there is a higher risk of interaction with sea turtles;
 - iii. effective static net gears' marking allowing their detection by sea turtles (such as the use of net colours, light passive reflectors, thicker twine diameter, corks or other materials within the net); or
 - iv. modifications in fishing behaviour and strategy (e.g., reduced soaking time, etc.).
 - b) require that their purse seine vessels avoid encircling sea turtles to the extent practicable, release encircled or entangled sea turtles, including on fish aggregating devices (FADs), where feasible, and ensure that FADs deployed in the ICCAT Convention area are constructed according to Annex 5 of ICCAT Recommendation 22-01 to effectively eliminate entanglement risks of sea turtles;
 - c) take all reasonable steps to ensure the safe release of sea turtles in a manner that maximizes the likelihood of their survival by requiring that:
 - i. their purse seine and longline vessels, and other types of vessels that use gear that may entangle sea turtles, carry on board de-hookers, line-cutters and basket lifts or dip nets, as appropriate for each gear type and consistent with the "Best practices for sea turtle handling and release" of the *FAO Guidelines to reduce sea turtle mortality in fishing operations* (2009³) ('the FAO guidelines');
 - ii. the owners, operators, and crew of such vessels, as well as any on-board observers, use such equipment in line with the safe handling and release practices in the **Appendix**, and consistent with the FAO Guidelines. In addition, owners, operators and crew should be encouraged to have training in the use of such equipment.

¹ Shallow-set fisheries are generally to be considered those in which the majority of hooks fish at depth shallower than 100 meters, as determined by the SCRS.

² Circle hooks are defined as a hook with the point turned perpendicularly back to the shank to form a generally circular or oval shape. CPCs should adopt the use of circle hooks with an offset of no more than 10 degrees.

³ <http://www.fao.org/docrep/012/i0725e/i0725e.pdf>

- d) require their fishermen on vessels targeting species covered by the Convention to bring aboard, if practicable, any captured sea turtle that is comatose or inactive as soon as possible and foster its recovery, including giving it resuscitation in accordance with the **Appendix**, before returning it to the water;
 - e) ensure that fishermen are aware of and use proper mitigation and handling techniques, as described in the **Appendix**.
3. CPCs shall endeavour to increase the scientific observer coverage of longline fishing vessels in ICCAT fisheries where encounters with sea turtles have been documented and reported to the SCRS, beyond the minimum level required in Rec. 16-14, to 10% by 1 January 2024. This increase may be achieved through human observers and/or Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS). This paragraph shall be revised, as appropriate, after the adoption of minimum standards for EMS by ICCAT, based on advice from the SCRS and PWG. However, the alternative scientific monitoring approach referred to in paragraph 4 of Rec. 16-14 remains applicable for vessels under 15 meters in replacement of EMS or observers onboard.
4. CPCs with deep-set longline, gillnet, and where appropriate, shallow-set longline fisheries are encouraged to undertake research trials aimed at mitigating bycatch and reducing bycatch mortality, and increasing post release survival of sea turtles. Research should also examine the effects of hook sizes and shapes, fishing depths, fishing areas, and seasons. CPCs shall report the results of this research (including the tradeoffs among catch rates of target and bycatch species) to the SCRS. Based on the results of such research, the SCRS shall advise the Commission on potential sea turtle mitigation measures for these fisheries.
5. Consistent with the bycatch reporting obligations under Recs. 11-10 and 16-14, each CPC shall collect, and annually report to ICCAT information on their interactions with sea turtles in ICCAT fisheries. At a minimum, this information shall include:
- a) date;
 - b) location (latitude, longitude);
 - c) fishing gear type;
 - d) species identification;
 - e) size (curved or straight carapace length) and/or weight;
 - f) capture and release condition (e.g., live/dead);
 - g) FAD type if applicable;
 - h) bait type if applicable;
 - i) hook type and size if applicable;
 - j) target fishing depth;
 - k) target species;
 - l) fishing mode (e.g., fishing on FOBs);
 - m) anatomical hooking location, if applicable (e.g., flipper, mouth/jaw, swallowed, entangled) if available;
 - n) nature of entanglement if available;
 - o) amount of gear left on the animal, if applicable (e.g., estimated length of line) if available;
 - p) any associated photographs subject to national laws on confidentiality.
- 6.
- a) Paragraphs 1-3 shall not apply to vessels operating only north of 55 degrees N or south of 35 degrees S latitude (i.e., primarily outside the geographic range of Atlantic sea turtles).
 - b) In the Mediterranean Sea,
 - i. Paragraph 1 shall not apply at this time.
 - ii. Paragraphs 2-3 shall not apply for the period 2023 through 2025.

The SCRS should review the appropriateness of the southern boundary of this range and advise the Commission in 2023.

7. In light of the potential impacts of climate change on ICCAT fisheries, including target stocks and bycatch species, the SCRS is requested to review periodically the provisions of this measure related to the spatio-temporal ecology of sea turtles, including their interactions and mortality associated with these fisheries.
8. In their Annual Reports to ICCAT, CPCs shall report on the steps they have taken to implement this Recommendation, including which option[s] specified in paragraph 1 a) and paragraph 2 a) is [are] being implemented by its vessels. CPCs that qualify for the exemption specified in paragraphs 1 b) and 6 shall notify the exemption to the ICCAT Secretariat by 1 July 2023, and report the exemption in their 2023 Annual Report. CPCs shall also report to the Commission on any change in how they implement Paragraphs 1 b) and 6 b).
9. The SCRS shall continue to review any new relevant information, with respect to the provisions of this measure, on sea turtle bycatch mitigation measures and advise the Commission no later than 2025 on their effectiveness and their impacts on other species, as appropriate. As part of this work the SCRS shall analyze scientific information regarding different circle hook sizes and their effectiveness at mitigating sea turtle bycatch (decreasing catch and increasing post-release survival) in longline fisheries (both shallow- and deep-set longline), including the impact on catch rates of other target and non-target species. The SCRS shall also develop indicators to assess the effectiveness of the mitigation measures detailed in this Recommendation. The SCRS shall provide relevant recommendations to the Commission based on the results of this analysis.
10. The SCRS shall assess available information on the use of time-area fishing restrictions and closures in areas where there is a higher risk of interaction with sea turtles, and advise the Commission, as appropriate.
11. Considering the particular situation of coastal developing CPCs, the special funds established in Rec. 14-14, Rec. 13-19, and Res. 03-21 should be strengthened through the allocation of funds, from voluntary contributions of CPCs and inclusion of specific budget lines, to facilitate the implementation of this Recommendation, including for training fishermen on safe handling and release, providing related equipment, or supporting trials for new mitigation techniques.
12. This recommendation repeals and replaces both the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the bycatch of sea turtles in ICCAT fisheries* (Rec. 10-09) and the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 10-09 on the bycatch of sea turtles in ICCAT fisheries* (Rec. 13-11).

Safe Handling and Release Practices for Sea Turtles**1. Purse seine safe handling and release**

- a) Whenever a sea turtle is sighted in the net, all reasonable efforts should be made to rescue the sea turtle before it becomes entangled in the net.
- b) No sea turtle shall be hauled from the water by a fishing line attached to, or entangled upon, the body of a sea turtle.
- c) If a sea turtle is entangled during net roll, the net roll should be stopped as soon as the turtle comes out of the water; the turtle should be disentangled without injuring it before resuming the net roll.
- d) If, in spite of the measures taken under paragraphs a and b of this section, a sea turtle is accidentally brought on board the vessel and is alive and active, or dead, the sea turtle should be released as quickly as practicable.
- e) If a sea turtle is brought aboard the vessel and is comatose or inactive, resuscitation should be attempted (paragraph 3).

2. Longline safe handling and release

- a) When practicable, and when operator or crew on board are trained, comatose sea turtles should be brought on board immediately.
- b) Upon sighting a sea turtle, the vessel and line reel speed should be slowed and the vessel direction adjusted to move toward the sea turtle, minimizing tension on the line.
- c) No sea turtle shall be hauled from the water by a fishing line attached to or entangled upon the body of a sea turtle.
- d) If a sea turtle is too large or hooked in such a manner as to preclude safe boarding without causing further damage/injury to the sea turtle, line clippers should be used to clip the line and remove as much line as possible prior to releasing the sea turtle.
- e) If a sea turtle is observed to be hooked or entangled by longline gear during hauling operations, the vessel operator should immediately cease hauling operations until the sea turtle has been removed from the longline gear or brought on board the vessel.
- f) If hooked externally or hook is fully visible, hooks shall be removed from sea turtles as quickly and carefully as possible. If a hook cannot be removed from a sea turtle (e.g., ingested or in roof of mouth), the line shall be cut as close to the hook as possible.
- g) Live sea turtles should be returned to the sea after handling:
 - i. By putting the vessel engine in neutral gear so that the propeller is disengaged and the vessel is stopped, and releasing the sea turtle away from deployed gear; and
 - ii. Observing that the sea turtle is safely away from the vessel before engaging the propeller and continuing operations.
- h) If the sea turtle brought aboard the vessel is comatose or inactive, resuscitation should be attempted (paragraph 3).

3. Resuscitation for a sea turtle on board

- a) When handling a sea turtle, attempts should be made to hold the animal by the shell, avoiding the head and neck region, and flippers.
- b) Strive to remove and/or disentangle any foreign items from the sea turtle, such as any plastic items, netting, or embedded hooks, etc.
- c) Placing the sea turtle on its bottom shell (plastron) so that the sea turtle is right side up, safely isolated and immobilized on a cushioned surface, such as an automobile tire without a rim, a boat cushion, or coil of rope. The primary purpose of the cushioned surface is to elevate the sea turtle from the deck to assist in restraining it. Elevate its hindquarters at least 6 inches (15 cm) for a period of 4 up to 24 hours. The amount of the elevation depends on the size of the turtle; greater elevations are needed for larger sea turtles. Periodically, rock the sea turtle gently left to right and right to left by holding the outer edge of the shell (carapace) and lifting one side about 3 inches (8 cm) then alternate to the other side. Gently touch the eye and pinch the tail (reflex test) periodically to see if there is a response.
- d) Sea turtles being resuscitated should be shaded and kept damp or moist but under no circumstance be placed into a container holding water. A water-soaked towel placed over the head, carapace, and flippers is the most effective method in keeping a sea turtle moist.
- e) Sea turtles that revive and become active should be released over the stern of the boat only when fishing gear is not in use (i.e., not actively being set or hauled), when the engine gears are in neutral position, and in areas where they are unlikely to be recaptured or injured by vessels.
- f) Sea turtles that fail to respond to the reflex test or fail to move within 4 hours (up to 24, if possible) shall be returned to the water in the same manner as that for actively moving sea turtles.

22-14

GEN

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO REPLACE 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**

CONVINCED that illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing compromises the objectives of the Convention;

CONCERNED that some flag States do not comply with their obligations regarding jurisdiction and control according to international law in respect of fishing vessels entitled to fly their flag that carry out their activities in the Convention area, and that as a result these vessels are not under the effective control of such flag States;

AWARE that the lack of effective control facilitates fishing by these vessels in the Convention area in a manner that undermines the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures, and can lead to illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing;

CONCERNED that vessels that carry out activities in the Convention area which do not comply with the ICCAT conservation and management measures are benefiting from the support provided by persons subject to the jurisdiction of Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs), including, *inter alia*, through participation in transshipment, transport and trade of illegally harvested catches or engagement on board or in the management of these vessels;

CONSCIOUS that, without prejudice to the primacy of the responsibility of the flag State, taking action in accordance with existing domestic law against individuals who engage in, or support, IUU fishing and fishing-related activities is essential to combat such activities;

MINDFUL of the fact that international corporate structures, insurance providers and other financial arrangements are often employed by IUU operators (including owners and beneficial owners) to limit their liability and avoid regulation, and aware of the need for CPCs to encourage and support investigation of such practices;

NOTING that the FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing calls on States to take measures to discourage nationals subject to their jurisdiction from supporting and engaging in any activity that undermines the effectiveness of international conservation and management measures;

RECALLING that CPCs should cooperate in taking appropriate action to deter any activities, which are not consistent with the objective of the Convention;

RESOLVED to reinforce its integrated monitoring measures aimed at eliminating IUU fishing in the ICCAT Convention area;

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

1. Without prejudice to the primacy of the responsibility of the flag State, the CPCs shall take appropriate measures, subject to and in accordance with their existing applicable laws and regulations or the relevant laws and regulations to be developed:
 - i. to investigate and to verify any allegations and/or reports concerning the engagement of any natural or legal persons subject to their jurisdiction who engaged or is engaging in, the activities described, *inter alia*, in paragraph 1 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 18-08 on Establishing a List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried Out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities* (Rec. 21-13);
 - ii. to investigate and to verify allegations and/or reports that natural or legal persons subject to their jurisdiction are responsible for, benefiting from or supporting the activities described in point i above (e.g. as operators, owners, including beneficial owners, logistics and service providers, including insurance providers and other financial services providers);
 - iii. to take appropriate, effective and deterrent action in response to any verified activities referred to in subparagraphs 1 i. and ii.; and
 - iv. to cooperate for the purpose of implementing the measures and actions referred to in subparagraphs 1 i. and ii. To this end, relevant agencies of CPCs should cooperate to implement ICCAT conservation and management measures and CPCs shall seek cooperation by stakeholders within their jurisdiction.
2. To assist with the implementation of this Recommendation, CPCs shall, subject to national laws on confidentiality and privacy, submit reports to the ICCAT Secretariat and the CPCs on the actions and measures taken in accordance with paragraph 1, in a timely fashion.
3. Recommendation 06-14 is repealed and replaced by this Recommendation.

22-16

SDP

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING
RECOMMENDATION 21-18 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 has been difficult to have substantive discussions on conservation and management measures in particular a meaningful review of the provisions laid down in paragraphs 5 b) and 5 d) of this Recommendation which both expire on 31 December 2022;

MINDFUL that under such circumstances a rollover of these measures for a further year would offer an opportunity to revisit them in 2023;

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 2024. 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 2024 annual meeting for decision on its possible extension.

The trade of live bluefin tuna including all trade events to and from bluefin farms must be recorded and validated in the eBCD system in accordance with the provisions of Recommendation 18-13 unless otherwise specified in this Recommendation. The validation of sections 2 (catch) and 3 (live trade) in the eBCD may be completed simultaneously in derogation to paragraph 3 of Recommendation 18-13. The amending and re-validation of sections 2 and 3 in the eBCD as required by paragraph 99 of Recommendation 18-02¹ may be completed following caging operation.

- c) Bluefin tuna harvested in sport and recreational fisheries for which sale is prohibited is not subject to the terms of Recommendation 18-13 and need not be recorded in the eBCD system.
- d) The provisions of paragraph 13 of Recommendation 18-13 for waiving government validation of tagged fish only apply when the domestic commercial tagging programs of the flag CPC for the vessel or trap that harvested the bluefin tuna under which the fish are tagged are consistent with the requirements of paragraph 21 of that Recommendation and meet the following criteria:
 - i. All bluefin tuna in the eBCD concerned are individually tagged;

¹ Replaced by Rec. 19-04, which was replaced by Rec. 21-08, which has been replaced by Rec. 22-08.

ii. Minimum information associated with the tag includes:

- Identifying information on the catching vessel or trap;
- Date of capture or landing;
- The area of harvest of the fish in the shipment;
- The gear utilized to catch the fish;
- The type of product and individual weight of the tagged bluefin tuna, which may be done through the appending of an annex. Alternatively for those fisheries concerned by the derogations to minimum size under the *Recommendation by ICCAT Establishing a Multi-Annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea* (Rec. 18-02)¹, CPCs may instead provide the approximate weight of individual fish within the catch upon offloading, which is determined through representative sampling. This alternative approach shall apply through 2024 unless extended by the Commission after considering CPC reports on its implementation;
- Information on the exporter and importer (where applicable);
- The point of export (where applicable).

iii. Information on tagged fish is compiled by the responsible CPC.

- e) Bluefin tuna that die during the transfer, towing, or caging operations foreseen by paragraphs 86 to 102 of Recommendation 18-02¹ prior to harvesting may be traded by the purse seine vessel, auxiliary/support vessel(s), and/or farm representatives, where applicable.
- f) Bluefin tuna that are caught as bycatch in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean by vessels not authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna pursuant to Rec. 18-02² 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.

² Replaced by Rec. 19-04, which was replaced by Rec. 21-08, which has been replaced by Rec. 22-08.

- k) To the extent possible, reports generated from the eBCD system shall fulfill the annual reporting requirements in paragraph 34 of Recommendation 18-13. CPCs shall also continue to provide those elements of the annual report that cannot be produced from the eBCD system. The format and content of any additional reports will be determined by the Commission taking into account appropriate confidentiality rules and considerations. At a minimum, reports shall include catch and trade data by the CPCs that are appropriately aggregated. CPCs shall continue to report on their implementation of the eBCD system in their annual reports.
6. Paper BCD documents (issued pursuant to Recommendation 18-13) or printed eBCDs may be used in the following cases:
- a) Landings of quantities of bluefin tuna less than one metric ton or three fish. Such paper BCDs shall be converted to eBCDs within a period of seven working days or prior to export, whichever is first.
 - b) Bluefin tuna caught prior to the full implementation of the eBCD system as specified in paragraph 2.
 - c) Notwithstanding the requirement to use the eBCD system in paragraph 2, paper BCDs or printed eBCDs may be used as a back-up in the limited event that technical difficulties with the system arise that preclude a CPC from using the eBCD system, following the procedures as set forth in **Annex 3**. Delays by CPCs in taking necessary actions, such as providing the data necessary to ensure the registration of users in the eBCD system or other avoidable situations, do not constitute an acceptable technical difficulty.
 - d) In the case of trade of Pacific bluefin tuna as specified in paragraph 5 h).
 - e) In the case of trade between ICCAT CPCs and non-CPCs where access to the eBCD system through the Secretariat (pursuant to paragraph 5 j) above) is not possible or is not timely enough to ensure the trade is not unduly delayed or disrupted.

The use of a paper BCD document in the cases specified in sub-paragraphs a) through e) shall not be cited by importing CPCs as a reason to delay or deny import of a bluefin tuna shipment provided it complies with the existing provisions of Recommendation 18-13 and relevant provisions of this recommendation. Printed eBCDs that are validated in the eBCD system satisfy the validation requirement stipulated in paragraph 3 of Recommendation 18-13.

Where requested by a CPC, conversion of paper BCDs to eBCDs shall be facilitated by the ICCAT Secretariat or through the creation in the eBCD system of user profiles for CPC authorities at their request for this purpose, as appropriate.

7. The Technical Working Group shall continue its work and, through the ICCAT Secretariat, inform the developing consortium of the specifications on required system developments and adjustments and steer their implementation.
8. This Recommendation clarifies Recommendation 18-02³ and clarifies and amends Recommendation 18-13.
9. This Recommendation repeals and replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 20-08 on the Application of the EBCD System* (Rec. 21-18).

³ Replaced by Rec. 19-04, which was replaced by Rec. 21-08, which has been replaced by Rec. 22-08.

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)

22-17

TOR

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON THE APPLICATION
OF THE INTEGRATED ONLINE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

RECALLING the Recommendation by ICCAT for the Development of an Online Reporting System (Rec. 16-19) adopted by the Commission in 2016, and all of the benefits of developing an integrated online reporting system noted therein;

FURTHER RECALLING the Recommendation by ICCAT to Continue the Development of an Integrated Online Reporting System (Rec. 21-20) adopted by the Commission in 2021;

CONSIDERING the progress made to date by the Online Reporting Technology Working Group (WG-ORT) and the Secretariat to develop the Integrated Online Management System (IOMS) and the utility of the system to enhance compliance with ICCAT reporting requirements;

NOTING that ICCAT's Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) acknowledged in its 2022 report the importance of the IOMS project on the future of ICCAT and recommended that the Commission continue to support its development;

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;

MINDFUL that IOMS was released into production in August 2021, and that CPCs were encouraged to submit various sections of their 2021 and 2022 Annual Reports using IOMS;

HIGHLIGHTING that the Secretariat has offered multiple trainings and additional assistance to facilitate the use of IOMS;

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

1. All CPCs shall, as soon as possible, submit to the Secretariat the information necessary to ensure the registration of the users with Administrator rights (CPC Administrator role) for IOMS. Access to and use of IOMS cannot occur for those CPCs who fail to register at least one Administrator.
2. Beginning in 2023, CPCs shall submit the relevant portions of their Annual Report (Part I, Annex 1; Part II, Section 3) directly into IOMS. Submission of these portions of the Annual Report in other formats will no longer be accepted by the Secretariat.
3. Notwithstanding Paragraph 2, upon exception granted by the Chair of the Compliance Committee, in consultation with the Chair of the WG-ORT and the Secretariat, CPCs may request assistance from the Secretariat to complete reporting requirements offline for upload into IOMS by the Secretariat. These requests for exception must be submitted at least two weeks in advance of the respective reporting deadline, with CPCs indicating the difficulties encountered on the utilization of IOMS. Such requests for exception, including the difficulties encountered by CPCs, shall be circulated to the Commission. The Secretariat shall include in its report to the Compliance Committee for the Annual Meeting a summary of requests and exceptions pursuant to this paragraph.
4. CPCs may communicate to the Secretariat and the WG-ORT their experiences on technical aspects of system implementation including any difficulties experienced and identification of potential improvements to functionalities to enhance IOMS implementation and performance. The Commission may consider these recommendations to further develop the system.

5. As detailed in the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Continue the Development of an Integrated Online Reporting System* (Rec. 21-20), the WG-ORT shall continue its work and, as new modules are developed in IOMS, CPCs shall be required to submit the relevant compliance documents to IOMS, as appropriate.
6. This Recommendation supplements and amends *ICCAT's Revised Guidelines for the Preparation of Annual Reports* (Ref. 12-13).

22-20

SWO

**SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT MODIFYING ANNEX 1
OF THE RECOMMENDATION 16-05 REPLACING THE RECOMMENDATION 13-04
AND ESTABLISHING A MULTI-ANNUAL RECOVERY PLAN FOR MEDITERRANEAN SWORDFISH**

NOTING that during the meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) in June 2022, it was proposed to include specific boarding ladder provisions in the E-BFT and SWO Joint Inspection Schemes (JIS) to bring the JIS into line with the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO), North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) and General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM).

FURTHER NOTING that under the E-BFT JIS, some fishing vessels were not able to consistently provide ladders to allow ICCAT inspectors to board safely.

The INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS
RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. Annex 1 of the Recommendation 16-05 (Mediterranean swordfish ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection) be modified as follows:
 - A new subparagraph shall be added at the end of Section 1, paragraph 1 (Serious Violations).
 - Section II, paragraph 9 (Conduct of inspections) shall be amended as below.

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:
 - p) Not providing to ICCAT inspectors a boarding ladder meeting the requirements of IMO Resolution A.889(21) to facilitate safe access to any fishing vessel which requires a climb of 1.5 metres or more.

II. Conduct of inspections

9. Subject to the arrangements agreed under paragraph 16 of this **Annex**, a vessel flagged to a Contracting Government and fishing for tuna or tuna-like fishes in the Convention area outside waters under national jurisdiction shall stop when given the appropriate signal in the International Code of Signals by a ship flying the ICCAT pennant described in paragraph 7 of this **Annex** and carrying an inspector unless the vessel is actually carrying out fishing operations, in which case it shall stop immediately once it has finished such operations. The master* of the vessel shall permit the inspection party, as specified in paragraph 10 of this **Annex**, to board it and must provide a boarding ladder meeting the requirements of IMO Resolution A.889(21), to facilitate safe and convenient access to any vessel which requires a climb of 1.5 metres or more. The master shall enable the inspection party to make such examination of equipment, catch or gear and any relevant documents as an inspector deems necessary to verify compliance with the ICCAT Commission's recommendations in force in relation to the flag State of the vessel being inspected. Further, an inspector may ask for any explanations that he or she deems necessary.

* Master refers to the individual in charge of the vessel.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY ICCAT IN 2022

22-02

TRO

RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON DEVELOPMENT OF INITIAL CONCEPTUAL MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES FOR WESTERN ATLANTIC SKIPJACK

RECALLING the intent of the Commission to adopt Management Procedures (MPs) tested through Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for priority stocks, including western skipjack tuna, as established in the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Development of Harvest Control Rules and of Management Strategy Evaluation* (Rec. 15-07) to manage fisheries more effectively in the face of identified uncertainties;

RECALLING the application of the precautionary approach in accordance with relevant international standards as established in the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning the Use of a Precautionary Approach in Implementing ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* (Res. 15-12);

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the efforts to sustainably manage the western Atlantic skipjack stock, consistent with the objectives of the Convention and the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Principles of Decision Making for ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* (Rec. 11-13);

NOTING the conclusions of the 2022 stock assessment conducted by ICCAT’s Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) which indicated, that the western Atlantic skipjack stock is most likely located in the green area of the Kobe plot, indicating that the stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring;

UNDERSTANDING that conceptual objectives are high-level aspirational objectives that verbalize a desired generic goal without including specifics on a measurable target or timeframe for achievement, while operational objectives are a key foundational component of any MSE and provide specific and measurable targets, with associated likelihoods of achieving those targets over determined timeframes;

RECALLING that the preliminary performance indicators agreed to by the Commission for tropical tunas, as outlined in *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tunas* (Rec. 16-01), included four categories of management objectives, namely status, safety, yield and stability;

CONSIDERING that the Commission intends to adopt an MP for western Atlantic skipjack in 2023;

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

1. Management objectives should be established for western Atlantic skipjack tuna consistent with the Convention’s objective: to maintain populations at or above levels that will support maximum sustainable catch (usually referred to as MSY).
2. Panel 1 should undertake, during a 2023 intersessional meeting of Panel 1, the development of initial operational management objectives for western skipjack. To facilitate this development, the following conceptual management objectives should be considered:
 - a. Stock Status
 - The stock should have a [XX% or greater] probability of occurring in the green quadrant of the Kobe matrix using a [X]-year projection periods as determined by the SCRS;

- b. Safety
 - There should be no greater than [XX%] probability of the stock falling below B_{LIM}^1
 - at any point during the X-year projection periods;
 - c. Yield
 - Maximize overall catch levels in the short (1-3 years), medium (4-10 years) and long (11-30 years) terms; and
 - d. Stability
 - Any changes in TAC between management periods should be [XX]% or less.
3. In further developing initial operational management objectives, the candidate management objectives in paragraph 2 may be rejected, modified, or supplemented, as appropriate, by Panel 1 and these initial management objectives will be forwarded to the SCRS Tropical Tunas Species Group for review and evaluation through the MSE process.
 4. Panel 1 will provide its recommendations for final management objectives for western Atlantic skipjack tuna, considering the SCRS input, to the Commission for consideration as part of the selection of a management procedure at its 2023 Annual Meeting or as soon as possible thereafter.

¹ The SCRS will advise on an appropriated B_{LIM} for western Atlantic skipjack tuna.

22-07

BFT

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON A PILOT PROJECT FOR THE
SHORT-TERM LIVE STORAGE OF BLUEFIN TUNA**

RECALLING that Norway during the 27th Regular Meeting of the Commission in 2021, presented a concept paper on short-term live storage of bluefin tuna;

ACKNOWLEDGING that at the 2021 Annual Meeting, Panel 2 requested Norway to present a draft proposal to the Special Meeting of the Commission in 2022 on short-term live storage of bluefin tuna;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that ICCAT has adopted 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 *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 20-08 on the application of the eBCD system* (Rec.21-18) and the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 18-13 replacing Recommendation 11-20 on an ICCAT bluefin tuna catch documentation program* (Rec. 21-19);

NOTING an interest in exploring ways to (a) promote a more even distribution of bluefin tuna to prevent flooding of the market, (b) maintain the quality of bluefin tuna, and (c) maximize the utilization of bluefin tuna by preventing high quality food from being destroyed, while ensuring the integrity of existing ICCAT Recommendations for this species;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the use of short-term live storage of bluefin tuna may be an effective way to achieve these objectives and that establishing a pilot project using a precautionary approach can provide valuable scientific answers to how short-term live storage of bluefin tuna can be effectively carried out in the future;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that the research to be undertaken on the short-term live storage of bluefin tuna could result in the need for adjustments to relevant ICCAT measures or the development of new ones;

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

1. A pilot project for the short-term live storage of bluefin tuna is authorized.
2. Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereinafter referred to as CPCs) whose vessels have been actively fishing for bluefin tuna north of 56°N, may conduct short-term live storage of bluefin tuna.
3. The objectives of short-term live storage of bluefin tuna are to maintain a high-quality product and to ensure that distribution of the fish can occur in a way that does not flood the market.
4. Research conducted as part of the pilot project should aim to provide answers to key questions related to short-term live storage of bluefin tuna, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - fish behavior
 - estimate the weight of bluefin tuna at the time of catch and caging
 - whether feeding is needed to ensure animal health and, if so, how to avoid fattening the bluefin tuna
 - extent of mortality and causes
 - meat quality
 - how to ensure traceability is ensured consistent with the requirements of the BCD program, including exploring the use of tagging
 - harvesting processes
 - marketing questions

5. CPCs who wish to engage in the pilot project on short-term live storage of bluefin tuna should identify and describe the activity in their annual fishing plan, in accordance with the multi-annual conservation and management plan for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna (Rec. 22-08, paragraph 10). The allocation from the CPC's national quota to the pilot project should be specified in the annual fishing plan and should be on a limited scale and approved by Panel 2. This plan should also include details of the control measures that will be put in place to ensure that the activity is carried out in line with this Resolution, and the manner in which these rules will be made mandatory for operators. The fishing plan should be analysed, and, as appropriate, endorsed by Panel 2 intersessionally (Rec. 22-08, paragraph 11).
6. CPCs who wish to engage in the pilot project on short-term live storage of bluefin tuna should do so in accordance with this Resolution, including **Appendix 1** and **Appendix 2**.
7. The pilot project will be assessed by the Commission within three years to determine whether and how the activity should continue beyond the pilot project stage. CPCs participating in the pilot project will submit a report on the results of the project for consideration by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), and the Commission no later than 2027. The report should, inter alia, clearly identify any difficulties in carrying out the pilot project, including if there are provisions of the appendices or relevant ICCAT Recommendations that cannot be implemented.
8. The CPCs who engaged in the pilot project shall report to the Commission on the implementation of this pilot by 1 October every year until the final report is due for assessment by the Commission. This report shall include information on the storage amount and the statistics on implementation and verification and control procedures and the outcomes of that process and data about these trade events, including relevant statistical information.

Definitions

1. For purposes of the short-term live storage pilot project:
 - a) “auxiliary vessel” means any vessel used to transport dead bluefin tuna (not processed) from a storage cage, a purse seine vessel to a designated port, and/or to a processing vessel.
 - b) “eBCD” means an electronic bluefin catch document.
 - c) “caging” means the relocation of live bluefin tuna from the transport cage to the storage cage.
 - d) “catching vessel” means a vessel used for the purposes of the commercial capture of bluefin tuna resources.
 - e) “control camera” means a stereoscopic camera and/or conventional video camera for the purpose of the controls foreseen in this Appendix.
 - f) “harvesting” means the killing of bluefin tuna taken from a storage cage.
 - g) “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.
 - h) “short-term live storage” means keeping bluefin tuna in a storage cage up to a maximum of three months, without fattening them or increasing their total biomass.
 - i) “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.
 - j) “storage cage” means cages that are used for the short-term live storage of bluefin tuna.
 - k) “transport cage” means cages that are used for the transport of live tuna to the storage cage.
 - l) “transfer operations” means:
 - a) any transfer of live bluefin tuna from the catching vessel's net to the transport cage;
 - b) any transfer of live bluefin tuna from a transport cage to a storage cage;
 - c) any transfer of live bluefin tuna from a storage cage to a transport cage.

Authorization

2. Any CPC that takes part in the pilot project for the short-term live storage, will designate a competent authority, hereafter referred to as the “CPC competent authority”, that will be responsible for coordinating the collection and verification of information for the control of transfers, caging, harvesting and related transports of bluefin tuna conducted under its jurisdiction.
3. Before the start of a transfer operation, caging or harvesting, the Master of the catching vessel or its representative, or the representative of the storage cage, will send a prior notification to the CPC competent authority indicating the following, as applicable, depending on the operation:
 - the number of individuals and the estimated weight of the bluefin tuna in kg;
 - the name of the catching vessel or storage cage, with their respective ICCAT record number;
 - the date and the location of the catch, caging or harvesting;

- the date and estimated time of transfer, caging or harvesting;
 - the eBCD number concerned, as confirmed and validated by the CPC competent authority;
 - details of auxiliary vessels involved in the operation;
 - estimated quantities to be transferred, caged or harvested in number of individuals and kg.
4. A transfer, caging or harvesting operation will not be authorized by the CPC competent authority if, on the receipt of the prior notification, it considers that:
- the catching vessel does not have a valid authorization to fish for bluefin tuna;
 - the number and weight of fish have not been duly reported by the master of the catching vessel or its representative, or the representative of the storage cage;
 - the catching vessel that has caught the fish does not have sufficient quota;
 - the storage cage of destination is not reported as active;
 - the fish to be caged have not been duly reported by the catching vessel, and have not been taken into account for the calculation of any quota uptake that may be applicable;
 - the ICCAT regional observer is not present and no derogation is applicable;
 - relevant activities have not been appropriately recorded in the eBCD system.

Unique numbers and catching vessels assigned to cages

5. All cages used in transfer, caging and harvesting operations and associated transports will be numbered in accordance with the unique numbering system referred to in the multi-annual conservation and management plan for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna (Rec. 22-08, paragraphs 147-150).
6. To facilitate traceability, a storage cage will only contain bluefin tuna from one catching vessel. The CPC competent authority may authorize a vessel to utilize an empty cage which has previously been used by a different vessel.

If the bluefin tuna has been tagged, a storage cage can contain bluefin tuna from more than one catching vessel.

Control measures

7. Before the start of a transfer operation, caging or harvesting, the master of the catching vessel or its representative, or the representative of the storage cage, will report their activities in their electronic fishing logbook and forward the information to the CPC competent authority on a daily basis.
8. All transfer and caging operations will be monitored by control camera in the water, in accordance with the minimum standards and procedures set out in **Appendix 2**, to determine the number of individuals of bluefin tuna. All caging operations should be recorded using both conventional and stereoscopic cameras in the water, and all video footage should comply with the minimum standards set out in **Appendix 2**.
9. A copy of the relevant video records will be provided to the regional observer and to the CPC competent authority immediately. Copies of the video records should be provided by the CPC competent authority to the SCRS upon request. The SCRS should keep the confidentiality of commercial activities.
10. The CPC competent authority will determine the number and weight of the bluefin tuna being caged by analyzing the video footage of each caging operation. To carry out this analysis, the authorities will follow the relevant standards and procedures for stereoscopic camera systems set out in the applicable annexes, including Annex 9, of the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 Amending Recommendation establishing a multi-annual conservation and management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* (Rec. 22-08).

11. The CPC will ensure 100% observer coverage from the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme referred to in *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 Amending Recommendation establishing a multi-annual conservation and management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* (Rec. 22-08 and any successor recommendations) during all catching, transfer, caging and harvesting operations.
12. 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 or storage cage may operate without the observer. In such cases, CPCs will prioritize such vessels and storage cages for control and inspection. In addition, CPCs will 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 will send all details of the alternative measures to the Secretariat. The Secretariat will 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.
13. By way of derogation from paragraph 11 harvesting from each storage cage up to 1000 kg per day and up to a maximum of 50 tons per storage cage per year to supply the fresh bluefin tuna market, may be authorized by the relevant CPC provided that an authorized inspector from the storage cage CPC is onsite for 100% of such harvests, and controls the entire operation. The authorized inspector will also validate the harvested quantities in the eBCD system. In this case, the regional observer's signature is not required in the harvest section of the eBCD.
14. At arrival of the transport cage in the vicinity of the storage cage, the storage cage CPC competent authority will ensure that:
 - a) if a regional observer is not onboard the catching vessel concerned, the vessel should maintain at a distance of minimum 1 nautical mile from any facility until the storage cage CPC competent authority is physically present; and
 - b) the position and activity of the relevant towing vessels is monitored at all times.
 - c) No caging operation will start:
 - before it has been duly authorized by the storage cage CPC competent authority;
 - without the presence of the storage cage CPC competent authority and the ICCAT regional observer;
 - before the catch and live trade sections of the eBCD have been completed and validated by the catching flag or storage cage CPC competent authority(ies).
15. After transfer of the bluefin tuna from the towing cage to the storage cage, the storage cage CPC control authority will ensure that storage cages containing bluefin tuna are sealed at all times following the sealing operations procedure contained in Annex 14 of Rec. 22-08. Unsealing will only be possible in the presence of the storage cage CPC competent authority and following its authorization. The storage cage CPC control authority should establish protocols for the sealing of storage 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.
16. The short-term live storage CPC competent authority will carry out random controls in storage cages under their jurisdiction (Rec. 22-08, paragraphs 208-215). The CPC will describe the measures for random controls in their annual fishing plan (Rec. 22-08, paragraph 12).
17. Each transfer, caging and harvesting operation will be recorded in the eBCD system to ensure appropriate traceability.

18. Notwithstanding the above, all vessels used to transport live bluefin tuna will, irrespective of their length, install and operate a VMS, in accordance with Rec. 18-10, and transmit messages at least once every hour.

Dead and dying fish

19. During transfer and caging operations, and during the period the bluefin tuna is stored in the storage cages, sick, injured, dead and dying fish will be removed and those not yet dead will be killed. These fish will be entered into the eBCD system and may be traded.

Enforcement

20. CPCs will take appropriate enforcement measures with respect to the master of the catching vessel or its representative, or the representative of the storage cage, where it has been established, in accordance with its law, that the fishing vessel or storage cage flying its flag does not comply with the provisions of this appendix.
21. The measures will 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 will also be capable of producing results proportionate to the seriousness of such infringement, thereby effectively discouraging further offences of the same kind.

**Minimum standards for video recording procedures
applicable to transfer, caging and/or release operations**

1. Each storage cage CPC concerned should ensure that the following procedures apply to all video recordings of transfer, caging and/or release operations referred to in this Resolution:
 - a) At the beginning and/or the end of each video, where requested, the ICCAT transfer or caging authorization number or release order should be displayed;
 - b) The time and the date of the video should be continuously displayed throughout each video record;
 - c) The video record should 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 should 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 should 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 should be kept on board the donor vessel, or by the storage cage operator where appropriate, during their entire period of authorization to operate;
 - g) The electronic storage device containing the original video record should 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 should immediately initialize it to avoid any further manipulation.

2. Each flag and storage cage CPC concerned should establish the necessary measures to avoid any replacement, edition or manipulation of the original video records.

22-13

GEN

RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

RECOGNISING international initiatives to address the climate change and its effects, including through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement, and the Glasgow Climate Pact;

NOTING the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change with specific reference to the Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (2019) and the Sixth Assessment Report (2022);

AWARE that, in September 2022, at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Committee on Fisheries (COFI) highlighted the need for developing guidance on climate resilient fisheries management including a process to facilitate coordination and cooperation among Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs)/ Regional Fisheries Bodies (RFBs);

ACKNOWLEDGING that climate change poses, both in the short- and long-term, significant challenges for RFMOs, including the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), given its widespread and lasting implications for the ocean, the animals that live within it, the ecosystems that are fundamental components of it, and the individuals and communities that depend upon it;

AWARE that the Standing Committee for Research and Statistics (SCRS), in particular, its Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch, and the scientific bodies of other RFMOs have been assessing the impacts of climate change and other associated environmental degradation on ICCAT target stocks, non-target species and species belonging to the same ecosystem or associated with or dependent upon target stocks in the Convention area;

RECOGNIZING the need to utilize fully existing data sources and for additional information gathering and research to gain a more complete understanding of the potential impacts of climate change on ICCAT target stocks, non-target species and species belonging to the same ecosystem or associated with or dependent upon target stocks in the Convention area, as well as the related impacts on the fishing communities and economies of Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities (CPCs) to ICCAT;

COMMITTED to developing effective management and other strategies and approaches to adapt to changing conditions and improve the resilience of ICCAT stocks, fisheries, and related ecosystems, as well as of fishing communities, in the face of climate change;

RECOGNIZING the importance of exploring ways to reduce the environmental and climate impacts of the Commission related to the operation of its headquarters and meetings;

AWARE that ICCAT has committed to implement a precautionary approach to fisheries management as reflected in the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning the Use of a Precautionary Approach in Implementing ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* (Res. 15-12) and other recommendations and resolutions adopted over the years as well as through reference to the precautionary approach in the Convention Amendment Protocol adopted in 2019.

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

1. To consider during the course of its work the potential impacts of climate change on ICCAT target stocks, non-target species and species belonging to the same ecosystem or associated with or dependent upon target stocks in the Convention area, as well as any related socioeconomic or other impacts on the fisheries, including on CPCs and their fishing communities.
2. To take into account to the greatest extent possible the best available scientific information and advice available on the potential impacts of climate change on the aforementioned ICCAT stocks, species, and ecosystems, and related impacts on fisheries in the development of conservation and management measures with a view to adapting to changing conditions and improving the resilience of these stocks, species, related ecosystems, and fisheries.
3. To survey existing data and other information collected by the SCRS and other relevant international organizations, and based on that, support additional data collection and scientific research, as appropriate, with a view to improving the provision of SCRS advice to the Commission on potential measures and approaches for climate change adaptation, resilience, and mitigation. Areas of focus should include, *inter alia*, the relationship between changing oceanographic conditions resulting from climate change and the aforementioned ICCAT stocks, species, and ecosystems, and related impacts on fisheries; the inter-relationships with other factors that affect these stocks, species, and fisheries; and the uncertainty associated with the provision of management advice. The ICCAT Executive Secretary, with input from the SCRS and where appropriate, STACFAD, should advise the Commission on supplementary funds and resources needed to undertake these tasks.
4. To consider how fishing activities may be affected by climate change and consider if there are actions that could be taken to reduce or mitigate any potential impacts.
5. To consider the need for capacity building and technical assistance to improve climate science as it relates to understanding, predicting, and addressing the impacts on the aforementioned ICCAT stocks, species, and ecosystems, and related impacts on fisheries, described in paragraph 1, and to explore ways to provide such assistance, where needed, with the advice of SCRS.
6. To share information on climate change initiatives relevant to the fisheries sector, including, as appropriate, efforts undertaken by CPCs to encourage a lower carbon footprint within their ICCAT fisheries.
7. To consider through STACFAD and, if appropriate, other ICCAT bodies, approaches to reduce the environmental and climate impacts, such as the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions, of the Commission, including through headquarters' operation and meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.
8. To initiate climate work in ICCAT without delay, the Commission will convene a virtual meeting of relevant experts in 2023 lasting no more than three days. Specifically, a joint expert's meeting of ICCAT's four Panels and the SCRS (in particular, its Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch) will be held to consider the issues identified in this Resolution and any other relevant climate related issues, as appropriate. All CPCs are encouraged to participate in the meeting, and include climate experts on their delegations. In addition, outside climate experts, particularly those with expertise in fisheries matters, may be invited to join the meeting, as needed, taking into account the input of SCRS.
9. The joint meeting specified in paragraph 8 above will, *inter alia*, undertake the following:
 - a) review the current state of knowledge and information available, including relevant initiatives ongoing in other RFMOs, with an initial focus on the work to-date of SCRS, regarding the potential impacts of climate change within ICCAT;
 - b) identify existing sources of climate-related data and information relevant to the Commission and SCRS;
 - c) identify data gaps and other challenges as well as research needs and opportunities;

- d) develop a workplan to guide the Commission's work on relevant issues associated with climate change; and
 - e) recommend, if feasible and appropriate, potential actions that ICCAT could consider taking, including through cooperation with other relevant intergovernmental organizations, to address identified needs and challenges, or if more appropriate, that CPCs individually could consider taking.
10. The Chair of the joint expert's meeting will be selected by the Commission.
11. A report of the meeting will be presented to the Commission by the Chair of the joint expert's meeting. The Commission will consider this report at its 2023 Annual Meeting and decide on next steps, including on the potential need for a second joint expert's meeting and/or other actions to advance further ICCAT's work in this important area.

22-15

SDP

RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROJECT TO TEST THE USE OF STEREOSCOPIC CAMERAS DURING FIRST TRANSFER AND THE AUTOMATION OF VIDEO FOOTAGE ANALYSIS

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that ICCAT has adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 18-02 establishing a multi-annual management plan for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna* (Rec. 19-04);

NOTING that at the Meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on Bluefin Tuna 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;

NOTING that monitoring and control of the live bluefin fishery is largely based on video recordings of the various transfer and caging operations of live bluefin tuna that take place underwater and that improved control of this aspect could have an important impact on the overall control of the fishery;

RECALLING that new technologies have advanced greatly over the last few years and these technologies can make monitoring more effective and efficient;

CONSIDERING the establishment of a Pilot Project the use of a stereoscopic camera during first transfers and the automation of video footage analysis, could allow to solve important challenges faced by the control of this fishery, improve the accuracy of estimates of fish caught and greatly reduce the workload and cost for the authorities involved in its control;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS RESOLVES THAT:

Pilot Project objective

1. The general objective of the Pilot Project is to test available technology and evaluate its added value in improving the monitoring and control on the recording and analysis of videos of transfers and caging operations taking place in the bluefin tuna fishery that is intended for fattening farms.
2. In particular the Pilot Project would have a double objective:
 - a) to test whether the available stereoscopic cameras, in combination with conventional cameras where appropriate, can be used during the first transfers from purse seine vessels or traps to towing cages;
 - b) to test the use of available software and artificial intelligence for the automatic analysis of the video footages, to automatically determine the number of individuals and its weight.
3. The duration of the Pilot Project should be one year, with the possibility of extending it for a further year.
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 purse seiner vessels or traps operating under their flag are encouraged to participate in the Pilot Project and facilitate the implementation on selected vessels or traps under their flag. Any other Contracting Party with an interest in the fishery is also welcome 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 purse seine vessel or trap 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 and the flag Contracting Parties of the catching vessels and traps included in the Pilot Project. Any other Contracting Parties with an interest in the fishery may also participate in the Steering Group. The Steering Group should be coordinated by the Chair of the 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, set out the conclusions of the project and make recommendations based on these conclusions. They should be available for consultation and online meetings. The Steering Group should regulate its own procedures.
9. Contracting Parties participating in the Pilot Project should communicate and collaborate with each other and with the selected company(ies) in order to facilitate the implementation of the Pilot Project.

Implementation of the Pilot Project

10. The ICCAT Secretariat, with the assistance of the Technical Steering Group, should identify a company(ies) entrusted to make the technology available and test it in the field. Two different companies can be identified to meet each of the two objectives mentioned in point 2 above. The minimum technical standards in **Appendix 1** should be included in the tender specifications when selecting the company(ies).
11. In the selection of the company(ies), consideration will be given at least to the fact that:
 - a) the company(ies) possesses or has access to the technology to complete the assigned objective(s);
 - b) the company's experience in the development and use of such technologies, preferably in the bluefin tuna fishery;
 - c) the user-friendliness of the proposed hardware and software, its operability in real conditions, its accuracy or the functionalities offered in the software that can facilitate and improve the required tasks.
12. The flag CPCs of catching vessels and traps should identify the purse seine vessels and traps that could participate in the Pilot Project and ensure that they cooperate during the project.
13. For the purposes of the objective mentioned in point 2 a) the selected company should ensure that the system is tested under real conditions. For this purpose, the company must have the availability and capability to embark on some of the patrol vessels that are deployed for the control of the bluefin tuna fishing campaign.

14. In the implementation of the Pilot Project the selected company(ies) should ensure that it follows the requirements and minimum technical standards set out in **Appendix 1**.

Reporting

15. The company in charge of the implementation of the project objective mentioned in point 2 a) should draw up a report on the tests with stereoscopic cameras, including detailed results of the tests performed, possible challenges encountered and conclusions. The company in charge of the implementation of the project objective mentioned in point 2 b) should draw up a report on the video footage analysed, including comparisons of video analysis using manual and automatic methods, and conclusions. The detailed content of the reports and the reporting period will be developed by the Technical Steering Group.
16. 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 possible evaluations of the Steering Group.
17. The Technical Steering Group should draw up a final report with the conclusions on the functioning of the Pilot Project, its effectiveness and accuracy.

Appendix 1**Minimum technical standards for the implementation of the Pilot Project****1. List of minimum tasks and conditions for the implementation of the Pilot Project****1.1 Objective 1. Use of stereoscopic cameras during first transfers**

The tasks to be carried for the implementation of the objective set out in point 2 a) of the Resolution will have as their main mission to:

- a) test whether the available stereoscopic cameras in combination with conventional cameras where appropriate, allow the successful recording of videos of the first transfers in real conditions;
- b) test the accuracy in determining the number of individuals and their average size and compare it with that obtained by current means.

In the implementation of the objective set out in point 2 a) of the Resolution, the following minimum conditions should be covered by the company in charge of the implementation of the Project:

- be in possession of the necessary hardware and software to be able to record videos of bluefin tuna transfers and determine the number of individuals and their average size;
- have the technology (stereoscopic camera) that meets the necessary operating conditions to record first transfer videos in real conditions.

The tasks to be performed would include at least:

- test the system on at least two transfers in each of the following scenarios:
 - first transfer from a purse seiner to a transport cage in the Mediterranean;
 - first transfer from a trap to a transport cage;
 - first transfer from a purse seiner to a transport cage in the Adriatic;
 - transfer between two farm or transport cages under controlled conditions (i.e., the number of individuals and their average size is known, the operation can be repeated, if necessary, the transfer is recorded with the three types of cameras, conventional camera, stereoscopic camera currently used at caging and, if relevant, the new stereoscopic camera being tested, ...).
- compare the results of the number of individuals with those obtained from recording the transfer with a conventional camera, including assessing the time invested, the ease and accuracy of counting the number of individuals;
- compare the average length results of the transferred individuals with those obtained after the analysis of the stereoscopic camera video of the caged fish (for cases where there are no additional transfers after the first transfer), including assessing the time invested, the ease and accuracy of measure the bluefin tuna individuals.

In the recording of transfer videos, the company should consider the minimum standards set out in Annex 8 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean* (Rec. 22-08). For the determination of the average size of the transferred bluefin tuna individuals the system has to offer at least the same accuracy as the system currently used according to the specifications in Annex 9 of ICCAT Rec. 22-08.

The list of tasks mentioned above is without prejudice to possible changes that may be introduced as a result of technical discussions between the Technical Steering Group and the company in charge of the implementation of the Project, and provided that these changes do not entail a significant increase in the time or resources to be assumed by the company.

1.2 Objective 2. Automatic analysis of the video footages, to automatically determine the number of individuals and its weight

The tasks to be carried for the implementation of the objective set out in point 2 b) of the Resolution will have as their main mission to:

- a) provide the necessary software to make an automatic analysis (counting of the number of individuals and estimation of the average size) of the video records from conventional and/or stereoscopic cameras;
- b) achieve a precision in the counting of the number of individuals and estimation of the average size that is at least as high as that achieved with the current means.

In relation to the implementation of the objective set out in point 2 b) of the Resolution, the following minimum conditions should be covered by the company in charge of the implementation of the Project:

- be in possession of the necessary software to be able to automatically determine the number of bluefin tuna individuals and its average size for transfers and caging operations recorded with conventional and/or stereoscopic camera;
- where possible, ensure that the software provided can be used in situ (i.e., at sea) and without the need for an internet connection;
- ensure that the result of the automatic video analysis offers an accuracy that is at least as good as that obtained with current means.

For testing the proposed software, three different data sources should be used:

- a) results obtained using the proposed software;
- b) results obtained using conventional means;
- c) results obtained by the authorities when they are available.

The tasks to be performed would include at least:

- analyze, using the proposed software for automatic counting, at least four videos of transfers in the Mediterranean recorded with a conventional camera;
- analyze, using the proposed software for automatic counting, at least four videos of transfers in the Adriatic recorded with a conventional camera;
- analyze (determine the number of individuals and their average size), using the proposed software for automatic counting and measurement, at least four videos of caging operations in the Mediterranean recorded with a stereoscopic camera, in combination with conventional cameras where appropriate;
- analyze (determine the number of individuals and their average size), using the proposed software for automatic counting at least four videos of caging operation in the Adriatic recorded with a stereoscopic camera, in combination with conventional cameras where appropriate;
- determine, using conventional means, the number of individuals and in the case of stereoscopic camera videos, the average size, of the transfers and caging operations analyzed in the previous cases;

- use results obtained by the control authorities, in the case of stereoscopic camera videos and in the case of transfers when these are available;
- make comparisons of the results using the three different sources, report the detailed results and draw conclusions.

The list of tasks mentioned above is without prejudice to possible changes that may be introduced as a result of technical discussions between the Technical Steering Group and the company in charge of the implementation of the project, and provided that these changes do not entail a significant increase in the time or resources to be assumed by the company.

OTHER DECISIONS ADOPTED BY ICCAT IN 2022

6.1 Proposal for amendment of the Rules and Procedures for the protection, access to, and dissemination of data compiled by ICCAT

(Adopted in 2022 as PLE_110A/2022)

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 scientists 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.

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 resulting from ICCAT Research and Data Collection Programmes 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 shall not contain private information and does not include information identifying the fishing vessel that reported the tag, or reveal individual activities of any vessel, company, or person, which would otherwise alter its risk classification and make the data non-public.

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.

Data used to develop *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 **Tables 1 and 2** and the data dissemination provisions in Sections 3 and 4.

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, except as otherwise provided herein.
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). In derogation to paragraph 13(a), any other users wishing to access such data must follow the procedure outlined in section 18bis (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 of non-public domain 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 bodies (e.g. Species groups) 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, other than those specified in paragraph 18bis(a), may be submitted by any person(s) or institutions(s) using the form found in this Addendum (**Attachment 1 to Appendix 3 of ANNEX 6**). 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. In addition, 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, and the Evaluation Committee approves the request, the data will be released after the requestor signs 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 may be 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, as determined in consultation with the SCRS or other relevant subsidiary bodies of the Commission.

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 (see paragraph 9bis)	Medium
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 <u>risk</u> 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 <u>risk</u> 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 <u>risk</u> 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.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 6.1**Public Domain Data**

The following types of data are considered to be in the public domain:

1. Annual catch estimates (Task 1) 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 2) 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. Conventional tagging data;
5. The ICCAT Records of Fishing Vessels;
6. Information on vessel and gear attributes;
7. Any vessel record established for the purpose of the Commission's VMS;
8. Oceanographic and meteorological data;
9. Social data.

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 6.1**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.
14. Biological data (see paragraph 9bis)

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.

Attachment 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 6.1**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.

Name of the person(s) or institution(s) requesting the data and contact details
Purpose/Project outline <i>If non-public domain data are being requested, the use of the data shall be authorized only for the purpose described below.</i>
Data requested <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>
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. <i>Note, the Secretariat expects to be informed of any changes to the data users list.</i>
Intentions with respect to publication of the results of the proposed work

Signature and date:

Name:

Position:

Organisation:

Approved / Not Approved

Signature and date:

Attachment 2 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 6.1

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.

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 6.1**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 Revised roadmap for the ICCAT MSE processes adopted by the Commission in 2022

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. However, the exact timeline for delivery is contingent on funding, prioritization, and other work of the Commission and SCRS. Tasks are divided into four categories: Commission intersessionally, SCRS development, SCRS implementation, and Commission at Annual Meeting.

* For 2022, the roadmap reflects progress to-date in some detail. For 2023 onward, more general steps for the SCRS and Commission are anticipated pending outcomes of the 2023 Annual Meeting.

		<i>Northern Albacore</i>	<i>Bluefin Tuna</i>	<i>Northern Swordfish</i>	<i>Tropical Tunas (BET, YFT, Eastern SKJ)</i>	<i>Western Skipjack</i>
2022	Commission intersessionally		<p>COMM (PA2) met intersessionally (March, May, July, October) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - recommend final operational management objectives and identify performance indicators - consider final CMPs <p>Ambassadors' workshops held in February and October</p>			
	SCRS development	<p>SCRS worked on a new SS model for NALB that will be used for future development of a new MSE reference grid</p> <p>Per Rec. 21-04, the SCRS tested alternatives to the adopted MP, as well as determined the number of CPUE series and the level of underreporting that would trigger the occurrence of exceptional circumstances.</p>	<p>SCRS conducted stock assessment for EBFT (based on work conducted by subgroups on models and indices)</p> <p>SCRS completed MSE, incorporating feedback from COMM provided at dialogue meetings with PA2</p>	<p>SCRS conducted stock assessment (North and South Atlantic)</p> <p>SCRS reconditioned OMs considering new information from the stock assessment and finalized OM grid</p> <p>SCRS continued development and testing of CMPs</p> <p>SCRS continued work on criteria for determining exceptional circumstances</p>	<p>SCRS conducted SKJ stock assessments</p> <p>SCRS conducted preliminary conditioning of single-stock BET and YFT OMs</p>	<p>SCRS conducted SKJ stock assessments</p> <p>SCRS reconditioned OMs in light of new assessment</p> <p>SCRS initiated development and testing of CMPs</p>

		<i>Northern Albacore</i>	<i>Bluefin Tuna</i>	<i>Northern Swordfish</i>	<i>Tropical Tunas (BET, YFT, Eastern SKJ)</i>	<i>Western Skipjack</i>
2022	SCRS implementation	SCRS evaluated existence of exceptional circumstances				
	Commission at Annual Meeting		COMM adopted an MP at the Annual Meeting, including TAC for western stock and TAC for eastern/Med stock for 2023-2025			COMM adopted initial management objectives
2023*	Commission intersessionally		COMM (PA2) to develop an exceptional circumstances protocol through an iterative consultation process with the SCRS that provides, inter alia, guidance on range of appropriate management responses should exceptional circumstances be found to occur	COMM (PA4) to meet intersessionally (March, June, October), with SCRS participation, to: - discuss CMPs, operational management objectives, and performance indicators - refine CMP(s) - recommend final operational management objectives and identify performance indicators Ambassadors' meetings to be held	COMM (PA1) dialogue with SCRS on management objectives and performance indicators to be used for tropical tunas MSE	COMM (PA1) to meet intersessionally (October). SCRS to participate and provide an update on the progress of SCRS work

		<i>Northern Albacore</i>	<i>Bluefin Tuna</i>	<i>Northern Swordfish</i>	<i>Tropical Tunas (BET, YFT, Eastern SKJ)</i>	<i>Western Skipjack</i>
2023*	SCRS development	SCRS to initiate independent peer review of MSE process				
		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	SCRS to provide final advice to COMM (PA2) on criteria for determining exceptional circumstances and inclusion in the exceptional circumstances protocol to be developed by Panel 2 in consultation with the SCRS	SCRS to finalize MSE results, incorporating feedback from COMM through PA4	SCRS to list major sources of uncertainty to be considered in the MSE for multi-stock tropical tuna MSEs	SCRS to complete MSE, incorporating feedback from COMM through PA1
	SCRS implementation	SCRS will conduct assessment to ensure that the conditions considered in MP testing are still applicable to the stock SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances	SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances and advise on any necessary actions taking into account, to the extent possible, the latest draft of the exceptional circumstances protocol provided to the SCRS by 1 September 2023			

		<i>Northern Albacore</i>	<i>Bluefin Tuna</i>	<i>Northern Swordfish</i>	<i>Tropical Tunas (BET, YFT, Eastern SKJ)</i>	<i>Western Skipjack</i>
2023*	Commission at Annual Meeting	<p>COMM to continue use of the MP to set 2024-2026 TAC at the Annual Meeting, on the predetermined timescale for MP setting</p> <p>Per Rec. 21-04, COMM to review the MP, taking SCRS analyses into account</p>	<p>COMM to adopt exceptional circumstances protocol as new Annex in MP (Rec. 22-09)</p>	<p>COMM to adopt an MP, including the TAC</p>		<p>COMM to consider final evaluation of CMPs and adopt an MP at the Annual Meeting</p>
2024*	Commission intersessionally			<p>COMM (PA4) to develop an exceptional circumstances protocol through an iterative consultation process with the SCRS that provides, inter alia, guidance on a range of appropriate management responses should exceptional circumstances be found to occur and continue any outstanding work from 2023</p>	<p>COMM (PA1) to develop multi-stock TRO MSE objectives. PA1 also to provide guidance to the SCRS on how to handle: trade-offs in species yields; changes in effort over time; changes in gear use over time; changes in closure periods over time; and, variable allocations over time (and therefore changes in geospatial effort and gear type over time)</p>	<p>COMM (PA1) to develop an exceptional circumstances protocol through an iterative consultation process with the SCRS that provides, inter alia, guidance on a range of appropriate management responses should exceptional circumstances be found to occur and continue any outstanding work from 2023</p>

		<i>Northern Albacore</i>	<i>Bluefin Tuna</i>	<i>Northern Swordfish</i>	<i>Tropical Tunas (BET, YFT, Eastern SKJ)</i>	<i>Western Skipjack</i>
2024*	SCRS development	<p>SCRS to improve Observation Error Model by incorporating statistical properties of CPUE residuals</p> <p>SCRS to test the available (i.e. production model) and alternative candidate MPs (e.g. based on Jabba, or empirical)</p>		<p>SCRS to provide final advice to COMM (PA4) on criteria for determining exceptional circumstances and inclusion in the exceptional circumstances protocol to be developed by Panel 4 in consultation with the SCRS</p>	<p>SCRS to conduct yellowfin assessment</p> <p>SCRS to develop clear educational material to explain how the 3 species interact in the proposed MSE and what information the SCRS needs from PA1 in order to begin constructing and testing the operating models</p>	<p>SCRS to provide final advice to COMM (PA1) on criteria for determining exceptional circumstances and inclusion in the exceptional circumstances protocol to be developed by Panel 1 in consultation with the SCRS</p>
	SCRS implementation	<p>SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances in accordance with the EC protocol</p>	<p>SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances in accordance with the EC protocol</p>	<p>SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances and advise on any necessary actions taking into account, to the extent possible, the latest draft of the exceptional circumstances protocol</p>		<p>SCRS to evaluate the existence of exceptional circumstances and advise on any necessary actions taking into account, to the extent possible, the latest draft of the exceptional circumstances protocol</p>

		<i>Northern Albacore</i>	<i>Bluefin Tuna</i>	<i>Northern Swordfish</i>	<i>Tropical Tunas (BET, YFT, Eastern SKJ)</i>	<i>Western Skipjack</i>
	Commission at Annual Meeting			COMM to adopt exceptional circumstances protocol as new Annex in MP		COMM to adopt: exceptional circumstances protocol as new Annex in MP
2025 and beyond*	Commission intersessionally					
	SCRS development	SCRS to complete new MSE in 2026	SCRS to review the MP in 2027-2028 as outlined in Rec. 22-09			

		<i>Northern Albacore</i>	<i>Bluefin Tuna</i>	<i>Northern Swordfish</i>	<i>Tropical Tunas (BET, YFT, Eastern SKJ)</i>	<i>Western Skipjack</i>
2025 and beyond*	SCRS implementation	<p>SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances in accordance with the EC protocol</p> <p>SCRS to conduct periodic assessments to ensure that the conditions considered in MP testing are still applicable to the stock</p>	<p>SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances in accordance with the EC protocol</p> <p>SCRS to conduct periodic assessments to ensure that the conditions considered in MP testing are still applicable to the stock</p>	<p>SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances in accordance with the EC protocol</p> <p>SCRS to conduct periodic assessments to ensure that the conditions considered in MP testing are still applicable to the stock</p>	Continued work on operating models and candidate performance indicators	<p>SCRS to evaluate existence of exceptional circumstances in accordance with the EC protocol</p> <p>SCRS to conduct periodic assessments to ensure that the conditions considered in MP testing are still applicable to the stock</p>
	Commission at Annual Meeting	<p>COMM to continue use of the MP to set management measures on the predetermined timescale defined in the MP setting</p> <p>Per Rec. 21-04, COMM to consider adoption of new MP in 2026</p>	<p>COMM to continue use of the MP to set TAC on the predetermined timescale defined in the MP setting</p> <p>COMM to review the MP in 2028</p>	COMM to continue use of the MP to set TAC on the predetermined timescale for MP setting		COMM to continue use of the MPs to set management measures on the predetermined timescale defined in the MP settings

*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

CMP = Candidate Management Procedure

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

6.3 Schedule of compliance issues and corresponding actions (Ref. 22-18)

PNC = Potential Non-Compliance

Level of PNCs severity:

- Year 1 = Minor non-compliance – MI
- Year 2 = Considerable non-compliance – CO
- Year 3 = Significant non-compliance – SI
- Year 4 and subsequent years = Very significant non-compliance – VS

Determinations of severity take into account any mitigating or aggravating circumstances.

Mitigating circumstances: May reduce the severity by one level.

Aggravating circumstances: May increase severity by one level.

As from year 2/severity level CO, CPCs should submit action plans to address the non-compliance issue. Implementation of such action plans may be considered a mitigating circumstance.

Category A Non-Compliance				
Type of PNC issue	Level of Severity	Warranted Action by COC	Mitigating circumstances	Aggravating circumstances
Catches/landings exceed limits required by ICCAT (considering catch limits by stocks on an individual basis)	Year 1 = MI Year 2 = CO Year 3 = SI Year 4 = VS Consider mitigating and aggravating circumstances	MI = Letter of Concern Ensure required payback is reflected in adopted compliance table; require that the CPC rectify the overage within 2 years, along with any penalty, consistent with the specific rules for each stock CO = Identification SI = In coordination with relevant Panel, consider recommending adoption by ICCAT of additional fishery restrictions ¹ VS = If no rectification, consider whether to recommend ICCAT responsive actions in accordance with para 6 of <i>Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures</i> (Rec. 06-13) ^{2,3} All levels of severity: consider capacity building and technical assistance options	Degree of overharvest; demonstrated actions to prevent reoccurrence, including reduction in future years, monitoring and enforcement actions, strengthened laws and regulations; process of implementing in domestic law initiated but still pending Capacity building and technical assistance	Continued failure to take corrective action; degree of overharvest; increasing level of overharvests. Recurrence of overharvest in another stock/year

¹ Fishery restrictions and/or enhanced MCS requirements may be appropriate, as specified in Res. 16-17.

² 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.”

³ If some progress is achieved, maintain identification. Lift an identification or trade restrictive measures after non-compliance has been rectified.

<p>Failure to adhere to fleet size, fishing effort or other capacity limitation required by ICCAT</p>	<p>Year 1 = MI Year 2 = CO Year 3 = SI Year 4 = VS</p> <p>Consider mitigating and aggravating circumstances</p>	<p>MI = Letter of Concern requesting rectification.</p> <p>CO = Identification</p> <p>SI = Identification and, in coordination with relevant Panel, consider recommending adoption by ICCAT of additional fishery restrictions</p> <p>VS = If no rectification, consider whether to recommend ICCAT responsive actions in accordance with para 6 of <i>Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures</i> (Rec. 06-13).</p>	<p>Degree of overcapacity; demonstrated implementation of capacity reduction plan; no overharvest in related fisheries</p>	<p>Repeated or frequent; degree of overcapacity; overharvest of quotas in related fisheries</p>
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<p>Failure to implement and/or enforce time/area closures</p>	<p>Year 1 = MI Year 2 = CO Year 3 = SI Year 4 = VS</p> <p>Consider mitigating and aggravating circumstances</p>	<p>MI = Letter of Concern requesting rectification</p> <p>CO = Identification</p> <p>SI = Identification and, in coordination with relevant Panel, consider recommending adoption by ICCAT of additional fishery restrictions</p> <p>VS = Consider whether to recommend ICCAT responsive actions in accordance with para 6 of <i>Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures</i> (Rec. 06- 13)</p> <p>All levels of severity: consider capacity building and technical assistance options</p>	<p>Capacity building and technical assistance</p>	<p>Repeated or frequent</p>
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<p>Failure to implement and/or enforce minimum size restrictions</p>	<p>Year 1 = MI Year 2 = CO Year 3 = SI Year 4 = VS</p> <p>Consider mitigating and aggravating circumstances</p>	<p>MI = Letter of concern requesting rectification</p> <p>CO = Identification</p> <p>SI = Identification and, in coordination with relevant Panel, consider recommending that ICCAT impose enhanced MCS requirements</p> <p>VS = Consider whether to recommend ICCAT responsive actions in accordance with para 6 of <i>Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures</i> (Rec. 06- 13)</p>	<p>Strengthened laws and regulations, the process of implementing in domestic law initiated but still pending</p>	<p>Repeated or frequent and proportion of catch under minimum size</p>
<p>Failure to implement and/or enforce gear restrictions/ requirements/limitations, and/or safe handling and release requirements</p>	<p>Year 1 = MI Year 2 = CO Year 3 = SI Year 4 = VS</p> <p>Consider mitigating and aggravating circumstances</p>	<p>MI = Letter of Concern requesting rectification</p> <p>CO = Identification</p> <p>SI = Identification and, in coordination with relevant Panel, consider imposing enhanced MCS requirements and/or temporary quota reductions</p> <p>VS = Consider whether to recommend ICCAT responsive actions in accordance with para 6 of <i>Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures</i> (Rec. 06-13)</p>	<p>Strengthened laws and regulations, the process of implementing in domestic law initiated but still pending</p>	<p>Repeated or frequent</p>

Category B Non-Compliance				
Type of PNC issue	Level of Severity	Warranted Action by COC	Mitigating circumstances	Aggravating circumstances
<p>Failure to report statistical and other required data</p> <p>Note: Failure to report Task 1 data is subject to Rec. 11-15 resulting in retention automatically prohibited for affected species. Prohibition automatically lifted when Task 1 data are provided to the Secretariat.</p> <p>Fishing on FADs is automatically prohibited starting 1 August 2022, until historical FAD data are provided, per Rec. 21-01</p>	<p>Year 1 = MI Year 2 = CO Year 3 = SI Year 4 = VS</p> <p>Consider mitigating and aggravating circumstances</p>	<p>MI = Letter of Concern requesting rectification</p> <p>CO = Identification; requirement to submit a data improvement and/or reporting plan with required reporting on implementation</p> <p>SI = Identification and limitations on or loss of right to implement certain ICCAT Recommendations, such as to charter or request ROP for transshipment at sea/farming, if these practices are causing the failure to report</p> <p>VS = If no improvement, consider whether to recommend ICCAT responsive actions in accordance with para 6 of <i>Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures</i> (Rec. 06-13)</p> <p>All levels of severity: consider capacity building and technical assistance options</p>	<p>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</p> <p>Capacity building and technical assistance</p>	<p>Repeated or frequent; no response to requests for data or COC</p> <p>Chair's letters; significant impact on the SCRS's or Commission's ability to carry out needed work or ensure intersessional compliance with measures</p>

<p>Delay in reporting statistical and other required data</p>	<p>If delay is minor = MI</p> <p>If recurring over several years or delay is significant (e.g., information submitted during meeting) = CO, SI</p> <p>Consider mitigating and aggravating circumstances</p>	<p>MI = Letter of Concern requesting rectification</p> <p>CO = Identification; requirement to submit a data improvement and/or reporting plan with required reporting on implementation</p> <p>SI = Identification and limitations on or loss of right to implement certain ICCAT Recommendations, such as to charter or request ROP for transshipment at sea/farming, if these practices are causing the failure to report</p> <p>All levels of severity: consider capacity building and technical assistance options</p>	<p>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 on the SCRS's or Commission's ability to carry out needed work</p>	<p>Repeated or frequent; 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</p>
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<p>Failure to submit reports</p>	<p>Severity will depend on type and number of reports not submitted. Annual Report = CO, SI, VS depending on recurrence</p> <p>Other reports may be MI unless recurring</p> <p>Consider mitigating and aggravating circumstances</p>	<p>MI = Letter of Concern requesting rectification</p> <p>CO = Identification; requirement to submit a data improvement and/or reporting plan with required reporting on implementation</p> <p>SI = Identification and limitations on or loss of right to implement certain ICCAT recommendations, such as to charter or request ROP for transshipment at sea/farming, if these practices are causing the failure to report</p> <p>VS = If no improvement, consider whether to recommend ICCAT responsive actions in accordance with para 6 of <i>Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures</i> (Rec. 06-13)</p> <p>All levels of severity: consider capacity building and technical assistance options</p>	<p>Advance notification of delay or inability to submit the report may be considered by COC</p>	<p>Repeated or frequent; 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</p>
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<p>Delay in submitting reports</p>	<p>If delay is short = MI</p> <p>If recurring over several years or delay is significant (e.g., information submitted during meeting) = CO, SI</p> <p>Consider mitigating and aggravating circumstances</p>	<p>MI = Request rectification</p> <p>CO = Request to submit an action plan on improved reporting</p> <p>SI = Possible identification, depending on gravity and extent of late reporting</p> <p>All levels of severity: consider capacity building and technical assistance options</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Repeated or frequent; 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</p>
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Category C Non-Compliance				
Type of PNC issue	Level of Severity	Warranted Action by COC	Mitigating circumstances	Aggravating circumstances
Failure to implement MCS measures, including catch and trade documentation programs, observer programs, transshipment controls and VMS	Year 1 = MI Year 2 = CO Year 3 = SI Year 4 = VS Consider mitigating and aggravating circumstances	MI = Letter of Concern requesting rectification CO = Identification SI = Identification and consideration of limitations on or loss of right to implement certain ICCAT Recommendations related to MSC measures VS = Consider whether to recommend ICCAT responsive actions in accordance with para 6 of <i>Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures</i> (Rec. 06-13) All levels of severity: consider capacity building and technical assistance options	The MCS measure requires major investment of resources or technology not available to the CPC Transparency regarding implementation challenges. Request for technical assistance has been made but could not be met Strengthened laws and regulations, the process of implementing in domestic law initiated but still pending Capacity building and technical assistance	Repeated or frequent; no response to requests for data or COC Chair's letters. Lack of transparency regarding implementation challenges

<p>Failure to exercise port CPC controls</p>	<p>Year 1 = MI Year 2 = CO Year 3 = SI Year 4 = VS</p> <p>Consider mitigating and aggravating circumstances</p>	<p>MI = Letter of Concern requesting rectification</p> <p>CO = Identification</p> <p>SI = Identification and request submission of a plan of action to implement the provisions of the relevant Recommendation(s)</p> <p>VS = Consider whether to recommend ICCAT responsive actions in accordance with para 6 of <i>Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures</i> (Rec. 06-13)</p> <p>All levels of severity: consider capacity building and technical assistance options</p>	<p>MCS measure requires major investment of resources or technology not available to the CPC</p> <p>Transparency regarding implementation challenges</p> <p>Capacity building and technical assistance</p>	<p>Repeated or frequent; no response to requests for data or COC Chair's letters. Lack of transparency regarding implementation challenges</p>
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<p>Failure to exercise flag CPC controls</p>	<p>Year 1 = MI Year 2 = CO Year 3 = SI Year 4 = VS</p> <p>Consider mitigating and aggravating circumstances</p>	<p>MI = Letter of Concern requesting rectification</p> <p>CO = Identification</p> <p>SI = Identification and request submission of an action plan to implement the provisions of the relevant Recommendation(s) with the intent of rectifying the failure</p> <p>VS = Consider whether to recommend ICCAT responsive actions in accordance with para 6 of <i>Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures</i> (Rec. 06-13)</p> <p>All levels of severity: consider capacity building and technical assistance options</p>	<p>Capacity building and technical assistance</p>	<p>Repeated or frequent; systematic failure to control fleet, no response to requests for data or COC Chair's letters</p>
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6.4 Document number on transshipment declaration (Ref. 22-19)

At the 23rd Special Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, held in Vale do Lobo, Portugal, and in hybrid format, from 13 to 21 November 2022, the Commission agreed to amend the Transshipment Declaration in Recommendation 21-16 as shown below.

CP19_TransDec

Declaration number:

Transshipment Declaration

Carrier vessel

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

Fishing vessel

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

Name: _____ Day _____ Month _____ Hour _____ Year |2_|0_|_|_| Agent's name: _____ Fishing vessel Master's name: _____ Carrier vessel Master's
 Departure |_|_| |_|_| |_|_| from |_____|
 Return |_|_| |_|_| |_|_| to |_____| Signature: _____ Signature: _____ Signature: _____
 Transshipment |_|_| |_|_| |_|_| |_|_|[Min] |_____|
 Transshipment Position _____/_____(N/S), _____/_____(E/W)

Indicate the weight in kilograms or the unit used (e.g., box, basket) and the landed weight in kilograms of this unit: |_|_| kilograms

Species (by stock,* if applicable) ²	Port	Type of Product ¹ RD/GG/DR/FL/ST/OT	Net Weight (Kg)	Units (if available)	No. of units (if available)			

ICCAT Observer signature and date (if transshipment at sea):
 (In the case of Force Majeure, please indicated that transshipment was unobserved)
¹ Type of Product should be indicated as Round (RD), Gilled and Gutted (GG), Dressed (DR), Fillet (FL), Steak (ST), Other (OT) (describe the type of product).
² A list of species by stock, with their geographic delineations, is available on https://www.iccat.int/Data/ICCAT_maps.pdf. Please provide as much detail as possible.
 *If stock level information is not available, please provide explanation.

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 16 November 2022, by its Chair, Ms. Deirdre Warner-Kramer (United States).

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 2022 Administrative Report

The 2022 Administrative Report was presented by the ICCAT Executive Secretary. The ICCAT Executive Secretary indicated that the report summarized the activities carried out by the Secretariat in 2022 and highlighted that the ICCAT Secretariat continued to be subject to a heavy workload. The ICCAT Executive Secretary informed that at the date of the report, five Contracting Parties had deposited their instrument of acceptance, approval or ratification of the Palma de Mallorca Protocol (Belize, Canada, European Union, Japan and Norway); the ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions adopted in 2021 entered into force on 17 June 2022; 34 ICCAT intersessional and Working Group meetings were held, as well as four Webinars and ICCAT training courses and that ICCAT had been represented in 11 meetings. (Annex 1 to the Administrative Report contains a summary of these meetings). Moreover, the ICCAT Executive Secretary noted that the Secretariat continues to send annually two letters of reminder regarding compliance with budgetary obligations.

As regards the staff, the ICCAT Executive Secretary informed that, in response to the heavy workload, the Department of Research and Statistics has been restructured into two departments: the Science Department and the Research Department.

The ICCAT Executive Secretary also informed that the two new positions approved in 2021 for the ICCAT Secretariat, Publications Editor and Senior Technical Compliance Officer, had been filled respectively by Ms. Marisa de Andrés, formerly a Translator in the Publications Department, and Ms. Dawn Baity. The vacant position for a Spanish Translator was filled by Ms. Beatriz Motos. He also informed that the contract for the position of IOMS software developer, which was filled by Mr. Dashiell Portel, has been extended by one year, funded by the European Union.

The 2022 Administrative Report was adopted.

4.2 2022 Financial Report

The ICCAT Executive Secretary presented the Secretariat's 2022 Financial Report. He indicated that the 2021 Auditor's Report had been sent to the Contracting Parties in June 2022, and that the Financial Report set out the situation of the Commission's budgetary statements on 21 October 2022, as well as that of the trust funds managed by the Secretariat.

The ICCAT Executive Secretary signalled that the Working Capital Fund reached 48.98% of the total budget. He explained the most significant aspects of the financial statements, and informed that expenses incurred amounted to 75.36% and that the revenue received represented 78.51% of the budget approved for 2022.

Finally, he indicated that the costs estimated by the Secretariat until year-end amounted to €1,331,695.89 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 21.17% of the budget (€1,013,771.29).

The 2022 Financial Report was adopted.

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

The ICCAT Executive Secretary 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, and includes the latest contributions received from Angola, Brazil, Ghana and Panama. He highlighted that the total debt of the Contracting Parties amounted to €2,023,735.88, which equates to over 40% of the 2022 budget and poses a considerable risk to Secretariat and Commission activities.

The STACFAD Chair requested that the Contracting Parties with outstanding contributions send their annual contributions and that those in arrears should submit their payment plans if they need additional time to bring their accounts up-to-date. The STACFAD Chair highlighted that if a CPC is in arrears for 2 years, they could be suspended from their voting rights under Article 10 of the Convention. The STACFAD Chair suggested that the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Finances for ICCAT (VWG-SF) should monitor this issue and propose solutions.

The delegations of Gabon, Honduras, Mauritania and Panama informed that they would soon make payments to reduce their outstanding contributions.

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

The STACFAD Chair presented the document “Meeting Participation Fund (MPF)”, which included information on the financial situation of the MPF and indicated the income and expenses during 2022.

The STACFAD Chair indicated that in-person meetings started to be held in 2022 and it was therefore the first year that Recommendation 20-09 and the new Rules of Procedure of Ref. 20-10 were implemented. The experience of this first year resulted in identification of certain operational aspects that posed problems, such as those related to interpretation of the provision contained in Recommendation 20-09 with regard to the meaning of “official delegates”, as well as the deadlines and dates for requesting financial assistance and visa management.

The STACFAD Chair indicated that she had noted the observations of the CPCs as regards the deadlines for requests, including for meetings held shortly after the ICCAT annual meeting concluded, the issue of the number of delegates, the issue of financing attendance by more than one delegate per meeting and support for management of visa applications. She also indicated that these matters would be reviewed by the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Finances for ICCAT (VWG-SF) to address the issues detected as soon as possible.

6. Update on Executive Secretary’s contract

The STACFAD Chair indicated that in June 2023 the contract for the first five-year mandate of the Executive Secretary would come to an end, and that a decision needed to be taken as to extension of his contract for a second five-year mandate, i.e. extension of the appointment from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2028.

The Contracting Parties unanimously expressed their support for the second mandate extension, and highlighted the excellent work done by the Executive Secretary during his first mandate. Therefore, the Committee approved the second mandate extension and referred this matter to the Plenary.

7. Proposed amendments to staff rules and other staff-related issues

The Executive Secretary presented for approval an “Update of ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules”, with the objective of adapting the Regulations and Rules to current circumstances, as well as to social and contractual changes that have occurred over the years.

The Executive Secretary also indicated that the changes of this revision concerned mainly implementation of teleworking, inclusion of paternity and adoption leave or the possibility of amendment of the contract with the entity entrusted with management of the pension plan.

The Executive Secretary also signalled another amendment of the proposal which consisted in referring the Regulations and Rules to the United Nations Regulations and Rules instead of to those of the FAO (as in the past), given that the complete text of the FAO Regulations and Rules cannot be openly accessed.

Moreover, the Executive Secretary informed that another essential change was establishment of a mechanism for settlement of disputes through an internal and informal conciliation procedure, a formal procedure for appeal at first instance to an internal body of the Secretariat, and finally, an appeal for arbitration at second instance before the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) based in The Hague (Netherlands).

The process for revision of the ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules began with a technical revision, which was carried out by an external expert who performed a comparative study with other formulas applied in the international setting. The revised text was then subject to a process in which all the members of the Secretariat staff participated, the final result of which was the consensus text submitted to the Commission.

The amendments made can be broadly summarised as follows: update of technical aspects that had become obsolete (references to the pension plan or references to the FAO Regulations and Rules); amendment and mainstreaming of rights and obligations of staff members (flexible hours, teleworking, inclusion of paternity or adoption leave, regulation of special leaves, classification of summary dismissal) and, finally, incorporation of new legal elements (general principles of conduct of international organizations: implementation of a conflict resolution mechanism and further referral for cases not provided for in the Regulations and Rules or related to their interpretation to the practice followed in the other organizations of the United Nations common system or other intergovernmental organizations).

Some delegations, such as Canada, Senegal, the United States and Uruguay made some edits to improve the text, such as those related to the use of non-sexist or inclusive language. The revised version of the ICCAT Staff Rules and Regulations was approved by STACFAD and forwarded to the Commission for adoption (**Appendix 2 of ANNEX 7**).

8. Consideration of methods to ensure the availability of rapporteurs

During the meetings of the Virtual Working Group on the Review of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission (VWG-RRP), the issue of the availability of rapporteurs to cover Commission meetings was addressed, as well as the need for a pool of rapporteurs so as to avoid the need to mobilize resources of the Secretariat for this purpose.

CPCs were urged to offer to act as rapporteurs. It was recalled that simultaneous interpretation at meetings facilitated communication in terms of the language between the chair and the rapporteur, and it was noted that an assistant rapporteur could also perform this function, if appointed. It was indicated that the use of professional rapporteurs would entail a significant financial burden that was not included in the budget, but that could be considered in the future, if necessary.

9. Review of the progress of the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Finances for ICCAT (VWG-SF)

STACFAD decided that the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Finances for ICCAT (VWG-SF) should continue working in 2023 to address, among others, the following issues: planning of annual meetings; the difficulties for hosts related to the costs and capacity necessary for holding these meetings; changes in the organization of meetings; finding ways to generate income to offset meeting expenses, the rules of the Meeting Participation Fund, monitoring and considering ways to address arrears, and the introductory template to address the financial implications of new proposals.

It was also indicated that the Virtual Working Group would work during 2023 by correspondence, concluding its work with an online meeting to consolidate the proposals and forward these to the 2023 Commission meeting.

10. Consideration of financial implications of SCRS requests

The SCRS Chair presented the document "SCRS research activities requiring funding for 2023", which summarizes the SCRS activities that require funding. These activities are arranged by working groups and are broken down into: biology, other fisheries related studies, assessments, MSE and workshops. The document was revised to introduce the changes proposed by the European Union. The new document set out a budget under which €883,500.00 is requested for these activities, of which the Commission, through its budget, would finance €416,635.00 and, therefore, the remaining €466,865.00 would be financed through voluntary contributions, as well as the budget of €1,250,000.00 allocated to the GBYP. In addition to these headings, the initial document set out an estimate of the costs of simultaneous interpretation services for some SCRS intersessional meetings, following the SCRS request. Finally, it was decided that these costs would be included in the regular budget.

STACFAD stressed the importance of including all scientific activities in the regular budget of the Commission.

The new version of the SCRS budget was approved by the Committee (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 7**).

11. Consideration of the financial implications of ICCAT conservation and management measures proposed

The document "Financial implications of proposed draft recommendations" was presented, which compiled the financial implications of some of the new Recommendations proposed by the Commission. The document responded to the request that new proposals be accompanied by a cost estimate for the new measures. Several delegations indicated that they had had difficulty completing the template due to its complexity. It was therefore decided that the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Finances for ICCAT (VWG-SF), in conjunction with STACFAD and the Secretariat, would improve the template by simplifying it.

12. Review and revision, as appropriate, of the budget and Contracting Party contributions for 2023

12.1 ICCAT budget

The document "Explanatory note on the ICCAT budget for the 2023 financial year (revised)" was presented. The budget for financial year 2023 contained an increase of 5.07% with respect to 2022, which reflects the increase in the salary and travel chapters, as well as the inclusion of simultaneous interpretation services at SCRS meetings for six days, pending the final decision on the issue of simultaneous interpretation at SCRS intersessional meetings.

The SCRS presented two options for simultaneous interpretation at its intersessional meetings: one for an amount of €290,250.00, based on the criterion of number of French and Spanish speakers, and the other for an amount of €141,900.00 based on the criterion of number of French-speaking or Spanish-speaking CPCs, both options also including a further amount of €140,000.00 for the use of online technology in hybrid meetings.

During the discussions, delegations favoured the option of the criterion of number of French-speaking or Spanish-speaking CPCs and requested that the priorities for this option be presented.

Five new budget options were presented, and the option was approved that included 17 days of simultaneous interpretation services for the Intersessional Meetings of the SCRS Tropical Tunas (8 days), Sharks (2 days) and Small Tunas (5 days) Species Groups, as well as for the meeting of the Subcommittee on Statistics (2 days), and online technology services for meetings in a hybrid format without interpretation.

The budget was approved (**Tables 1 to 5**) and was referred to the Plenary for adoption.

The European Union stressed the importance of increasing financing through the budget for IOMS.

Japan expressed its disappointment with the absence of some CPCs at the adoption of the budget even though those CPCs requested simultaneous interpretation and/or are in arrears.

12.2 eBCD system budget

The document "Explanatory note on the eBCD system budget for the 2023 financial year (revised)" was presented. The budget for financial year 2023 did not contain any changes compared to the one initially approved by the Commission in 2021.

The eBCD system budget (**eBCD Tables 1 to 5**) was approved and forwarded to the Plenary for adoption.

13. Other matters

An update of the document "Update of some indicators on the Secretariat's workload in recent years" was presented, which reflected the current work situation and the need to increase the human resources of the Secretariat in order to continue its optimal performance.

Several delegations expressed their concern and noted the need to provide the Secretariat with more human resources due to the constant increase in the number of meetings, both of the SCRS and the Commission.

The STACFAD Chair indicated that the situation of the Secretariat would be revised and that this revision would be included in the next biennial budget for 2024-2025.

Regarding the performance review, STACFAD informed that no major progress had been made.

The STACFAD Chair announced that Mr. Juan Antonio Moreno, Head of the Department of Administration and Finance would retire in 2023 and she expressed her gratitude for the 48 years of dedication of Mr. Moreno to this Commission.

14. Adoption of the report and closure

It was agreed that the STACFAD Report would be adopted by correspondence. The STACFAD Chair adjourned the meeting.

Table 1. 2023 ICCAT budget (Euros).

Chapters	2022	2023	Increase	2023 Revised
1. Salaries	2,112,780.03	2,176,163.43	4.91%	2,282,985.65
2. Travel	15,450.00	30,900.00	29.45%	40,000.00
3. Commission meetings (annual)	274,495.00	282,729.85	0.00%	282,729.85
4. Publications	20,000.00	20,600.00	0.00%	20,600.00
5. Office equipment	15,759.00	16,231.77	0.00%	16,231.77
6. Operating expenses	147,084.00	151,496.52	0.00%	151,496.52
7. Miscellaneous	7,984.56	8,224.10	0.00%	8,224.10
8. Coordination of research				
a) Salaries	1,122,494.06	1,156,168.88	8.56%	1,255,152.87
b) Travel to improve statistics	11,845.00	23,690.00	26.64%	30,000.00
c) Statistics-biology	19,000.00	19,570.00	0.00%	19,570.00
d) Computer-related items	41,000.00	42,230.00	0.00%	42,230.00
e) Database maintenance	27,000.00	27,810.00	0.00%	27,810.00
f) Telephone line-Internet domain	33,500.00	34,505.00	0.00%	34,505.00
g) Scientific meetings (including SCRS)	80,370.90	82,782.03	0.00%	82,782.03
h) Interpretation SCRS meetings			100.00%	249,650.00
i) Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
<i>Sub-total Chapter 8</i>	<i>1,335,209.96</i>	<i>1,386,755.91</i>	<i>25.60%</i>	<i>1,741,699.90</i>
9. Services requiring specialized external consultancy (i.e., legal advice, total quality management project, etc.)	68,500.00	70,555.00	0.00%	70,555.00
10. Separation from Service Fund	63,561.30	65,468.14	0.00%	65,468.14
11. Strategic Research Programme				0.00
a) Strategic Research Programme	404,500.00	416,635.00	0.00%	416,635.00
<i>Sub-total Chapter 11</i>	<i>404,500.00</i>	<i>416,635.00</i>	<i>0.00%</i>	<i>416,635.00</i>
12. Compliance				
a) Compliance database maintenance	30,900.00	31,827.00	0.00%	31,827.00
<i>Sub-total Chapter 12</i>	<i>30,900.00</i>	<i>31,827.00</i>	<i>0.00%</i>	<i>31,827.00</i>
13. Travel				
a) Travel by ICCAT/SCRS Chairs	25,750.00	51,500.00	0.00%	51,500.00
b) Special Meeting Participation Fund	40,000.00	170,000.00	0.00%	170,000.00
c) Travel by ICCAT Officers (Developing ICCAT Contracting Parties)	15,450.00	30,900.00	0.00%	30,900.00
<i>Sub-total Chapter 13</i>	<i>81,200.00</i>	<i>252,400.00</i>	<i>0.00%</i>	<i>252,400.00</i>
14. Integrated Online Management System				
a) Integrated Online Management System	206,000.00	212,180.00	0.00%	212,180.00
<i>Sub-total Chapter 14</i>	<i>206,000.00</i>	<i>212,180.00</i>	<i>0.00%</i>	<i>212,180.00</i>
15. Contingencies	5,253.00	5,410.59	0.00%	5,410.59
TOTAL BUDGET	4,788,676.85	5,127,577.31	9.18%	5,598,443.51

Table 2. Basic information to calculate the Contracting Party contributions in 2023.

Contracting Parties	Groups ^a	GNP ^b 2019	GNP ^b 1991	Catch ^c	Canning ^d	Catch + Canning	Panels ^e				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	X	3	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	X	3	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	X	4	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
Türkiye	B	9,141	4,915	16,288	0	16,288	-	X	-	X	2	Türkiye
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	A	41,577	22,353	454	0	454	X	X	X	X	4	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern
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 2023 (Euros).

Contracting Party		Group ^a	Catch + Canning ^a	Panels ^a	% Catch + Canning ^b	% Member + Panels ^c	Membership fee ^d	Panel Membership ^e	Variable fees for Member ^f	Variables fees Catch-Canning ^g	Total fees ^h	Contracting Party
	Albania	D	104	1	0.81%	3.85%	972.00	972.00	2,402.43	1,008.80	5,355.24	Albania
	Algérie	C	5,283	2	1.52%	4.29%	972.00	1,944.00	15,823.33	11,199.68	29,939.01	Algérie
	Angola	D	1,257	3	9.76%	7.69%	972.00	2,916.00	4,804.87	12,192.93	20,885.79	Angola
	Barbados	C	514	0	0.15%	1.43%	972.00	0.00	5,274.44	1,089.65	7,336.10	Barbados
	Belize	C	28,985	4	8.32%	7.14%	972.00	3,888.00	26,372.22	61,446.67	92,678.88	Belize
	Brazil	B	64,151	4	57.06%	22.73%	972.00	3,888.00	61,998.68	311,327.31	378,185.98	Brazil
	Canada	A	2,026	3	0.31%	11.43%	972.00	2,916.00	126,135.24	6,914.12	136,937.36	Canada
	Cabo Verde	C	29,067	3	8.34%	5.71%	972.00	2,916.00	21,097.77	61,620.50	86,606.28	Cabo Verde
	China, People's Rep. of	B	6,725	4	5.98%	22.73%	972.00	3,888.00	61,998.68	32,636.69	99,495.36	China, People's Rep. of
	Côte d'Ivoire	C	16,384	3	4.70%	5.71%	972.00	2,916.00	21,097.77	34,733.21	59,718.99	Côte d'Ivoire
	Curaçao	A	32,203	1	4.98%	5.71%	972.00	972.00	63,067.62	109,899.09	174,910.71	Curaçao
	Egypt	D	668	2	5.19%	5.77%	972.00	1,944.00	3,603.65	6,479.61	12,999.26	Egypt
	El Salvador	C	28,868	1	8.29%	2.86%	972.00	972.00	10,548.89	61,198.63	73,691.52	El Salvador
	France (St. P. & M.)	A	0	3	0.00%	11.43%	972.00	2,916.00	126,135.24	0.00	130,023.24	France (St. P. & M.)
	Gabon	C	101	2	0.03%	4.29%	972.00	1,944.00	15,823.33	214.11	18,953.45	Gabon
	Gambia	D	0	1	0.00%	3.85%	972.00	972.00	2,402.43	0.00	4,346.43	Gambia
	Ghana	C	119,169	1	34.21%	2.86%	972.00	972.00	10,548.89	252,631.98	265,124.86	Ghana
	Grenada	C	1,708	0	0.49%	1.43%	972.00	0.00	5,274.44	3,620.87	9,867.31	Grenada
	Guatemala, Rep. de	C	13,671	2	3.92%	4.29%	972.00	1,944.00	15,823.33	28,981.80	47,721.13	Guatemala, Rep. de
	Guinea Ecuatorial	C	32	2	0.01%	4.29%	972.00	1,944.00	15,823.33	67.84	18,807.17	Guinea Ecuatorial
	Guinea, Rep. of	D	0	2	0.00%	5.77%	972.00	1,944.00	3,603.65	0.00	6,519.65	Guinea, Rep. of
	Guinée-Bissau	D	0	2	0.00%	5.77%	972.00	1,944.00	3,603.65	0.00	6,519.65	Guinée-Bissau
	Honduras	D	0	2	0.00%	5.77%	972.00	1,944.00	3,603.65	0.00	6,519.65	Honduras
	Iceland	A	0	1	0.00%	5.71%	972.00	972.00	63,067.62	0.00	65,011.62	Iceland
	Japan	A	29,183	4	4.51%	14.29%	972.00	3,888.00	157,669.05	99,592.74	262,121.79	Japan
	Korea, Rep. of	C	2,900	4	0.83%	7.14%	972.00	3,888.00	26,372.22	6,147.85	37,380.06	Korea, Rep. of
	Liberia	D	324	2	2.52%	5.77%	972.00	1,944.00	3,603.65	3,142.81	9,662.46	Liberia
	Libya	D	3,316	3	25.75%	7.69%	972.00	2,916.00	4,804.87	32,165.27	40,858.14	Libya
	Maroc	C	14,673	3	4.21%	5.71%	972.00	2,916.00	21,097.77	31,105.98	56,091.76	Maroc
	Mauritania	C	15,482	3	4.44%	5.71%	972.00	2,916.00	21,097.77	32,821.02	57,806.79	Mauritania
	Mexico	C	1,227	3	0.35%	5.71%	972.00	2,916.00	21,097.77	2,601.18	27,586.95	Mexico
	Namibia	D	1,644	4	12.76%	9.62%	972.00	3,888.00	6,006.08	15,946.83	26,812.92	Namibia
	Nicaragua, Rep. de	D	0	1	0.00%	3.85%	972.00	972.00	2,402.43	0.00	4,346.43	Nicaragua, Rep. de
	Nigeria	D	2	2	0.02%	5.77%	972.00	1,944.00	3,603.65	19.40	6,539.05	Nigeria
	Norway	A	41	2	0.01%	8.57%	972.00	1,944.00	94,601.43	139.92	97,657.35	Norway
	Panama	B	20,172	4	17.94%	22.73%	972.00	3,888.00	61,998.68	97,895.50	164,754.18	Panama
	Philippines, Rep. of	D	0	2	0.00%	5.77%	972.00	1,944.00	3,603.65	0.00	6,519.65	Philippines, Rep. of
	Russia	C	1,721	2	0.49%	4.29%	972.00	1,944.00	15,823.33	3,648.43	22,387.76	Russia
	Saint Vincent and Grenadines	C	1,712	4	0.49%	7.14%	972.00	3,888.00	26,372.22	3,629.35	34,861.57	Saint Vincent and Grenadines
	São Tomé e Príncipe	D	1,535	2	11.92%	5.77%	972.00	1,944.00	3,603.65	14,889.53	21,409.18	São Tomé e Príncipe
	Senegal	C	46,782	3	13.43%	5.71%	972.00	2,916.00	21,097.77	99,175.36	124,161.14	Senegal
	Sierra Leone	D	0	2	0.00%	5.77%	972.00	1,944.00	3,603.65	0.00	6,519.65	Sierra Leone
	South Africa	D	3,964	3	30.78%	7.69%	972.00	2,916.00	4,804.87	38,450.88	47,143.75	South Africa
	Syrian Arab Republic	D	65	1	0.50%	3.85%	972.00	972.00	2,402.43	630.50	4,976.94	Syrian Arab Republic
	Trinidad & Tobago	C	3,031	2	0.87%	4.29%	972.00	1,944.00	15,823.33	6,425.56	25,164.89	Trinidad & Tobago
	Tunisie	C	17,011	2	4.88%	4.29%	972.00	1,944.00	15,823.33	36,062.42	54,801.75	Tunisie
	Türkiye	B	16,288	2	14.49%	13.64%	972.00	1,944.00	37,199.21	79,046.30	119,161.51	Türkiye
	Union Européenne	A	555,936	4	85.95%	14.29%	972.00	3,888.00	157,669.05	1,897,241.22	2,059,770.27	Union Européenne
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	A	454	4	0.07%	14.29%	972.00	3,888.00	157,669.05	1,549.36	164,078.41	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	United States	A	26,967	4	4.17%	14.29%	972.00	3,888.00	157,669.05	92,030.20	254,559.25	United States
	Uruguay	C	0	3	0.00%	5.71%	972.00	2,916.00	21,097.77	0.00	24,985.77	Uruguay
	Venezuela	B	5,086	3	4.52%	18.18%	972.00	2,916.00	49,598.94	24,682.56	78,169.50	Venezuela

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

Table 4. Contributions by group 2023. Fees expressed in Euros.

Groups	Parties^a	Panels^b	Catch + Canning^c	% of each Party^d	% of the Budget^e	Fees^f	Panels fees^g	Other fees^h	Total feesⁱ
A	9	26	646,810	---	59.75%	8,748.00	25,272.00	3,311,050.00	3,345,070.00
B	5	17	112,422	3.00%	15.00%	4,860.00	16,524.00	818,382.53	839,766.53
C	21	49	348,321	1.00%	21.00%	20,412.00	47,628.00	1,107,633.14	1,175,673.14
D	17	35	12,879	0.25%	4.25%	16,524.00	34,020.00	187,389.85	237,933.85
TOTAL	52	127	1,120,432		100.00%	50,544.00	123,444.00	5,424,455.51	5,598,443.51

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

Table 5. Catch and canning figures (in t) of the Contracting Parties.

	<i>Parties</i> <i>Parties</i> <i>Partes</i>	<i>Catch</i> <i>Prise</i> <i>Captura</i>	<i>2017</i> <i>Canning</i> <i>Conserve</i> <i>Enlatado</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Catch</i> <i>Prise</i> <i>Captura</i>	<i>2018</i> <i>Canning</i> <i>Conserve</i> <i>Enlatado</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Catch</i> <i>Prise</i> <i>Captura</i>	<i>2019</i> <i>Canning</i> <i>Conserve</i> <i>Enlatado</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Parties</i> <i>Parties</i> <i>Partes</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				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	0	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
Tunisie		17,726	2,091	19,817	9,859	2,284	12,143	12,247	6,826	19,073	Tunisie
Türkiye		10,531		10,531	33,653		33,653	4,679		4,679	Türkiye
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
TOTAL		694,242	377,492	1,071,734	778,012	391,531	1,169,543	730,674	387,628	1,118,302	TOTAL

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

a	Table 2
b	Percentage of catch and canning within the group in which the member is a part
c	Percentage for Commission membership and Panel membership within the group in which the member is a part
d	US\$ 1,000 annual contribution for Commission membership
e	US\$ 1,000 annual contribution for each Panel membership in which the member belongs
f	Variable fee in proportion to the percentage as a member of the Commission and Panels
g	Variable fee in proportion to the percentage according to catch and canning
h	Total contribution

Table 4

a	Number of Contracting Parties per Group (Table 2)
b	Number of Panels within each Group
c	Total catch and canning, in t, of each Group
d	Percentage of the budget financed by each member of each Group according to the Madrid Protocol
e	Percentage of the budget financed for each Group
f	Commission membership fees within each Group
g	Panel membership within each Group
h	Other fees: 1/3 for Commission and Panel membership and 2/3 for catch and canning
i	Total contribution

eBCD Table 1. 2023 eBCD system budget (Euros).

eBCD system fund	2022	2023	%	2023 Revised
Support, maintenance, and functionality development of the electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation (eBCD) system	290,000.00	304,500.00	0.00%	304,500.00
Developments in the web application ("Flexible" allotment): Development activities requested by the Working Group (WG) *				
a) Other developments as required*	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Salaries	83,215.91	87,376.71	0.00%	87,376.71
TOTAL BUDGET	373,215.91	391,876.71 	0.00%	391,876.71

eBCD Table 2. Basic information to calculate the 2023 contributions to the eBCD system for members of the Commission that catch and/or trade Atlantic bluefin tuna

Contracting Parties	Groups ^a	Average Catch ^b (2017-2019)	% Average Catch ^b	No. of Trade ^c	% No. of Trade ^c	Import weight ^d	% Import weight ^d	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
Türkiye	B	1,523.06	95.16%	3,258	84.78%	0.00	0.00%	Türkiye
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.

eBCD Table 3. 2023 contributions to the eBCD system for members of the Commission that catch and/or trade Atlantic bluefin tuna (Euros)

		Exchange rate: 1 €= 1.029 US\$ (11/2022)									
Contracting Party	Group ^a	% Average Catch ^b	% No. of Trade ^c	% Import weight ^d	Basic fee ^e	Average Catch ^f	No. of Trade ^g	Import weight ^h	Total fees ⁱ	Contracting Party	
	Albania	D	4.77%	4.05%	0.00%	680.40	24.57	27.66	0.00	732.64	Albania
	Algérie	C	20.49%	0.33%	0.00%	680.40	995.44	21.11	0.00	1,696.95	Algérie
	Canada	A	2.83%	3.75%	0.06%	680.40	2,888.31	5,106.16	57.86	8,732.73	Canada
	China, People's Rep. of	B	4.84%	15.22%	100.00%	680.40	321.55	1,348.82	6,645.54	8,996.31	China, People's Rep. of
	Egypt	D	8.68%	46.62%	0.00%	680.40	44.70	318.14	0.00	1,043.24	Egypt
	Iceland	A	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%	680.40	0.73	13.44	0.59	695.16	Iceland
	Japan	A	13.42%	13.09%	87.48%	680.40	13,694.03	17,811.09	89,255.97	121,441.49	Japan
	Korea, Rep. of	C	3.37%	28.38%	100.00%	680.40	163.93	1,837.83	4,857.55	7,539.71	Korea, Rep. of
	Libya	D	83.56%	47.30%	0.00%	680.40	430.17	322.75	0.00	1,433.32	Libya
	Maroc	C	41.44%	68.21%	0.00%	680.40	2,012.77	4,417.97	0.00	7,111.14	Maroc
	Mexico	C	0.83%	1.61%	0.00%	680.40	40.35	104.13	0.00	824.88	Mexico
	Norway	A	0.19%	0.15%	0.03%	680.40	195.87	204.92	28.82	1,110.00	Norway
	Syrian Arab Republic	D	2.98%	2.03%	0.00%	680.40	15.34	13.83	0.00	709.57	Syrian Arab Republic
	Tunisie	C	33.87%	1.48%	0.00%	680.40	1,645.07	95.69	0.00	2,421.16	Tunisie
	Türkiye	B	95.16%	84.78%	0.00%	680.40	6,323.99	7,511.90	0.00	14,516.29	Türkiye
	Union Européenne	A	78.06%	70.55%	8.88%	680.40	79,645.11	95,971.16	9,062.86	185,359.53	Union Européenne
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	A	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	680.40	2.11	0.00	0.00	682.51	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
	United States	A	5.49%	12.44%	3.55%	680.40	5,600.45	16,928.71	3,620.52	26,830.08	United States

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

eBCD Table 4. 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

Groups	Parties^a	Average Catch^b	No. of Trade^c	Import weight^d	% of each Party^e	% of the Budget^f	Basic Fees^g (Euros)	Average Catch^h (Euros)	No. of Tradeⁱ (Euros)	Import weight^j (Euros)	Total fees^k (Euros)
A	7	19,528.27	121,485.00	85,233.42	---	88.00%	4,762.80	102,026.61	136,035.48	102,026.61	344,851.50
B	2	1,600.50	3,843.00	81.93	3.00%	6.00%	1,360.80	6,645.54	8,860.72	6,645.54	23,512.60
C	5	6,139.77	9,205.00	10,951.04	1.00%	5.00%	3,402.00	4,857.55	6,476.73	4,857.55	19,593.84
D	4	2,180.35	148.00	0.00	0.25%	1.00%	2,721.60	514.78	682.39	0.00	3,918.77
TOTAL	18	29,448.88	134,681.00	96,266.38		100.00%	12,247.20	114,044.48	152,055.32	113,529.70	391,876.71

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

eBCD Table 5. 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.

<i>Parties</i>	<i>2017</i>			<i>2018</i>			<i>2019</i>			<i>Parties</i>
	<i>East</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>Total</i>	
Albania	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
Türkiye	1,514.70		1,514.70	1,283.70		1,283.70	1,770.78		1,770.78	Türkiye
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
TOTAL	23,607.82	1,848.74	25,456.56	27,550.24	2,069.65	29,619.90	31,000.91	2,269.28	33,270.19	TOTAL

Catch figures (in t) based on Compliance Table tabled at 2020 annual meeting (Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9 of the *Report for Biennial Period 2020-2021, Part I (2020), Vol. 1*).

ANNEX: Legends

Table 2

a	Group A: Members with developed market economy, as defined by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) / Group B: Members whose GNP per capita exceeds US\$ 4,000 and whose combined catches and canning of tuna exceeds 5,000 t / Group C: Members whose GNP per capita exceeds US\$ 4,000 or whose combined catches and canning of tuna exceeds 5,000 t / Group D: Members whose GNP per capita does not exceed US\$ 4,000, and whose combined catches and canning of tuna does not exceed 5,000 t
b	Average catches (t) for 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

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

Table 4

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

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Reports from the Secretariat
 - 4.1 2022 Administrative Report
 - 4.2 2022 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. Update on Executive Secretary's contract
7. Proposed amendments to staff rules and other staff-related issues
8. Consideration of methods to ensure the availability of rapporteurs
9. Review of progress of the Virtual Working Group on Sustainable Financing
10. Consideration of financial implications of SCRS requests
11. Consideration of financial implications of ICCAT conservation and management measures proposed
12. Review and revision, as appropriate, of the budget and Contracting Party contributions for 2023
13. Other matters
14. Adoption of the report and adjournment

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

UPDATE OF ICCAT STAFF REGULATIONS AND RULES

STAFF REGULATIONS AND RULES
English version

Introduction

This volume contains the Regulations and Rules covering the Secretariat staff of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). The Rules were originally based on the United Nations Staff Regulations, and on decisions adopted at the First Regular Meeting of the Commission (Rome, November, 1969) and at the First Special Meeting of the Council (Madrid, November, 1970). The basic Rules were approved during the Second Regular Meeting of the Commission (Madrid, December, 1971). They have since been revised by the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD), recommended to the Commission as Rules and Regulations and approved by that body at its Seventh Regular Meeting (Tenerife, November 1981), for a period of one year. They were formally adopted at the Third Special Meeting of the Commission (Madeira, November, 1982). At the Twelfth Regular Meeting of the Commission (Madrid, November 1991), the Commission requested that these Staff Regulations and Rules be updated. At its Fourteenth Regular Meeting (Madrid, November 1995) the Commission approved these Staff Regulations and Rules in their entirety.

At its 12th Special Meeting (Marrakesh, November 2000), the Commission approved the revisions introduced in the texts of the Staff Regulations and Rules, which duly reflect the decisions adopted by the Commission at its 16th Regular Meeting (Rio de Janeiro, November 1999).

At its 13th Special Meeting (Bilbao, November 2002), the Commission approved the revisions introduced in the texts of the Staff Regulations and Rules.

At its 18th Regular Meeting (Dublin, November 2003), the Commission approved the revisions introduced in the texts of the Staff Regulations and Rules.

At its 14th Special Meeting (New Orleans, November 2004), the Commission approved the revisions introduced in the texts of the Staff Regulations and Rules.

At its 25th Regular Meeting (Marrakesh, November 2017), the Commission approved the revisions introduced in the texts of the Staff Regulations and Rules.

At its 23rd Special Meeting (Vale do Lobo, Portugal, November 2022), the Commission approved the revisions introduced in the texts of the Staff Regulations and Rules.

Scope and purpose

The Staff Regulations and Rules establish the fundamental working principles, conditions of service and the basic rights, duties and obligations of the staff members of the Secretariat of the Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

It will apply to staff members, which refers to persons who, having been formally appointed and receiving remuneration, render their services in the Secretariat of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (hereinafter called "The Commission").

The Executive Secretary, as the Chief Administrative Officer, shall provide and enforce such Staff Regulations and Rules consistent with these principles as they consider necessary.

Section I - Duties, obligations and privileges

Article 1 - Code of conduct

- 1.1 Formally appointed members of the Secretariat are international civil servants. By accepting appointment, they pledge themselves to discharge faithfully their duties and to adjust their conduct, bearing in mind the interests of the Commission. Staff members can be appointed permanently or for a specified time.
- 1.2 All staff members are subject to the authority of the Executive Secretary and are responsible to the person in the exercise of their functions.

- 1.3 Staff members shall at all times conduct themselves in a manner compatible with the international character of the organization. They will avoid all actions, statements or public activities which may be detrimental to the Commission and its aims.
- 1.4 Staff members are not required to renounce their national feelings nor political or religious convictions, but they must always behave with the loyalty, discretion and tact required by their international responsibilities in the discharge of their mission. They must always maintain an open, international mentality and show understanding towards the international community as a whole.

The staff members of the Commission undertake to work without prejudice with people of all nationalities, religions and cultures, and always take into account how others may interpret proposals, events and statements. Staff members are also required to avoid any expression which may be considered biased or show intolerance.

Any form of discrimination or harassment is prohibited, including sexual or gender based harassment, as well as physical or verbal abuse in the workplace or in relation to official functions.

- 1.5 In the performance of their duties, staff members may neither seek nor accept instructions from any government or authority other than the Commission.
- 1.6 Staff members shall observe maximum discretion regarding official matters, abiding by the provisions to ensure the protection of personal data, data confidentiality and the security policy which shall be regulated and developed in a specific document. They shall also show the necessary respect for the intellectual property rights of the Commission.
- 1.7 Except in the discharge of their duties or with the authorisation of the Commission, staff members shall abstain from releasing information they possess by reason of their position. They shall act with the utmost discretion in all official matters. Except in the discharge of their official duties or with the permission of the Executive Secretary, they will abstain from sharing any information that they possess as a result of their official role and that has not been made public, and at no moment will they use such information for their own gain. These obligations do not terminate on separation from service of the Commission.
- 1.8 Staff members are expected to devote themselves exclusively to the discharge of their duties in the Secretariat, any other employment being incompatible. Exceptions to the foregoing require the prior authorization of the Executive Secretary, or of the Commission when it affects the Executive Secretary.
- 1.9 Staff members may not be actively associated in the management of a business, industry, or other enterprise, or have a financial interest therein, if as a result of the official position held in the Secretariat, benefit may be derived from such association or interest. Ownership of stock in a company shall not be considered to constitute a financial interest in the meaning of this Article.
- 1.10 Normally all staff members shall have their residence at their duty station.
- 1.11 Staff members of the Commission shall act in accordance with the principle of integrity enshrined in the United Nations Charter, based on the parameters of honesty, truthfulness and incorruptibility. They shall perform their tasks competently and efficiently, in accordance with the principles of loyalty and cooperation.

Article 2 - Hours of work

- 2.1 The Executive Secretary shall establish the work schedule and alter it as conditions warrant.
- 2.2 The normal work schedule shall be eight hours daily, Monday through Friday, for a total of 40 hours weekly. This working week will consist of a minimum of 20 hours for part-time staff members. The possibility of flexible working hours is envisaged, in conditions that will be developed in an internal document.

- 2.3 In the case of modification of the work schedule, be it for conferences, summits, congresses, consultancies among other analogue circumstances, the number of working hours may not exceed 40 hours per week, and it shall be adapted to the needs of the service, taking into account the time zone of the duty country.
- 2.4 It is possible for services to be provided through "teleworking", which shall be voluntary and, in any case, must be requested and approved by the Executive Secretary or the delegated person for these requests. The conditions for the provision of services by means of "teleworking" shall be detailed in the specific document of "teleworking" policy and guidelines of the ICCAT Secretariat. This document shall indicate the duration, the means and equipment foreseen, the working hours, the means of supervision and the instructions for the performance of the specific service.

Article 3 - Holidays

- 3.1 The staff members shall be entitled to a maximum of ten holidays per year. These days shall be officially announced by the Executive Secretary at the beginning of each year. The Executive Secretary shall, to the extent possible, align them to official holidays and customs of the host country.
- 3.2 If, under special circumstances, staff members are required to work on any of these days, they shall be granted another day in lieu thereof. If any of these dates fall on a Saturday or Sunday, the holiday shall be observed on another date, to be set by the Executive Secretary subject to service needs and, if possible, staff preference.

Article 4 - Privileges and immunities

- 4.1 Staff members shall enjoy the privileges and immunities to which they are entitled under the Seat Agreement signed between the Government of the host country and the Commission. These privileges and immunities are conferred in the interests of the Organization. They furnish no excuse to the staff members who enjoy them for non-performance of their private obligations or failure to observe laws and police regulations.
- 4.2 Without prejudice to the above, in the event of any conflict concerning the application of privileges and immunities, the staff member concerned shall immediately inform the Executive Secretary, who shall decide whether to waive said application.

Section II - Classification of posts and staff

Article 5 - Staff structure

- 5.1 The Executive Secretary shall determine the functions and responsibilities, as well as the professional qualifications required for each post.
- 5.2 Staff members shall be classified in either of the following categories:
- a) *Professional or Higher category*
These are positions of high responsibility of a technical, administrative or scientific nature. These will be filled by professionals, preferably with university graduation or equivalent. Staff members in this category will normally be recruited internationally.
 - b) *General Services category*
These include auxiliary technical and administrative positions as well as clerical, secretarial and other office personnel. Normally such staff members will be recruited locally.
 - c) *Contract Personnel*
The Executive Secretary may contract for the services of temporary personnel or casual labour with short-term appointment that they deem necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the Secretariat. Whenever possible, such staff will be recruited locally.

Section III - Salaries, allowances and other remuneration

Article 6 - Salaries and allowances

6.1 Benefits under this section will be aligned with United Nations (UN) schemes and relevant provisions of the United Nations Staff Regulations and Rules, and the United Nations Administrative Manual, and shall be reflected and regularly updated in the ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules.

6.2 *Professional or Higher categories*

- a) Salary: The salary scale for staff members in the Professional or Higher categories, as approved and established by the Commission, shall be based on the most current salary schedule (for Madrid, in Euros) published by the United Nations and provided by the International Civil Service Commission. This salary schedule, which is established in U.S. dollars, is subject to post adjustment, and is payable in convertible currency.
- b) Post Adjustment: A non-pensionable post adjustment shall be applied to the salary rates of the Professional or Higher categories in accordance with the most current post adjustment information (a variable multiplier for Madrid), provided on a monthly basis by the International Civil Service Commission.
- c) Pension Fund: Staff members in the Professional or Higher categories shall also be entitled to participation in the agreed Pension Fund. The Commission's contribution to the pension shall be up to a maximum of 23.7 percent of the figure given for the staff member's corresponding grade and step in the most current schedule of "Annual Pensionable Remuneration for Professional or Higher Categories", that is provided by the International Civil Service Commission. The current contribution rate for the Commission's pension fund is 23.7 percent for staff members contracted up to 1999. For staff contracted since January 2000, the changes introduced at the Commission Meeting in Rio de Janeiro in November 1999 will be applied, such that the Commission's contribution to the pension fund will be two-thirds of the maximum and the staff member will contribute one-third.

Participation in the agreed Pension Fund is compulsory for those staff members in the Professional or Higher categories whose date of employment is on or after January 1, 1983.

In the case of staff members contracted on a fixed-term basis, an alternate pension plan may be considered, to be negotiated between the staff member and the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD).

- d) Dependency Allowance: Staff members in the Professional or Higher categories shall be entitled to a dependency allowance for each dependent child (up to the age of 21) in an amount equivalent to that in effect according to the most current U.N. salary schedule, as provided periodically by the International Civil Service Commission. The dependency allowance payable in respect of a child shall be offset or reduced by the amount of any allowance paid therefore as a social benefit for a source external to the Commission.
- e) Medical, accident and disability insurance: Adequate medical, accident and disability insurance are compulsory for all staff members in the Professional or Higher categories. The Commission will contribute up to 2.5 percent of net base salary for these benefits. Each staff member is required to furnish to the Executive Secretary appropriate documentation of their current medical, accident and disability insurance.

6.3 *General Services Category*

- a) **Salary:** The salary scale for staff members in the General Services category, as approved and established by the Commission, shall be based on the most current salary schedule (for Madrid, in Euros) published by the United Nations, and provided by the International Civil Service Commission. Salaries for staff members in this category are payable in local currency.
- b) **Language Allowance:** Staff members in the General Services category appointed for one year or more shall normally be entitled to receive a pensionable language allowance, at a flat rate, as determined by the United Nations and provided by the International Civil Service Commission, for duly proven proficiency in more than one official language of the Commission.
- c) **Pension Fund:** Staff members in the General Services category shall be entitled to participation in the agreed Pension Fund. The Commission's contribution to pension shall be up to a maximum of 23.7 percent of the total net base salary and, where applicable, the language allowance, according to the staff member's grade and step, as given in the most current salary schedule for the General Services category for Madrid, that is provided by the International Civil Service Commission. The current contribution rate for the Commission's Pension Fund is 23.7 percent for staff members contracted up to 1999. For staff contracted since January 2000, the changes introduced at the Commission Meeting in Rio de Janeiro in November 1999 will be applied, such that the Commission's contribution to the Pension Fund will be two-thirds of the maximum and the staff member will contribute one-third. As this General Services staff salary schedule is established in Euros, the amount applied towards pension is converted to U.S. dollars at the official U.S. dollar exchange rate provided on a monthly basis by the International Civil Service Commission.

Participation in the agreed Pension Fund is compulsory for those staff members in the General Services category whose date of employment is on or after 1 January, 1983. By exception, those staff members who are nationals or residents of the country of the duty station could choose, at the time of their hiring, to take part in the Public Social Security System of the duty station, if this System so admits at that time. This choice will be unique and irrevocable.

Due to differences that could exist, in the costs as well as in contingencies covered by the Public Social Security System, the staff members who ultimately choose to take part in this System will not have the right to medical insurance, to accident and personal liability insurance regulated in paragraph e) of this same article and paragraph, and their salary will be adjusted such that the cost to the Commission is the same as if the staff member had not elected to take part in the Public Social Security System.

In the case of staff members contracted on a fixed-term basis, an alternate pension plan may be considered, to be negotiated between the staff member and the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD).

- d) **Dependency Allowance:** Staff members in the General Services category shall be entitled to a dependency allowance for each dependent child (up to the age of 21) at a flat rate per annum, as provided periodically by the International Civil Service Commission. The dependency allowance payable in respect of a child shall be offset or reduced by the amount of any allowance paid therefore as a social benefit for a source external to the Commission.
- e) **Medical, accident and disability insurance:** Adequate medical, accident and disability insurance are compulsory for all staff members in the General Services category. The Commission will contribute up to 2.5 percent of net base salary for these benefits, except for those staff members who take part in the Public Social Security System. Each staff member is required to furnish to the Executive Secretary appropriate documentation of their current medical, accident and disability insurance.

6.4 *Contract Personnel*

The Executive Secretary shall determine the salary rates and the terms and conditions of employment applicable to such short-term, contracted personnel, which shall be stated in the contract or reference document.

Article 7 - Overtime

- 7.1 As a general rule, staff members will not receive additional compensation for hours of work performed beyond the normal 40-hours work week.
- 7.2 When, at the request of the Executive Secretary, staff members are required to work more than 40 hours per week and as warranted by special circumstances involving the needs of the service, such additional hours of work shall be compensated:
- a) With compensatory time off equal to the number of additional hours of work performed computed at one and a half times the normally scheduled hours, or
 - b) With remuneration for each hour of additional work performed, the rate of which will be computed at one and a half times the normally scheduled hourly rate.
- 7.3 Staff members in the Professional category are only eligible for compensatory time off as applicable in paragraph a) above. A maximum of 12 days in compensatory time off can be carried over from one calendar year to the next; compensatory time off cannot be accumulated between consecutive years. In exceptional cases, the Executive Secretary, with the approval of the STACFAD Chair, may authorise carryover of more than 12 days of compensatory time but this cannot be accumulated between consecutive years.

Article 8 – Periodic step increase in salary

- 8.1 The salary for staff members in the Professional or Higher and General Services categories shall be that of the initial step for the corresponding grade of the staff member, beginning at Step 1.
- 8.2 Only in very special cases and upon the basis of a proposal and justification by the Executive Secretary, after consulting with the Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD), may a staff member be initially employed at a higher step than Step 1 of the grade.
- 8.3 Performance appraisal is fundamental to the professional development of staff members, as well as to ensuring their accountability. Staff members will be appraised annually, first by the Head of Department and then by the Executive Secretary, through performance appraisal mechanisms that take into account their performance, as well as whenever required by the work situation or performance of individual staff members. Supervisors shall regularly provide constructive feedback to personnel on their performance and make specific proposals for improvement in performance and conduct, as necessary.

The Executive Secretary shall ensure that appropriate training, development and recognition programmes are available to all staff members.

Professional or Higher categories:

- 8.4 Periodic step increases in salary within each grade (Step Increase) for staff members in the Professional or Higher categories are granted automatically on an annual basis, according to the U.N. salary schedule, payable on the anniversary date of such service, as long as performance has been considered satisfactory by the Executive Secretary.

General Services category:

- 8.5 For staff members in the General Services category, periodic step increases in salary within each grade (Step Increase) are granted automatically on an annual basis until reaching the last top regular step, as long as performance has been considered satisfactory by the Executive Secretary. Thereafter, the qualifying criterion for an in-grade increase to the long-service step, as defined in the U.N. salary schedule, is that the staff member remain at the top regular step of the current grade for at least three years.
- 8.6 Upon completion of the at least three years at the top long-service step of a given U.N. General Services grade, and as long as performance has been considered satisfactory by the Executive Secretary, the staff members in the General Services category are entitled to be upgraded to the next grade, at the corresponding step whose net base salary is at least equal to, but not less than, the staff member's current net base salary.

Article 9 - Remuneration adjustments

- 9.1 Any change in the staff structure and corresponding remuneration requires the prior approval of the Commission, and it may be retroactive.
- 9.2 Commission approval is not required for salary adjustments when these apply to staff structure and scales already approved by the Commission.

Article 10 - Tax exemption

- 10.1 Salaries are exempt from payment of taxes under pertinent agreements between the Commission and the host country. In the event staff members are required to pay taxes to the host country, they will be reimbursed for such taxes by the Commission. However, reimbursements for such taxes will be limited to that portion which affects income derived from the Commission.

Section IV - Other benefits

Article 11 - Trip expenses for internationally recruited staff members

- 11.1 The Commission shall cover the travel expenses for arrival of the internationally recruited staff member and family from place of recruitment to the duty station and return thereto.

Article 12 - Settling-in compensation

- 12.1 The Commission shall contribute toward the expenses related to the initial settling-in costs of staff members who, upon appointment, were not residing within commuting distance of the duty station. This allowance may be up to a maximum of 30 days of per diem at the U.N. daily subsistence allowance rate prevailing on the day of arrival at the duty station. Payment, in local currency, is based on the most current daily subsistence allowance rate for the duty station, as provided periodically by the International Civil Service Commission.

Article 13 - Shipment of household goods

- 13.1 The Commission shall pay for shipment of household goods and personal effects from place of recruitment to the duty station of the internationally recruited staff member serving outside their home country. Such shipment (which will not exceed 5,000 kg for a staff member with dependents or 3,000 kg for a staff member without dependents) shall be effected by the most appropriate and economical means.
- 13.2 Likewise, upon separation from service, the internationally recruited staff member shall have expenses covered for the return of household goods and personal effects to the place of recruitment.

Article 14 - Non-resident allowance

- 14.1 When in judgment of the Executive Secretary, shipment of household goods to the duty station as provided in Article 13.1 is not warranted, or in case of the staff member electing, in writing, not to take advantage of the entitlement, the staff member will be paid an annual non-resident allowance as follows:

<i>Category</i>	<i>Staff member without recognized dependents (US \$)</i>	<i>Staff member with recognized dependents(US \$)</i>
P-5 and above	1,100	1,400
P-3 and P-4	950	1,200
P-1 and P-2	900	1,000
General Services	350	350

- 14.2 This allowance will be paid for each of the first five years of service. The staff member receiving payment of this allowance will not be entitled to future shipment of household goods.

Article 15 - Assignment allowance weight limits

- 15.1 In those cases where, in accordance with Article 14, a non-resident allowance is being paid, the staff member may be authorized shipment of personal effects for arrival at post and for repatriation. Surface transportation shall be authorized as follows:

Staff member only:	600 kg or 3.75 m ³
Dependent spouse:	400 kg or 2.49 m ³
Each dependent child:	200 kg or 1.25 m ³
Global maximum	1,600 kg or 9.96 m ³

- 15.2 Any staff member electing this provision will only be entitled to the same weights and limitations upon repatriation.

Article 16 - Education grant

- 16.1 An education grant is available to internationally recruited staff members serving outside their home country to cover a part of the cost of educating children in full -time attendance at an educational institution. The grant is payable up to the end of the fourth year of post-secondary studies or the award of a recognized first level degree, whichever is earlier, subject to a maximum age limit of 25 years. The amount of the grant is equivalent to 75 percent of allowable costs, subject to the maximum amounts indicated in the table on "Education Grant Entitlement" that is annexed to the United Nations Staff Regulations and Rules.

- 16.2 This education grant shall not be paid:

- a) In respect of children of staff members serving in their home country;
- b) In respect of attendance at a public (state) school or at a university in the country of the duty station;
- c) For correspondence courses or private tutoring; or when schooling does not require regular attendance at an educational institution; or
- d) In respect of education expenses covered from scholarship grants or subsidies from other sources.

- 16.3 Benefits under this section will be aligned with United Nations (UN) schemes and relevant provisions of the United Nations Staff Regulations and Rules, and United Nations Administrative Manual, and shall be reflected and regularly updated in the ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules.

- 16.4 A special education grant may be paid to a staff member whose child, because of disability, is unable to attend regular educational institutions and therefore requires special education or training.

16.5 An education grant may also be paid, in conditions established by the Executive Secretary, to staff members who are obliged to pay for tuition to teach their mother tongue to a dependent child that attends a local school at the duty station and is taught in a different language.

16.6 This clause is not applicable for temporary staff members.

Article 17 - Education travel

17.1 Staff members in the Professional or Higher categories, serving outside their recognized home country, whose dependent children are in full-time attendance at a school, or university or similar institution, located outside the country of the duty station, are entitled to educational travel for a total of one round trip per scholastic year, in the conditions established by the Executive Secretary. If it is not possible for the child to travel to the duty station, the staff member will be allowed to instead take one round trip to the child's place of study, in the conditions established by the Executive Secretary.

17.2 For the purpose of this Article, travel will be at the most economical and practical rate, and the cost will not exceed that between the duty station and the point from which the staff member was recruited. However, should cost of travel be less than entitlement, only actual cost will be payable.

Article 18 - Representation expenses

18.1 The Commission will pay for duly justified representation expenses incurred by the Executive Secretary or Assistant Executive Secretary or staff members representing the Secretariat in the fulfilment of their duties.

Section V - Recruitment and appointment

Article 19 - Appointment of the Executive Secretary

19.1 In accordance with Article VII of the ICCAT Convention, the Commission shall appoint the Executive Secretary, and establish tenure, remuneration, and those other conditions of employment as appropriate.

19.2 The Executive Secretary will serve a one-year probationary period. Upon completion of the probationary period, satisfactory to both parties, the Commission will confirm their appointment and the terms thereof.

19.3 Either party may terminate the appointment upon six months written notice.

Article 20 - Appointment of other staff members

20.1 The Executive Secretary shall select and appoint all staff members.

20.2 Staff members selected shall initially be given one-year probationary appointment. Upon satisfactory completion of the probationary period, the Executive Secretary shall confirm their appointment and the terms thereof. During that period, either party may terminate the appointment upon one month's written notice.

20.3 The Executive Secretary is empowered to delegate to the Assistant Executive Secretary those duties they consider necessary to achieve the most efficient operation of the Secretariat.

20.4 The utmost consideration in the recruitment and appointment of staff members shall be the need to secure the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity. The recruitment and appointment of staff members shall be carried out without distinction of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, religion, age, political affiliation or social status.

Article 21 - Terms of appointment

- 21.1 Upon being appointed either on a fixed-term or continuing basis, each staff member shall receive a letter of appointment that states:
- a) That the appointment is subject to the provisions of the Staff Regulations and Rules applicable to the category of appointment in question, and to changes which may be duly made in such Regulations and Rules from time to time;
 - b) The nature of the appointment;
 - c) The date at which the staff member is required to report for duty;
 - d) The period of appointment, the notice required to terminate it and the period of probation, if any;
 - e) The category, grade, commencing rate of salary and the scale of increments;
 - f) Any special conditions that may be applicable.
- 21.2 A copy of the Staff Regulations and Rules shall be transmitted to the staff member with the letter of appointment. In accepting appointment the staff member shall acknowledge having been made acquainted with, and confirm acceptance, in writing, of the conditions laid down in these Staff Regulations and Rules.

Article 22 - Age limits

- 22.1 Appointments shall not be granted to persons under 18 years of age or over the mandatory retirement age of 65.

Article 23 - Medical examination

- 23.1 Following initial selection and prior to appointment, all prospective staff members shall submit to a medical examination and present a certificate stating that they have no disease which might prevent them from performing their duties, or which will endanger the health of others.
- 23.2 Staff members shall undergo a routine medical examination from time to time in order to ensure capability to continue performance of their duties within the Secretariat. This medical examination may be at the expense of the Commission, if such an examination cannot be covered by the staff member's own medical insurance.

Section VI – Leave

Article 24 - Annual leave

- 24.1 Staff members shall be entitled to annual leave with pay at a rate of two and one-half workdays for each full month of service. Annual leave is cumulative, but unused leave in excess of 60 workdays may not be carried beyond the end of each calendar year.
- 24.2 Annual leave shall be authorized by the Executive Secretary who, insofar as possible, shall bear in mind the personal circumstances, needs and preferences of the staff members.
- 24.3 A staff member may, in exceptional circumstances, be granted advance annual leave up to a maximum of two weeks, provided that the services thereof are expected to continue for the period necessary to accrue the leave as advanced.
- 24.4 The leave period shall not cause an interruption of normal Secretariat operations. In accordance with this principle, the leave dates shall be subject to the exigencies of the service.
- 24.5 Any unauthorized absence from duty not provided for in these Staff Regulations and Rules shall be deducted from annual leave. Any unauthorized and unjustified absence shall be considered leave without pay, independently of any other action that may be taken under Section IX of these Staff Regulations and Rules.

Article 25 - Sick leave

- 25.1 No staff member shall be granted sick leave for a period of more than three consecutive days and more than a total of seven working days in any period of 12 months without producing a medical certificate.
- 25.2 Non-certified absences in excess of the number of days specified in this Article shall be deducted from the staff member's annual leave or, in the absence of sufficient annual leave, charged as special leave without pay.
- 25.3 Staff members are entitled to sick leave, with an appropriate medical certificate, but such leave will not exceed 12 months in any four consecutive years. The first six months of such leave in this period of four years shall be on full salary, and the second six months shall be on half salary. No more than four months on full salary shall normally be granted in any period of 12 consecutive months.
- 25.4 Sick leaves that exceed 12 months within any period of four consecutive years shall be considered special leave without pay. At the end of the period of sick leave, the staff member shall submit a medical certificate of discharge to support their recovery so as to become an active staff member again.

Article 26 – Maternity, paternity and adoption leave

- 26.1 Staff members shall be entitled to maternity leave for a period of four months. This period shall be extended by an additional two weeks in the case of a multiple birth or the birth of a baby with a disability. This period may commence up to eight weeks prior to the anticipated date of birth. During this period the staff member shall continue to receive full pay and corresponding allowances, including accumulation of annual leave.
- 26.2 Staff members shall be entitled to paternity leave for a period of six weeks on a full-time basis or twelve weeks on a part-time basis. During this leave, staff members shall receive their full salary and corresponding allowances, including accumulation of annual leave.
- 26.3 Staff members shall be entitled to adoption leave for a maximum duration of eight weeks. During this leave, staff members shall receive their full salary and corresponding allowances, including accumulation of annual leave.

Article 27 - Home leave

- 27.1 Travel expenses to the home country on annual leave shall be granted following completion of 18 months of service and, following this, at two-year intervals thereafter for internationally recruited Professional staff members and their recognized dependents subject to the following:
- a) Dependents who have been granted education travel under Article 17 shall not be eligible unless they have resided at the duty station for at least six months prior to travel.
 - b) It is expected that the staff member will return to the duty station to continue rendering services for a minimum additional period of 12 months.
- 27.2 The possibility may also be studied of combining official travel on Commission business with home leave, as long as the interests of the staff member and family are duly borne in mind.

Article 28 - Special Leave

- 28.1 Death of a first or second degree relative: Special leave shall be granted for the death of a first or second degree relative, of five days, without signing for annual leave.
- 28.2 Illness of a family member: Leave taken for illness of a family member shall be considered annual leave. In special cases, the Executive Secretary shall authorize special leave for grave illness or hospitalization of a first degree relative.

- 28.3 The Executive Secretary may grant special leave to staff members for studies or research of interest to the Commission, for family reasons or for other exceptional or important reasons, such as prolonged illness. However, the interests of the service to which the staff member concerned is assigned must be safeguarded.
- 28.4 Special leave is without pay. In exceptional cases of benefit to the Commission, special leave with full or partial pay may be granted.

Section VII - Travel and transportation

Article 29 - Authorization for official travel

- 29.1 All official travel shall be authorized in advance by the Executive Secretary.

Article 30 - Transportation and reimbursement of expenses for official travel

- 30.1 In principle, air transportation by the most direct and economical route shall be regarded as the normal mode for all official travel. Nevertheless, the use of another means of transport may be authorized by the Executive Secretary if they deem that it is in the interest of the Commission. Normally, tourist class shall be used for air travel. For staff members in the Professional or Higher categories, air travel in Class C (Affaire, Club or similar) may be authorized. Only in exceptional cases, and subject to the approval of the Executive Secretary, may higher class air travel be used.
- 30.2 Staff members on official travel shall receive an appropriate daily subsistence allowance, in accordance with a schedule of rates established periodically by the International Civil Service Commission. For official missions, the time zone shall be taken into account, and the work day shall be divided into four six-hour units for the purpose of calculating the amount accrued by completed units. The rate of the daily subsistence allowance shall be that which is applicable at the location where the staff member lodges for the night.
- 30.3 The Executive Secretary may authorize the reimbursement of other indispensable ordinary travel expenses that are duly justified.
- 30.4 Daily subsistence allowance is not paid for any period of annual leave taken during travel status, except when combined with an official mission (see Article 27.2).
- 30.5 Actual travel time spent during any day of the week is not charged against annual leave, nor is annual leave charged for stopovers authorized for rest purposes when travel is by air.

Section VIII - Separation from service

Article 31 - Voluntary separation from service

- 31.1 The Executive Secretary may separate from service by giving six months' advance to the Commission. (See Article 19.3.)
- 31.2 Staff members in the Professional category may separate from service by giving three months' advance notice to the Executive Secretary.
- 31.3 Staff members in the General Services category may separate from service by giving two-month's advance notice to the Executive Secretary.

Article 32 - Termination of employment by the Executive Secretary

- 32.1 The Executive Secretary may terminate the appointment of a staff member in the Professional category by giving three months' advance written notice, and a two months' advance written notice in the case of staff members in the General Services category, when they deem this to be in the interest of the Commission due to restructuring of the Secretariat or for other valid reasons.

Article 33 - Separation from service due to retirement

33.1 Staff members shall not be retained in active service beyond the age of 65 years, unless the Executive Secretary, and in their case the Commission, in the interests of the Organization, extends this age limit in exceptional cases. Normally, such extension will be one year at a time. However, staff members may elect to retire from the age of 60 years. Staff members included in the Spanish Public Social Security System may extend the age of retirement in accordance with the rules in force of the Spanish Public social Security System.

Article 34 - Termination indemnity

34.1 A staff member whose appointment is terminated upon abolition of post, reduction of staff, or in the interest of the good administration of the Commission shall receive an indemnity equivalent to a rate of one month's net base salary for each full year of service, not to exceed 12 months.

34.2 In case of termination of appointment for reasons other than those specified above, the decision shall be made jointly by the Chair of the Commission, the Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) and the Executive Secretary as to whether an indemnity is payable.

34.3 If, upon separation, a staff member has an accrued annual leave credit, compensation for the period of such accrued leave, up to a maximum of 60 working days, shall be paid in lieu thereof.

34.4 In no case will a termination indemnity be paid to:

- a) A staff member who resigns, except where resignation notice has been duly given and the termination date agreed upon;
- b) A staff member whose fixed-term appointment is completed on the expiration date or terminated during the probationary period specified in the letter of appointment;
- c) A staff member who is summarily dismissed for disciplinary reasons or continued unsatisfactory services.
- d) A staff member who abandons their post;
- e) A staff member who retires under the provisions of the agreed Pension Fund.

Article 35 - Repatriation

35.1 In principle, a repatriation grant shall be payable to staff members whom the Commission is obliged to repatriate, and who take up residence in a country other than that of the duty station. The repatriation grant shall not, however, be paid to a staff member who is summarily dismissed.

35.2 The amount of the grant shall be proportionate to the length of service with the Commission according to the following scale:

<i>Completed years of continuous service away from home country</i>	<i>Staff members with no recognized dependants at time of separation Weeks of salary (net base)</i>	<i>Staff members with spouse &/or one or more dependent children at time of separation Weeks of salary (net base)</i>
1	3	4
2	5	8
3	6	10
4	7	12
5	8	14
6	9	16
7	10	18
8	11	20
9	13	22
10	14	24
11	15	26
12 or more	16 (maximum)	28 (maximum)

35.3 If the staff member elects not to be repatriated, no grant is payable.

Article 36 - Death of a staff member

36.1 In the event of death of a staff member, the effective date of separation is the day of death, when all salary and related emoluments and benefits shall cease.

- a) *Shipment of remains:* Upon the death of a staff member, or death of the spouse or that of dependent children, whom the Commission is obligated to repatriate, the Commission shall pay the expenses of transportation of the remains from the duty station, or the place of death if death occurs while the staff member travelling on official business, to the place recognized by the Commission as the staff member's home for purposes of home leave.
- b) *Family indemnity to surviving dependents:* If death results in a situation not covered by appropriate insurance and the deceased leaves any recognized dependents, a family indemnity is payable in accordance with the following scale:

<i>Years of service</i>	<i>Months of net salary</i>
3 or less	3 (minimum)
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	7
8	8
9 or more	9 (maximum)

- c) *Repatriation of surviving dependents:* Upon the death of a staff member whom the Commission is obliged to repatriate, the Commission shall pay the expenses of repatriation of the surviving dependents from the duty station, provided that the costs do not exceed those to the place recognized by the Commission as the staff member's home for purposes of home leave, or, in case no home leave entitlement exists, the place from which personal effects or household goods were shipped. If the family elects not to be repatriated, no grant is payable.

Section IX - Disciplinary measures

Article 37

- 37.1 The Executive Secretary may establish an administrative machinery with staff participation which will be available to advise in disciplinary cases.
- 37.2 The Executive Secretary may impose disciplinary measures (suspension without pay, demotion, or dismissal) on staff members whose conduct is unsatisfactory, and may summarily dismiss a staff member for serious misconduct.
- 37.3 Staff members who are suspended without pay as a disciplinary measure shall not accrue service credits towards annual, sick, home leave, family visit travel, salary increment, separation payments schedule, termination indemnity or repatriation grant during the period.
- 37.4 Staff members whose appointments are terminated by the Executive Secretary or by the Commission, or who are demoted or suspended, shall be entitled to a written statement of cause at the time the notice is given, and an opportunity to reply in writing.

Section X - Conflict resolution

Article 38 - Conflict resolution

- 38.1 Informal settlement of disputes. Conciliation procedure.

A staff member who:

- (i) believes that they have been subjected to discriminatory or harassing decisions or attitudes; or
- (ii) wishes to request a review of an administrative decision other than a disciplinary measure,

is encouraged to seek to resolve the situation through informal conflict resolution, without prejudice to the right to request a review of the matter under article 38.2. Recourse to informal conflict resolution shall not in any way affect the time limits laid down for the purposes of article 38.2, which shall remain unchanged.

The Executive Secretary shall deal with the request by assuming the role of mediator, or by appointing a mediator if they are a party to the dispute, with a view to reaching a solution satisfactory to all parties involved.

38.2 Formal settlement of disputes

A staff member who:

- (i) considers that they have been subjected to discriminatory or harassing decisions or attitudes; or
- (ii) wishes to request a review of an administrative decision other than a disciplinary measure,

may make a formal complaint for settlement of the conflict in accordance with the following scheme of appeals:

1. Appeal at first instance to an internal body of the Secretariat, which shall be composed of an odd number of members drawn equally from the different departments of the Secretariat and shall be chaired by the STACFAD Chair. The procedure for constitution of this body, the potential reasons for abstention and recusal of its members, the length of the appointment, and all other procedural matters shall be regulated and developed in a specific document.
2. In the event of disagreement with the decision taken by the internal body set up to resolve the complaint at first instance, an appeal may be lodged at second instance before the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) based in The Hague (The Netherlands). The procedure is regulated in the PCA Arbitration Rules.

38.3 Calculation of time limits. Time limits for formal settlement of disputes shall be calculated from the day after a document is received or a decision is communicated. Time limits shall be counted in calendar days.

Where a time limit is expressed in a certain number of days, it shall expire on the last day of the calculated time.

Section XI – Application, amendment and recourse of these Staff Regulations and Rules

Article 39 - Application

39.1 These Staff Regulations and Rules shall be applicable to all staff members.

39.2 Any doubts arising from application of these Staff Regulations and Rules shall be resolved by the Executive Secretary following consultation with the Chair of the Commission and the Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD).

Article 40 - Amendment

- 40.1 These Regulations and Rules may be supplemented or amended, but without prejudice to the acquired rights of staff members.
- 40.2 The amendment of these Staff Regulations and Rules shall be in conformity with the relevant decisions of the Commission.
- 40.3 Amendments in the text of these Staff Regulations and Rules must be formally approved by the Commission.

Section XII - General provisions***Article 41 - Financial responsibility***

- 41.1 Staff members may be required to reimburse the Commission either partially or in full for any financial loss suffered as a result of their negligence or of their having violated any regulations, rule or administrative procedure.

Article 42 - Service evaluation reports

- 42.1 The service of a staff member shall be the subject of evaluation reports made by the Executive Secretary in accordance with article 8.3 of these Staff Regulations and Rules. Such reports, which shall be shown to the staff member, shall form part of the staff member's permanent cumulative record.

Article 43 - Proprietary rights

- 43.1 All rights, including title, copyright and patent rights, in any work produced by staff members as part of their official duties shall be vested in the Commission.

Article 44 - Unforeseen matters

- 44.1 For all matters not specifically foreseen in these ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules, or in case of doubt in the interpretation of the modalities of application of the Staff Regulations and Rules, the Executive Secretary shall be guided by the practice followed in the other organizations of the United Nations common system, as well as in other intergovernmental organizations.

SCRS research activities requiring funding for 2023**2023 SCRS requests**

This revised 2023 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 €416,635 through the regular budget and approval of an extension request to the current grant agreement with the EU (Project 101088108) due to the impact of the pandemic on the 2021 and 2022 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 2023 Science budget. Therefore, the total revised budget of the 2023 Science Envelope will be €2,133,500, of which €1,250,000 corresponds to bluefin tuna (GBYP).

Activity	Biology								Other fisheries related studies	Assessment	MSE	Workshops	Total
	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 (ALBYP)	40,000	10,000	10,000		5,000			65,000			30,000		95,000
Bluefin tuna (GBYP)	160,000		20,000	90,000	80,000	475,000		825,000	365,000		40,000	20,000	1,250,000
Billfish (EPBR)	36,000		5,000		2,500		2,500	46,000	5,000	10,000		20,000	81,000
Sharks (SDCRP)	10,000	10,000	2,000	25,000	2,000			49,000		10,000		20,000	79,000
Small tunas		7,500	7,500	7,500	10,000			32,500				20,000	52,500
Swordfish (SWOYP)	20,000	5,000	25,000	80,000	5,000			135,000			100,000	15,000	250,000
Tropicals tunas	50,000		15,000					65,000		10,000	75,000	50,000	200,000
SC Ecosystems								0	30,000			30,000	60,000
SC Statistics								0		6,000			6,000
Stock Assessment Methods								0	30,000		30,000		60,000
Total	316,000	32,500	84,500	202,500	104,500	475,000	2,500	1,217,500	430,000	36,000	275,000	175,000	2,133,500

REPORTS OF THE MEETINGS OF PANELS 1 TO 4

8.1 Report of the meeting of Panel 1

1. Opening of the meeting

Mr. Paul Bannerman (Ghana), the Chair of Panel 1, opened the meeting.

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Ms. Scarlett Milner-Stopps (UK) was appointed as Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The Panel reviewed the draft agenda presented.

Japan noted, with regards to agenda item 7, that in 2021 they had raised concerns about the interpretation of catch limits which was referred to Panel 1 but not discussed. Japan asked that the Chair of Panel 1 coordinate closely with the Compliance Committee Chair to ensure all items are brought forward.

The meeting Agenda was then adopted without further query (**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, which were all in attendance.

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

The SCRS Chair, Dr Gary Melvin, presented the SCRS report on tropical tunas (yellowfin, bigeye, and skipjack). This presentation summarised the state of the yellowfin and bigeye tuna stocks, explained the results of the 2022 Skipjack Stock Assessment ([Anon., 2022a](#)), and then summarised responses to the Commission, the SCRS workplan, and progress on the MSE process.

The 2019 Yellowfin Stock Assessment ([Anon., 2020a](#)) observed ages up to 18 years. Catches decreased from 156,692 t in 2020 to 110,602 t in 2021. Purse seine vessels targeting tropical tunas in the eastern Atlantic increased in the last five years but declined in 2021, and catches were above the TAC from 2014 to 2020. The stock is considered not to be overfished, and no overfishing is occurring, although it is close to the value for MSY. A TAC of 120,000 t is expected to maintain a healthy stock status through 2033 with at least 63% probability. Overages are frequent and significant, and the SCRS suggested that the Commission increase management measures to overcome this issue. The SCRS cautioned that increased harvests on small yellowfin and bigeye tunas will have negative consequences on both long-term sustainable yield and stock status. If the Commission wishes to increase long-term sustainable yield, effective measures to reduce fishing mortality on small yellowfin and bigeye tuna should be found.

The latest bigeye stock assessment was done in 2021, based on data up to 2019 (Anon., 2021a). Catches were updated from 1950-2020. Nominal catches for bigeye exceeded the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) (65,000 t) between 2016 and 2019 by 13-21%. In 2020 the catch was approximately 9% below the TAC. In 2021, there was a significant drop in the catches (16% below the TAC). The geographical distribution of bigeye catch over the last 10 years did not change significantly. The stock trajectory is on the border between no overfishing and overfishing, and overall, the stock is overfished but overfishing is not occurring. The maximum sustainable yield (MSY) is 86,833 t, which the current (2020) yield is significantly below, at 57,486 t. A future constant catch of 61,500 t (the TAC established in the *Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 16-01 by ICCAT on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas* (Rec. 19-02)) will have a high probability (97%) of maintaining the stock in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot by 2034. However, Dr Melvin emphasised that the current status is more uncertain than advised in the tables, and that the projected probabilities should be taken with caution.

Dr Melvin summarised the 2022 stock assessment for Atlantic skipjack. This was the first full assessment conducted for both eastern and western stocks, using fishery data from 1950-2020 and 1952-2020, respectively. There has been a general decline in the total skipjack catch in the last 3 years, substantially in the East, which is attributed to the purse seine catch. In the East, the stock is not overfished and overfishing is not occurring, and while the stock status is the same for western Atlantic skipjack, the catch level in the West is around half the MSY.

Dr Melvin highlighted the MSY level on the Kobe phase plot, showing a relatively high probability of maintaining green by 2028 if the stocks are fished at MSY (55% in the East and 70% in the West). However, given the large uncertainty, the probability of the eastern stock biomass being below 20% of B_{MSY} in 2028 is about 17%, and the probability of stock biomass being below 10% in 2028 was about 14%.

Dr Melvin also cautioned that catches of skipjack will have an impact on juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tuna, especially in the purse seine floating object (FOB) fisheries.

Dr Melvin reported on the status of the multi-stock MSE for tropical tunas, which is not as advanced as the western skipjack MSE, though preliminary conditioning has been completed for the operating models. He highlighted the need for continued training for scientists and managers as the MSE process continues. Dr Melvin also presented the MSE road map for 2022-2024, which would be discussed during the Commission meeting.

Dr Melvin explained the various responses to the Commission. He highlighted the need for CPCs to provide reports of historic fish aggregating devices (FAD)/FOB data as per *Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 19-02 replacing Recommendation 16-01 on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas* (Rec. 21-01), as these data remain incomplete. Overall, the proportion of juvenile catches was much higher for FOB than free-school fishing for both bigeye and yellowfin tuna. Catches of juvenile bigeye are greater in the first and fourth quarter and catches of juvenile yellowfin are greater in the fourth quarter. The SCRS was unable to analyse the maximum number of FAD sets which should be established per vessel or per CPC as there were no improvements in the information available. The SCRS was also unable to determine which support vessels were active. Dr Melvin noted that recent assessments of skipjack and yellowfin tuna have slightly changed assumptions about the size of 50% maturity, which is significant because the size indicates the juvenile fish. The Committee estimates that the current capacity for large-scale purse seine fisheries is higher than necessary to meet current catch recommendations. The 2022 capacity estimate is similar to the 2020 capacity, and lower than the capacity estimate in 2021.

One CPC mentioned the importance of interpretation at the SCRS meeting, which should be taken with much caution. There was some discussion of the debate around the maximum age of bigeye, which has similarly been discussed within the SCRS. The SCRS had decided to include it as an uncertainty, given limitations of overall sampling, but these biological indicators will be looked at further. The Executive Secretary indicated that uncertainty around the number of registered authorised vessels was because not all CPCs had provided Task 2 data.

Some CPCs also reiterated the importance of scientists and managers receiving further training on the MSE process, which Dr Melvin encouraged the new SCRS Chair, Dr Craig Brown, to continue, while noting the SCRS's busy calendar for 2023. One CPC was concerned that conducting the swordfish and multi-stock tropical tunas MSE at the same time might be too difficult for the SCRS, and the SCRS Chair also agreed with these difficulties.

Several CPCs expressed concern at the lack of historical FAD set and Task 2 data provided to the Committee, which was echoed by Dr Melvin. One CPC suggested revising the FAD data reporting requirements. Another CPC recalled that the 2018 SCRS referred to the impact of the increase in catches of eastern skipjack on juvenile catches. Dr Melvin indicated that the incoming SCRS Chair could consider whether this impact of juvenile catches would be beneficial to revise going forwards.

The first session concluded on this Agenda item.

6. Review of the reports of the Intersessional Meetings of Panel 1 and consideration of any necessary actions

The Chair of Panel 1 summarised the main aspects of the 2022 Intersessional Meetings of Panel 1. These are available on the ICCAT website ([Report of the 2022 Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1](#) and [Report of the Second 2022 Intersessional Meeting of Panel 1](#)).

Some CPCs had expressed problems with reviewing the Chair's comments and had asked the Chair to produce a composite text including all comments received from CPCs. The Chair produced the document "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 21-01 on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas", including all comments by CPCs proposed during intersessional meetings and between the intersessional meetings and the Annual Meeting.

7. Review of Compliance Tables

The Chair of Panel 1 stated that this review would be done within the Compliance Committee meetings.

In a later session of this Panel, one CPC raised concern that only major harvesters in Group A had fully implemented the catch limit reductions set forth by Recommendation 19-02. This CPC noted, only category A, containing CPCs who had fixed limits prior to the system change in 2019, had implemented the required cuts. This lack of implementation would skew the allocation figures for groups B, C, and D. Another CPC asked that the Secretariat ensure there is a payback of 125% when a CPC has an overage for two years in a row. The Secretariat clarified that reduction was not applied to category D, as this group of CPCs catch under 1,000 t and are not subject to defined or specified quotas. The first CPC stated that the numbers in this document show categories B and C have not made these cuts, as following Rec. 19-02, CPCs catching greater than 10,000 t (group A) should apply a 21% reduction, those with averages greater than 3,500 t (group B) should apply a 17% reduction, and those catching between 1,000 t and 3,500 t (group C) should apply 10% less than recent average catches. Using Brazil as an example, this CPC suggested that Brazil has not implemented the required reductions. Brazil asked that the Secretariat produce a table to confirm the correct catch levels, so that further clarification could be provided in the Compliance Committee, if required. Another CPC noted that any non-compliance would be in the documents "Secretariat's Report to the ICCAT Conservation and Management Compliance Committee" or the "2021 Compliance Tables received in 2022". A third CPC stated that the figures in this latter document were different to those in the Secretariat's October paper, so reiterated the need for the Secretariat to produce a paper to calculate each CPC's catch limits.

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

Tropical tunas measure

The Chair of Panel 1 summarised the main points of his composite text the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 21-01 on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas”, which focused on the conservation measures for bigeye tuna but also included measures for yellowfin tuna. Many CPCs indicated they could agree on a bigeye tuna TAC of 70,000 t, while others advocated for a TAC as high as 75,000 t. Some CPCs highlighted that the other control measures within the proposal are equally as important and need to be considered by the Commission, with one CPC emphasising that it would be important to understand what additional measures were under consideration before settling on a TAC. The Chair of Panel 1 asked which additional measures CPCs could come up with and were willing to accept to ensure accurate, timely, and reliable data would be provided to the SCRS.

Many CPCs stated their desire for progress on this matter, to avoid another TAC rollover. One CPC noted that the consensus basis of ICCAT is a challenge to agreeing measures such as the tropical tunas’ measure. Several CPCs highlighted the need to consider the rights of developing coastal States to improve their fisheries when deciding allocations.

The European Union (EU) presented their proposed allocation methodology, as described in “Explanatory note on a proposed methodology for the allocation of fishing opportunities for bigeye tuna”. The EU stated this methodology was an evolution of the previous proposal by the COMHAFAT group and was composed of five steps. The first step was to establish a baseline, then establish a “common pot” of tonnes recuperated, for reallocation to developing States. Allocation adjustments were then made based on several factors, including: a distinction between coastal States and distant water fishing nations; an adjustment towards lower-income CPCs, based on the World Bank income classifications; an equalisation quota of 5% of the TAC; and a further set-aside for artisanal fleets of 5% of the TAC.

Many CPCs expressed concern that they had not had sufficient time to consider the complex methodology presented by the EU. Several CPCs stated they could not accept retrospective penalties on CPCs who have not fully utilised their allocations, whilst others raised concern about the distribution between developed and developing countries resulting from the methodology. Some CPCs cautioned that quota decrease for distant water longline fishing nations could add further uncertainty to stock assessments, and that it is impossible to accept quota decrease when the overall TAC increases. Another CPC stated that small harvesters, rather than large harvesters, are in the best position to create proposals on allocations, that are suitable for their needs. There was also concern that the starting point of this proposal was the catch limits from the *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-Annual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tunas* (Rec. 16-01), which have since been superseded.

In the third session, the Chair of Panel 1 summarised document “Status on tropical tunas FAD fisheries data submissions by CPCs in 2022”, prepared by the Secretariat. The Compliance Committee had highlighted a continuing lack of data submissions by CPCs. The Secretariat noted that CPCs should have submitted historical FAD data by 31 July 2022, but because the format of the historical data was not properly specified, these data could not be incorporated into the Secretariat’s database even where these had been provided within Task 2 data. The Secretariat clarified the need for high resolution, 1x1 square latitude/longitude data by month to be able to carry out the analysis.

One CPC suggested additional wording for paragraph 1 of the Chair’s “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 21-01 on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas” to ask the SCRS to inform the Commission as to the maximal number of FAD sets per vessel or per CPC in 2024, based on historical FAD set data submitted by 31 July 2023. This CPC emphasised the principle of prohibiting CPCs who do not provide these historical data from using FAD sets in future.

One CPC suggested that if an agreement on FAD set limitations could be reached, the Panel could consider removing the FAD closure measure, as FAD set limits would be a more direct measure to reduce the mortality of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tuna. They asked the SCRS Chair to clarify the FAD data guidelines and the timeframe of historical data required. In response, the Secretariat clarified that the guidelines are the catch and effort, using the format already in place, as revised by the SCRS every year and linked to Article 9 of the ICCAT Convention. Dr Melvin clarified that the further back the data went, the better, but that at a minimum 5 years’ worth of data would be adequate. This would be clearly recorded within paragraph 31 of the tropical tunas’ measure.

South Africa presented their small harvesters' allocation proposal "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for the allocation and management of small harvester CPCs to be built into a revised multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas". They highlighted the differential development rights of small harvesters, stating that as this group of CPCs together take only 5% of the bigeye tuna catches, they are relatively stable over time and do not represent a risk to the stock. Nonetheless, they have legitimate rights and require opportunities to develop their fisheries, so South Africa proposed that these small harvesting CPCs do not have binding limits placed on catches. This is linked to previous tropical tuna measures. South Africa proposed a small harvesters' trigger limit of 1,000 t per CPC, with an additional group trigger limit. This collective trigger limit was divided into developing coastal States, developed coastal States, and others. If met, this trigger limit would cause a review of these arrangements.

Japan presented their allocation key in the document "Scheme for redistribution of unused bigeye quota". This document proposed a gradual reduction to the allocation for developed countries to gradually increase the allocation for developing CPCs. Japan had tried to represent the differences between coastal States and distant water fishing nations and between developing and developed nations. Japan had chosen 70,000 t as the TAC, highlighting that the allocation of any increase beyond 70,000 t would need to be discussed separately. In this Annex, Japan had also suggested short-term and longer-term redistribution measures to address the problem of CPCs not using their allocation and still retaining a large quota. This proposal did not deal with the allocations for small harvesters, which should be agreed separately, such as through the South African proposal discussed above.

Several CPCs supported the possibility of combining the proposals by Japan and South Africa. One CPC queried South Africa's two trigger limits for small harvesters, which South Africa clarified was an additional assurance that the limit would not be exceeded but highlighted this was unlikely anyway given it has not happened in the past. Another CPC raised concern that the group trigger limit could mean developing countries are affected by the actions of more developed countries within the small harvesters' category. One CPC later highlighted that South Africa's trigger limits would mean the situation would not require a response until after the TAC had been exceeded.

Several CPCs queried the allocation methodology applied by Japan, including the possibility of maintaining unused quota. Japan clarified that their additional measures in the Annex would address this. One CPC highlighted that the *Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 16-01 by ICCAT on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas* (Rec. 19-02) had marked a move from quotas towards catch limits and queried the definition of "category D" CPCs. One CPC raised concern that the Commission should not encourage CPCs to use their full allocation from a conservation perspective. Another CPC stated they would face political problems if treated as an OECD country, which they are not, and problems from their industry if required to give up 5,000 t to be redistributed to purse seine fleets. They also acknowledged the need to consider global crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic in the non-utilisation of the full catch limits (quotas). Japan clarified that they had not distinguished between OECD or non-OECD countries in their methodology but had included only a gradual decrease for distant water longline fishing nations because the SCRS is using integrated CPUE data from those CPCs. Their intention was to distribute to developing countries, and then leave it up to those CPCs to decide whether to give it to longline or purse seine vessels. Japan agreed with the conservation concern, but stated their annex was in response to the concern by Central American countries that some CPCs with large catch limits do not use them. Japan stated they would consider the need for reallocation to developing CPCs in their next version.

The United States described its proposed approach to small harvester limitations, as reflected in the Chair's proposal. This proposed methodology would set up a small harvester category that would be excluded from the quota table. Small harvester CPCs would not be subject to quota payback provisions, have a right to any quota carry forward, nor give or receive quota transfers. If in any year a CPC in this category exceeds 1,575 t of bigeye tuna catch or increases catches to an extent that is not consistent with its fishery management plan, that CPC would be subject to placement on the allocation table. If a CPC in this group wished to authorize purse seine vessels or avail themselves of quota transfers, that CPC would first have to be placed on the allocation table.

Some CPCs stated their desire to deal with the TAC first, then FAD closures, then other measures, leaving the allocations until last. One CPC presented the view of the Central American countries, that a TAC of 73,000 t with a 5% reserve and a 60-day FADs closure could be an acceptable compromise. Many Central American CPCs supported the suggestion to finalise the TAC before further work on allocation keys, and aligned themselves with the proposal of a 73,000 t TAC with a 5% reserve and a 60-day FADs closure.

Several CPCs from the COMHAFAT group stated they could agree to a maximum TAC of 73,000 t and proposed keeping the current FAD closure period. One highlighted their desire to ensure the interests of developing countries are taken into account.

Several CPCs reiterated that they could not agree to a TAC above 70,000 t without understanding which additional measures were in place to protect juveniles and could not support shortening the FAD closure period without additional measures to prevent juvenile catches. One CPC stated they had previously decreased from a 3-month closure to the current 72 days. They emphasised the need for biodegradability to be considered and supported the adoption of a regional observer programme. Another CPC highlighted that the stock is on the border of the red quadrant, as it is overfished and fishing mortality is exactly 1. This means, as highlighted by the SCRS Chair, it could go either way in terms of overfishing occurring or not. This CPC stated they could consider some increase from 70,000 t, given the stock's recovery in recent years, but only if the current FAD closure period was maintained to protect juveniles.

One CPC disagreed with the time period chosen in the EU allocation proposal, 2015-2020, stating it should be the previous year in which each CPC had the most catches instead. The EU responded that they would be happy to alter the reference period within reason and stated that the parameters of certain elements of their methodology could be altered. They raised concern that the biggest increase in Japan's proposal was in favour of Asia and underlined that more developing nations receive an increase under the EU's proposal, while Japan's proposal did not include an equalisation quota or a set-aside for small-scale artisanal fleets. The EU stated the small harvester category could be accommodated into their proposal.

Another CPC raised concern that some proposed measures discriminated against a particular gear type for new CPCs, stating that measures should align with what countries actually have. They stated that reference periods should be broad, such as 2014-2020 to include 3 years of continuous catches. CPCs should be able to choose the best four years of catches within this reference period (e.g. 2014-2017 or 2016-2019). This CPC stated that if the TAC were 70,000 t and this included a 5% reserve, the actual TAC would be 69,000 t.

In the fourth session, one CPC mentioned many consultations had been held since the last meeting and found it regrettable that no progress on allocations had been made despite the flexibility shown by the COMHAFAT group. This CPC stated they could not accept a new TAC without an agreement on allocations.

One CPC noted that the Central American countries had submitted a proposal which was not added to the ICCAT website. This CPC also asked that the Commission define "TAC", as they believed there was a distinction between the "nominated TAC" and the "activated TAC".

Many CPCs reiterated their positions on the TAC and FAD closure period. Several CPCs stated that any adopted measure would need to consider the needs of developing countries, as the status quo only benefits developed countries, and highlighted the need for scientific advice on the FADs closure issue.

As time was running short in the meeting, South Africa proposed the panel discuss a 1-year measure with a bigeye TAC of 73,000 t, while maintaining the status quo for all other measures from Rec. 21-01, including bigeye catch limits and the FAD closure period keeping the current catch limits from 2022 for 2023. This proposal would keep the FADs closure at 72 days and keep the text from Rec. 21-01 for all other measures. Furthermore, South Africa noted that an intersessional process in 2023 would need to discuss bigeye TAC allocation and MCS measures.

Many CPCs agreed with South Africa, and there was some discussion of the length of intersessional meeting needed for this. However, several CPCs indicated they could not agree to a TAC increase without discussing the other measures and allocations first, expressing particular concern that some CPCs were pushing for a reduced closure period which would increase the impact on juvenile catches and limit the aspirations of developing countries in the future. One CPC noted that if the current catch limits were maintained, category D would not have a binding catch limit and this brings a risk that the TAC could be exceeded. South

Africa reiterated that this was not a risk, as altogether this group has caught 4,000 t on average despite development aspirations. Another CPC suggested that the measure should increase the TAC to 73,000 t with a 5% reserve to resolve this concern. Several CPCs stated that a rollover of catch limits from Rec. 19-02 should not involve further reduction for any Parties. One CPC suggested catch limits should come from Rec. 16-01, whilst another asked that the Secretariat produce a document presenting the catch limits for next year to be agreed by the Commission. One CPC raised concern that reductions disproportionately affect one type of fishing gear, especially given the changed SCRS assumptions on the size of 50% maturity for the stock.

The EU highlighted doubt around 2020 and 2021 catch numbers, and instead asked that catch limits or reductions from Rec. 19-02 be applied to 2019's catches. This would give a catch limit for group A of 37,335 t, for group B of 13,474 t, for group C of 15,420 t, and for group D of 6,837 t. The total catches would therefore be 73,067 t.

The Chair of Panel 1 summarised that CPCs were converging towards a 1-year rollover, with an intersessional meeting next year on bigeye allocations. The Chair of Panel 1 noted that the rollover text would retain most of the text from the intersessional meetings earlier in the year, with non-binding limits set for category D, and an overall TAC of 73,000 t. One CPC asked that the Chair's proposal contain a clear catch limits table. Another CPC suggested that the 5% reserve go to category D CPCs.

Several CPCs stated that agreement on 73,000 t should not be assumed. One CPC highlighted that the numbers were challenging given the previous rollovers, and that they had not arrived at the same numbers as the previous CPC when applying Rec. 19-02 to 2019 catches. They asked that the Secretariat provide clear catch limits and information about potential non-compliance. One CPC stated that even if the measure included a 73,000 t TAC, this would only really apply from 2024, as the 2023 figures would be below this. Another CPC reiterated that the distribution discussion would happen during 2023.

The fourth session closed with the Chair stating his intention to produce this rollover text.

In the final Panel 1 session, the Chair of Panel 1 stated he had consulted a few CPCs informally and produced a new text with the Secretariat. He had included a TAC of 70,000 t because there was no consensus on 73,000 t, or 75,000 t and hoped CPCs could converge on 70,000 t. The text used catch limits from the revised version of the "2021 Compliance Tables received in 2022".

Many CPCs expressed concern that the Chair's text did not align with the discussions of the previous day. Several CPCs indicated they could not accept catch limits for small harvesters in category D and requested that these were deleted. Another CPC requested that the table remain in the proposal but with a footnote to show the limits are non-binding. However, several CPCs stated this would not constitute a rollover and could make allocation discussions more difficult. One CPC also stated catch limits based on catch history had never been agreed. Another CPC asked that paragraph 12 on carry forwards be either deleted, or amended to state 2021 rather than 2020, and that the reduction state 15% rather than 10%.

France (St Pierre et Miquelon) highlighted that they were not in the table proposed by the Chair of Panel 1. Panama asked that the report record their objection to the Chair's text, as they believed some aspects had been more or less agreed in the fourth session.

One CPC stated that a TAC of 70,000 t would merely bring the measure in line with the previous catch limits, given the inconsistency between the TAC and catch limits in place, and could therefore be part of a rollover measure. They also expressed surprise that the proposal included the possibility of increasing the FAD closure length to 90 days, as the Panel had not discussed this at length.

Given the limited amount of time remaining, the Chair of Panel 1 stated that the text would have to be a simple rollover text and asked that South Africa work with him to create this text.

Honduras highlighted the proposal submitted by the Central American countries which had not been accepted by the Secretariat. They clarified that the text was a mechanism for revising historical catch data on FAD sets and asked that this was included in intersessional discussions. Honduras also stated they were also willing to work on the rollover text with the Chair. At the end of the session, the Executive Secretary highlighted that there are specific deadlines for submitting proposals, and that when proposals are received

after the deadline, it is put to the Chair of the Panel in the knowledge of the Commission Chairman to decide whether it could be accepted. The reason for this deadline is to ensure everyone has an equal opportunity to read the different versions in the different languages, though non-papers follow different rules.

The revised rollover text “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 21-01 on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas” was referred to the Plenary sessions for further discussion.

Western skipjack measure

Brazil introduced their proposal, “Draft Resolution by ICCAT on development of initial management objectives for western Atlantic skipjack”, which was co-sponsored by South Africa and Uruguay, at the end of the second session. Brazil highlighted that western skipjack is an important fishing resource for Brazilian fishers, and that the Brazilian fleet catches 9% of the TAC for the stock in the western Atlantic Ocean. The 2022 Skipjack Stock Assessment (Anon., 2022) had shown a healthy condition for the stock and a high probability of maintaining this in future. They highlighted that the western skipjack MSE is discrete from the multi-stock tropical tuna MSE and that the western skipjack MSE is more advanced than the multi-stock MSE.

After working with other CPCs to amend their draft resolution on western skipjack throughout the week, Brazil presented the revised document and thanked other CPCs for their comments. Brazil had adapted the title and the preamble to align with the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the development of harvest control rules and of management strategy evaluation (Rec. 15-07)*. Brazil had suggested values to make the MSE process more efficient, but several CPCs commented that it would be difficult to agree to those parameters given the end of the MSE process cannot be predicted from the start. These CPCs suggested that the figures be put into brackets given the uncertainty. One CPC asked the SCRS Chair whether it was necessary to define the projection period. The SCRS Chair confirmed that defining this was not absolutely necessary and that projections are usually 30 years but could be between 20-50 years. Another CPC asked the SCRS Chair to confirm whether a biomass limit (B_{LIM}) had been established for western skipjack and the SCRS Chair stated he did not think it had been but would need to check. This CPC suggested an intersessional meeting to discuss the western skipjack MSE at length.

Brazil took the comments on board and revised the text again, to be further discussed at Plenary.

9. Identification of outdated measures in light of 8 above

Agenda items 9-12 were not resolved within the Panel 1 sessions, as the tropical tunas’ rollover text was referred to the Plenary sessions.

10. Research

There were no additional research matters discussed.

11. Other matters

Statements were submitted to Panel 1 by Infopêche and Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW) (**Appendices 2 and 3 to ANNEX 8**).

12. Adoption of the report and adjournment

It was agreed that this report would be adopted by correspondence. It was proposed that an intersessional meeting would be held in the first quarter of 2023.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair of Panel 1 who reiterated that more work was needed in managing the resources for posterity.

8.2 Report of the meeting of Panel 2

1. Opening of the meeting

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

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Ms. Tyler Loughran (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 2021 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, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria, Tunisia, Türkiye, 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 Northern Temperate Tuna species including Atlantic bluefin tuna and North Atlantic and Mediterranean albacore. The SCRS Chair also reviewed the remaining decision points relevant to the bluefin tuna Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) process, and outlined research plans for Panel 2 stocks.

5.1 Albacore

5.1.1 Mediterranean albacore tuna

The SCRS Chair reviewed the results of the 2021 Stock Assessment, which is summarized in the 2021 Report of the Intersessional Meeting of the ICCAT Albacore Species Group ([Anon., 2021b](#)). The SCRS Chair touched on 2021 Mediterranean albacore catches, which are summarized in Appendix 6 of the *Report for Biennial Period 2022-2023, Part I (2022), Vol. 2*.

5.1.2 North Atlantic albacore tuna

The SCRS Chair touched on 2021 North Atlantic albacore catches, summarized in Appendix 6 of the *Report for Biennial Period 2022-2023, Part I (2022), Vol. 2*. For stock status information, he called attention to Section 5.1 of the *Report for Biennial Period, 2020-2021, Part I (2020), Vol. 2*.

5.2 Bluefin tuna

5.2.1 Western Atlantic bluefin tuna

The SCRS Chair reviewed the results of the 2021 Stock Assessment, summarized in Section 9.2 of the *Report for Biennial Period, 2020-2021, Part II (2021), Vol. 2*. The SCRS Chair touched on 2021 western Atlantic bluefin catches and the increase in Total Allowable Catch (TAC) that took effect in 2021.

5.2.2 Eastern Atlantic/Mediterranean bluefin tuna

The SCRS Chair reviewed the results of the 2022 Stock Assessment, summarized in Section 9.3 of the *Report for Biennial Period 2022-2023, Part I (2022), Vol. 2*.

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 *Report for Biennial Period 2022-2023, Part I (2022), Vol. 2*, as follows:

1. Provide new TAC advice in 2022 if the Management Procedure (MP) is not available yet. Rec. 21-07, para C.

This response is presented in point 17.11 of the *Report for Biennial Period 2022-2023, Part I (2022), Vol. 2*.

2. Provide advice on any potential impacts due to uncertainties of implementing an $F_{0.1}$ strategy. Rec. 21-07, para F.

This response is presented in point 17.12 of the *Report for Biennial Period 2022-2023, Part I (2022), Vol. 2*.

3. Provide new TAC advice in 2022 if the MP is not available yet. Rec. 21-08, para 5.

This response is presented in point 17.13 of the *Report for Biennial Period 2022-2023, Part I (2022), Vol. 2*.

4. Continue MSE work, testing candidate management procedures (CMPs), including harvest control rules (HCRs), which would support management objectives to be agreed by the Commission. Rec. 21-08, para 11.

This response is presented in point 17.14 of the *Report for Biennial Period 2022-2023, Part I (2022), Vol. 2*.

5. Review fishing capacity parameters of the different CPCs no later than 2022, including specific rates for gear type and fishing area. Rec. 21-08, para 16.

This response is presented in point 17.15 of the *Report for Biennial Period 2022-2023, Part I (2022), Vol. 2*.

6. Based on the result of the trials and other scientific information available, review and update the growth table published in 2009. Rec. 21-08, para 27.

This response is presented in point 17.16 of the *Report for Biennial Period 2022-2023, Part I (2022), Vol. 2*.

7. Advise to what extent the fishing seasons for different gear types and/or fishing areas might be extended and/or modified. Rec. 21-08, para 32.

This response is presented in point 17.17 of the *Report for Biennial Period 2022-2023, Part I (2022), Vol. 2*.

8. Report on the coverage level achieved by each CPC and provide any recommendations to improve the effectiveness of CPCs' observer programs. Rec. 21-08, para 99.

This response is presented in point 17.18 of the *Report for Biennial Period 2022-2023, Part I (2022), Vol. 2*.

9. Evaluate procedures and results related to the stereoscopic camera program (or alternative methods) provided by CPCs and report to the Commission at the next annual meeting. Rec. 21-08, para 173.

This response is presented in point 17.19 of the *Report for Biennial Period 2022-2023, Part I (2022), Vol. 2*.

10. Develop an algorithm to convert length into weight for fattened and/or farmed fish. Rec. 21-08, para 217.

This response is presented in point 17.20 of the *Report for Biennial Period 2022-2023, Part I (2022), Vol. 2*.

11. Review the stereoscopic cameras systems specifications, and if necessary, provide recommendations to modify them. Rec. 21-08, Annex 9, item vii.

This response is presented in point 17.21 of the *Report for Biennial Period 2022-2023, Part I (2022), Vol. 2*.

12. Assess the occurrence of exceptional circumstances, Rec. 21-04, para 4.

This response is presented in point 17.22 of the *Report for Biennial Period 2022-2023, Part I (2022), Vol. 2*.

13. Undertake the following analyses (to test further HCRs), Rec. 21-04, para 14.

This response is presented in point 17.23 of the *Report for Biennial Period 2022-2023, Part I (2022), Vol. 2*.

5.4 Comments on the SCRS presentation

Regarding the growth rate table referenced in point 17.16 of the *Report for Biennial Period 2022-2023, Part I (2022), Vol. 2*, Japan inquired what information is needed to further improve this work. The SCRS Chair described the numerous factors investigated such as time, region, cage location, and cage type, and explained that in most cases these factors did not change the overall outcome of the prediction within the table. Future work may include researching how environmental changes affect growth rates, including potential effects of climate change. The European Union inquired if the SCRS compared the current growth rate table to the 2009 growth rate table, and if there were any major discrepancies. The SCRS Chair indicated that the SCRS has not completed this comparison to date and could be asked to complete this task in 2023.

The Chair inquired if an additional intersessional meeting to discuss an exceptional circumstance protocol may be necessary prior to the 2023 Annual Meeting and the SCRS Chair confirmed it would be needed. The United States recalled extended discussions on the same topic for North Atlantic albacore and suggested that additional work via correspondence may be needed in addition to the intersessional meeting. The Chair agreed, indicating that several rounds of email exchange may be needed in 2023.

On the topic of bluefin tuna MSE, Tunisia noted that Panel 2 has the information needed to select a CMP and that the most important factors to consider are safety and a healthy stock status. The United States noted that there are several priority research topics identified for 2023, and asked the SCRS Chair for confirmation that reconditioning the MP operating models would be necessary (as part of the review of the adopted MP in 2028) in order to take into account new information. The SCRS clarified that review of the adopted MP, which can include reconditioning the operating models, would begin one to two years prior to 2028.

6. Review of the reports of the Intersessional Meetings of Panel 2, and consideration of any necessary actions

The Chair provided summary information for the Ad Hoc Working Group on Mediterranean Albacore and the four Intersessional Meetings of Panel 2 on BFT MSE.

The [Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Mediterranean Albacore](#) and the Reports of the [First](#), [Second](#), [Third](#), and [Fourth](#) 2022 Intersessional Meetings of Panel 2 on Bluefin Tuna MSE were adopted. Türkiye expressed its lack of agreement to the Mediterranean albacore allocation table, developed intersessionally and noted that they have been a part of recovery efforts and remain committed to their contributions towards conservation.

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*

8.1 Bluefin tuna

8.1.1 Bluefin tuna processing vessels

Japan introduced a “Discussion paper on BFT processing vessels” that proposed to amend Rec. 18-13 (regarding the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Scheme) to record BFT processing activity. The purpose of this proposal was to address instances of bluefin tuna processing occurring on vessels, and the lack of processing information included for validation within eBCD. Japan noted the inconsistencies in how bluefin tuna are weighed within this context, which causes difficulties for CPCs with regard to tracking and increased risk of illegal fish products entering the market. The Panel agreed that this was an important issue and, as the proposal was to amend the eBCD, it should be sent to the PWG for further discussion. Morocco raised additional concerns regarding commercial processes that should be considered, including placing the responsibility of verifying exported products on the importing CPC. The European Union suggested that this matter should be first considered by the eBCD Technical Working Group.

A revised version of this proposal was ultimately deferred for consideration by the Commission in 2023 following discussion at the IMM Working Group and eBCD Technical Working Group meetings. In support of this process, the Panel agreed to incorporate a new paragraph on this matter into the draft recommendation to amend Rec. 21-08 (multi-annual management plan for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna).

8.1.2 Pilot Project for short-term live storage of bluefin tuna

Norway introduced a “Draft Resolution by ICCAT on a pilot project for short-term live storage of bluefin tuna”, a revised version of a proposal submitted at the 27th Regular Meeting of the Commission in 2021 following consultations with other CPCs. Morocco sought clarification on whether bluefin tuna in short-term live storage will be included in the eBCD system and the European Union also requested that further reporting obligations be included. Norway affirmed that this process will be incorporated into the eBCD system and added a paragraph for increased reporting requirements. The European Union also requested that these rules should be enforceable. Japan appreciated Norway for addressing its concern that this proposal could create a loophole for farming practices, and expressed its support to the proposal.

After further consultations with CPCs, Norway submitted a revised proposal including an added provision concerning the content of the annual fishing plan, increased requirements on reporting, and a revised project period of three years. The revised proposal was approved by Panel 2 and referred to Plenary for adoption by the Commission.

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” to amend Rec. 21-08 (eastern bluefin tuna management plan) through the inclusion of a growth rate section. This proposal follows a preliminary study by Morocco that found applying traditional manual approaches resulted in weights of bluefin tuna in farms that were less than those estimated using artificial intelligence (AI). Concerns surrounding such underestimates of the weight of bluefin tuna in farms were discussed during 2022 Intersessional Meetings of Panel 2.

The European Union expressed concerns regarding possible penalties if deviations become too large while using AI methods to estimate growth rates, noted that more trials are warranted, and asked if a comparison had been made with the SCRS-provided growth rate table. The SCRS Chair responded that the comparison has not been made. He explained that the SCRS-published growth table was created using several different methods and expressed uncertainty if AI could improve upon the current body of work. Morocco responded that they would support expansion of the AI pilot project to ensure growth rate accuracy and report the results to the SCRS. The United States supported the development and use of effective new technologies, including AI, to facilitate monitoring and control.

Following consultations with CPCs, Japan submitted a revised proposal eliminating a payback provision requiring release or payback of bluefin tuna quota in excess of a calculated benchmark using the growth table, maintaining current importing CPCs' monitoring of growth rates, and added flexibility to the timeline for updating growth tables by 2024. Additional text was added to encourage the SCRS and CPCs engaged in farming bluefin tuna to participate in artificial intelligence trials for the analysis of stereoscopic camera footage in an effort to automate the number or weight of caged tuna. The revised proposal was approved by Panel 2 and incorporated into the Chair's draft eastern bluefin tuna management plan.

8.1.4 Establishing a management procedure for western Atlantic and eastern Atlantic/Mediterranean bluefin tuna

The Chair, with the drafting assistance from the SCRS, tabled a "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT establishing a Management Procedure for Atlantic bluefin tuna to be used for both the western and eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean management areas". Panel members were asked to indicate their preference regarding the remaining four unresolved aspects of the MP: probability of the stock being in the green zone of the Kobe plot (PGK) (60, 65, or 70%); management period duration (2 or 3 years); percent change in TAC between management periods (+20%/-30% or +20%/-35%); and remaining candidate management procedures (CMPs) (FO or BR).

Norway supported a prior intervention by the United States on including new data as it becomes available within the review of the MP in order to ensure that the MP is consistent with the state and knowledge of the stock. A new paragraph was added to clarify the review process and to support the inclusion of new indices into the existing MP for alternative consideration. The European Union requested that the review of the MP performance is not necessarily linked to the reconditioning of the operating models and to add language on the timing of regular stock assessments to check the status of the stock.

Regarding the remaining decision points, the European Union expressed its preference for stability within the MP and opted for a 3-year management cycle with a +20%/-30% TAC variation, 65% PGK, and BR as the CMP. The United Kingdom expressed preference for 65% PGK and cited their top priority as the long-term health of the stock. Numerous CPCs weighed in and expressed a range of preferences and flexibility in their preferences for remaining decision points. Notably, Canada was the sole CPC to prefer the FO CMP.

Following interventions by various CPCs, the Chair summarized the first discussion of the remaining decision points and summarized the majority preference as 60% PGK, 3-year management cycle, +20%/-35% TAC variation, and the BR CMP. The European Union countered the suggestion that the majority of CPCs preferred 60% PGK and following clarification on the phase-in approach (+20%/-10%), requested a recount of CPCs preferences. Numerous CPCs, including those that had weighed in previously and several that had not, stated their preferences and requested clarification from the SCRS on the merits of 60% vs 65% PGK and the relationship between large predator species and small pelagic prey species. Japan recalled that the SCRS had explained that PGK in the context of MSE is a more conservative figure than PGK in the context of a stock assessment. Given that the ICCAT standard for management objectives is 60% PGK and that PGK in the MSE context is more conservative, Japan considered 60% PGK a sufficiently precautionary approach. This statement was supported by Canada and the United States. Responding to the concern from CPCs supporting PGK 65% that the maximum TAC reduction of 35%, which is a prerequisite for PGK 60%, is too drastic, Japan noted that such maximum TAC reduction happens only when there is an abrupt deterioration of the stocks, which is very rare.

The European Union noted that flexibility was shown by those CPCs initially supporting 70% PGK and that stability remained a key concern. They posed a question to the SCRS asking if in the case that an MP is not adopted, would it be scientifically inadvisable to adopt an MP for the eastern bluefin tuna management area and exclude the western bluefin tuna management areas. The SCRS Chair responded that the MP is a package deal and advised against breaking the MP into its components. The Pew Charitable Trusts provided a statement (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 8**) urging CPCs to reach a decision during the 23rd Special Meeting of the Commission in 2022 and avoid delaying a decision to 2023.

Japan suggested that given the TAC remains the same for the first management cycle regardless of whether 60% or 65% PGK is chosen, it may be possible to tentatively agree to a TAC for 2023 if agreement on an MP could not be reached. The United States asked if it would be possible to adopt an MP with differing PGKs for the East and West management areas, and the SCRS Chair affirmed that the scenario was being investigated in an effort to resolve the stalemate. The European Union disagreed with this approach given the SCRS Chair's prior response that the MP should be treated as a package.

The United States and Canada indicated their flexibility on management cycle length, and in the case of Canada, the CMP. The European Union recognized the flexibility shown by both CPCs and confirmed that additional efforts to reach 60% PGK were ongoing.

An additional two proposals were introduced by Japan and the European Union. Japan's proposal was drafted with the intent of providing a path forward in case agreement on an MP with the same status management objective could not be achieved, and, in that regard, requested the SCRS to test differing PGKs for the East and West management areas which will then inform future decisions by CPCs. The European Union's proposal differed from Japan's by adopting a 65% PGK while completing an interim review of differing PGKs for the East and West management areas. Norway indicated reluctant support for the European Union's proposal, but raised concerns that these proposals would lead CPCs away from consensus and set an unfavorable precedent for future MSE decision making processes. The Marine Stewardship Council and Pew Charitable Trusts urged Panel 2 to reach agreement at this meeting.

Following further internal discussions, the European Union agreed to 60% PGK and suggested that the stock assessment should take place in 2027, among other minor or technical edits later provided by some CPCs to the Chair. Canada and Japan suggested keeping the language as 2026/2027 to provide flexibility, and the suggestion was supported by the European Union. The United States suggested including a 50 t minimum TAC change for the West, which was supported by Mexico, Japan, and Canada, and 1000 t for the East. The proposal was adopted with the following decision points: a stock safety management objective of no more than a 15% probability of the stocks falling below the biomass limit reference point (B_{LIM}) during the projection period; a stock status management objective of 60% PGK; 3 year management period duration; for the stability management objective, a +20%/-35% percent change in TAC between management periods; and the BR CMP. Additional provisions included a phase-in period of one management cycle where the decrease in TAC shall be no more than 10% and a provision that if the TAC change as a result of the application of the MP is less than 50 t for the western management area and 1,000 t for the eastern management area, the TAC shall not be changed. A list of performance statistics, the description and formulae for calculating the TACs using the BR MP, and a schedule for MP implementation, including MP review and possible MSE reconditioning no later than 2028, were included as annexes to the recommendation. An exceptional circumstances protocol is expected to be developed intersessionally in 2023 for adoption and incorporation into the MP at the 2023 Annual Meeting.

A revised version of the proposal was forwarded to the Plenary for adoption by the Commission.

8.1.5 Conservation and management plan for western bluefin tuna

The United States tabled a "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for a conservation and management plan for western bluefin tuna". The European Union noted certain differences in the eastern and western recommendations and inquired, in particular, about the reason for the prohibition on transferring fishing effort between East and West and for the different percentage in overharvest payback mechanisms. The United States explained that these were longstanding provisions of the western measure and indicated it could discuss the issues with the EU offline.

Comments by CPCs were addressed bilaterally and resulted in co-sponsorship of a revised proposal by Japan, Canada and the United States. The proposal references the adopted MP and incorporates the associated TAC, maintains the existing allocation scheme, bring the provisions of the prior recommendation up-to-date, and updates the research provisions in line with activities identified by the SCRS, including supporting priority work needed to facilitate the future reconditioning of the MSE operating models and review of the MP by 2028. The revised proposal was approved by Panel 2 and sent to the Plenary for adoption by the Commission.

8.1.6 Multi-annual management plan for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna

The Chair tabled a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 21-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean” without any figures for allocations. The United States sought clarification on several points, including the need (or not) for certain MP-related provisions in this proposal (vs. referring to the MP proposal), inclusion of Japan’s growth rate proposal language, and new text in provisions related to ICCAT regional observers. The United States, European Union and Türkiye worked in the margins to address issues related to the role of regional observers and how to account for fish that die during caging operations.

Morocco requested that the deadline for submitting a revised farming plan be extended from 1 June to 31 July to align with their national legislation. Morocco’s national legislation sets the fishing period from 1 April to 31 July. Morocco’s request was not accepted; a decision was made to discuss the request in 2023.

Albania, Algeria, Egypt, Korea (Rep.), Mauritania, Norway, and the United Kingdom expressed their opinions regarding positions on the allocation of bluefin tuna given the adoption of an MP (**Appendices 5-11 to ANNEX 8**) and the increase in the eastern TAC. Several additional CPCs indicated their displeasure with the current allocation scheme and requested additional quota. Algeria recounted that the Commission committed to re-establish historical quota levels provided to Algeria (5%), given the past reduction in allocation. They further noted that this has been an ongoing priority for 10 years and efforts to increase quota continue to be insufficient.

The United Kingdom expressed that bluefin tuna sightings in domestic waters have increased in recent years due to increased stock abundance in UK waters. This is likely as a consequence of the stock’s recovery and/or oceanic conditions. Ongoing bluefin tuna research between scientists and recreational fishers within the United Kingdom has resulted in over 1,600 bluefin tuna being tagged in 2021-2022, and an additional 100 PSAT tags deployed since 2018 through the Thunnus UK programme. The data have been made available to ICCAT and this demonstrates the UK’s contribution to bluefin tuna science. The United Kingdom highlighted that their quota share (0.13% of the current TAC) is the lowest of all CPCs, and requested an additional 300 t of quota to provide economic opportunity to rural communities and benefit domestic fisheries.

The EU presented their views by saying that the EU had agreed to go down from their allocation key of 59% when the stock was in bad situation, however with the recovery of the stock status the expectation is to revert to the original share as in the allocation key.

Further discussion regarding the allocation continued, with some CPCs suggesting the proposed quotas be reopened for discussion during the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 in March 2023. Given divergence of views and the very little time remaining, the Chair submitted a revised proposal including a proposed quota table based on the ideas that make a difference between developed CPCs and developing CPCs as well as a difference between coastal CPCs and distant water fishing CPCs. Namibia requested 100 t for their two large-scale longliners, and the Chair suggested 50 t as 25 t is a standard figure for one large-scale longliner, while reminding Namibia that chartering is prohibited for bluefin tuna fisheries. This was agreed. Many CPCs complained about the figures, but no CPC tried to block adoption of the proposal. The United Kingdom noted that it could reluctantly accept the Chair’s revised proposal, but only as an interim solution. Tunisia suggested that Panel 2 should establish a new allocation key to avoid lengthy discussion on quota allocations in future meetings. The EU noted that the Chair proposal would represent a drop to the EU allocation by both applying the 2022 shares or the BFT allocation key in Rec 14-04; that the EU would see an increase of 10% while the TAC had been increased by 13%, while most of the CPCs that are coastal States have seen at a minimum an increase to the level of the TAC increase, and up to a 55% increase in some cases. In spirit of compromise the EU accepted the Chair’s proposal in a perspective of stability along with the

adoption of the Management procedure. Accordingly, the Chair's revised proposal was agreed and sent to Plenary for adoption by the Commission with the understanding that an entire day would be added to the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 in March 2023 to discuss the allocation key for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna.

8.2 Mediterranean albacore tuna rebuilding plan

The Chair introduced a "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-06 to establish a rebuilding plan for Mediterranean albacore". This proposal is the result of the [2022 Intersessional Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Mediterranean Albacore \(Online, 9-10 February 2022\)](#), which agreed to forward a supplementary recommendation to the Commission that would formalize allocation under the 15-year rebuilding plan. Türkiye expressed its disagreement with the proposed quota, and entered discussions with the European Union and Egypt to reach consensus. The European Union, Türkiye, and Egypt tabled a new proposal that increased Türkiye's allocation to 225 t with contributions from the European Union and Egypt. Egypt stated it plans to renegotiate its allocation agreement in future meetings. This proposal, including a revised quota table, was agreed by Panel 2 and sent to Plenary for adoption.

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 23rd Special Meeting of the Commission in 2022 included clauses to repeal and replace previous measures.

10. Research

The SCRS Chair provided an overview of the North Atlantic, and Mediterranean albacore and the Atlantic bluefin tuna research and workplans for 2023.

Under the North Atlantic albacore research plan, the SCRS will conduct a 2023 stock assessment, apply the MP, check for exceptional circumstances, begin developing a new MSE framework, and continue reproductive research and electronic tagging studies. There will also be a Mediterranean albacore stock assessment in 2024, and the SCRS will set up an information network to promote collaboration among scientists with the goal of developing a research plan.

The Atlantic bluefin tuna workplan includes four intersessional meetings, three technical workshops, and technical subgroup activities. The technical workshops include a close-kin mark-recapture/genomics and biological sampling coordination meeting, an electronic tagging meeting, and a larval survey meeting. The Atlantic-Wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna was included in the 2023 budget for research recommendations, but specific actions remain to be confirmed.

11. Other matters

A joint statement was submitted by Asociación de Pesca, Comercio y Consumo Responsable de Atún Rojo (APCCR) and the Federation of Malta Aquaculture Producers (FMAP)*.

12. Adoption of report and adjournment

It was agreed that the report would be adopted through correspondence.

After sincerely thanking the Secretariat, the interpreters, Panel members, and others for their cooperation, assistance, and flexibility, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

* Statement not included as in excess of word limit and not provided in the three official languages of ICCAT.

8.3 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

Mr. Stamatis Varsamos (European Union) was appointed as Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8**) was adopted with no changes.

4. Review of Panel membership

Panel 3 now comprises the following 16 members: Angola, Belize, Brazil, China (P.R.), Côte d'Ivoire, European Union, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Namibia, Panama, Philippines, South Africa, St Vincent and the Grenadines, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay. In the course of this meeting of Panel 3, three new members joined the Panel: Angola, Côte d'Ivoire and St Vincent and the Grenadines. In addition, Curaçao is expected to join Panel 3 by the end of the year.

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 (S-ALB) and southern bluefin tuna stocks. Southern albacore has a TAC of 24,000 t from 2017-2021. Catches have been well below this TAC since 2002, except for 2011 and 2021. While catches increased in 2018, they subsequently decreased in 2019 to 15,640 t. In 2021, an increase in the longline catch resulted in exceeding the TAC by 1006 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 2033, whereas catch consistent with MSY (27,264 t) showed a 90% probability of being within the green quadrant of the Kobe matrix by 2023.

Dr Melvin informed the Panel that the SCRS work strives to bring research activities for southern Atlantic albacore and northern Atlantic albacore under a common umbrella, with a view to optimising resources utilization and promoting cross-fertilisation. The SCRS also proposed that the budget allocated for the scientific work on these two stocks be combined. Two intersessional meetings for albacore (five days each) are scheduled for 2023. Reproductive biology, aging, monitoring through e-tagging and management strategy evaluation, are among the main research priorities. The SCRS recommended that the work on South and North Atlantic albacore continue and that consideration be given to initiating scientific work on Mediterranean albacore. The budget proposed for these scientific activities for 2023 is €128,000 while for 2024 it is €83,000.

The SCRS Chair also provided a summary of the most recent scientific information regarding southern bluefin tuna, clarifying that it was compiled using information available from the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT). The stock biomass has been decreasing through the 1960s to 2010, with a more rapid decline in the 1980s. Since 2010 catches have been increasing and reached 16,824 t in 2021. According to the results of the stock assessment undertaken in 2020 the southern bluefin tuna stock is overfished but overfishing is not occurring currently. The next stock assessment is scheduled for 2023.

The floor was opened for comments and questions however there were no questions from the Panel.

6. Review of Compliance Tables

The United States thanked the Secretariat for compiling the information presented in the Compliance Tables and noted that the total catches reflected in the Compliance Tables (20,131 t) are significantly less than what is reflected as total catches in the Task 1 data (25,006 t). It indicated that one of the major points of discrepancy between these figures can be found in the difference in numbers reported by Namibia. Namibia's Task 1 data indicate total catches of 8,165 t, which is in excess of its 4,500 t adjusted quota for 2021. However, the data in the Compliance Tables show that Namibia had total catches for 2021 of 3,412 t, which is a difference of almost 5,000 t. The United States sought clarification from Namibia regarding these discrepancies and its payback plan regarding this overharvest. It encouraged Namibia to work with the Chair of the Compliance Committee with a view to correcting the figures in the Compliance Tables.

Namibia preferred to defer this discussion to the Compliance Committee.

Following a proposal by the Chair, Panel 3 agreed to defer the discussion on the Compliance Tables to the Compliance Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for underage carryover requests according to paragraph 4b of the Recommendation 21-05. Brazil, China (P.R.), European Union, Japan, Korea (Rep.), South Africa, United Kingdom, Uruguay, and Chinese Taipei indicated their intention to carryover underages.

It was requested that the CPCs seeking to carry over quota underharvest, work with the Secretariat to update the Compliance Tables.

7. **Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* and**
8. **Identification of outdated measures in light of 7 above**

Following a proposal of the Chair, Panel 3 agreed to consider agenda items 7 and 8 together.

The Chair reminded that the [Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT to amend the Recommendation 16-07 by ICCAT on southern Atlantic Albacore Catch Limits for the Period 2017-2020](#) (Rec. 20-05), was rolled over in 2021 and that current Recommendation 21-05 was about to expire. The Chair of Panel 3 pointed out that Brazil and South Africa had submitted the proposal "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on the southern Atlantic albacore catch limits for the period 2023 to 2026", which was also sponsored by Namibia and Uruguay, for a new measure for southern albacore and requested the proponents to present their proposal.

South Africa thanked the cosponsors and presented the proposal. It indicated that in the course of developing this proposal it liaised with other main harvesters of this stock and also integrated suggestions from some other CPCs. South Africa highlighted the key elements of the proposal, in particular the TAC and quotas distribution and explained the changes proposed compared to the previous measure. It indicated that according to the SCRS the stock was in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot and according to information provided in the Kobe matrix, the proposed TAC of 28,000 t would allow the stock to maintain a healthy status until 2033 with 83% probability. Concerning the quota distribution, South Africa referred to the dedicated Explanatory Memorandum, which was later withdrawn. Concerning transfers of catch limits, South Africa indicated that there was not enough time to reach out to all CPCs that transfer quotas and asked CPCs to propose transfer requests in paragraph 3 of the proposal, as needed. It also indicated that a revision would be needed to remove Vanuatu from the quota table and reallocate its quota to the common pot that corresponds to the share of the CPCs not listed in that table. Finally, it explained that the rationale for removing paragraph 11 of Recommendation 16-07 regarding the management of bycatch, was to close a loophole, in particular in terms of enforcement.

Japan indicated that it supported the proposal; however there was an issue that it considered controversial related to paragraph 3 of the proposal which included four CPCs (i.e., Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Curaçao, St Vincent and the Grenadines) that were not members of Panel 3. Concerning the transfers proposed, although based on previous negotiations back in 2016, it questioned whether such transfers would still be needed in the future, especially given the proposed increase of the TAC.

The European Union (EU) thanked the proponents and indicated that although it agreed in principle to the proposed increase in the TAC given the healthy status of the stock, it had some concerns that would require clarification. In particular, it appeared that the allocation key was changed and that the criterion used for that purpose did not seem to be sound or sufficient. It also raised questions regarding the payback of overages and carryover of underages, in particular paragraph 4 f) that involved an *ad hoc* process deviating from normal ICCAT practices on that matter. The EU, while noting that this provision was included in the previous measure, inquired why this was needed and highlighted that it did not seem to be a transparent process. It also sought clarification regarding the catch limit of 30 t for CPCs not listed in table of paragraph 3 and expressed concerns about how the bycatch of South Atlantic albacore would be handled with the deletion of the related paragraph (para 11 in Rec. 16-07). Finally, the EU proposed that given the good status of the stock, the next stock assessment could be scheduled a little later than foreseen in the proposal.

Regarding the issue raised by Japan on the allocation of quotas to CPCs that are not members of Panel 3, the EU indicated that it shared that concern. It indicated that the general practice is that any CPC receiving quotas for a stock should be a member of the relevant Panel to participate in the discussions and decision making.

China supported the proposal and proposed a way forward for the Vanuatu quota. It proposed adding some language calling on CPCs receiving quotas without being members of Panel 3, to join the Panel. China also sought some clarification on paragraph 4 e).

Chinese Taipei indicated that although it understood the rationale of the quota distribution in paragraph 3 of the proposal, it wanted to record in the report that the proposed approach should not set a precedent for future allocation.

Angola indicated that it took note of Japan's invitation to join Panel 3 and was hoping to submit an official request as soon as possible. It requested the Secretariat to advise on the process and timeline. Following the explanation of the Secretariat, Angola confirmed its intention to join Panel 3.

St Vincent and the Grenadines thanked South Africa for the proposal and welcomed the invitation to join Panel 3. It considered that the most appropriate approach would be to follow the rules of ICCAT.

Japan welcomed Angola as a new member of Panel 3. Responding to St Vincent and the Grenadines, it indicated that although there was no written rule in ICCAT that CPCs that are not members of a Panel should not receive quota for stocks covered by that Panel, this seemed to be the current practice. Japan stressed that if the CPCs concerned do not become members of Panel 3, it would be difficult for Japan to support the quotas allocated and asked Côte d'Ivoire, Curaçao and St Vincent and the Grenadines whether they would prefer to become members or give up their quota for southern Atlantic albacore.

The United States requested the Secretariat to clarify the rules on Panel membership. In particular, it inquired whether a CPC could become member of a Panel during a special meeting versus a regular meeting. It also inquired about the cost of joining a Panel.

The Secretariat indicated that there was a need to look at the Rules of Procedure (RoP) and in particular Article 12, stipulating that membership of Panels can only be granted at a regular meeting not during a special meeting, therefore Angola's membership would not be effective until next year.

Japan indicated that according to Article 12 paragraph 4 of the RoP, there is a requirement for CPCs to inform at a regular meeting of their intention to become Panel member. It inquired whether the Commission has been applying this consistently in the past. Japan shared its view that the original intention was to hold Commission meetings every 2 years but this was later changed to one year. It also stated that if the RoP have not been followed consistently, then flexibility should be sought.

The Secretariat confirmed that the rule has not been followed consistently. It also indicated that according to Article 5 of the RoP a CPC can join a Panel by sending a request in writing.

The Chair concluded that noting the current rules, any formal request by the CPCs concerned would be accepted at this meeting. Such requests should be sent in writing to the Secretariat and the Commission Chair.

The EU proposed to set a deadline to allow the text of the draft recommendation to be finalised before adoption.

The United States indicated that it could go along with the way forward proposed by the Chair in this particular instance given the issues at hand. It suggested that the STACFAD Chair should be consulted to assess how this would affect the budget and that the broader question of the process of joining a Panel be referred to STACFAD for future discussion. It also reiterated that membership of a Panel is not a formal requirement provided for in the ICCAT rules nor the Convention for receiving a quota for a given stock.

The Secretariat advised that Angola joined Panel 3 and the Chair welcomed Angola as new member of Panel 3.

South Africa advised that it would work in the margins of the meeting with CPCs that have expressed concerns and presented some revisions that have already been made in the proposal.

The United States thanked the proponents for having taken into account its comments. It indicated that although the proposal seemed in line with scientific advice, the proposed catch levels might require a catch reduction after 2033 as the proposed TAC exceeded the MSY level by 1,000 t. It also pointed out that although it supported the proposal, it had concerns with the fact that bycatch was not adequately addressed. This was already problematic in the previous measure that did not seem to be well understood. In particular, the reporting by CPCs for this obligation appeared to be very limited, and it expressed the view that fishing vessels taking South Atlantic albacore as bycatch, without being authorised to fish for this stock, should be better framed to avoid loopholes. To address this concern, the United States proposed a revised version of the paragraph 11 (Rec. 16-07) that would improve monitoring and reporting of bycatch of South Atlantic albacore.

Japan inquired about the process to be followed for dealing with the quotas of CPCs listed in paragraph 3 of the proposal that might decide not to become Panel 3 members and subsequently would lose their quota.

The EU suggested that any quota resulting from that process could be distributed through a prorata adjustment and sought clarification about the buffer mentioned by South Africa for the quota allocation. It also stressed that participation in a Panel demonstrates a clear commitment in the conservation and management of any stock and that this was at the core of the rationale for CPC membership in ICCAT Panels.

South Africa suggested that the simplest way would be to follow the same as for the case of Vanuatu that was removed from the table in paragraph 3 of the proposal. This would involve that any extra amount resulting from CPCs losing their quota would be added to the pool of CPCs currently not listed on the table. This pool would amount, at maximum, to 350 t.

The Chair proposed an additional option which would be to distribute any additional quota equally among the CPCs listed in the table in paragraph 3.

The Secretariat informed Panel 3 that in the meantime, Côte d'Ivoire and St Vincent and the Grenadines had also become members of Panel 3.

South Africa informed that a new draft was available, taking into account comments and suggestions received. In particular, it indicated that the explanatory memorandum was withdrawn from the meeting record, a footnote was included in the table of paragraph 3, a range of clarifications and editorial improvements were included and the paragraph on bycatch with the U.S. drafting suggestions was also included. It indicated that the only remaining outstanding issue was related to the membership of Curaçao. With that in mind, it inquired whether the brackets could be also removed for Curaçao.

Japan expressed its appreciation to Brazil, Uruguay and South Africa for the transfers agreed to be included in the draft Recommendation. It welcomed Angola, Côte d'Ivoire and St Vincent and the Grenadines in Panel 3. Japan requested that it is duly recorded that it can support the quota of Curaçao with the understanding that Curaçao would become member of Panel 3 by the end of the year.

Curaçao stated that it has been allocated a South Atlantic albacore quota for many years without any controversy and suddenly this year there is a condition on its 60 t quota. It inquired on the basis of which resolution should a CPC be required to be member of a Panel for receiving quotas.

The EU thanked South Africa for the revisions in the proposal. In particular, it expressed its appreciation for the withdrawal of the explanatory memorandum, the addition of paragraph 3 c) and the clarifications on other provisions. It reiterated its concern regarding paragraph 4 f) and its understanding that the catch limit of all CPCs that do not appear on the table of paragraph 3 would be 30 t and requested that its views are duly recorded in the report.

Japan, in response to Curacao, regretted that Panel 3 did not notice earlier the link between the membership and the quota allocation. It concurred that there was no ICCAT Resolution clarifying this linkage. However, it agreed with the EU that the general practice has always been that the members of an ICCAT Panel are those CPCs that harvest species managed by that Panel. Japan encouraged Curaçao to become a member as this would strengthen the capacity of Panel 3 to properly manage the species under its remit.

The United States indicated that it was important, in its view, to follow the ICCAT rules and avoid *ad hoc* decisions, based on individual members' preferences. It stressed that ICCAT was a rules-based organisation and that chaos would result if rules were not followed. The United States indicated that it supported a quota for Curaçao even if they were not members.

The United Kingdom (UK) indicated that while it would welcome more members in Panel 3, a more robust discussion on the matter might be needed in plenary.

Curaçao put in perspective the 30 t quota proposed in the South Atlantic albacore proposal for all CPCs not listed in the table of paragraph 3, compared to its quota of 60 t. It thanked the United States for the support and indicated that it supported the suggestion from the UK. It stressed two particular issues, namely, the additional cost associated with the membership to a Panel and the issue of procedure for joining. Curaçao indicated that according to the information provided by the Secretariat its membership to Panel 3 would involve an additional cost of €28,000. In addition, due to the fact that Curaçao is part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, any procedural aspect related to accession and membership issues was a prerogative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. These two aspects make it difficult for Curaçao to rapidly react to the issue of membership in Panel 3 at this time. It also highlighted that the institutional links with the Kingdom of Netherlands involve that the contributions of Curacao are estimated based on the GDP of the Netherlands and they result in significant costs for Curaçao.

The EU indicated that it could understand the frustration of Curaçao and that it was open to broader discussion on that matter. It pointed out that CPCs would be sending a very negative message if access to the ICCAT resources was not linked to membership in the corresponding Panel; however, it indicated that it was open to discuss specific cases.

Japan indicated that it could concur with the EU. It also indicated that it was not clear about the costs indicated by Curaçao since Japan's participation in ICCAT Panels did not exceed €1,000 per Panel.

Curaçao indicated that should the cost be as described by Japan it would be ready to join all ICCAT Panels.

The Secretariat confirmed the institutional links between Curaçao and the Kingdom of Netherlands and explained that in March 2014, it was the Kingdom of Netherlands that deposited with FAO an instrument of accession to ICCAT for Curaçao and that this instrument should be treated as per Article 14 of the Convention. It also indicated that it was difficult to make interpretations and that the issue of Curaçao would need to be brought to FAO to check its status vis-à-vis the Commission. The Secretariat also indicated that CPCs contributions were also based on participation in different Panels and highlighted that given that the 2023 budget will be adopted at this meeting, any change regarding the status of Curaçao would only impact Curaçao contribution as of the 2024 budget. The Secretariat committed to present a paper for the calculation of the costs related to membership of Panels to facilitate any future CPCs discussions on that matter. It indicated that these calculations were multifactorial and complicated.

South Africa inquired whether, given the latest statements by Japan and the EU, these CPCs could support the removal of the brackets for Curaçao for adopting the measure, noting that the question of membership rules and cost could be dealt with at the Plenary or other Panel 3 meetings.

The EU reminded that this is what Japan proposed; therefore, if Curaçao could commit to join Panel 3 before the end of the year, then it could agree to the proposal from South Africa.

The Chair, following confirmation from Curaçao, concluded that Panel 3 had endorsed the final version of the proposal and that Panel 3 would recommend to the Commission the adoption of the proposal.

9. Research

SCRS Chair indicated that this matter was addressed under agenda item 5 and that there was no new information to provide to Panel 3.

10. Other matters

No other matters were raised.

11. Adoption of the report and adjournment

It was agreed that a summary report would be prepared for the Plenary and that the full report would be provided after the meeting in line with ICCAT practices, which would be adopted by correspondence.

The Chair of Panel 3 adjourned meeting.

8.4 Report of the meeting of Panel 4

1. Opening of the meeting

Panel 4 met intersessionally on 13 November 2022. As the original purpose of the session, to advance work on the issue of permissible retention of North Atlantic shortfin mako, was not needed, the Chair proposed and the Panel agreed to use the session to begin to work through the Panel's annual meeting agenda. In light of this, it was also agreed that no separate report for the 13 November 2022 session would be needed and, instead, all discussions would be included in this report.

The Panel Chair, Mr. Amar Belacel (Algeria), opened the meeting. Due to circumstances beyond his control, Mr. Belacel was unable to chair the entire meeting of Panel 4, and Mr. Ernesto Penas, Commission Chair, stepped in to serve as the Chair of Panel 4 for the remaining sessions.

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The Panel appointed Ms. Colleen Baker (United States) as Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8**).

4. Review of Panel membership

The Executive Secretary noted that the Panel 4 membership had not changed from 2021. Panel 4 comprises the following 41 members: Algeria, Angola, Belize, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canada, China (P.R.), 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, São Tomé & Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, 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.

Billfish

There were no assessments of billfish in 2022. For blue marlin, 2021 catches (1,711 t) were above the landings limit of 1,670 t, though lower than 2020 landings (1,888 t). As of the most recent stock assessment in 2018 ([Anon., 2018](#)), the stock remained overfished and was undergoing overfishing. White marlin catches (120 t) were below the landings limit of 355 t for 2021. The stock was last assessed in 2019, which showed white marlin was overfished, but overfishing was not occurring. Landings from the eastern stock of sailfish increased in 2021 to 1,523 t and exceeded the threshold of 1,271 t (as established by the [Recommendation by ICCAT on Management Measures for the Conservation of Atlantic Sailfish \(Rec. 16-11\)](#)), while landings for the western stock decreased from previous years to 821 t and were now under the threshold of 1,030 t (as established by Rec. 16-11). Both stocks of sailfish were last assessed in 2016 ([Anon., 2017a](#)); it was determined that the western stock was neither overfished nor experiencing overfishing, and the eastern stock was overfished with the overfishing status uncertain.

The SCRS Chair provided an update on the Enhanced Billfish Research Programme (EBRP) (Appendix 10 of the *Report for Biennial Period 2022-2023, Part I (2022), Vol. 2*). 2022 EBRP activities included otolith studies for age reading, resolving contract issues, and analysis of length and age data for estimating growth parameters of main billfish species. Priority EBRP activities in 2023 are continuing the growth study of three priority billfish in the eastern Atlantic, initiating a reproduction study of blue marlin in the Gulf of

Mexico, funding technical workshops, and conducting electronic tagging of marlins in the Northeast Atlantic area. The Billfishes Sub-group on Technical Gear Changes, created in response to the *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish (Rec. 19-05)* paragraph 21, continued its work in 2022 and plans to provide a report to the Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch in 2023. The Billfishes Sub-group on Electronic Monitoring (EM), created in response to Rec. 19-05, paragraph 20, has focused its work to-date on pelagic longline fisheries and presented its conclusions to the 2022 Meeting of the Subcommittee on Statistics.

Swordfish

Both the North and South stock of Atlantic swordfish were assessed in 2022 (Anon., 2022b). The North Atlantic stock was neither overfished nor experiencing overfishing. Under the current Total Allowable Catch (TAC) level (13,200 t), there is a 60% probability of the stock continuing to be in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot in 2033. The South Atlantic stock was found to be overfished and experiencing overfishing. The current TAC of 14,000 t is unlikely (3% probability) to result in the stock being in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot by 2033. Catch levels less than 10,000 t will accelerate rebuilding. The SCRS continued to express concerns with the catch estimates due to the low percentage of fleets reporting annual dead discards. Reported catch decreased for the North Atlantic stock to 9,729 t, while reported catch increased for the South Atlantic stock to 9,486 t in 2021. The most recent Mediterranean swordfish assessment in 2020 (Anon., 2020b) indicated that the stock was most likely overfished and current fishing mortality was just below F_{MSY} . Catches in 2021 (7,493 t) were below the TAC of 9,296 t.

The SCRS Chair also provided a short status update on the North Atlantic swordfish MSE process. SCRS is continuing the development and testing through MSE of Candidate Management Procedures (CMPs). Panel 4 will select from among the CMPs and recommend one for adoption by the Commission in 2023. Application of the adopted management procedure will establish a TAC for North Atlantic swordfish for 2024 and into the future.

Sharks

The SCRS Chair noted that while global statistics on sharks have improved, they are still insufficient to provide quantitative advice on stock status for most stocks.

Porbeagle

In 2022, the northeastern stock of Atlantic porbeagle was assessed (Anon., 2022c) and showed the stock is still overfished but overfishing is no longer occurring. The results indicated that under the current regulations, the Northwest and Northeast stocks have increased in the last 10 years.

Blue shark

Blue shark catches have decreased in the North (21,507 t), below the TAC of 39,102 t, while there has been an increase in catch in the South to 33,327 t, which exceeded the TAC of 28,923 t. The catch of South Atlantic blue shark (33,680 t) also exceeded the TAC in 2020. The last 2015 Blue Shark Stock Assessment (Anon., 2016) showed that the North Atlantic stock was not overfished and overfishing was not occurring, while the South Atlantic stock could be overfished and overfishing could be occurring.

Shortfin mako

Catches of shortfin mako were down for both the North Atlantic and South Atlantic stocks in 2021 compared to 2020. Specifically, 2021 catches of North Atlantic shortfin mako were 1,431 t and catches of South Atlantic mako were 2,249 t. The last 2017 Shortfin Mako Stock Assessment (Anon., 2017b) showed that the North Atlantic stock was overfished and overfishing was occurring. For the South Atlantic stock, the combined probability that the stock was overfished was 32.5% and that it was experiencing overfishing was 41.9%. In response to the Commission, per the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of North Atlantic stock of shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries (Rec. 21-09)*, paragraph 5a, the SCRS emphasized that it is important that CPCs provide complete Task 1 data for shortfin mako retained catch, dead discards, and live releases. In response to Rec. 21-09 paragraph 5b, the SCRS estimated landings for those CPCs that did not submit data, and determined that the possible retention allowance for North Atlantic shortfin mako

for 2023 is 0 t. In response to Rec. 21-09 paragraph 13, the SCRS noted that few CPCs submitted documents describing how they estimate discards. In response to Rec. 21-09 paragraphs 19 and 20, the SCRS noted ongoing research under the Shark Research and Data Collection Programme (SRDCP) (Appendix 9 of the *Report for Biennial Period 2022-2023, Part I (2022), Vol. 2*), and future work that will be needed. In response to Rec. 21-09 paragraph 22, the SCRS reported no unexpected inconsistencies related to possible misidentification of shortfin mako as longfin mako.

Small tunas

The SCRS Chair explained that small tuna catches are variable from year-to-year and are often very important from a social and economic perspective, as they are a main source of food for coastal communities. Landings of small tuna are likely underestimated, due to difficulties in data collection. 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 (southeastern little tunny and northwestern wahoo). The SCRS plans to continue to support the Small Tunas Research Programme (SMTYP) from 2022-2024 (Appendix 8 of the *Report for Biennial Period 2022-2023, Part I (2022), Vol. 2*), including through a regional workshop on data-limited methods for small tuna stock assessments and a workshop on maturity staging for small tuna stocks.

Comments on the SCRS presentation

Numerous CPCs underlined their concern with the lack of discard data resulting from poor CPC reporting. The SCRS Chair explained that the impact of those data gaps was hard to quantify, but it was possible that it led to major underestimates of catch and/or mortality. The SCRS Chair reiterated that the SCRS is willing to help CPCs with methods to estimate discards.

One CPC questioned the North Atlantic swordfish Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) calendar, pointing out that the bluefin tuna MSE process required significantly more meetings than are currently scheduled for the swordfish MSE. The SCRS Chair acknowledged the shortcoming but pointed out that there were many competing priorities.

6. Review of the Report of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4, and consideration of any necessary actions

No separate report was produced for the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 4 held on 13 November 2022.

7. Review of compliance tables

The Chair invited CPCs who had exceeded quotas to present plans for repayment of overharvests, but no comments were made. No further issues were raised, and no issues were referred to Panel 4 by the Compliance Committee.

8. Consideration of any actions required in relation to the Proposals for the inclusion of the *Carcharhinidae* Spp. and *Sphyrnidae* Spp. in CITES Appendix II

Following a request of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Secretariat sent that organization the available catch data for shark species, references to assessments, other scientific activities pertinent to them, and a summary of ICCAT's applicable management measures. The document "Notes on the inclusion of the *Carcharhinidae* sharks in Appendix ii of Cites in relation to the stock status, scientific advice provided to the Commission, and relevant shark management recommendations" is included in **Appendix 12 to ANNEX 8**.

CPCs expressed a range of views on this item. One CPC noted its appreciation of the collaboration between the ICCAT Secretariat and CITES and emphasized the importance of including broader conservation topics, such as CITES, on the Panel 4 Agenda. The need to ensure information sent to CITES by ICCAT is limited to factual information was stressed given that ICCAT CPCs have different individual positions regarding the

shark and other CITES proposals; ICCAT is not in a position to represent the views of all its members to CITES or other international organizations. Another CPC expressed concern with the proposal to include blue shark in CITES Appendix II since blue sharks are not being considered for listing because of a conservation concern, rather, the argument is that they should be listed because they are a look-alike species.

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

Updated fishing/management or development plans for North Atlantic swordfish

The Panel considered the North Atlantic swordfish fishing/management or development plans submitted by CPCs contained in document “Development or fishing/management plans for North Atlantic swordfish”. The European Union (EU) raised a number of questions about the fishing plans submitted by some CPCs and a revised version was produced. CPCs were not able to respond in real-time. No further comments or questions were raised.

A statement was submitted to Panel 4 by Egypt requesting a quota of Mediterranean swordfish (**Appendix 13 to ANNEX 8**).

Management plans for fishing Mediterranean swordfish as submitted in Recommendation 16-05

The Panel considered the Mediterranean swordfish fishing plans submitted by CPCs contained in document “Mediterranean swordfish fishing plans submitted in 2022 (Rec. 16-05)”. The EU raised concerns with certain plans that featured an apparent increase in vessel numbers despite decreasing quota allocations. Relevant CPCs agreed to speak with the EU bilaterally in response to these comments, and revised plans were tabled. In reviewing the revised plans, the EU reiterated its concerns that fishing capacity for some CPCs has continued to increase even though the quota for Mediterranean swordfish has been stable or decreasing.

“Draft Recommendation by ICCAT replacing supplemental Recommendation 21-03 extending and amending Recommendation 17-03 for the conservation of South Atlantic swordfish”

The Panel discussed a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT replacing supplemental Recommendation 21-03 extending and amending Recommendation 17-03 for the conservation of South Atlantic swordfish” submitted by the EU, to amend Recommendation 17-03 for the conservation of South Atlantic swordfish and extend it through 2026. Several CPCs raised concerns with the proposal, including on the TAC relative to SCRS advice, allocation arrangements, and the meaning of the term “additional measures” that would be called for should total catch be exceeded. The EU clarified that reducing the TAC was an additional measure that could be applied, among other options. The EU revised the proposal based on comments received, including adjusting the carryover allowance percentage and updating the TAC to be in line with SCRS advice. The allocation table was left unchanged, but text was included to ensure any overharvest of the TAC in any given year would be paid back. The revised proposal was agreed and referred to plenary for adoption.

“Draft Recommendation by ICCAT replacing supplemental Recommendation 21-02 extending and amending Recommendation 17-02 for the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish”

The Panel considered a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT replacing supplemental Recommendation 21-02 extending and amending Recommendation 17-02 for the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish” put forward by the United States, to amend Recommendation 17-02 on the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish and extend it for one year, taking note of the forthcoming MSE process for North Atlantic swordfish. Small modifications were made to clarify quota amounts for the European Union and United Kingdom under their Trade and Cooperation Agreement. The revised version was agreed and referred to plenary for adoption.

“Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of the South Atlantic stock of shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries”

Following the measure adopted in 2021 for North Atlantic shortfin mako shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries, the Panel considered a similar measure for South Atlantic shortfin mako i.e. “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of the South Atlantic stock of shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries”. The proposal, introduced by the European Union and the United Kingdom, which proposed a retention ban, received comments from several CPCs. China (P.R.) noted its support for the proposal but, for the record, expressed concern with the timeline. The United Kingdom and the EU affirmed that the Convention provided for a 6-month entry into force period for implementation of the measure and agreed that period would apply here. Japan requested that the footnote specifying that all landings be done in accordance with CITES be removed from the measure. The European Union expressed its preference to retain the footnote but agreed to remove it to move the proposal forward. In response to the EU, Japan stated for the record that any CPC that is a Party to CITES shall implement CITES rules unless it puts a reservation to shortfin mako. Two other CPCs raised serious concerns with the paragraph that only allowed retention of dead sharks, as verified by an observer or electronic monitoring system; CPCs agreed to delay the entry into force of that provision until new scientific advice is provided to the Commission in 2024. After two rounds of revision based on CPC comments, the revised version was agreed and referred to plenary for adoption.

“Draft Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT”

Belize introduced, on behalf of numerous co-sponsors, a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT” that requires sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries to be landed with their fins naturally attached. Belize explained that the proposal did not differ in substance from what had been submitted to previous ICCAT meetings, where it had received broad support from CPCs. Belize emphasized the conservative life history of sharks and how important it is for shark fins to remain attached through landing to improve species-specific data collection and to ensure compliance with conservation and management measures. Though the proposal again received broad support from CPCs, two CPCs reiterated their opposition to the measure. One of these explained that it had agreed to a similar measure in Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) because members of that organization realized the difficulties of enforcing compliance with the implementation of a fin to carcass ratio when conducting inspections at sea under the WCPFC High Seas Boarding and Inspection Scheme. ICCAT, on the other hand, does not yet have such a comprehensive scheme. This CPC indicated willingness to reconsider the proposal if a similar scheme was introduced in ICCAT. That CPC also stated that while some CPCs condemn finning practice, they have not provided concrete evidence for such illegal activities. The Panel was not able to achieve consensus on the proposal and referred it to Plenary for further consideration. In responding to a question from the Panel Chair on how to move forward, one CPC encouraged CPCs to ratify the Protocol to amend the ICCAT Convention as soon as possible because the new ICCAT Convention would have a mandate to manage sharks.

Several observer organizations, including Shark Project International, Pro Wildlife, and the Ecology Action Center (EAC) encouraged ICCAT to take action for the protection of sharks, including by adopting this draft recommendation, the South Atlantic shortfin mako proposal, and by supporting shark proposals at CITES.

“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 submitted a “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)”, which was co-sponsored by Brazil. The EU also submitted a proposal on this issue under the same title, which was co-sponsored by Türkiye and Egypt. After initial consideration of the two proposals by the Panel, they were merged into a joint proposal that offered a broad framework of options for mitigating bycatch of sea turtles caught in association with ICCAT fisheries. In introducing the merged proposal, the United States noted for the record that it had shown significant flexibility in the development of the joint text and stressed that, while it was disappointed that the compromise proposal was not as comprehensive and strong as the original U.S./Brazil text - in particular with regard to the derogations regarding implementation of bycatch mitigation measures for the Mediterranean - it represented, on balance, a good step forward for sea turtle

conservation in the Atlantic. The EU stated that it was a great achievement and a landmark recommendation that would go far in ensuring the conservation of sea turtles in ICCAT. CPCs offered several comments and edits on the merged proposal, including on the southern boundary of the measure. Parties agreed to revisit the southern boundary in 2023 for applicability of the measure pending SCRS advice. The proposal was amended based on the input received and the revised version, was agreed and referred to plenary for adoption.

10. Identification of outdated measures in light of 9 above

No measures were identified.

11. Research

The SCRS Chair reiterated that CPCs should support the research programmes that have been identified by the SCRS and provide the SCRS with the information, including data on dead discards and live releases, needed to provide responses and advice to the Commission.

12. Other matters

Statements were submitted to Panel 4 by the Ecology Action Centre, Europêche, Pew Charitable Trusts, and a joint statement was submitted by Shark Project and Pro Wildlife (**Appendix 14-17 to ANNEX 8**).

13. Adoption of the report and adjournment

It was agreed that the report would be adopted by correspondence.

The Commission Chair adjourned the meeting with well wishes to Mr. Belacel, many thanks to the Secretariat and interpreters for all their hard work, and congratulations to the Panel members on a successful meeting.

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 8 above
10. Research
11. Other matters
12. 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
 - 6.1 Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Mediterranean Albacore
 - 6.2 Reports of the Intersessional Meetings of Panel 2
 - 6.3 Reports of Intersessional Meetings on BFT MSE
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 8 above
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12. 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. Identification of outdated measures in light of 7 above
9. Research
10. Other matters
11. 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. Consideration of any actions required in relation to the Proposals for the inclusion of the *Carcharhinidae Spp.* and *Sphyrnidae Spp.* in CITES Appendix II.
9. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*
10. Identification of outdated measures in light of 9 above
11. Research
12. Other matters
13. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 8

Statement by Infopêche to PA1

The Intergovernmental Organisation for Marketing Information and Cooperation Services for Fishery Products in Africa (INFOPÊCHE) follows closely the discussions on tropical tunas within Panel 1.

INFOPÊCHE is disappointed at non-adoption of a tropical tunas management measure at this session. The SCRS report invites caution since even if the Kobe strategy incites TAC increase, the Kobe plot indicates that the trajectory of the bigeye tuna stock is between the yellow and the green and even that it is closer to the yellow quadrant.

INFOPÊCHE thanks CPCs that have supported that any increase in the current TAC be accompanied by strong measures to protect juveniles in view of increasing stock productivity.

INFOPÊCHE invites all CPCs of Panel 1 to be reminded of the advice issued by Japan which one day said "the measure must not equitably satisfy CPCs, but the appropriate measure will equitably dissatisfy all".

After close to a decade, the Panel 1 meetings have become a forum where all the members agree on their disagreement at each meeting.

The time has come to end this recurring cycle of disagreement and INFOPÊCHE encourages the Chair of Panel 1 to continue its current efforts and to continue its consultations with CPCs during the intersessional meetings so that an agreement can be found in 2023.

INFOPÊCHE would like this statement to be translated into the three languages and included in the meeting report.

Appendix 3 to ANNEX 8

Statement by Pew Charitable Trusts to PA1

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 catches of bigeye, yellowfin, and skipjack were down substantially in 2021 compared to recent years, and we urge Panel 1 members to ask questions of the scientists and the fishing industry stakeholders to try to ascertain the causes behind this decline. We note that the industry has maintained for many years that reductions on FAD fishing would lead to an increase in catches of yellowfin, so with the three-month FAD closure in effect in 2021, the reduction by nearly 50 thousand tonnes of yellowfin catch is particularly surprising and potentially concerning. In addition to discussing changing catch levels from 2020 to 2021, we urge Panel 1 members to consider the following items this year:

- Take all necessary steps to ensure that management of fisheries targeting tropical tunas is in place next year – while Panel 1 negotiations continue to be difficult, all members must take the necessary steps to keep management measures for bigeye, yellowfin, and the use of fish aggregating devices in place in 2023. If consensus cannot be reached on a new set of measures, Panel 1 should roll over the existing, strong Recommendation for another year. Rollover would have the added benefit that stock status should continue to improve and fisheries productivity should continue to increase at current fishing mortality levels.
- Adopt proposal [PA1_503](#) on western skipjack management objectives – this proposal from Brazil and South Africa starts an important conversation on Management Procedure (MP) adoption for the tropical tunas. Unlike fisheries targeting eastern skipjack, experts believe that fisheries targeting western skipjack do not interact substantially with bigeye or yellowfin. Therefore, MP development and adoption could proceed for that stock alone. A team of

scientists from Brazil has already completed an interim Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for this stock, and the SCRS is ready to begin receiving input from managers. This proposal – a good first step – should be supported by Panel 1 this year.

- Advance MPs for fisheries targeting the other three tropical tuna stocks – Panel 1 should request the budgeting of sufficient financial resources for development of a multi-stock MSE and should begin scheduling intersessional meetings to advance the dialogue between its members, the SCRS, and the relevant stakeholders.
- Begin discussions of an allocation key for the yellowfin total allowable catch – for several years, there has been an understandable focus on the bigeye recovery efforts, but now Panel 1 must begin addressing the lack of allocation for yellowfin to avoid a return to fishing well above the TAC.

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 8

Statement by Pew Charitable Trusts to PA2

The Pew Charitable Trusts welcomes this opportunity to comment on the important business matters that Panel 2 will address at this year's Commission meeting. First, we would like to acknowledge the tremendous intersessional efforts of Panel 2 and the SCRS to finalize the management strategy evaluation (MSE) for Atlantic bluefin tuna this year. The bluefin MSE was a historic undertaking, and based on this remarkable accomplishment, we urge Panel 2 to do the following:

- Adopt Recommendation [PA2_613](#) to establish a management procedure for Atlantic bluefin tuna to be used for both the western and eastern management areas. After nearly a decade of hard work, both by the SCRS and Panel 2, it is time to adopt a management procedure to set total allowable catches (TACs) for both sides of the Atlantic starting in the 2023 fishing year. A historically complex and robust MSE that accounts for stock mixing was completed this year and endorsed by the SCRS as ready to be the basis for TAC-setting. All remaining candidate management procedure variants meet the minimum performance standards for stock status and safety as advised by Panel 2, giving CPCs twenty-four viable options. Adopting the management procedure, especially one using a stock status management objective that requires a 70% probability of occurring in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot in 2052 (i.e., PGK performance statistic), is the best option to help secure healthy populations and industry stability for the long-term. PGK70% is particularly appropriate since Panel 2 agreed to the riskiest option for the safety objective (i.e., LD*15%) and since PGK only looks at one value 30 years in the future rather than in every year as in ICCAT's traditional use of requiring a 60% chance of being in the Kobe green quadrant.
- Adopt Recommendations [PA2_611](#) and [PA2_615](#) to implement the MP-based TAC in both eastern and western management areas, respectively.

Taking these steps would ultimately progress ICCAT's mandate to ensure the sustainability of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean, and we look forward to offering our support toward any such endeavours.

Appendix 5 to ANNEX 8

Statement by Albania to Panel 2

Albania is a member of the ICCAT since 2008 and during this period has sought to fulfil all the obligations that membership in ICCAT brings. Let me assure you that in the future the efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in this direction will be the maximum in order that the bluefin tuna fishing activity to continue to be in a sustainable way and in accordance with the ICCAT Recommendations and relevant international instruments.

The existing quota is too small and as such does not promote investment in the sector, either for the catch or for tuna farming. Albania has the smallest quota of bluefin tuna in the Mediterranean. Such existing quota do not allow our tuna farm to be effective and efficient one.

On behalf of the Albanian Government, I have the honor to submit a request for the significant increase of the quota of bluefin tuna for Albania. Today under the conditions when the successful management measures taken by ICCAT have led to a tendency to revise the TAC, we hope and wish that our demand will have a positive response and a strong support by the ICCAT and the other CPCs.

Taking into consideration the economic dimension of bluefin tuna fishing and farming, Albania, as a developing country, considers this activity as a field that can create prosperity and employment, contributing to growth of the national economy.

Appendix 6 to ANNEX 8

Statement by Algeria to Panel 2

The Head Delegate of Algeria to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), has the honour to reiterate Algeria's request for an upward revision of Algeria's Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishing quota.

Chair, the practitioners and vessel owners involved in the bluefin tuna fishery have consistently called for an upward revision of Algeria's bluefin tuna fishing quota, which they consider to be below that of many countries, even all those countries with the same particularities as Algeria, in particular, configuration of the profession, fishing traditions and background, composition of fishing capacity, geography of the regions etc.

Chair, effectively, the Department of Fisheries, represented by the Ministry of Fisheries and Fisheries Products, considers that it is the case that while Algeria's bluefin tuna quota was revised downwards in 2011, due to the decrease in TAC, there has been a sharp and significant decrease only in the allocation key for Algeria, falling from 5.073% to 1.07%.

Chair, since Algeria acceded to ICCAT by way of Presidential Decree No. 2000-388 of 28 November 2000, it has made every effort to honour its commitments and comply with the provisions of the Convention, and the ICCAT Recommendations and Resolutions through:

- Implementation of the conservation and management measures into the national regulation,
- Regular participation in ICCAT intersessional meetings,
- Participation by Algerian scientists in the work of the scientific committee (SCRS),
- Notification, by the established deadlines, of all information required under ICCAT Recommendations,
- Correct conduct of the bluefin tuna fishing campaign.

It should be recalled that Algeria does not allow any bluefin tuna fishing outside of its national quota, even though the waters under national jurisdiction are considered an area of common passage and migration of this resource. Regarding the above, it is noted the efforts and understanding of all ICCAT parties, which have resulted in an increase in Algeria's quota since 2012, but its historical quota has never been reached.

On this basis, Algeria requests an upward revision of its quota, in particular, of the allocation key in relation to the TAC reserved for Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna.

Chair, we ask for your understanding in the careful review of this request.

While you are welcome to contact us for any additional information considered necessary, we will submit, without delay, the background to this request.

Appendix 7 to ANNEX 8

Statement by Egypt to Panel 2

In the beginning, I would like to thank you for your continuous effort to achieve and implement the ICCAT principles and its international roles, on the other hand, we highly appreciate your effort to provide Egypt support all those years so we can apply and implement the needed conservation regulations through transposed the ICCAT Recommendation into the Egyptian domestic law.

Allover 14 years of our contribution in the ICCAT since Egypt joined in 2007, we are doing our best to fulfill all our obligation and compliance with ICCAT Recommendations, each year we are getting better to fulfill our obligations also to better management through enhancing and developing the management standers as well as the protective regulation that organize fishing operation, in accordance with our available economic resources "which unfortunately is limited" to achieve our commitments.

Over the preceding years, the increase in Egypt's BFT quota was not as the quota specified for other neighboring countries and wasn't in line with our ambition to develop our investments in this field. Egypt always seeks to achieve the maximum economic yield from the tuna fishing, such as seeking to operate the first bluefin tuna farm in Egypt, in addition, planning to increase the number of vessels licensed to fish for tuna during the coming years. Moreover, Egypt 2030 strategy aims to increase its fish production and encourage investments in this field especially with the governmental plans to expand fisheries projects. Furthermore, we have received many requests from different companies for registering many of their own vessels to target BFT, all of these companies are looking forward to participating in tuna fishing and farming which in turn affects positively not only our economic yield and our national income but also act to promote jobs in a way to reduce unemployment and poverty.

In this regard, Egypt officially requests an increase for its BFT quota in line with planned investments in the coming years, and we support the request from National Company for Fisheries an Aquaculture to increase the quota up to 2,500 tons.

Chair, Egypt would be as grateful as we know that you will be fully understood of our request.

Hopefully, all CPCs and ICCAT would be satisfied with our request to increase our BFT quota.

We welcome any inquiries, and we are fully willingness to provide any further information.

Appendix 8 to ANNEX 8

Statement by Korea to PA2

Korea appreciates all the efforts made by the researchers, MP developers and CPCs to make this Panel move forward, and especially you Chair, for your excellent work through this week.

Korea can show flexibility and go along with the TAC allocation that the majority of CPCs reluctantly supported, and we would like to note that Korea is also one of the CPCs sharing the disappointment and frustration on the allocation results.

Korea would like to invite the Panel to recall Recommendation 02-08 which clearly expresses that Korea redeems its 1.5% share of any given TAC when it individually has fished its current level of underages.

Korea made a statement at the Panel 2 meeting in March 2018 requesting the Panel to recall this Recommendation in any future allocation discussions. However, Korea's request was not taken into consideration in this year's allocation discussions. We therefore need to again express our great disappointment that Recommendation 02-08 and Korea's statement were not given any consideration.

Korea would like to strongly underscore that fishing nations' legitimate shares, especially Korea's share of the 1.5% of TAC in accordance with Recommendation 02-08, should be given due consideration and priority when discussing the allocation key or allocating any reserves or TACs next time.

Appendix 9 to ANNEX 8

First Statement by Mauritania to PA2

The Islamic Republic of Mauritania has been a member of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) for over 15 years and comply faithfully with all the recommendations and resolutions adopted. Mauritania has always complied with the conservation and management measures taken by ICCAT. Mauritania participates assiduously in all the meetings, both annual and scientific. Mauritania does its utmost to pay regularly its financial contributions.

At the time when the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna stock was experiencing difficulties, Mauritania abstained from claiming a quota and did not dare venture into this fishery. In recent years, the scientific committee (SCRS) has shown that the bluefin tuna stock in the area referred to above has recovered and that a TAC increase would not undermine this. In light of this observation, Mauritania has decided to promote bluefin tuna activity and to develop a fleet targeting bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic during the 2023 campaign. On this basis, Mauritania intends to deploy a purse seiner in 2023 and another purse seiner in 2024.

To support the efforts to promote employment and develop the tuna fishery sector, the Head Delegate of Mauritania requests a quota of 200 t for the 2023 campaign and 200 t for the 2024 campaign.

Second Statement by Mauritania to PA2

The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania notes with regret that its request for allocation of a quota enabling it to engage in the tuna fishery, may not be favourably accepted by ICCAT. However, the SCRS report does not indicate any issue in establishing new allocations.

The delegation of Mauritania has noted that all the discussions on management of eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna catches have not complied with the principles of equity which should govern our organisation. It is regrettable to note that the decisions taken on quota allocation do not take into account the concerns of developing countries. Rather, these decisions undermine them and continue to favour a limited number of Contracting Parties.

In the face of this situation which forsakes the fundamental principles on which ICCAT is constituted, Mauritania is compelled to oppose adoption of any the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna recommendation if the proposed quota system does not take into account the interests of our developing countries. Mauritania is obliged to consider the possibility of lodging a formal objection to any recommendation that it deems non-equitable in accordance with the provisions of the Convention texts.

Appendix 10 to ANNEX 8

Statement by Norway to PA2

Bluefin tuna is a stock which has occurred along the Norwegian coast for thousands of years, and is a stock which has been important to our fishermen along the coast for centuries.

Norway became a member to the ICCAT in 2004, and in 2007 Norway prohibited the catch of bluefin tuna in our waters, due to the grave condition the stock was in. In 2014-2016 we conducted a limited fishery with a strong focus on research. In 2017 we started a limited commercial fishery for bluefin tuna, still with a strong focus on research.

After the implementation of the rebuilding plan in ICCAT, the stock increased, and the bluefin tuna started to return to the Norwegian coastline. The stock is now definitely back in our waters, where it feeds in one of the worlds most productive marine ecosystems. A consequence of this feeding is that it might reduce the biomass on valuable pelagic stocks. Our fishermen are therefore to some extent paying for the increased bluefin tuna stock, and we are increasingly concerned for the impact the bluefin tuna will have on other stocks. Some of the schools of bluefin tuna in Norwegian waters in the late autumn are so large that our fishermen refrain from setting the purse seine in fear of getting catches that are too large to handle.

Norway had a large bluefin tuna fishery between 1950 and 1970, with an average catch of almost 5430 tonnes. The Norwegian share of the total catches in these years was around 20 %, and the catches were well documented. Scientific data from these catches has been forwarded to ICCAT. The Norwegian catch data from this period constitutes an important part of historical catch data for bluefin tuna.

Norway has provided data from the past 70 years on the bluefin tuna in our waters to the ICCAT, and Norway has contributed with scientific data from 268 000 individuals, which, when compared to our small share in the last years, is an impressive amount. Norway has also opened up for a tag and release fishery, where bluefin tunas are tagged with both conventional tags and electronic tags. This will still provide valuable information on the movement of the stock. As of today Norway provides ICCAT, and particularly GBYP, with large numbers of biological, ecological and genetic samples and data from all individual Atlantic bluefin tuna caught in directed fisheries and as bycatch in other fisheries (non-ICCAT fisheries) and in the recreational rod and reel fishery for BFT conducted in Norwegian waters. In addition, Norway is also conducting dedicated science on acoustic sonar recordings and visual observations of BFT in Norwegian waters.

Norway is a coastal state to the bluefin tuna stock. We have made a huge scientific contribution on bluefin tuna to ICCAT, and for several years we refrained from fishing for bluefin tuna in order to help rebuilding the stock. We continue to strive for improving our knowledge on the stock, both through new ways of maintaining the quality of the tuna we catch, for instance through the pilot project of short- term live storage, and on continuing to collect scientific data.

Despite our contribution, and our status as coastal state, the Norwegian quota on bluefin tuna is significantly lower than the quota of CPCs which are not coastal states to this stock. Norway requests this injustice to be corrected, and request a larger share of Atlantic bluefin tuna.

References:

Ferter, K., Bjelland, O., Hinriksson, J., Nøttestad, L. 2020. Tagging of Atlantic bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) with pop-up satellite archival tags (PSAT) in Norway during 2020. Final project report prepared for the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT) / Grand Bluefin Year Programme (GBYP) 2020 – Phase 10. GBYP e-tagging program 2020. 10 p.

Nøttestad, L. Boge, E., Ferter K. 2020. Comeback at Atlantic bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) to Norwegian waters. *Fisheries Research* 231, November 2020, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fishres.2020.105689>.

Appendix 11 to ANNEX 8

Statement by UK to PA2

There are historical records of Atlantic bluefin tuna in UK waters from at least the 19th century. By the 1930s, recreational bluefin fishing with rod and reel was a popular sport in the UK. We have records of consistent catches in that period.

But the UK has witnessed the changing fortunes of Atlantic bluefin tuna first hand. By the mid-1960s the species was seemingly absent from our waters. However, since 2014 bluefin tuna have been increasingly sighted in UK waters and our successful tagging programmes indicate that the species is increasingly abundant in our waters. This may be due to both oceanographic and ecosystem changes, but also the efforts put into stock recovery.

As a coastal State for the eastern Atlantic bluefin stock, the UK asks the Panel to consider our request for a quota increase.

We have evidence which indicates increased presence and abundance of bluefin tuna in UK waters. This also demonstrates the contribution we are making to research.

Firstly, since 2018 we have been delivering our own Thunnus UK programme. This has been delivered through collaboration between the UK Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) and the University of Exeter. Around one hundred fish have been tagged with PSAT tags, mainly in the waters off Southwest England.

Secondly, we have delivered a further 'Catch and Release Tagging' programme in the last two years. Through this collaboration between government scientists and recreational anglers, a further 700 bluefin tuna were tagged in 2021. In 2022 [we have already tagged over 1,000 fish](#).

However, the UK currently has just 0.13% of the available TAC. This is the lowest of all ICCAT CPCs. This means we only have around 50 t of quota. We are requesting a further 350 t and consider this to be a very reasonable request.

This would allow us to develop our fisheries and bring benefits to coastal communities in the UK where economic opportunities are limited.

We acknowledge the requests of other CPCs and hope that all reasonable requests can be met.

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Phillips, S., Ford, J., Murphy, S., McMaster, J., Thomas, S., Duffy, M., Davis, S., Arris, M. and Righton, D. (2022) Summary of the 2021 pilot year catch and release tagging (CHART) programme in southwest England. ICCAT SCRS/2022/173.

Horton, T.W, Hawkes, L.A., Witt, M.J., van der Kooij, J. and Righton, D. (in prep.) Thunnus UK Defra Policy Report.
<https://www.thunnusuk.org/projects>

Appendix 12 to ANNEX 8

**Notes on the inclusion of the *Carcharhinidae* sharks in Appendix II of CITES
in relation to the stock status, scientific advice provided to the Commission,
and relevant shark management Recommendations**

*Submitted by the Chair and Vice-chair of ICCAT's Standing Committee of Research and Statistics (SCRS),
Co-convenor of the Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch,
the Shark Species Group Rapporteur, and the ICCAT Secretariat*

Below we provide comments about the inclusion of the family Carcharhinidae on CITES Appendix II from the perspective of the scientific work conducted and advice provided by the Standing Committee of Research and Statistics (SCRS) on Atlantic stocks to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

Background Information

- (1) ICCAT is the tuna-RFMO (Regional Fisheries Management Organization) that is responsible for the management and conservation of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas. Under the [new ICCAT Convention](#), not yet in force, the mandate of ICCAT will include migratory and oceanic shark species. Since 1994, ICCAT taken on this role to ensure the conservation and management shark species associated with its fisheries, given that no RFMO manages such species in the Atlantic Ocean. The ICCAT Contracting Parties undertake to collaborate with each other with a view to the adoption of suitable effective measures to ensure the application of the provisions of this Convention and in particular to set up a system of international enforcement to be applied to the Convention area. The ICCAT measures are considered the minimum; Contracting and Cooperating Parties may apply more stringent measures. ICCAT has 13 active binding management measures that are in effect specifically for shark species (see **Appendix A**), that include among other things catch limits for shark species (see Recs. [21-10](#) and [21-11](#)) and the requirement for CPCs to take the necessary measures for their fisheries to fully utilize their entire catches of sharks ([Rec. 04-10](#)). Full utilization is defined as retention by the fishing vessel of all parts of the shark excepting head, guts and skins, to the point of first landing.
- (2) Within ICCAT, the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) is the scientific body responsible for providing scientific advice to the Commission. ICCAT has a specific Species Group dedicated exclusively to sharks that regularly carries out stock assessments and provides advice for pelagic, oceanic and highly migratory shark species. ICCAT also has a Subcommittee on Ecosystems and Bycatch that deals with Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management and provides advice for mitigation of the impact of ICCAT fisheries on vulnerable taxa, including sharks. ICCAT established a dedicated Sharks Research and Data Collection Programme in 2014, which has since been funded annually. The Programme focuses on all pelagic shark species. Since its inception multiple research projects have been carried out, focusing on issues such as stock structure (using satellite tagging and population genetics), population dynamics (ageing and reproductive biology), movement patterns, habitat use, and post-release mortality (also using satellite telemetry). All these studies and results have contributed to improve understanding of the dynamics of shark species in the Atlantic, and to provide improved scientific advice to the Commission with regards to the status of shark stocks and management and conservation measures.

Data and Conservation Measures Enforced by ICCAT

- (3) In addition to the regularly conducted stock assessment for porbeagle shark (*Lamna nasus*), shortfin mako shark (*Isurus oxyrinchus*), and blue shark (*Prionace glauca*), in 2008 ICCAT conducted an Ecological Risk Assessment to define shark species at potential risks to sharks species in ICCAT waters, and ICCAT also developed an Identification Guide for *Carcharhinus* species, and other sharks so that its contracting parties could improve their shark statistics.

- (4) Recommendation 19-01 defines 24 species that are the responsibility of ICCAT. **Appendix B** defines the list of species for which ICCAT keeps statistics. This includes the major shark species (Porbeagle shark, shortfin mako shark, blue shark), other species that are the responsibility of ICCAT, and associated species.
- (5) Of the specific species listed in the section A(i) and (ii) of the listing proposal, ICCAT has received reports of catches only for *Carcharhinus obscurus*, *C. plumbeus* and *C. signatus* (see **Appendix C**).
- (6) Once the species list is expanded to include all other species in the family Carcharhinidae (section A (iii) of the proposal) then all species from the genera: *Carcharhinus*, *Isogomphodon*, *Loxodon*, *Nasolamia*, *Lamiopsis*, *Negaprion*, *Prionace*, *Rhizoprionodon*, *Scoliodon*, *Triaenodon* are included. It is worth to mention that there are capture records in ICCAT of species of the Genus *Glyphis*, *Lamiopsis*, *Loxodon*, *Scoliodon* nor *Triaenodon* in the Atlantic Ocean. In this case, 16 species have been reported in ICCAT fisheries (**Table C1** and **Figure C1**). For *C. leucas*, *C. acronotus*, *C. altimus*, *C. brevipinna*, *C. isodon*, *Negaprion brevirostris*, *Rhizoprionodon terraenovae*, *C. brachyurus*, *C. galapagensis* in the last ten years there have been no catches in ICCAT fisheries (see **Appendix C**). Other than for *P. glauca*, for which there is a commercial fishery (see below), *C. falciformis* and *C. longimanus*, there have been no reported catches of other species in these genera in the last 5 years (**Table C1**).
- (7) ICCAT has commercial fisheries for the blue shark *P. glauca*. The [most-recent stock assessment](#) conducted by ICCAT for blue shark took place in 2015 using catch data up to 2013. The range of stock assessment scenarios explored using a Bayesian Surplus Production (BSP) model showed that the stock was not overfished ($B_{2013}/B_{MSY}=1.50$ to 1.96) and that overfishing was not occurring ($F_{2013}/F_{MSY}=0.04$ to 0.50). While age-structured assessment model scenarios varied more widely, they still predicted that the stock was not overfished ($SSF_{2013}/SSF_{MSY}=1.35$ to 3.45) and that overfishing was not occurring ($F_{2013}/F_{MSY}=0.15$ to 0.75). For the South Atlantic stock, scenarios with the BSP model estimated that the stock was not overfished ($B_{2013}/B_{MSY}=1.96$ to 2.03) and that overfishing was not occurring ($F_{2013}/F_{MSY}=0.01$ to 0.11). The status of the stocks showed that blue sharks are managed sustainably in ICCAT waters. The SCRS has scheduled a new assessment for the North and South Atlantic stocks in 2023.
- (8) With respect to the look-alike issue identified in section A (iii) of the listing proposal, ICCAT requires; i) CPCs take the necessary measures to require that their fishermen fully utilize their entire catches of sharks and fishing vessels are required to retain all parts of the shark including fins and carcasses to the point of first landing ([Rec. 04-10](#)) (similar measures are in place in other RFMOs) and ii) [Rec. 11-10](#) requires that CPCs collect data on dead and live discards in their domestic observer and logbook programs under the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Information Collection and Harmonization of Data on By-catch and Discards in ICCAT Fisheries*. [Rec. 04-10](#) reduces the problems of identifying sharks by their fins alone and ii) [Rec. 11-10](#) ensures that difficult-to-identify species are also monitored by trained observers thus allowing for the proper assessment and management of their catches. Moreover, according to the shark species identification tool [iSharkFin](#), developed by FAO, fins of the 19 species do not morphologically resemble those of blue shark. Given the requirement to land whole sharks, the presence of onboard observers, and the ease of differentiating blue shark fins from other Carcharhinid shark fins, the 19 species are distinguishable even in a hypothetical case where they are caught together with blue shark.
- (9) Catch records show that in practice, there are small or non-existent bycatch for the species proposed in the CITES proposal in the ICCAT area. Furthermore, catches of target fishery for *P. glauca* are not positively correlated with catches of other Carcharhinid sharks (see **Figure C3**).
- (10) In summary, listing of blue shark (*P. glauca*) in CITES Appendix II will not contribute to the conservation of the 19 species for the following reasons:
- (a) Most of the 19 species concerned are associated to coastal areas and the continental shelf, whose habitat does not overlap with that of blue shark. Blue shark is mainly harvested offshore in controlled fisheries. Therefore, it is unlikely that blue sharks are harvested and landed together with the 19 species (see the evidence for the absence of significant correlation above).

- (b) Shark species can be identified when they are landed because in ICCAT, fishing vessels are required to retain all parts of the shark including fins and carcasses to the point of first landing. Blue shark and its parts (carcasses, fins) are clearly distinguishable from other shark species, so they are not confused with other species. Moreover, there are onboard observers to accurately identify the catch, and finally, according to the shark species identification tool [iSharkFin](#) developed by FAO, fins of the 19 species do not morphologically resemble those of blue shark.
- (c) The 19 species are distinguishable from blue shark in trade because shark products (fins and meat) are internationally traded separately by species, portions, and products that have different prices.

**ICCAT conservation and management measures
adopted in relation to *Carcharhinidae* and *Sphyrnidae***

Below is a list of current active Recommendations (binding) and Resolutions (non-binding) by ICCAT:

- [95-02] Resolution by ICCAT on cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) with regard to study on the status of stocks and bycatches of shark species
- [03-10] Resolution by ICCAT on the shark fishery
- [04-10] Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT
- [07-06] Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT concerning sharks
- [10-07] Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of oceanic whitetip sharks caught in association with fisheries in the ICCAT Convention area
- [10-08] Recommendation by ICCAT on hammerhead sharks (family *Sphyrnidae*) caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT
- [11-08] Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of silky sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries
- [13-10] Recommendation by ICCAT on biological sampling of prohibited shark species by scientific observers
- [18-06] Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 16-13 on improvement of compliance review of conservation and management measures regarding sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries
- [19-01] Recommendation By ICCAT on Fishes Considered to be Tuna and Tuna-Like Species Or Oceanic, Pelagic, and Highly Migratory Elasmobranchs
- [19-07] Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 16-12 on management measures by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 16-12 on management measures for the conservation of the North Atlantic blue shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries
- [19-08] Recommendation by ICCAT on management measures for the conservation of South Atlantic blue shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries
- [21-10] 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
- [21-11] Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 19-08 on management measures for the conservation of South Atlantic blue shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries

Appendix B

Table B1. Summary of shark species on ICCAT species list. Nei indicated non-identified.

CODE	Genus, species	Common Name (English)	Category	Taxon
SMA	<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	Shortfin mako	4-Sharks (major sp.)	1-Species
POR	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle	4-Sharks (major sp.)	1-Species
BSH	<i>Prionace glauca</i>	Blue shark	4-Sharks (major sp.)	1-Species
ALV	<i>Alopias vulpinus</i>	Thresher	5-Sharks (other sp.)	1-Species
BSK	<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>	Basking shark	5-Sharks (other sp.)	1-Species
BTH	<i>Alopias superciliosus</i>	Bigeye thresher	5-Sharks (other sp.)	1-Species
CCG	<i>Carcharhinus galapagensis</i>	Galapagos shark	5-Sharks (other sp.)	1-Species
CYW	<i>Centroscymnus owstonii</i>	Roughskin dogfish	5-Sharks (other sp.)	1-Species
ETU	<i>Etmopterus bullisi</i>	Lined lanternshark	5-Sharks (other sp.)	1-Species
EUP	<i>Euprotomicrus bispinatus</i> <i>Euprotomicroides</i>	pygmy shark	5-Sharks (other sp.)	1-Species
EUZ	<i>zantedeschia</i>	taillight shark	5-Sharks (other sp.)	1-Species
FAL	<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	Silky shark	5-Sharks (other sp.)	1-Species
HXN	<i>Hexanchus nakamurai</i>	bigeye sixgill shark	5-Sharks (other sp.)	1-Species
ISB	<i>Isistius brasiliensis</i>	Cookie cutter shark	5-Sharks (other sp.)	1-Species
ISP	<i>Isistius plutodus</i>	largetooth cookiecutter shark	5-Sharks (other sp.)	1-Species
LMA	<i>Isurus paucus</i>	Longfin mako	5-Sharks (other sp.)	1-Species
LMO	<i>Mitsukurina owstoni</i>	goblin shark	5-Sharks (other sp.)	1-Species
LMP	<i>Megachasma pelagios</i>	Megamouth shark	5-Sharks (other sp.)	1-Species
OCS	<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	Oceanic whitetip shark	5-Sharks (other sp.)	1-Species
PLS	<i>Pteroplatytrygon violacea</i>	Pelagic stingray	5-Sharks (other sp.)	1-Species
PSK	<i>Pseudocarcharias kamoharai</i>	Crocodile shark	5-Sharks (other sp.)	1-Species
QUL	<i>Squaliolus laticaudus</i>	Spined pygmy shark	5-Sharks (other sp.)	1-Species
RHN	<i>Rhincodon typus</i>	Whale shark	5-Sharks (other sp.)	1-Species
RMA	<i>Manta alfredi</i>	Inshore manta ray	5-Sharks (other sp.)	1-Species
RMB	<i>Manta birostris</i>	Giant manta	5-Sharks (other sp.)	1-Species
RMH	<i>Mobula hypostoma</i>	Lesser devil ray	5-Sharks (other sp.)	1-Species
RMJ	<i>Mobula japonica</i>	Spinetail mobula	5-Sharks (other sp.)	1-Species
RMM	<i>Mobula mobular</i>	Devil fish	5-Sharks (other sp.)	1-Species
RMN	<i>Mobula rochebrunei</i>	Lesser Guinean devil ray	5-Sharks (other sp.)	1-Species
RMO	<i>Mobula thurstoni</i>	Smoothtail mobula	5-Sharks (other sp.)	1-Species
RMT	<i>Mobula tarapacana</i>	Chilean devil ray	5-Sharks (other sp.)	1-Species
SDH	<i>Deania histricosa</i>	Rough longnose dogfish	5-Sharks (other sp.)	1-Species
SDU	<i>Deania profundorum</i>	Arrowhead dogfish	5-Sharks (other sp.)	1-Species
SPK	<i>Sphyrna mokarran</i>	Great hammerhead	5-Sharks (other sp.)	1-Species
SPL	<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>	Scalloped hammerhead	5-Sharks (other sp.)	1-Species
SPZ	<i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>	Smooth hammerhead	5-Sharks (other sp.)	1-Species
WSH	<i>Carcharodon carcharias</i>	Great white shark	5-Sharks (other sp.)	1-Species
SPN	<i>Sphyrna spp</i>	Hammerhead sharks nei	5-Sharks (other sp.)	2-Genus
THR	<i>Alopias spp</i>	Thresher sharks nei	5-Sharks (other sp.)	2-Genus
MAN	<i>Mobulidae</i>	Mantas, devil rays nei	5-Sharks (other sp.)	4-Family
MSK	<i>Lamnidae</i>	Mackerel sharks, porbeagles nei	5-Sharks (other sp.)	4-Family
RSK	<i>Carcharhinidae</i>	Requiem sharks nei	5-Sharks (other sp.)	4-Family
SPY	<i>Sphyrnidae</i>	Hammerhead sharks, etc. nei	5-Sharks (other sp.)	4-Family
STT	<i>Dasyatidae</i>	Stingrays, butterfly rays nei	5-Sharks (other sp.)	4-Family

Table C1. Summary of Atlantic-wide shark catches (in tons) in ICCAT fisheries for species of the Genus *Carcharhinus*, *Negaprion*, *Prionace* and *Rhizoprionodon*.

Year	<i>Carcharhinus falcoformis</i>	<i>Carcharhinus limbatus</i>	<i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	<i>Carcharhinus obscurus</i>	<i>Carcharhinus plumbeus</i>	<i>Carcharhinus signatus</i>	<i>Prionace glauca</i>	<i>Carcharhinus leucas</i>	<i>Carcharhinus acronotus</i>	<i>Carcharhinus altimus</i>	<i>Carcharhinus brevipinna</i>	<i>Carcharhinus isodon</i>	<i>Negaprion brevirostris</i>	<i>Rhizoprionodon terraenovae</i>	<i>Carcharhinus brachyurus</i>	<i>Carcharhinus galapagensis</i>
2000	93.5	18.5	4.1	48.3	174.3	91.0	36201	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2001	39.8	9.5	9.3	1.1	180.9	30.2	30458	0.4	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2002	30.0	21.0	2.5	2.4	106.6	9.1	26419	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2003	6.2	14.4	3.7	0.1	119.9	0.2	31030	0.4	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2004	8.2	201.5	1.6	0.0	49.0	0.1	29885	137.3	49.3	42.5	18.6	0.1	51.3	143.5	NA	NA
2005	13.5	6.2	3.4	NA	60.1	NA	30661	0.2	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2006	1.6	9.2	0.7	NA	36.8	NA	33283	0.1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2007	214.5	1.1	21.8	19.2	11.0	12.7	38628	NA	NA	0.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.0	0.0
2008	26.4	0.0	5.9	1.8	2.5	41.9	45895	0.5	NA	0.1	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.6	NA
2009	67.4	0.3	49.8	12.8	22.2	35.2	52270	0.2	NA	0.0	NA	NA	0.1	NA	0.4	1.2
2010	1.1	6.6	117.0	0.0	5.2	47.3	57807	NA	NA	0.2	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.0	0.0
2011	103.8	0.8	4.0	8.2	8.4	11.9	62107	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2012	39.6	0.0	3.0	6.9	4.2	31.1	54869	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2013	18.8	0.0	1.0	2.5	5.8	21.3	48599	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2014	24.6	0.0	0.0	3.7	0.0	0.0	51854	NA	NA	0.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.0	0.0
2015	22.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	52894	NA	NA	0.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.0	0.0
2016	11.3	NA	1.4	NA	NA	NA	58973	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2017	90.0	NA	1.9	NA	NA	NA	58753	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
2018	23.0	0.0	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	56047	NA	NA	0.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.0	0.0
2019	7.1	0.0	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	52470	NA	NA	0.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.0	0.0
2020	15.4	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	42690	NA	NA	0.0	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.0	0.0

The annual catch of blue shark by ICCAT CPCs is shown in the **Tables C2** and **C3**.

Table C2. Blue shark (North Atlantic) annual catches (unit: tons).

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
EU	37,269	33,209	27,014	20,956	16,282
Japan	4,217	4,444	4,111	3,855	2,328
Morocco	1,623	1,475	1,644	1,524	1,498
Total	44,797	39,766	34,052	27,271	20,899

Table C3. Blue shark (South Atlantic) annual catches (unit: tons).

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
EU	15,716	18,151	21,530	25,250	22,067
Namibia	2,775	1,357	3,290	0	4,120
Brazil	1,334	2,177	3,011	3,784	3,435
Japan	2,127	3,112	3,495	2,507	2,102
Chinese-Taipei	1,992	2,053	1,373	862	1,338
Total	25,415	28,374	34,382	34,732	33,652

Table C4. Status of blue shark *Prionace glauca* at ICCAT and other tRMFOs.

Management area	Year	Stock status*	Assessment institution	Reference
North/South Pacific	North:2022 South:2021	Not overfished, overfishing not occurring	North: ISC South: SPC/WCPFC	North: Finalizing a report South: https://meetings.wcpfc.int/node/12552
Indian Ocean	2021	Not overfished, overfishing not occurring	IOTC	https://www.iotc.org/documents/stock-assessment-blue-shark-indian-ocean
North/South Atlantic	2015	Not overfished, overfishing not occurring	ICCAT	https://www.iccat.int/Documents/SCRS/DetRep/BSH_SA_ENG.PDF

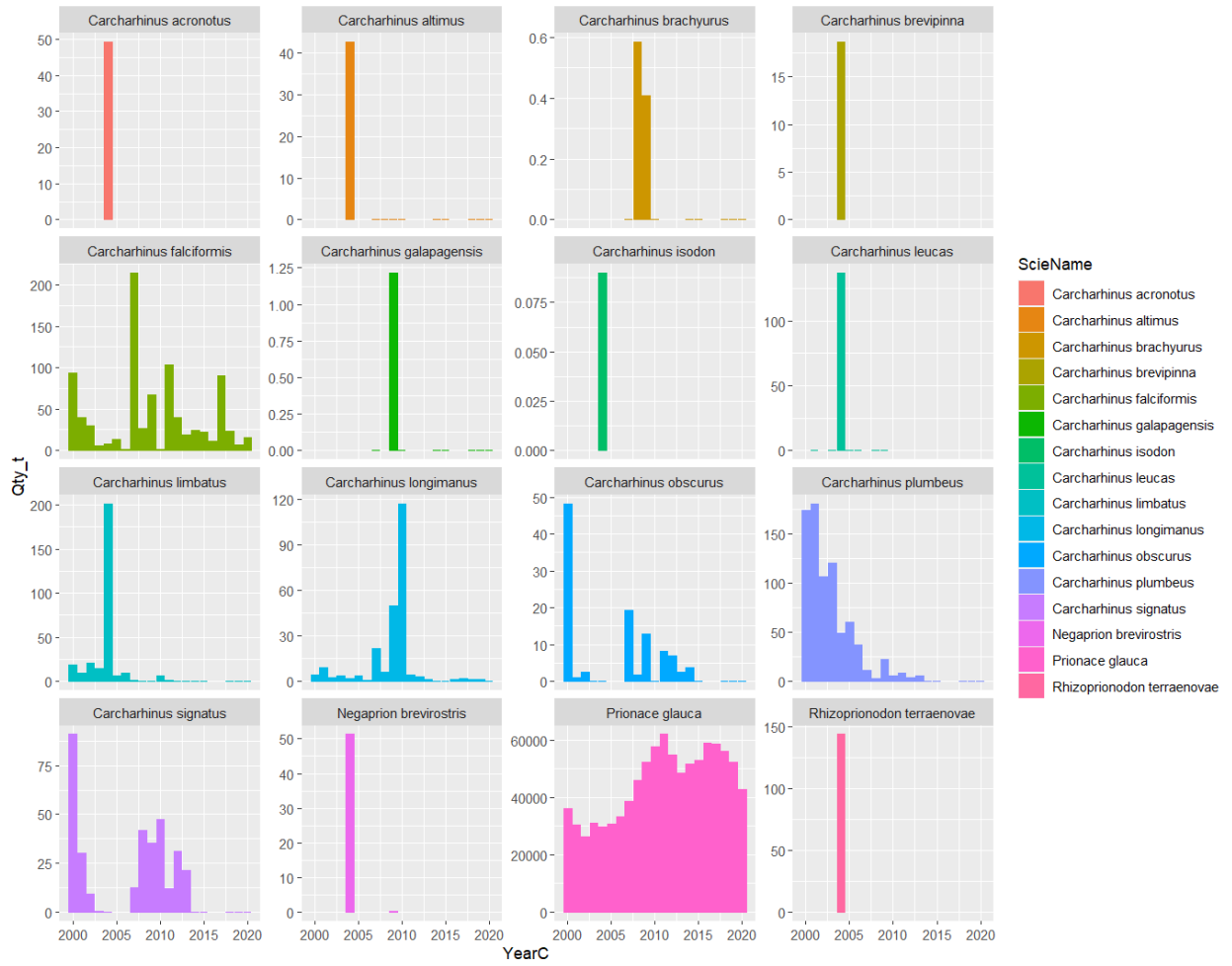


Figure C1. ICCAT Task 1 catches (in tonnes, y axis) by year (x axis) for shark species of the Genus *Carcharhinus*, *Negaprion*, *Prionace*, and *Rhizoprionodon*.

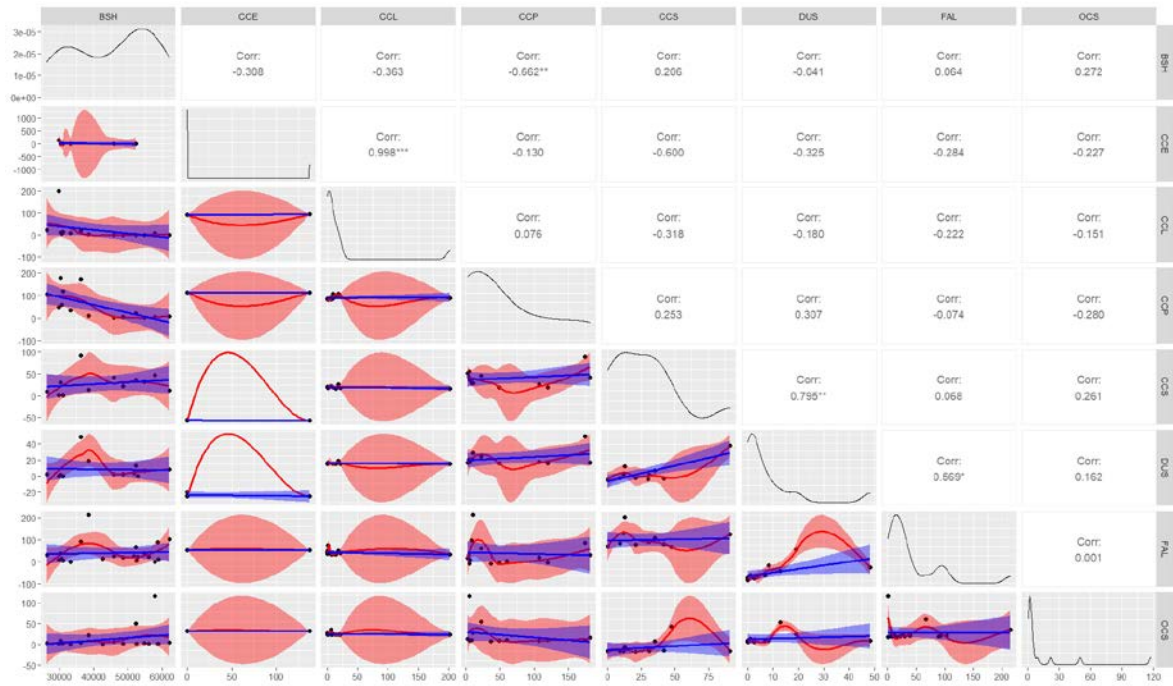


Figure C2. Correlation plot for Task 1 shark species of the Genus *Carcharhinus*, the Genus *Negaprion*, the Genus *Prionace*, and the Genus *Rhizoprionodon*. Species codes are listed in **Table 1**. The lower left triangle shows plots of Loess smoothed fit in red, and linear fits in blue. The upper right triangle represents the correlation coefficients for each species pair. The statistical significance of the correlations are marked as: *** if the p-value is < 0.001, ** if the p-value is < 0.01, * if the p-value is < 0.05, " if the p-value is < 0.10.

Statement by Egypt to PA4

In the beginning, Egypt would like to thank you for all your effort that you give continuously to achieve and implement the ICCAT principles and its international roles, on the other hand, it is of our highly appreciation what you provided to Egypt all those years of support so we can apply and implement the needed conservation regulations through transposing ICCAT recommendations into Egyptian domestic law.

Allover 14 years which reflect our contribution in the ICCAT since Egypt joined in 2007, we are trying hardly to comply all our obligations and compliance with ICCAT recommendations, each year we are getting closer to fulfil our obligations for better management, through enhancing and developing the management standards as well as the protective regulation that organize fishing operations, in accordance with our available economic resources “which unfortunately is limited” to reach the highest level of commitment.

In 2019, Egypt has demanded the ICCAT Secretariat for permission to catch SWO and to get benefit from our territorial water resources and we provide all evidence that show our historical rights to have our own quota in the Mediterranean because of:

- Egypt has a great and large scale of fishing vessels which submitted yearly in the annual report to the ICCAT indicating that Egypt has more over than 3000 registered fishing vessels “coastal catch” operating only in the Mediterranean Sea.
- Egypt exports Med. SWO since 2011 to EU. We have already the documents showing that.
- In 2013, Egypt has registered its first SWO-Med vessel in the ICCAT *EL HAG KHAMIS DARWASH* ICCAT No. AT000EGY00004 with LOA 16.15 m.
- Egypt sends its catch of SWO every year in the annual report to ICCAT, and due to our domestic observation the catch of SWO is still limited. However, the abundance of SWO in the Egyptian water allows for more catch.
- In Feb. 2017, Madrid “the intersessional meeting of PA4 on Med.SWO” page no. 2 point no.5, Egypt delegation announces our position regarding the distribution of the allocated SWO quota as following:

5. Establishing of CPC quotas for 2017 without prejudice to the allocation scheme aforementioned.

“The delegates of Egypt and the United States also reserved their position, 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 COC Meeting on 10 and 11 November Croatia, Dubrovnik again Egypt reaffirmed its a rightful quota.

With above mentioned evidences as you can see it is not applicable in our case as a developing country what mentioned in Recommendation 16-05 capacity limitation para 7. Egypt strictly in the endeavor to manage MED-SWO under the umbrella of ICCAT Recommendation to limit bycatch and obtaining its fair quota.

With all our respect, Egypt wants a humble start to reregister its SWO fishing vessels in order to participate in 2023 fishing season and kindly to assign afar quota.

Your positive response is highly appreciated.

Appendix 14 to ANNEX 8**Statement by Ecology Action Centre to Panel 4**

Ecology Action Centre appreciates this opportunity to encourage ICCAT action to improve fishery management for sharks through mako protections, blue shark allocation, and finning ban improvement.

One year ago, ICCAT at last took critical steps to protect exceptionally vulnerable and valuable shortfin makos in the North Atlantic. We are eager to see the essential ban on retention extended at least until rebuilding is demonstrably underway and expanded to the South Atlantic, as proposed by the EU, to facilitate enforcement and address that population's likely increasing risk.

We remind Parties that retention bans 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
- particularly promising for sharks with high post-release survival rates, such as makos
- less restrictive than closing entire fisheries.

We also urge Parties to improve upon this year's shortfin mako proposal by adding safeguards for similarly vulnerable longfin makos and establishing the probability of success standard at 70%, as is appropriate for such slow growing species.

More broadly, the need for measures to minimize mako bycatch and associated mortality – such as closed areas and circle hooks – continue to be pressing throughout the Atlantic.

Regarding blue sharks, we are concerned that the success of ICCAT's ground-breaking South Atlantic TAC is being jeopardized by overages stemming from the lack of Party allocations. To ensure sustainability of the population and fishery, we urge such action without further delay.

We once again welcome the exceptionally popular proposal to strengthen ICCAT's shark finning ban by requiring sharks to be landed with fins naturally attached. Such a policy is widely accepted as the best practice for finning ban implementation and can also facilitate sorely needed, species-specific data on shark catches. These benefits led the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) to require fins-naturally-attached policies for all fisheries that retain sharks under its newly released Standard. A recent Mongabay exposé demonstrates that wasteful, illegal shark finning is still a significant global problem. It is high time that ICCAT left problematic fin-to-carcass ratios in the past and eased finning ban enforcement by adopting PA4_805/2022.

As the lack of shark catch information continues to hinder assessment and enforcement, we remind Parties of the obligations and penalties associated with timely reporting of catches, including dead discards.

In short, difficult-to-enforce half measures are not enough to conserve vulnerable sharks. We urge ICCAT to take these critical steps.

Statement by Européche to Panel 4

Note on the inclusion of the Carcharhinidae sharks in Appendix II of CITES in relation to the stock status, scientific advice provided to the Commission and relevant shark management recommendations

Since 1994, ICCAT ensures the conservation and management shark species associated with its fisheries, given that no RFMO manages such species in the Atlantic Ocean. Its mandate under the new ICCAT Convention will clearly include migratory and oceanic shark species.

The CITES has proposed to include Blue shark in the Appendix II of the convention, because of look- alike criteria.

As clearly indicated in the note by ICCAT's SCRS chair and vice-chair, the Shark Species Group rapporteur and ICCAT Secretariat, "listing of blue shark in CITES Appendix II will not contribute to the conservation of the 19 species" of Carcharhinidae sharks for the following reasons:

- Blue shark is easily distinguishable, even when the fins are separated from the body, due to its characteristic metallic blue coloration, which is confirmed by the identification tool iSharkFin, developed by FAO;
- "CPCs in ICCAT take the necessary measures to require that their fishermen fully utilize their entire catches of sharks and fishing vessels are required to retain all parts of the shark including fins and carcasses to the point of first landing";
- "Data on dead and live discards are collected by domestic observer and logbook programs"; and
- "Catch records show that in practice, there are small or non-existent bycatch for the species proposed in the CITES proposal in the ICCAT area."

Finally, the most recent stock assessment conducted by ICCAT for blue shark took place in 2015 and concluded that the stocks of North and South Atlantic was not overfished and that no overfishing was occurring, which shows that blue sharks are managed sustainably in ICCAT waters.

With this proposal that does not take into account RFMOs and the FAO advice, we denounce the targeting of a sustainable commercial fishery and are worried that the contracting parties of CITES "supportive of the proposal, some of which are also ICCAT CPC," are undermining the "management" role of RFMOs and "the advisory role of the" FAO as independent fisheries experts.

Appendix 16 to ANNEX 8**Statement by PEW Charitable Trusts to PA4**

The Pew Charitable Trusts welcomes the opportunity to comment on this year's Panel 4 agenda. While there are many things to address this year, we are optimistic that much of the primary business will proceed smoothly. We urge Panel 4 members to do the following:

Swordfish

- Adopt Proposal [PA4_808](#) from the United States to extend existing measures for North Atlantic swordfish for one year – after this year's stock assessment, it is clear that extending the current measures will meet Panel 4's objectives for this population and continue to have a 60% probability of maintaining it in the green zone of the Kobe plot. Additionally, Pew strongly supports the explanatory note from the United States that makes it clear the sponsor and Panel 4 intend to adopt a Management Procedure (MP) for this population in 2023 to be used for setting a TAC starting in the 2024 fishing year. As such, Panel 4 should also schedule sufficient intersessional meetings (virtual or in person) throughout 2023 to promote dialogue between managers, scientists, and stakeholders when identifying a final MP.
- Adopt new management measures for South Atlantic swordfish, starting with Proposal [PA2_807](#) from the European Union, but edited to improve the likelihood that fisheries targeting this stock remain sustainable – we agree that current catch levels should not threaten the sustainability of these fisheries, but we believe the proposal should be adjusted to reduce the TAC to 10,000 t rather than only providing for measures that take effect when that level is breached. Given the status of the population, the maximum amount of underage that can be rolled over should be reduced significantly from 20% or eliminated entirely. Finally, the practice of allowing for transfers of fishing opportunities from one stock (northern swordfish) to another (southern swordfish) should be terminated, particularly when one stock is in the red zone of the Kobe plot, as is the case here.

Sharks

- Support the conservation and sustainable management of sharks in the Atlantic Ocean, including by adopting the strong proposal [PA4_804](#) from the European Union and the United Kingdom on South Atlantic shortfin mako – in general, Pew would like to associate itself with the comments made by the Ecology Action Centre in its [opening statement](#) to the Panel.

Other matters

- Adopt proposal [PA4_806](#) from the United States and Brazil to provide additional protections for sea turtles caught in association with ICCAT fisheries.
- Accurately report – or quantitatively estimate where observer data are unavailable – dead and live discards for all stocks managed by Panel 4, including sharks, sea turtles, billfishes, and swordfish.
- Increase observer coverage on longline vessels to ensure that interactions with rare species are sufficiently observed.

Joint Statement by SharkProject and Prowildlife to PA4

After last year's landmark achievement for shortfin mako in the North Atlantic we hoped to see a similar success this year for the South Atlantic to start the sustainable management of this species across all of the Atlantic. This is specifically important as

- Shortfin mako, is listed on CITES App. II and is a highly migratory species spanning the complete Atlantic. Therefore, the survival at both sides of the equator relies on harmonised and effective management measures.
- Many ICCAT fisheries also fish in both parts of the Atlantic and harmonised measures facilitate compliance and enforcement.

We applaud that two of the formerly biggest catch nations for this species, Brazil and the European Union, have stepped up in support of a retention ban for 2023 and 2024 as proposed in PA4_804/2022, submitted by the EU and the UK.

We are disappointed to see that this proposal could, despite long negotiation, not be adopted by ICCAT, especially as it was acceptable to many CPCs. A retention ban helps assessing actual ratios between dead discards and live releases and total mortality per CPC to inform the next stock assessment.

However, we appreciate the efforts made by all parties in working together to find a balance between respecting the requests of some parties to see their efforts of past catch reductions being acknowledged and the urgent need for effective conservation measures being implemented.

We explicitly thank the UK and the EU, who have worked extremely hard ahead of and throughout this meeting to achieve a viable agreement and the management measures tabled in PA4_804B/2022.

We very much welcome this agreement, which caps historic landings to almost 50% and allocates maximum allowable retentions to each catch nation for 2023 and 2024, while maintaining essential elements of the original proposal such as:

- improving reporting requirements for dead discards and live releases
- foreseeing science-based retention limits for the future
- having agreed rebuilding objectives for the stock if overfished

Nevertheless, we are concerned to see that the proposed retention allowances may incentivise some parties to increase landings in the next two years above their 2021 catches and that the Total Mortality Limit of 2001 t as advised by the SCRS since 2017 will be exceeded.

We are also concerned that the adopted retention allowance at this time is not limited to the retention of animals dead at haul back but also allows the retention of live animals even in the absence of observers/EMS until 2025. Specifically in view of the widespread non-reporting of discards in the past and the resulting underestimation of total mortality this permission further increases total mortality and also contradicts a precautionary approach.

Finally, we urge ALL parties to voluntarily refrain from retaining at least animals live at haul back and to work on effective measures to avoid shortfin mako catch in the first place.

A substantial reduction of bycatch mortality is essential to achieve, BOTH for the North and the South Atlantic, following the examples of USA and Canada, who have already increased the percentage of life releases to 60 – 70% of discards.

**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 (USA).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The Panel appointed Mr. James RJ Brown (United Kingdom) as Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The COC Chair shared an updated agenda. Following slight modification, the Agenda was adopted and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**.

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

The COC Chair underlined the continued importance of the “Follow-up on the Second Performance Review – COC”, and the need to continue to populate the document and use it to reference the work done by the COC that is responsive to the recommendations of the Performance Review. The Chair noted that continuing progress had been made in this regard. The Secretariat had updated the document to reflect the actions taken previously and those planned for the COC. The COC Chair suggested further updating the spreadsheet intersessionally, inviting CPC comments prior to the next meeting of COC.

5. Review of progress made by the Online Reporting Working Group (WG-ORT) and next steps, including consideration of “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on the Application of the Integrated Online Management System (IOMS)”

The COC Chair commended the Secretariat and Working Group for the successful development of the online reporting system. The COC Chair thanked the CPCs that had already begun using the system for the 2022 Annual Reports, while noting that some CPCs have yet to implement the system and are seeking support from the Secretariat. The COC Chair is hopeful that ICCAT can move to mandating the use of the system. The COC Chair welcomed the Chair of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group (WG-ORT) to present an update on the activities of the group over the last year. The information within the presentation is in the 2022 Status Report of the Online Reporting Technology Working Group System (**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9**).

The WG-ORT met virtually in February 2022 to review progress on the development of the Integrated Online Management System (IOMS) and to provide input to the technical staff at the Secretariat on its continued development (see [2022 Report of the Meeting of the WG-ORT](#)). In the meeting, the WG-ORT refined the modules to be developed in the next phase of the IOMS development, phase three. Over the year, the technical team at the ICCAT Secretariat continued working on the modules that were already in development, completing much of the phase two work that the Commission previously agreed to in the workplan, which included developing a dynamic help system. The WG-ORT did start on the next phase in the workplan, phase three. There was broad participation in two training sessions, intended for all potential ICCAT IOMS users, including WG-ORT members, CPC administrators, and officers that might be entering data directly into IOMS. There were more than 70 individuals across 35 CPCs participating in at least one of the two sessions. With the WG-ORT desire to see an expanded use of the IOMS for 2022, in coordination with the Secretariat, the WG-ORT issued several circulars on how to gain access to the system and register a user with IOMS. This resulted in 82% of CPCs using IOMS to submit Part I, Annex I and Part II Section 3 portions of the Annual Report, only six CPCs have not yet used IOMS.

In addition to the presentation, the Chair of the WG-ORT presented a joint proposal, with the COC Chair, for a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on the application of the integrated online management system” to formalize the use of IOMS.

The COC Chair welcomed the presentation, the report and proposal, and further to this thanked the WG-ORT for all its work over 2022. The United States thanked the WG-ORT for its work and sought to clarify the timeline for the transition period to using the system. The United States supported this proposal establishing a timeline for the full transition to the new system. The United States also highlighted that some CPCs find the ‘N/A’ field in the report confusing and asked that the WG-ORT review this at the meeting in February 2023. Iceland, the European Union (European Union), Belize, Egypt, Honduras, Republic of Senegal (Senegal), Gabon and Tunisia also endorsed the proposal. Belize, Senegal, Gabon and Tunisia highlighted the ease of using IOMS and requested that training and work on the system continue. The COC approved the proposal and sent it to the Commission for adoption. The COC Chair acknowledged the desire in the room for, and encouraged, the Secretariat to continue the training and support for IOMS adoption.

6. Presentation of Approaches to Evaluate and Strengthen RFMO Compliance Processes and Performance – Independent Expert Group Recommendations

The COC Chair and the representative from the observer organization, Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW) introduced Ms. Adriana Fabra to present on recommendations derived from Pew’s Independent Expert Working Group (WG) on Approaches to Evaluate and Strengthen RFMO Compliance Processes and Performance. The WG included representation from compliance experts from a broad range of backgrounds, including governments, academia, and other stakeholders.

This independent WG ran a number of workshops to examine the different issues related to compliance in the different RFMOs to try and understand the underlying causes of these problems and then propose solutions given existing practices in place. The outputs from this led to a list of recommendations that are meant to help strengthen compliance processes and a proposed methodology to help RFMOs assess their own compliance processes and see where any gaps may exist. Ms. Fabra highlighted the following recommendations for RFMOs:

- Processes to be considered to be fair and impartial
- Rules to be clear and legitimate, in that they need to contribute to the RFMO's aims and not as means of sanction. Rules need to have the full support and understanding of all members
- Members need to be given an equal opportunity to all to participate in the mechanisms of the RFMO
- Various levels to be transparent, both internally within the RFMO but also externally with respect to other stakeholders to improve equity and effectiveness of the mechanisms
- Efficiency in work burden to ensure proportionate workloads for the administrations managing the fisheries under the RFMO
- Cooperation within the RFMO itself, but also with other bodies and entities to facilitate the exchange of information

Ms. Fabra then went on to highlight other recommendations that are included in the WG’s outputs. The COC Chair thanked Ms. Fabra for the presentation and work done by her and the Expert WG, highlighting the importance of such work to the COC. The United States, El Salvador, European Union welcomed the presentation and the recommendations acknowledging the importance of the work done in COC. The European Union and UK emphasised the need to streamline the data requirements on CPCs and increase efficiency to ensure effective management but no undue burden, ensuring focus is on priorities. The COC Chair picked up on the need for efficiency in processes, suggesting that a strategic plan would aid in this.

7. Consideration of a schedule of actions for future application based on *Resolution by ICCAT Establishing an ICCAT Schedule of Actions to Improve Compliance and Cooperation with ICCAT Measures (Res. 16-17)*

The COC 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 and other CPCs. The COC Chair outlined that the paper sought to provide ICCAT with a set of non-binding guidelines for the Compliance Committee when determining what types of response actions are appropriate depending on the type of non-compliance. The COC Chair welcomed the input from a number of CPCs during the intersessional period. A number of CPCs welcomed the work on the document and supported the guideline framework, believing it will aid in encouraging CPC compliance. The COC Chair recognised the support as reflecting COC approval and a revised version was sent to the Commission for adoption.

8. Review of submissions under *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Process for the Review and Reporting of Compliance Information (Rec. 08-09)*

The COC Chair introduced the Agenda item “Information received under *Recommendation 08-09*”, noting the submissions this year under *Recommendation 08-09* reflect a more robust application of this tool, including by CPCs, and commended those CPCs that have made submissions under this process. The COC Chair outlined that it is easier for COC to do its work when it is informed by the additional correspondence and time for review that occurs under this process.

The COC Chair outlined that the Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) submitted information on a Venezuelan flagged vessel “Gone Fishing” suspected engaged in fishing for ICCAT species, yet the vessel is not on the ICCAT list of authorized vessels. The COC Chair thanked Venezuela for the follow up information provided. However, with Venezuela not at the meeting, additional questions would be reflected in a letter, namely: whether the vessel had a permit, did their permit prohibit fishing for ICCAT species, and to understand why the vessel was fishing.

The COC Chair asked the European Union to present on issues concerning Senegal and The Gambia and thanked Senegal for their responses. The European Union highlighted it was the third annual meeting discussing the matter and at each annual meeting the European Union brings up new elements, emphasising concerns on the levels of control in Senegal and The Gambia and their commitment to fighting Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. The vessels concerned were the “Maximus”, “Lisboa”, “Mario 7” and “Mario 11” with a fifth the European Union did not mention. All the vessels mentioned belonged to or previously belonged to the same owner/operator in Senegal. The information is contained within the document “Questions to CPCs on COC Documents” and the document “Information received under Rec. 08-09”. The European Union highlighted unauthorized transshipments at sea of tuna and albacore species that the European Union said implies illegal catching and unknown quantities of catches that may have been transhipped to these vessels. The European Union also outlined the information on catches by unauthorized vessels in the ICCAT area, as well as validation by the Senegalese authorities of illegally caught consignments for exports. The European Union highlighted this would mean IUU products ending up on importing countries’ markets. The European Union raised issues around traceability of fisheries products in Senegal with the landings in question all occurring in the port of Dakar. The European Union thanked Senegal for its correspondence, though believed that there was more to discuss, for example with *Mario 7* swordfish landings in 2020.

The United States and Japan mirrored the European Union’s concerns. The United States and Japan went on to explain that they have observed similar issues and have concerns that this behaviour occurred across multiple years involving multiple vessels, multiple species, and exports to multiple markets.

The COC Chair noted the concerns about systemic issues in Senegal, both in terms of its regulatory framework as well as its implementation of its regulatory framework over the course of a number of years. The COC Chair reminded COC of the [Recommendation by ICCAT concerning Trade Measures \(Rec. 06-13\)](#) on trade measures, which calls on parties to examine their trade data to determine whether illegal fishing is occurring based on the quantities and types of fish that is being imported into their markets, and commended the European Union and other parties that have utilized trade data in this way.

Senegal thanked the European Union, United States and Japan for their responses. Senegal emphasised that the vessel the European Union highlighted is no longer a Senegalese flagged vessel, that the issues coincided with COVID-19 and these, Senegal reported, has impacted their ability to inspect and control to the extent they wish. Senegal thanked the European Union for the support in bolstering their systems, but pointed out that some of the data requested by the European Union is unable to be shared under Senegalese law. Senegal in addition outlined the various sanctions that have been taken against those who were involved in IUU activities. Senegal emphasised its desire to see both flag and market states carry out the work to identify IUU activity. Senegal went on to thank the United States for the work it did to help identify the IUU activity, which underlines the importance of developing and developed nations working together. On the issues of transshipment highlighted by the United States, Senegal said these activities are banned from occurring in the Senegalese EEZ, but believe these activities are occurring in The Gambia's waters. Senegal reemphasised its desire to combat IUU activity. The COC Chair remarked that the Senegalese responses did not cover the issues around inspections and would invite Senegal to elaborate on this.

The Gambia raised the issue that when IUU activities occurred the vessel was Senegalese flagged and questioned why The Gambia is facing repercussions, when considering the new owner did not know of the history of the vessel. The Gambia pointed out that on realising the previous IUU activity of the vessels the Fisheries Department refused the vessels' registrations. The Gambia emphasised that the vessels remain in Senegalese ports even though they are flagged to The Gambia as The Gambia has not issued authorisations to fish.

The European Union questioned The Gambia's commitment to its responsibilities as a flag State given the flagging of the IUU vessels and a sanction of deflagging a vessel, which is not a sanction in the eyes of the European Union, COC Chair and Senegal. The European Union also emphasised a similar issue of fish linked to IUU fishing coming from The Gambia making it on to European Union markets. On this last issue the European Union has reported little cooperation with and feedback from The Gambia. Senegal underlined its willingness to cooperate in resolving the issue.

The United States thanked contributors and highlighted the importance of [Resolution by ICCAT amending the Resolution \(18-11\) by ICCAT establishing a pilot program for the voluntary exchange of inspection personnel in fisheries managed by ICCAT \(Res. 19-17\)](#) regarding the exchange of inspection personnel as a tool in cooperation and contributing to the enforcement capacity of developing coastal States.

9. Compliance Tables

The COC Chair underlined that this Agenda item is to identify outstanding issues of interpretation or simply incorrect numbers that may require resolution. Resolution should normally be through direct work with the Secretariat. In some cases, there may be issues that need to be worked out among CPCs regarding issues like transfers and interpretive issues that would benefit first from discussion among the interested CPCs. The COC Chair thanked the Secretariat staff and CPCs who worked together to resolve many issues in advance of the Annual Meeting, and requested CPCs to continue such work during the Annual Meeting.

The COC Chair raised the issue of corrections in Task 1 data, how changes in quota and total allowable catches (TAC) impact CPCs' compliance tables, and how these are reflected in the tables retrospectively. The Chair expressed concern that while Task 1 may be updated years later, it was not clear that the compliance tables were in turn normally updated accordingly. The Chair also highlighted the importance of updating compliance tables to reflect catch figures based on investigations that uncover illegal harvest that was not previously reported. The COC Chair invited CPCs to make suggestions on how these matters could be resolved. With respect to bigeye, the United States agreed with the COC Chair on the need to rectify the issue raised by the COC Chair, however the United States did not wish for this to be seen as a way of punishing CPCs but accurately recording catch. The United States commented that such data could enable a payback plan to be established if necessary.

Japan noted the significant overharvest of bigeye by Senegal, and inquired with Senegal how it would resolve the imbalance. Senegal thanked Japan for the issues it raised, remarking that the debate has been a long one in the COC and that Senegal has pressed the issue however COC did not settle on it in 2021. The COC Chair's recollection of the 2021 COC sessions was that issues last year were settled in COC and intersessionally through the adoption of the compliance tables, and no explanation was forthcoming from Senegal that supported the basis of its view.

Also on bigeye, there was a difference in views among CPCs on how to reflect the reductions in catch limits for bigeye tuna in the compliance tables in order to take into account the reduction in overall TAC. Japan observed that, according to the *Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 16-01 by ICCAT on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas (Rec. 19-02)* and the *Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 19-02 replacing Recommendation 16-01 on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas (Rec. 21-01)*, while TACs were changed between 2020 and 2022, allocations for CPCs were separate and could not be adjusted automatically, so Japan saw this as an issue of interpretation of recommendations that should be brought up in Panel 1. The EU and Chinese Taipei concurred with Japan's interpretation, and their position was recorded in the footnote of the Compliance Table for bigeye. The COC took note that Panel 1 will look to resolve this through discussions in the intersessional period.

The COC Chair noted the continuing concern with overharvests of blue marlin. The United States and Japan raised concerns with the reported figures from Namibia and discrepancies between the figure in the compliance table and Task 1 data. Namibia went on to say that it sees the issue of overharvest stemming from its limited quota for albacore and blue marlin due to historical underharvesting and a need to make the sector more economically viable through increased fishing rights and vessel numbers. Namibia said the discrepancies in data stemmed from faulty data reporting, with the belief that Task 1 data have been reported twice in the compliance tables. Namibia informed the COC of an increase in administrative officials tasked with overseeing the fishery. These officials are looking into the accuracy of the albacore and bigeye landing data reports. Namibia outlined steps it is taking which included training for data capturing staff, reconciliation of catch data between the ministry and fishing vessels before Task 1 and 2 data are submitted to ICCAT as well as a reduction in fishing vessels using Namibia's quota and improved management of foreign fishing vessels in the Namibian EEZ. The COC Chair asked for such details to be passed on when responding to a letter from the COC Chair.

The United States sought an explanation of how the EU's Member State Spain was catching 295 t of black marlin and only 4 t of blue marlin. The United States thought it important to raise this as black marlin does not typically inhabit the Atlantic Ocean but instead inhabits the Pacific Ocean. Both blue marlin and white marlin are subject to a rebuilding programme and substantial, repeated misreporting of these species results in mortality that is unaccounted for and could endanger that programme. The United States reminded the COC that this concern was also discussed at the 2021 Annual Meeting, with respect to misreporting of blue marlin and white marlin catches, and requested a response from the European Union. The European Union relayed that it too was concerned about the potential misreporting of marlin catch and is working with the Member State to address this issue and will inform the SCRS and the Commission accordingly.

The European Union noted the continued overharvest of bigeye tuna by Brazil and their worry that this is becoming systematic. The European Union was worried that the action taken does not meet the required reductions under the *Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 16-01 by ICCAT on a multi-annual conservation and management programme for tropical tunas (Rec. 19-02)* of 17% reduction in catches. The European Union asked that the Secretariat follow this up.

The COC Chair spoke of the difficulty for Barbados to pay back the overharvesting of blue marlin under the *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish (Rec. 19-05)*. Barbados acknowledged the issue and highlighted the lack of flying fish catches and the need for food security leading to a high reliance on the bycatch of these species, which are commonly encountered in Barbadian waters. Barbados described current experiments using circle hooks to decrease incidental mortality. Honduras emphasised the importance of the conversation around issues for Barbados and the similar issues for other developing coastal States, however Honduras recognised that this was not for COC to discuss.

The Commission adopted the Compliance Tables as reflected in **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9**.

10. Review of response to Chair's letters arising from the 2021 meeting

The COC 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 2021 Commission decision-making process as well as CPC responses to date. The COC Chair thanked the many CPCs that have provided a timely response, though remarked that there were unfortunately more than a handful of CPCs that have not responded. The COC Chair outlined that this undermines the COC's work and essentially is a non-transparent way of avoiding oversight. Given this, the COC Chair intends to continue to raise issues and follow up with CPCs. The COC Chair said in future years CPCs that have neither provided a response or provided an insufficient response to the COC Chair's letter, the COC Chair will seek to include either just by copy of the letter or incorporation of its contents into the COC report from the subsequent year's meeting. The COC Chair noted the need to better track the progress of CPCs rectifying non-compliance, rather than merely acknowledging it as is often the case currently. This would be with the idea to track issues year to year, so they are not forgotten. The COC Chair asked that CPCs be forthcoming with ideas, including extending the provisions for tracking the noting of non-compliance in methods other than recording which letters are issued.

Albania thanked the COC Chair for his letter and detailed issues within the letter and the circumstances apologizing for the lateness of the reporting. The COC Chair noted the desire to follow up on Barbados, with the United States noting the response by Barbados and the work done in the flag State on its legislation. El Salvador noted that it had not been made aware of the issues outstanding until it saw the Compliance Summary Tables and would therefore want to apologise for the lateness. The COC Chair remarked that Equatorial Guinea and Gabon could work with the Secretariat to ensure the proper format is used in future. The COC Chair highlighted the European Union's response to their letter from the COC Chair, it demonstrated a CPC keeping ICCAT well informed of ongoing investigations. With Guatemala, the COC Chair raised an issue with the Billfish Check Sheet. Last year Guatemala responded saying there was an exemption valid for them under [Recommendation 19-05](#), on the grounds that they have no targeted or industrial fishing. The COC Chair does not believe such an exemption is applicable as the measure is not limited in applicability to targeted and industrial fishing. Guatemala informed the COC they are reviewing the conditions of the fishery and identifying if there is any bycatch. The COC Chair thanked Libya for its response and will follow up the letter to answer the questions posed by Libya, either in a compliance letter or a separate correspondence from the Secretariat. The COC Chair thanked Panama for the response, for use of the template and for raising that they did not have an operational programme for 2020 under the [Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Minimum Standards for Fishing Vessel Scientific Observer Program \(Rec. 16-14\)](#) regarding the minimum scientific observer coverage of 5% for longline. The COC Chair will follow up with Panama in a letter on [Recommendation 16-14](#). Panama remarked that they are currently developing measures to ensure compliance with [Recommendation 16-14](#). The United States and European Union were grateful and encouraged by Panama's work and response. The European Union praised Senegal for its efforts in implementing an observer programme though did underline the other issues with compliance that Senegal faces. The COC Chair welcomed the update from the United Kingdom on its work to provide the minimum observer coverage. The COC Chair welcomed the work done by Costa Rica in bringing its regulatory framework and standards to the requirements under ICCAT. The United States reiterated the COC Chair's remarks. Costa Rica underlined its desire to participate more fully in ICCAT very soon.

11. Review of Secretariat Report to the Compliance Committee

Introducing the Secretariat's Report to the ICCAT Conservation and Management 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. The COC Chair noted the observations by the Secretariat on potentially conflicting requirements, ambiguities and functional issues in either the interpretation or application of these measures.

Tropical tunas

The COC Chair mentioned that the Secretariat had raised some issues with quarterly and monthly catch requirements. Some CPCs noted that the SCRS Chair was very clear during the first session of Panel 1 that CPCs are not meeting their obligations to submit the required FAD data. The SCRS Chair had noted that the data are needed by the SCRS and the failure to meet these obligations is preventing the SCRS from conducting the analysis requested by the Commission. A CPC requested that the FAD data submissions be reflected in the compliance tables, which the COC Chair agreed to ask the Secretariat to look at including. A CPC asked that with current and in future recommendations information requirements and the processes associated with them be detailed and clear to ensure that CPCs can more easily understand how to comply with measures. Another CPC felt current requirements were clear enough but would welcome further understanding on the matter from the SCRS.

Targeted species

Swordfish

The COC Chair raised a few issues in relation to the bycatch allocations or limits that CPCs have reported. The COC Chair highlighted where CPCs set catch limits for swordfish there is the requirement to report the limit's presence and level, which is not happening in all cases. The COC Chair requested that CPCs focus on this and their revised submissions in 2023.

Albacore

The COC Chair raised similar issues to that of swordfish, in relation to the bycatch allocations or limits that CPCs have reported. Imploring that CPCs pay special attention when reporting in 2023.

Bluefin tuna

With substantial quota discussions in the CPC-CPC review, no issues were raised here on compliance with the measure in particular.

Billfish

The COC Chair drew attention to the Secretariat list of CPCs with no Billfish Check Sheets and the correspondence with the CPCs. The COC Chair will include in the letters to CPCs a reminder about the requirements on filling out Check Sheets regardless of the presence of directed fisheries.

Bycatch species

Sea turtles

The COC Chair pointed to the information provided by the Secretariat relating to the [Recommendation by ICCAT on the by-catch of sea turtles in ICCAT fisheries \(Rec. 10-09\)](#), raising issues on reporting that have been brought up over many years. The COC Chair queried some of the CPC reports where they state that the measure is not applicable. The COC Chair noted that in some cases the fisheries in question are reported by CPCs as one where they do not encounter sea turtles, even though it may be known they exist there. The COC Chair also requested that CPCs confirm they are implementing, by way of legally binding requirements, the need for safe handling and other bycatch mitigation measures that are required regardless of the nature of the interaction. The COC Chair indicated his intention to follow up, as appropriate, with relevant CPCs, whether individually or on a broader basis, with observations on the types of responses that are appropriate and provide clarification on the nature of the requirements.

Recommendation by ICCAT on penalties applicable in case of non-fulfillment of reporting obligations (Rec. 11-15) ("No Data, No Fish")

The COC Chair pointed to the Appendix which shows the CPCs that failed to meet obligations to report Task 1 data or zero catch for a particular fishery. The COC Chair thanked the CPCs that provided supplementary information during the meeting, and the table was revised accordingly. The COC Chair

reminded CPCs of the automatic application of this Recommendation, in cases where Task 1 data are not provided and stated the Secretariat will follow up with a letter to affected CPCs. Such a letter will inform Angola, The Gambia, Grenada and Guinea Bissau of the information required and of the either continued application or new application of the prohibition on retaining ICCAT species or a specific fishery product, which would go into effect on 1 January 2023.

Recommendation by ICCAT on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (Rec. 18-09)

The COC Chair noted that the Secretariat has requested for CPCs to submit a summary of the data when they submit potential non-compliance issues. This helps with transparency and improves the utility of the data through focusing on where attention is needed.

Integrated Online Management System (IOMS)

The COC Chair asked that CPCs refrain from responding with ‘see above’ or ‘see last year’ in their Annual Report responses. A number of CPCs refer to other documents without describing the relevant contents, which can be more burdensome on the Secretariat and CPCs reviewing Annual Reports. The Secretariat’s work would be further enabled with these data entered in the correct places. The COC Chair understood the burden this may place on CPCs initially, however he noted that the IOMS will carry these entries across with standard responses for future reports, reducing the burden in subsequent reports.

Access agreements

The COC Chair reminded CPCs of the requirement to report information on access agreements in the format established in Recommendation 14-07. The Chair indicated his intention to follow up with relevant CPCs to ensure clear reporting in the future.

Transshipment

The United States noted that many CPCs did not submit any information regarding in-port transshipment as required by Recommendation 21-15, so it is unclear whether or not this type of activity occurred in their ports. The United States requested that this issue be noted in the Compliance Summary Tables, where appropriate, so that these CPCs can seek assistance, if needed, and report this information to ICCAT in 2023.

12. 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 the [Strategic Plan for Review of Compliance Priorities, Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9 of 2019 Annual Meeting Report](#))

The COC Chair drew attention to the need to review [Recommendation 16-14](#) on minimum standards for scientific observers, thanking the Secretariat for the work done to prepare the summary of CPC reports on “Implementation of [Recommendation 16-14: Scientific Observer Programmes](#)”. The COC Chair noted that even though COC has prioritized this discussion for a number of years many CPCs have yet to implement the measure. Some CPCs reported to the COC Chair that they are using a provision to exempt them from the requirement, by using alternative measures to meet the 5% minimum coverage requirement for smaller vessels. The COC Chair inquired why no CPCs have received the required approval from the SCRS to use the alternative measures and recommended that the SCRS develop guidance to CPCs on how to obtain SCRS approval of the standard. The COC Chair suggested that the Secretariat or SCRS follow up with the CPCs concerned.

One CPC was concerned with reviewing compliance with the standards this year given the COVID-19 pandemic and the issues around deploying scientific observers, suggesting deferring the review by two to three years. Some CPCs also asked that, upon review of compliance with the Rec. 16-14 minimum standards, the COC not only note non-compliance but provide ways in which CPCs could become compliant, including capacity building strategies. Morocco was highlighted by another CPC as a good example of pursuing the process of proposing an alternative scientific monitoring approach for small scale fisheries and referring it to the SCRS, as outlined in Rec. 16-14. While the proposal by Morocco was not initially approved because

further information is needed, it is a step in the right direction. The COC Chair commented that the issues with implementation of the Recommendation were long-standing and apparent before 2019, but agreed to moving the discussion of this issue to next year. Relatedly, some CPCs noted the work being done by the Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) Working Group on developing standards which could be used to complement observer coverage, where appropriate. Noting the target adoption date of the 2023 Annual Meeting for the EMS minimum standards, they encouraged that all CPCs participate to ensure suitability of these standards for all, especially for developing CPCs.

The COC Chair noted the need to review the content of CPCs' Shark and Billfish Check Sheets in 2023, in addition to implementation of [Recommendation 16-14](#). The COC Chair noted the two-day meeting before the 28th Regular Annual Meeting in 2023, which will provide additional time to discuss these issues. The COC Chair also saw merit in discussing the suggestions of the external expert working group on RFMO compliance as they relate to ICCAT. One CPC asked that some time in the two-day meeting in 2023 be devoted to capacity and resource needs required to achieve compliance within ICCAT. The CPC noted the expense required and the limited funds in each CPC to implement the various initiatives and measures. The CPC and others suggested looking into methods of sharing capacity building materials and strategies among the CPCs. Additionally, the CPC noted the need to work closely with the SCRS and identify ways in conjunction with the SCRS ways to improve data collection. Another CPC requested that the COC consider the implementation of port State measures within the ICCAT Convention area at a future meeting. Finally, a CPC recommended looking into ways of reducing burdens on CPCs when reporting to ICCAT. The Chair acknowledged these suggestions and will take them into consideration in developing a proposed agenda for the two-day COC special session in November 2023.

13. 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 4 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, and the Compliance Summary Tables were revised accordingly.

14. Review of information relating to non-CPCs

Drawing attention to the document "Correspondence with non-CPCs following the 2021 COC meeting", which contains responses from NCPs to letters from the Chair of the Compliance Committee, the COC 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. The COC Chair encouraged these non-CPCs, namely, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Gibraltar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Santa Lucia, to participate in more formal engagement through attending meetings. A CPC asked for the COC Chair to provide a list in the report of such non-CPCs receiving letters. The COC Chair noted and welcomed Colombia's intention of becoming a CPC and the work it has done and is doing in the process.

15. Determination of recommended actions to address issues of non-compliance by CPCs and issues relating to NCPs arising from items 10 and 11

The COC Chair pointed the Committee to the document "Draft compliance actions developed by COC Chair in consultation with friends of COC Chair Group", noting that this would be used to guide discussions. The document had been revised in consultation with the Friends of the Chair Group and the COC Chair thanked the Group for their contributions to the discussions. The COC Chair noted that for minor concerns or issues of clarification, letters are sent to CPCs, but further to that there are a suite of actions available to the COC, consistent with ICCAT recommendations, where warranted, including Recommendation 06-13. The COC Chair noted that in some cases he has recommended elevation to identification where there is more significant concern from the Commission. In some cases, identification has been renewed for a CPC where

the Commission is concerned that the CPC's actions have the potential to undermine the work of ICCAT, while identification is lifted for those CPCs that demonstrated progress. The document containing recommended actions was updated based on COC discussions under previous agenda items, then approved by COC and forwarded to Plenary (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9**).

16. Consideration of requests for Cooperating status

The COC Chair noted that Cooperating Parties do not need to apply to renew the status each year, it is presumed granted unless the COC takes a decision to the contrary. The COC sent no recommendations for the change in status of the Cooperating Parties: Bolivia, Chinese Taipei, Costa Rica, Guyana and Suriname.

17. Other recommendations to the Commission to improve compliance

The COC had no further recommendations to the Commission though would continue discussions within the intersessional period on reviewing measures and procedures as outlined in Agenda item 12.

18. Other matters

A statement was submitted to the COC by Pew Charitable Trusts (PEW) which is contained in **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9**.

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, the translators, and the rapporteur for their tireless efforts and highest quality work, which was instrumental in making this meeting a success. He also offered his heartfelt thanks for the contributions of the CPCs. 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.

Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**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 progress made by the Online Reporting Technology Working Group (WG-ORT) and next steps, including consideration of Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on the Application of the Integrated Online Management System
6. Presentation of Approaches to Evaluate and Strengthen RFMO Compliance Processes and Performance – Expert Group Recommendations
7. Consideration of a schedule of actions for future application based on Res. 16-17
8. Review of submissions under Rec. 08-09
9. Compliance Tables
10. Review of response to Chair’s letters arising from the 2021 meeting
11. Review of Secretariat Report to the Compliance Committee
12. 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)
13. Review of CPC implementation of and compliance with ICCAT requirements, focusing on priority issues and/or cases
14. Review of information relating to Non-CPCs
15. Determination of recommended actions to address issues of non-compliance by CPCs and issues relating to NCPs arising from items 10 and 11
 - 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)
 - d) Any other actions
16. Consideration of requests for Cooperating status
17. Other recommendations to the Commission to improve compliance
18. Other matters
19. Adoption of report and adjournment

Online Reporting Technology Working Group System 2022 Status Report

Summary of Working Group activities for 2022

During 2022, the ICCAT Secretariat continued progress in the development of the Integrated Online Management System (IOMS), by completing Phase 2 (dynamic help system; improving the Annual Report manager; restarting the vessel record manager development) and starting Phase 3 (major focus on the vessel record manager together with the UN/FLUX integration). Two virtual training workshop sessions were also conducted during 2022 to train registered IOMS users on the use of the IOMS, in particular on the use of the Annual Report manager for submitting the 2022 Annual Reports. In addition, the Secretariat also assisted ICCAT CPCs with completing the 2022 Annual Reports in IOMS, as recommended by the Online Reporting Technology Working Group (WG-ORT).

The WG-ORT met virtually 7-8 February 2022 to review progress on the development of the IOMS and provide input on its continued development. The report from the meeting is available as [COC_306/2022](#). One outcome of the meeting was agreement on revisions to the IOMS user roles, including updates to access rights, read/write permissions, etc., and their hierarchies. With Phases 1 and 2 complete, the Working Group approved the following Phase 3 activities in priority order:

Phase 3 (started in June 2022, with a two-year period):

- Module 1: Port Manager;
- Module 2: Task 1 nominal catches manager;
- Module 3: Compliance tables manager.

The IOMS development team is now continuing work on Phase 3 (**Addendum 1 to Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9**) as agreed to by the Working Group and outlined in its revised workplan (**Addendum 2 to Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9**).

2022 intersessional tasks

The WG-ORT agreed to continue its work on the following tasks intersessionally in 2022:

1. Confirm provisional user roles and rights (this was accomplished through adoption of the intersessional meeting report; see Tables 4 and 5 in [COC_302/2022](#)).
2. Adjust user roles/rights review as needed (this task was identified to address individual flag State needs for certain CPCs, and was accomplished through direct coordination between the EU, the UK, and the Secretariat).
3. Participate in training; communicate with others within CPCs to encourage participation; and make recordings available on ICCAT / IOMS website (two virtual training sessions were held in 2022 and the Secretariat made recordings of each available on the ICCAT website).
4. Draft Guidelines for a “Strategic plan on redundancy elimination” (the Secretariat is currently working on guidelines to address redundancy for discussion by the WG-ORT in 2023).
5. Continue becoming familiar with IOMS:
 1. Distribute ICCAT Circulars to encourage CPCs to use IOMS for Annual Report submission (see ICCAT Circulars #4266/22 and #1040/22).
 2. Submit 2022 Annual Report in IOMS early, in advance of the 15 September deadline.

IOMS training sessions

To assist CPCs in using the IOMS to submit portions of the 2022 Annual Reports, the WG-ORT agreed at its 2022 Intersessional Meeting to hold two IOMS training workshop sessions in 2022. The two training sessions, in the form of interactive seminars, were intended for all potential ICCAT IOMS users, including WG-ORT Members, CPC administrators and officers, Chairs of ICCAT subsidiary bodies, and Secretariat staff.

The first session took place 28 April 2022, and provided an introduction to IOMS current functionalities (user management, data requirements, data requests, etc.) with a particular emphasis on completing the Annual Reports.

Session 2 took place 1 September 2022 with the intention of reviewing the previous session, answering questions from CPCs that had begun using the system to enter annual reporting data, and resolving reporting errors found in the 2022 Annual Reports.

More than 70 individuals across 35 CPCs as well as ICCAT Officers participated in at least one of the two training sessions.

The Working Group had agreed to hold additional training sessions in 2023 (schedule to be decided during the 2023 WG-ORT intersessional meeting).

2022 annual reporting

In 2021, the ICCAT Secretariat introduced the IOMS system as a new technical feature for streamlining the submissions of Part I/Annex 1 and Part II/Section 3. By way of ICCAT Circulars 4266/22 and 1040/22, CPCs were again encouraged to use IOMS for submitting these sections of the 2022 Annual Reports. The 2022 *Revised Guidelines for the Preparation of Annual Reports* (ICCAT Ref. 12-13) stated that, from 2022 onwards, reporting information for Part I/Annex 1 and Part II/Section 3 of the Annual Reports “shall be entered directly into the ICCAT Integrated Online Management System (IOMS).” The guidelines further provided details for submitting information using IOMS and for receiving additional assistance from the Secretariat.

A summary of statistical indicators on the utilization of the IOMS (as of 2022-11-07) by the ICCAT CPCs to complete the 2022 Annual Report is presented in **Table 1**. Equivalent indicators to the 2021 annual report (IOMS experimental year) were also added for comparative purposes. Overall, a total of 47 CPCs (42 Contracting Parties; 5 Cooperating non-Contracting Parties) used the IOMS (82% of the 57 CPCs) and completed the two sections (P1A1: Part 1/Annex 1; PA2S3: Part 2 /Section 3) of the 2022 Annual Reports, with 10 CPCs (18%) requesting the support of the Secretariat to upload and submit a final version to the IOMS. Four CPCs (7%) still have incomplete portions of the 2022 Annual Report, and 6 CPCs (11%) have not yet used the IOMS to submit the two sections of the 2022 Annual Report. Overall, the IOMS utilization indicators in 2022 showed a great improvement when compared with 2021. In particular, the number of CPCs who have not requested support from the Secretariat increased from 4% (2 CPCs) in 2021 to 65% (37 CPCs) in 2022. The number of CPCs who have not used the IOMS was reduced by half from 2021 (13 CPCs for compliance data, 12 CPCs for statistical data) to 2022 (6 CPCs), with the majority of these requests linked to the lack of registered IOMS users.

Details of these statistics are also available to the IOMS registered users (both CPC roles: administrators and officers) in the IOMS online portal (<https://ioms.iccat.int>).

Part II, Section 5 of the 2022 Annual Report invited CPCs to inform the Commission of primary difficulties encountered in the implementation of and compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures. No CPCs reported difficulties in using IOMS in this section (see [COC_311/2022](#) for further details).

2023 and beyond

The WG-ORT requests to meet virtually during the 2023 intersessional period to continue its work on Phases 3 and 4.

The WG-ORT supports the previously-agreed additional IOMS training session(s) to take place in 2023.

In order to continue the WG-ORT’s progress in reducing the burden associated with ICCAT reporting requirements for both the Secretariat and the CPCs and to increase access to valuable information; mindful that IOMS was released into production in August 2021, and that many CPCs successfully submitted sections of their 2021 and 2022 Annual Reports using IOMS; and highlighting that trainings have been provided and that the Secretariat has offered many additional opportunities to facilitate use of IOMS; jointly with the Chair of the Compliance Committee, the WG-TOR Chair proposes *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on the Application of the Integrated Online Management System (COC_319/2022)* to require that CPCs submit Part I, Annex 1 and Part II, Section 3 of the Annual Reports directly into IOMS starting in 2023. The draft Recommendation also proposes to require each CPC to ensure that it has registered at least one Admin user to IOMS. Finally, the draft Recommendation proposes to require that IOMS be used to submit additional reporting information in the future as new modules enter into production.

Table 1. Number of annual reports (and relative ratios) in the IOMS for 2021 and 2022, by section, completion status, and completion mode (with/without Secretariat support). Values in “red” indicate the number of pending sections that have to be completed by various CPCs in the near future.

Indicator	Section	Completion status	Party type	Year of annual report / Secretariat support [Yes/No]							
				2021				2022			
				NO	YES	n/a	Total	NO	YES	n/a	Total
number of annual reports	Compliance (P2S3: Part 2/Section 3)	complete	CP	2	33		35	32	10		42
			NCC		4		4	5		5	
		incomplete	CP	2	3		5	1	3		4
			CP			12	12			6	6
		NCC			1	1					
	Total		4	40	13	57	38	13	6	57	
	Statistical (P1A1: Part 1/annex 1)	complete	CP	2	35		37	32	10		42
			NCC		4		4	5		5	
		incomplete	CP	1	3		4	1	3		4
			CP			11	11			6	6
NCC				1	1						
Total		3	42	12	57	38	13	6	57		
ratio (%)	Compliance (P2S3: Part 2/Section 3)	complete	CP	3.5%	57.9%		61%	56.1%	17.5%		74%
			NCC	0.0%	7.0%		7%	8.8%	0.0%		9%
		incomplete	CP	3.5%	5.3%		9%	1.8%	5.3%		7%
			CP			21.1%	21%			10.5%	11%
		NCC			1.8%	2%			0.0%	0%	
	Total		7%	70%	23%	100%	67%	23%	11%	100%	
	Statistical (P1A1: Part 1/annex 1)	complete	CP	3.5%	61.4%		65%	56.1%	17.5%		74%
			NCC	0.0%	7.0%		7%	8.8%	0.0%		9%
		incomplete	CP	1.8%	5.3%		7%	1.8%	5.3%		7%
			CP			19.3%	19%			10.5%	11%
NCC				1.8%	2%			0.0%	0%		
Total		5%	74%	21%	100%	67%	23%	11%	100%		

Addendum 1 to Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9

**Information on the IOMS Phase 3 development planned
for the two-year period 2023-2024**

<i>Project</i>	<i>Proposed outcome</i>	<i>Indicative Timing</i>
Module 1 - Port Manager	To manage information on ports pursuant to ICCAT Compliance reporting requirements M:BFT21 and M:SWO10	6 months
Module 2 - Task 1 Nominal Catches (T1NC) manager	To handle the CPC submissions of Task 1 nominal catches (T1NC, yearly total catches estimations in live weight, dead discards, live discards and live BFT catches transferred to farms. Information will be provided in standard formats).	3 months
Module 3 - Compliance tables manager	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 overharvest/underharvest. This information will be provided in standard formats.	3 months

Addendum 2 to Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9

IOMS revised work plan, covering the ongoing and future development phases

Phase	Priority	Module/Task	Description	Data requirements	Dev. Status	Date Start (*)	Date End (*)	Budget	Remarks
1	1	Module	IOMS core/database	n/a	COMPLETE	2019-06-01	2021-08-01	COM-18	
1	2	Module	IOMS annual report (Part II/Section 3, Part I/Annex 1)	S:GEN01, M:GEN01	COMPLETE	2019-06-01	2021-08-01	COM-18	
1	3	Task	IOMS in production		COMPLETE	2019-06-01	2021-08-01	COM-18	
1	1	Task	Training workshop sessions (Phase 1)		n/a	2022-04-28	2022-09-01	COM-18	4 hours per session
1	1	Task	Improvements and error fixing		COMPLETE	2019-06-01		COM-18	An ongoing task
2	1	Module	Dynamic Help system (module)	n/a	Ongoing	2021-03-31	2022-03-31	CPC	Translation needed (outsourcing)
2	1	Task	Adjustments to the new roles definition	n/a	Ongoing	2022-02-15	2022-03-15	COM-19	Adopted by WG-ORT 2022
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 / Implementation	2021-03-01	2023-05-01	COM-19	Restart Oct/2021 (6-month dev.) Will require additional time, depending on the functionalities prioritized (to be decided by the WG-ORT in 2022).
2	1	Task	UN/FLUX integration into Vessel Manager	[same as for Vessel Manager module]	Design / Implementation	2022-04-01	2023-01-01	CPC	Imperative EU participation
2	1	Task	Improvements and error fixing	n/a	Planned	2023-04-01		COM-19	An ongoing task
2	1	Task	Vessels Workshop sessions	n/a	n/a		TBD	COM-19	Planned (for Vessel record in production)
3	1	Module	Port Manager	M:BFT21, M:SWO10	Analysis	2023-03-01	2023-09-01	COM-21	
3	1	Task	Port Workshop sessions		n/a		TBD	COM-21	
3	2	Module	T1NC (nominal catches) manager	S:GEN03	Planned	2023-09-01	2023-12-01	COM-21	Start (pending study on time required)
3	3	Module	Compliance tables manager	M:GEN03	Planned	2024-01-01	2024-04-01	COM-21	Start (pending study on time required)
3	1	Task	Improvements and error fixing	n/a	Planned	2023-03-01		COM-21	An ongoing task
4	1	Module	Shark and billfishes check sheets		Planning			COM-23	
4	2	Module	SDP programs (SWO, BET)	M:TRO06, M:SWO01	Planning			COM-23	
4	3	Module	Bluefin tuna (BFT) weekly and monthly reports Manager	M:BFT22, M:BFT23, M:TRO14 weekly BET	Planning			COM-23	
4	4	Module	Task 2 - Catch and effort	S:GEN04	Planning			COM-23	
4	1	Task	Improvements and error fixing	n/a	Planning			COM-23	

* Preliminary dates (tentative) for ongoing (Date End) and future (Date Start/Data End) activities.

Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9

Compliance Tables

All quantities are in metric tonnes.

NORTH ALBACORE

YEAR	Initial catch limits							Current catches					Balance					Adjusted quota/catch limit									
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
TAC	28000	28000	33600	33600	33600	37801	37801																				
BARBADOS	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	242.00	38.10	15.90	14.60	7.12	10.18	12.50	201.90	224.10	235.40	257.88	254.82	283.25	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	242.00	398.50	448.44	385.14	216.09	326.05	200.65	51.50	1.56	64.86	200.47	138.95	295.10	450.00	450.00	450.00	416.56	465.00	495.75	495.75	502.50
BRAZIL	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	242.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	268.75	295.75	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	268.75	295.75	302.50	
CANADA	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	242.00	19.92	16.99	26.40	31.19	12.46	40.46	230.07	233.01	223.60	233.81	252.54	255.30	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	265.00	295.75	295.75	
CHINA	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	242.00	103.20	123.65	123.84	129.16	207.66	291.32	146.80	126.35	126.16	135.84	57.34	4.43	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	265.00	295.75	295.75	
CHINESE TAIPEI	3271.70	3271.70	3926.00	3926.00	3926.00	4416.90	4416.90	3134.00	2385.00	2926.00	2770.00	3549.00	2896.00	655.62	1404.62	1355.62	1773.93	1158.50	2302.40	3789.62	3789.62	4281.62	4543.93	4707.50	5198.40	5198.40	
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	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	242.00	4.65	11.23	4.90	1.35	0.64	2.34	245.35	238.77	245.10	263.65	268.11	293.41	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	268.75	295.75	302.50	
CURAÇAO	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	242.00	10.00	10.00	21.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	190.00	190.00	178.50	215.00	215.00	242.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	242.00	
EU	21551.30	21551.30	25861.60	25861.60	25861.60	29095.10	29095.10	24308.65	20699.71	25086.83	30076.89	25580.70	26095.09	233.05	6239.41	1007.82	-540.04	1288.72	2025.93	24541.70	26939.12	26094.65	29536.85	26869.42	28121.02	29941.57	30678.78
FRANCE (St. P&M)	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	242.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	265.00	295.75	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	265.00	295.75	295.75	
JAPAN	449.52	394.89	393.98	397.33	371.77	505.18		254.90	335.00	210.60	319.27	282.80	223.40	194.62	59.89	183.38	78.05	88.97	281.78	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
KOREA	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	242.00	13.18	7.90	27.27	48.48	115.90	114.61	236.82	242.10	222.73	216.52	149.10	181.14	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	242.00		90.00	2.90	0.00				110.0	200.0	265.0				200.00	200.00	265.00				
MAROC	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	242.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	25.00	29.00	40.00	230.00	230.00	230.00	240.00	236.00	255.75	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	265.00	295.75	295.75	302.50
MEXICO	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	242.00	2.19	0.38	7.19	0.29	1.45	0.72	247.81	249.62	242.81	264.71	263.55	295.03	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	265.00	295.75	295.75	
PANAMA					215.00	242.00	242.00					175.92	182.89					89.08	112.86						265.00	295.75	295.75
ST. VINCENT & GRENADINES	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	242.00	291.60	296.20	173.26	180.45	251.73	0.00	6.89	3.80	133.63	38.35	13.27	280.35	298.49	300.00	306.89	218.80	265.00	280.35	255.27	
THE GAMBIA					215.00	242.00	242.00				0.72							214.28							215.00		
TR. & TOBAGO	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	242.00	242.00	70.70	48.20	33.10	22.03	16.06	26.80	179.30	201.80	216.90	242.97	249.94	268.95	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	265.00	295.75	302.50	
UK	200.00	200.00	200.00	215.00	215.00	434.04	442.25	0.60	0.36	0.38	0.79	2.05	169.39	249.40	249.64	249.62	264.21	262.95	318.40	250.00	250.00	250.00	265.00	265.00	487.79	496.00	550.76
USA	527.00	527.00	632.40	632.40	632.40	711.50	711.50	250.22	238.35	102.57	221.13	328.36	294.86	408.53	420.40	661.58	569.37	462.14	574.74	658.75	658.75	764.15	790.50	790.50	869.60	889.38	
VENEZUELA	250.00	250.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	337.50	337.50	286.98	301.35	165.45	220.92	245.92	298.51	-702.19	-429.54	-294.99	-215.91	-161.83	-122.84	-415.21	-128.19	-129.54	5.01	84.09	175.67	214.66	
TOTAL CATCH								29357.95	25297.36	29331.93	34346.79	31150.07	30889.54														
Rec. number	13-05	16-06	17-04	17-04	17-04	20-03/04	21-04													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 t) 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: 200t (Rec. 20-04, para 2).

BELIZE: intends to use 53.75t of its underage from 2020 in 2022 (Rec. 21-04, para 9); receiving a transfer of ALB-N from Chinese Taipei: 200 t (Rec. 21-04, para 6).

BELIZE: intends to use 53.75 t of its underages from 2021 in 2023 (Rec. 21-04, para 9); receiving a transfer of N-ALB from Chinese Taipei: 200 t (Rec. 21-04, para 6).

CANADA: all 2019-2021 catches are inclusive of dead discards.

EU: authorized to transfer in 2017 to Venezuela 60 t of its unused portion of its 2015 quota (Rec. 16-06).

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% (para 6 of Rec. 16-06).

KOREA: underage up to 25% of the initial catch quota has been carried over biennially.

SVG: 2013-2015 data for adjusted quota were not adopted by the Commission in 2015. In March 2016, the above data were submitted by correspondence to CPCs in the event of any objection.

UK: The EU transfers to the UK 434.04 t of ALB-N quota for 2021 (Circ. 4088/21). The UK OT had previously carried over 53.75 t. When combined the adjusted quota for 2021 was 487.79 t.

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 t, 150 t 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 transfer 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 transfer of 200 t to Belize.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2022 adjusted quota is 5198.4 t (=4416.9+3926*0.25-200) due to the inclusion of 2020 underage and 2022 initial catch quota and the deduction of the transfer of 200 t to Belize.

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SOUTH ALBACORE																												
YEAR	Initial catch limits							Current catches					Balance					Adjusted quota/catch limit										
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
TAC	24000	24000	24000	24000	24000	24000	24000																					
ANGOLA	50.00	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	250.00	122.86	219.03	310.52	158.14	162.13	30.84	189.64	93.47	1.98	154.36	89.85	281.66	312.50	312.50	312.50	312.50	251.98	312.50	312.50	312.50	312.50
BRAZIL	2160.00	2160.00	2160.00	2160.00	2160.00	2160.00	2160.00	657.59	496.85	396.00	1002.66	617.00	516.00	2042.41	2103.15	2204.00	1597.34	1883.00	2184.00	2700.00	2600.00	2600.00	2600.00	2500.00	2700.00	2700.00	2700.00	
CHINA	100.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	94.37	184.55	116.45	132.07	183.94	9.66	30.63	20.05	133.55	87.98	66.06	240.34	125.00	204.60	250.00	220.05	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
CHINESE TAIPEI	9400.00	9400.00	9400.00	9400.00	9400.00	9400.00	9400.00	8907.00	9090.00	9227.00	9626.00	9851.00	10519.00	2843.00	2660.00	2523.00	2124.00	1699.00	1005.00	11750.00	11750.00	11750.00	11750.00	11550.00	11524.00	11184.00	10405.00	
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	122.40	6.18	19.36	45.23																
CURACAO	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	12.00	13.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	38.00	36.70	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	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	1470.00	54.77	178.20	102.81	81.73	60.47	70.94	1782.73	1659.30	1734.69	1755.77	1777.03	1766.56	1837.50	1837.50	1837.50	1837.50	1837.50	1837.50	1837.50	1837.50	
GUINEA EQ				25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.77	0.00	0.00	0.00		24.23	25.00	25.00	25.00									
GUYANA	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.04	0.00	3.00	1.00	0.06	0.00	24.96	25.00	22.00	24.00	24.94	25.00									
JAPAN	1355.00	1355.00	1355.00	1355.00	1355.00	1355.00	1355.00	1212.80	2135.80	1654.50	1465.57	1621.80	1487.60	480.95	-418.70	239.25	470.73	1071.95	206.15	1693.75	1717.10	1893.75	1936.30	2693.75	1693.75	1693.75	1693.75	1561.15
KOREA	140.00	140.00	140.00	140.00	140.00	140.00	140.00	48.27	85.96	166.64	170.01	131.45	131.02	126.73	89.04	8.36	4.99	16.91	13.97	175.00	175.00	175.00	175.00	148.36	144.99	156.91	153.97	
NAMIBIA	3600.00	3600.00	3600.00	3600.00	3600.00	3600.00	3600.00	994.00	365.62	888.80	966.50	2165.75	3412.63	3506.00	4111.38	3612.00	3533.50	2334.25	1087.37	4500.00	4477.00	4500.00	4500.00	4500.00	4500.00	4500.00	4500.00	
PANAMA	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	3.20	23.50	0.00	13.00	31.34	17.22	21.80	1.50	25.00	12.00	-6.34	1.44								18.66	
PHILIPPINES	140.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	140.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	140.00	25.00	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	4400.00	2065.00	1762.00	2572.50	4402.87	4025.92	3922.52	2335.00	3738.00	2027.50	197.13	874.08	674.61	4400.00	5500.00	5500.00	4600.00	4900.00	4597.13	5274.08	5074.61	
ST.VINCENT & GRENADINES	100.00	140.00	140.00	140.00	140.00	140.00	140.00	107.40	101.00	98.21	30.63	0.00	14.43	-0.73	38.27	41.79	144.37	175.00	160.57	106.67	139.27	140.00	175.00	175.00	175.00	175.00	175.00	
TR. & TOBAGO	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.40	0.00	0.00	3.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.60	25.00	25.00	21.70	25.00	25.00								
UK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	125.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	125.00	125.00	
URUGUAY	440.00	440.00	440.00	440.00	440.00	440.00	440.00	0.00	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	550.00	550.00	
USA	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	na	na	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00
TOTAL CATCH								14279.70	14778.20	15543.38	18072.85	18896.09	20131.86															
Rec number	13-06	16-07	16-07	16-07	16-07	20-05	21-05														13-06	13-06	16-07	16-07	16-07	20-05	21-05	

BELIZE: intends to use 62.5 t of its underages from 2017 to 2019 (Rec. 16-07, para 4b).
 BELIZE: intends to use 198 t of its underages from 2018 to 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 to 2021 (Rec. 16-07, para 4a).
 BELIZE: intends to use 62.5 t of its underages from 2020 to 2022 (Rec. 16-07, para 4a).
 BELIZE: intends to use 62.5t of its underages from 2021 to 2023 (Rec. 16-07, para 4b).
 BRAZIL: Brazil's underage in 2019 up to 25% of the initial catch quota of this year was carried over to the 2021 initial limit (Rec. 16-07).
 CHINA: informs the Commission in 2017 of an adjusted quota of 25% in 2018.
 CHINA: in accordance with paragraph 4b of Rec. 16-07, the 25% carryover request made by China at the 2017 Regular Commission meeting has been completed using their underage from 2016 of 30.63 t and 19.37 t of the total underage of the TAC from 2016.
 CHINA: in accordance with para 4b of Rec. 16-07, wishes to request its intention of such carryover.
 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 the northern albacore with respect to the information presented on page 3 of the document included here: 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.
 CHINESE TAIPEI: 2022 adjusted quota is 11244.00 t (=9400+1699) due to the inclusion of 2020 underage and 2021 initial catch quota + XXXt (Rec. 16-07 Para 4b) as complement from total underage from the TAC, where XXX depends on what is left from the total underage from the TAC from 2020, minus the underages to be used by those CPCs wishing to do so
 SOUTH AFRICA: transferred 800 t of its SALB to Japan in 2019.
 SOUTH AFRICA: will transfer 500 t of its SALB to Japan in 2020.
 SOUTH AFRICA: in accordance with the Rec. 16-07, South Africa is also transferring 100 t of its SALB to Japan until 2020.
 SOUTH AFRICA: South Africa's underage in 2019 up to 25% of the initial catch quota of this year was carried over to the 2021 initial limit (Rec. 16-07).
 ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES: St. Vincent and Grenadines's underage in 2019 up to 25% of the initial catch quota of this year was carried over to the 2021 initial limit (Rec. 16-07).
 URUGUAY: Uruguay's underage in 2019 up to 25% of the initial catch quota of this year was carried over to the 2021 initial limit (Rec. 16-07).

ICCAT REPORT 2022-2023 (I)

SOUTH SWORDFISH																											
YEAR	Initial catch limits							Current catches						Balance					Adjusted quota/catch limit								
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
TAC	15000	15000	14000	14000	14000	14000	14000																				
ANGOLA	100.00	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	125.00	149.60	166.01	115.22	55.33	2.12	29.08	137.90	108.99	172.28	219.67	272.88	245.92	287.50	275.00	287.50	275.00	275.00	275.00	274.94	275.00
BRAZIL	3940.00	3940.00	3940.00	3940.00	3940.00	3940.00	3940.00	2934.78	2406.03	2798.00	2858.83	2105.00	2823.00	2137.22	2665.97	1880.00	1819.17	2573.00	1855.00	5072.00	5072.00	4678.00	4678.00	4678.00	4678.00	4678.00	4678.00
CHINA	313.00	313.00	313.00	313.00	313.00	313.00	313.00	222.22	301.58	354.85	210.91	88.54	36.73	119.68	13.76	37.05	115.05	261.51	338.87	341.90	315.34	391.90	326.76	350.05	375.60	375.60	
CHINESE TAIPEI	459.00	459.00	459.00	459.00	459.00	459.00	459.00	478.00	416.00	472.10	395.31	353.05	532.00	57.90	100.90	87.80	151.49	197.75	18.80	535.90	516.90	559.90	546.80	550.80	550.80	477.80	
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	125.00	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	175.00	150.00		
EU	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	5461.54	5120.23	4776.32	4508.96	4750.20	4695.12	139.52	104.15	187.20	419.19	261.00	548.07	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	100.00	36.00	55.10	6.10	0.00	0.00	18.80	64.00	44.90	93.90	100.00	100.00	81.20	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
JAPAN	901.00	901.00	901.00	901.00	901.00	901.00	901.00	870.90	659.50	698.00	662.04	444.00	659.00	488.56	340.20	641.56	529.16	1007.00	721.16	1359.46	999.70	1339.56	1191.20	1451.00	1380.16	1451.00	
KOREA	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	19.25	10.92	17.18	8.70	15.41	5.56	28.12	54.08	42.82	51.30	44.59	54.44	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	1168.00	466.00	717.00	881.00	811.28	789.24	252.99	1202.40	951.40	670.60	740.32	762.36	1248.61	1668.40	1668.40	1551.60	1551.60	1551.60	1501.60		
PHILIPPINES	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	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	50.00	50.00	
S.T. & PRINCIPE	100.00	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	417.00	173.30	159.96	92.80	166.90	0.00	0.00	346.57	340.44	407.60	333.50	500.40	500.40	519.87	500.40	500.40	500.40	500.40	500.40	500.40	
SOUTH AFRICA	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	124.40	159.00	188.70	288.56	149.47	228.99	1126.90	1092.30	962.50	862.64	1001.73	972.21	1251.30	1251.30	1151.20	1151.20	1151.20	1201.20	1201.20	
ST.VINCENT & GRENADINES								4.69	8.96	4.19	14.84	0.00	31.86	-4.69	-13.65	-17.84	-32.68	-32.68	-64.54		-4.69	-13.65	-17.84	-32.68	-32.68	-64.54	
UK	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	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	
URUGUAY	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1627.60	1627.60	1627.60	1502.40	1502.40	1502.40	1627.60	1627.60	1502.40	1452.40	1452.40	1452.40	1452.40	
USA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	99.94	99.94	99.94	99.94	99.40	99.40	99.94	99.94	99.94	99.94	99.94	99.94	100.00	
TOTAL CATCH								11043.29	10275.09	10451.26	10083.12	8714.23	9313.13														
Rec. number	15-03	16-04	17-03	17-03	17-03	17-03	21-03														15-03	16-04	17-03	17-03	17-03	21-03	

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).

BELIZE: intends to use 20% of its initial catch limit (25 t) in 2020 to be used in 2022 + transfer of 24.94 t from the United States of America + transfer of 50 t from Brazil + transfer of 50 t from Uruguay to Belize.

BELIZE: intends to use 25 t of its underages from 2021 in 2023 (Rec. 21-03, para 1B); 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 = 901t (Limit) + 529.16 t (2019 carry over (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.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2022 adjusted quota is 477.8 t (=459 + 18.8) due to the inclusion of 2021 underage and 2022 initial catch quota.

USA: the 2016-2020 adjusted quota reflects transfers to Namibia (50 t), Belize (25 t) and Côte d'Ivoire (25 t) in accordance with Rec. 16-04/17-03.

MEDITERRANEAN SWORDFISH

YEAR	Initial 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	451.48		5.49	0.00	1.02	35.46		533.49	517.49	501.975	486.94	472.33		
EGYPT							5.00	4.00	12.00													
EU	7188.17	6972.52	6763.35	6560.44	6363.63	3937.33	5197.8	4820.4	4571.5		3250.84	1774.74	1942.96	1988.98		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	924.20		0.61	0.00	1.79	0.00		1013.61	982.26	952.79	924.20	896.47	869.57	
SYRIA																						
TUNISIE	977.45	948.13	919.68	892.09	865.33	974.00	934.00	917.92	890.66		3.45	14.13	1.78	1.43		977.46	948.14	919.70	892.09	865.33		
TURKEY	427.77	414.94	402.4918	390.417	378.70	427.00	414.00	402.40	389.99		0.77	0.94	0.09	0.43		427.77	414.94	402.49	390.42	378.70		
TOTAL CATCH						6879.33	8050.53	7596.66	7239.79													
Rec. number	16-05	16-05	16-05	16-05	16-05											16-05	16-05	16-05	16-05	16-05		

*NOTE: 3% reduction from 10,500, as required by para 4 of Rec. 16-05. Over the period 2018-2022, the TAC should be gradually reduced by 3% each year.

ICCAT REPORT 2022-2023 (I)

EAST BLUEFIN

YEAR	Initial catch limits							Current catch							Balance					Adjusted quota/catch limit							
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
TAC	19296	22705	28200	32240	36000	36000	36000																				
ALBANIA	47.40	56.91	100.00	156.00	170.00	170.00	170.00	45.79	56.00	100.00	156.25	167.67	148.40	0.51	0.91	0.00	-0.25	2.08	21.60	46.30	56.91	100.00	156.00	169.75	170.00	170.00	
ALGERIE	202.98	243.70	1260.00	1446.00	1655.00	1655.00	1655.00	448.39	1037.67	1299.99	1436.95	1648.68	1649.86	4.59	6.03	6.01	9.05	6.32	5.14	452.98	1043.70	1306.00	1446.00	1655.00	1655.00	1655.00	
CHINA	53.90	64.71	79.00	90.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	53.89	64.38	78.99	88.96	100.99	100.99	0.01	0.33	0.01	1.04	1.01	1.01	53.90	64.71	79.00	90.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	
CHINESE TAIPEI	58.28	69.97	79.00	84.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	48.28	59.97	29.00	34.00	40.00	40.00	48.28	59.97	29.00	34.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	
EGYPT	94.67	113.67	181.00	266.00	330.00	330.00	330.00	99.33	123.67	180.99	263.34	122.08	326.61	0.34	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	3.39	99.67	123.67	181.00	263.34	122.08	330.00	70.38	
EU	11203.54	13451.36	15850.00	17623.00	19460.00	19460.00	19460.00	10974.35	13084.30	15584.70	17064.09	19134.03	19163.67	229.19	367.06	265.30	558.91	325.97	247.93	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	180.00	5.76	0.42	0.00	0.00	0.70	0.54	37.09	52.06	84.00	147.00	179.30	179.46	42.85	52.48	84.00	147.00	180.00	180.00	180.00	
JAPAN	1608.21	1930.88	2279.00	2544.00	2819.00	2819.00	2819.00	1578.37	1910.65	2269.76	2523.73	2781.63	2779.99	4.84	0.23	9.24	20.27	57.64	96.65	1583.21	1910.88	2279.00	2544.00	2839.27	2876.64	2915.65	
KOREA	113.66	136.46	160.00	184.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	161.08	181.19	207.97	232.43	247.27	242.24	2.58	0.27	2.03	1.57	4.30	12.06	163.66	181.46	210.00	234.00	251.57	254.30	260.00	
LIBYA	1323.28	1588.77	1846.00	2060.00	2255.00	2255.00	2255.00	1367.80	1630.75	1791.60	2051.65	2228.20	2234.18	5.48	8.02	8.40	8.35	26.80	20.82	1373.28	1638.77	1800.00	2060.00	2255.00	2255.00	2255.00	
MAROC	1792.98	2152.71	2578.00	2948.00	3284.00	3284.00	3284.00	1783.30	2141.20	2571.00	2920.00	3453.71	3294.26	9.68	11.51	7.00	28.00	34.91	24.65	1792.98	2152.71	2578.00	2948.00	3488.62	3318.91	3568.27	
MAURITANIA	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	0.00	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	5.00	5.00	
NORWAY	43.71	52.48	104.00	239.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	43.80	50.86	12.31	49.30	194.39	157.68	-0.09	1.53	91.69	189.70	117.56	157.32	43.71	52.39	104.00	239.00	311.95	315.00	315.00	
SENEGAL				5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00																	5.00	5.00		
SYRIA	47.40	56.91	66.00	73.00	80.00	80.00	80.00	47.39	56.91	66.00	71.97	79.20	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	1.03	0.80	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	2655.00	1490.58	1789.54	2102.09	2379.13	2653.38	2729.74	1.13	1.46	12.91	20.87	22.02	26.01	1491.71	1791.00	2115.00	2400.00	2675.40	2755.75	2679.72	
TURKEY	785.59	943.21	1414.00	1880.00	2305.00	2305.00	2305.00	1324.30	1514.70	1283.70	1770.78	2257.88	2256.95	137.52	260.30	130.30	109.22	47.12	48.05	1461.82	1775.00	1414.00	1880.00	2305.00	2305.00	2305.00	
UK	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	48.40	48.40	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	2.92	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	45.48	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	48.40	50.82
TOTAL CATCH								19424.13	23642.23	27549.11	31008.58	35069.80	35088.02														
Rec. number	14-04	14-04	17-07	18-02	19-04	20-07	21-08													14-04	14-04	17-07	18-02	19-04	20-07	21-08	

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 carry over (para 7 of Rec. 19-04)).

KOREA: since 2018, Chinese Taipei transferred 50 t of its quota to Korea every year.

Korea: Korea carried forward its unused quota of 2019 (1.57 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) of Egypt (3284+204.62 = 3488.62 tonnes).

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.

MOROCCO: 2022 national adjusted quota following the transfer of underage 24.65 t and transfer from Egypt of 259.62 t (3284+24.65 +259.62 = 3568.27 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 respect the rules of reporting of catches 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.

TÜRKIYE: the adjusted quota for 2017 indicating 1775.00 t is the independent catch limit announced for 2017 by Türkiye in its objection to Rec. 14-04.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2018 adjusted quota is 29 (=79-50) due to the transfer of 50 t to Korea.

CHINESE TAIPEI: agrees to transfer 50 t of its 2019 quota to Korea (Rec. 18-02).

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2019 adjusted quota is 34 t (=84-50) due to the transfer of 50 t to Korea.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2020 adjusted quota is 40 t (=90-50) due to the transfer of 50 t to Korea.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2021 adjusted quota is 40 t (=90-50) due to the transfer of 50 t to Korea.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2022 adjusted quota is 40 t (=90-50) due to the transfer of 50 t to Korea.

SENEGAL: may catch up to 5 t for research in each year, if they respect the rules of reporting of catches defined in 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) for only this fishing season 2021.

UK: 2021 quota resulting from the agreed percentage shares of the quotas transferred from European Union to the United Kingdom following the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union. See Circular ICCAT #4088 / 21 (48.40 t, rounded to two decimal places). UK TAC share as 0.25% of BFTE EU+UK TAC.

WEST BLUEFIN

YEAR	Initial catch limits							Current catches							Balance							Adjusted quota/catch limit						
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
TAC	2000	2000	2350	2350	2350	2350	2726																					
CANADA	452.47	452.47	530.59	530.59	530.59	530.59	558.65	466.11	471.65	553.98	632.87	591.60	630.73	38.63	75.43	95.84	20.84	44.05	49.13	504.74	547.08	649.82	653.71	635.65	679.86	672.56		
FRANCE (St. P & M)	4.51	4.51	5.31	5.31	5.31	5.31	6.18	9.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.32	4.19	9.50	1.00	6.31	2.06	9.02	4.19	9.50	1.00	1.53	2.06	3.46		
JAPAN	345.74	345.74	407.48	407.48	407.48	407.48	664.52	345.49	345.83	407.00	406.29	407.58	409.57	1.34	1.25	1.73	2.92	2.82	0.73	346.83	347.08	408.73	409.21	410.40	410.30	665.25		
MEXICO	108.98	108.98	128.44	128.44	128.44	128.44	149.34	55.00	34.00	80.00	39.00	28.00	62.00	23.98	42.98	17.44	46.44	67.44	33.44	78.98	76.98	97.44	85.44	95.44	95.44	122.78		
UK	4.51	4.51	5.31	5.31	5.31	5.31	6.18	0.00	0.46	0.41	0.34	1.42	0.71	8.00	8.56	10.21	9.87	9.20	9.91	8.00	9.02	10.62	10.21	10.62	10.62	11.49		
USA	1083.79	1083.79	1272.86	1272.86	1272.86	1272.86	1341.14	1026.70	996.80	1028.26	1190.78	1184.99	1200.46	165.47	195.37	352.98	209.37	215.16	199.69	1192.17	1192.17	1381.24	1400.15	1400.15	1400.15	1468.43		
TOTAL LANDING								1902.64	1848.74	2069.65	2269.28	2213.59	2303.47															
Discards																												
CANADA																												
JAPAN																												
USA																												
TOTAL DISCARDS																												
TOTAL REMOVAL																												
Rec. number	14-05	16-08	17-06	17-06	17-06	20-06	21-07													14-05	14-05	17-06	17-06	17-06	20-06	21-07		

CANADA: all 2019-2021 catches are inclusive of dead discards.
 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 by-catch, 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 = 407.48t (Limit) + 2.92t (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 by-catch, as per Rec. 17-06 para 6a & Rec. 20-06 Para 1 (4).

BLUE MARLIN

YEAR	Landings limit								Current landings						Balance						Adjusted landings limit					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
TAC	1985	1985	1985	2000	1670	1670	1670																			
BARBADOS	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	11.12	24.03	13.55	13.48	21.53	12.23	-24.84	-38.87	-42.42	-45.90	-57.43	-59.66	-28.87	-32.42	-35.90	-47.43	-49.66		
BELIZE	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	13.10	1.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-3.10	5.82	10.00	10.00	10.00	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	159.80	79.19	63.30	37.00	19.91	13.00	2.00													
CANADA	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.11	0.28	0.18	0.06	0.00	0.12	9.89	9.72	9.82	9.94	10.00	9.88	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	
CHINA	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	37.90	37.90	37.90	49.71	40.31	42.19	46.40	37.24	4.03	0.63	5.27	3.44	3.87	4.10	37.74	45.63	50.27	41.34	41.77	37.90		
CHINESE TAIPEI	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	126.20	126.20	126.20	75.00	73.00	74.00	40.00	91.40	96.10	90.00	92.00	91.00	125.00	49.80	45.10	165.00	165.00	141.20	141.20	126.20		
COSTA RICA	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	51.04	79.41	41.39	27.45	18.21	23.69	-41.04	-110.45	-141.83	-159.28	-167.49	-181.18	-100.45	-131.83	-149.28	-157.49	-171.18		
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	126.20	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	127.75			
CURACAO (1)	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	48.00	2.30	20.30	0.00	1.93	10.00	-38.00	-30.30	-40.60	-30.60	-22.53	-28.00	-20.30	-30.60	-20.60	7.47		
EL SALVADOR	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00		0.41	0.00	3.08	1.43	0.00	10.00	9.59	10.00	6.92	8.57	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	
EU	480.00	480.00	480.00	480.00	403.80	403.80	403.80	355.07	338.75	120.79	79.62	138.82	105.06	52.56	76.00	341.96	448.38	310.98	344.74	528.00	528.00	449.80	449.80	401.80		
GHANA	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	210.30	210.30	210.30	43.66	162.02	59.70	44.40	53.10	227.80	206.34	87.98	190.30	230.60	182.20	7.50	275.00	275.00	235.30	235.30	210.30		
GUATEMALA				10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	26.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	-16.00	-6.00	4.00	10.00	10.00	-6.00	4.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	
GUINEA EQ.				10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00			0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00			9.95	10.00	10.00	10.00			10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	
GUYANA				10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00				128.22	38.83	75.26													
JAPAN	390.00	390.00	390.00	390.00	328.10	328.10	328.10	412.40	308.10	352.20	336.89	285.10	289.40	16.60	120.90	54.40	92.11	82.00	77.70	429.00	429.00	367.10	367.10	328.10		
KOREA	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	29.40	29.40	29.40	26.19	25.13	24.55	12.91	20.36	11.52	8.81	9.87	17.45	29.09	16.04	24.88	42.00	42.00	36.40	36.40	29.40		
LIBERIA		10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	126.85	10.34	0.78	1.98	1.82	1.85	-116.85	-117.19	-107.97	-99.95	-91.77	-83.62	-107.19	-97.97	-89.95	-81.77	-73.62		
MAROC	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	7.40	82.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.60	-72.00	-62.00	-52.00	-32.00	-62.00	-42.00	-62.00	-42.00	-32.00	-22.00	-12.00	
MEXICO	70.00	70.00	70.00	70.00	58.90	58.90	58.90	65.00	60.00	68.00	51.00	39.00	43.00	-9.00	1.00	3.00	22.00	26.90	15.90	71.00	73.00	65.90	58.90	58.90		
NAMIBIA		10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	32.00	57.00	84.00	52.72	51.41	9.85	-22.00	-69.00	-143.00	-185.72	-227.13	-226.98	-59.00	-133.00	-175.72	-217.13	-216.98		
PANAMA		10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00		23.79	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.00		-13.79	-3.79	6.21	10.00	10.00	-3.79	6.21	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	
S. TOME & PRINCIPE	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	37.90	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	50.50	12.52	25.88	35.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	47.48	34.12	25.00	66.00	50.50	50.50	66.00	66.00	50.50	50.50	50.50		
SOUTH AFRICA	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.26	0.00	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	10.00	10.00	
ST.VINCENT & GRENADINES			10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00		2.01	1.98	1.18	2.07	1.65		7.99	8.02	8.82	7.93	8.35	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	
TR. & TOBAGO	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	16.80	16.80	16.80	18.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.60	-83.60	-63.60	-43.60	-23.60	-4.80	13.40	-43.60	-23.60	-4.80	14.00	18.80		
UK	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	2.04	1.42	1.85	1.25	0.89	1.14	7.96	8.58	8.15	8.75	9.11	8.86	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	
VENEZUELA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	84.10	84.10	84.10	82.51	97.41	61.54	60.49	42.46	42.97	27.49	-17.41	31.05	39.51	51.64	51.13	92.59	100.00	94.10	94.10	84.10		
TOTAL LANDINGS								1524.28	1605.87	1035.58	1107.79	897.55	950.20													
USA(# of bum+whm)	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	169.00	129.00	188.00	189.00	235.00	175.00	81.00	121.00	62.00	61.00	15.00	75.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
Rec. number	15-05	15-05	15-05	18-04	19-05	19-05	19-05													15-05	18-04	19-05	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.

CANADA: all 2019-2021 catches are inclusive of dead discards.

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 Curacao 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".

(1) CURACAO: Curacao agreed on a payback plan for blue marlin of 2.5 tons per year from 2022 on. First year 2.53t. (Provisional pending approval by Commission in 2023)

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 actual 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 leads 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 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).

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2022 adjusted quota is 126.2 t in accordance with para 3 c) of Rec. 19-05.

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.

USA: Total marlin landings for 2021 include 98 BUM, 56 WHM, and 21 RSP.

VENEZUELA: is authorised to transfer 30 t to the European Union for 2017, Rec. 16-10.

VENEZUELA: transfer of 10% of the underage of its 2015 catch to its 2017 adjusted quota.

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WHITE MARLIN

YEAR	Landings limit							Current landings						Balance					Adjusted landings limit						
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
TAC	355	355	355	400	355	355	355																		
BARBADOS	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	14.23	17.40	17.50	11.50	14.36	10.00	-2.23	-7.10	-9.73	-8.60	-14.09	-8.60	7.77	2.90	0.27	1.40	-4.09	
BRAZIL	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	66.93	46.58	62.00	76.31	46.00	0.00												
CANADA	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	1.03	2.30	1.64	1.50	0.24	1.65	8.97	7.70	10.36	10.50	11.76	10.35	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	
CHINA	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.26	2.53	3.23	2.88	1.81	1.57	11.74	9.48	8.77	9.12	10.19	10.43	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	10.00	
CHINESE TAIPEI	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	10.00	5.00	6.00	2.00	5.40	5.20	45.00	50.00	49.00	53.00	49.60	49.80	55.00	55.00	55.00	55.00	50.00	
COSTA RICA	2.00	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	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	12.00		
CURAÇAO	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00			0.80	0.00	0.00	0.00			1.20	2.00	2.00	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	2.00	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	1.80	2.00	2.00	2.00	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	50.00	101.54	14.67	0.17	0.70	3.07	14.32	-77.64	9.23	27.43	26.90	29.53	40.68	27.60	27.60	32.60	55.00	50.00	
GHANA	2.00	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	2.00	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	1.89	2.00	2.00	2.00	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	2.00	48.42	57.20	67.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-47.06	-102.26	-167.26	-165.26	-163.26	-161.26	-100.26	-165.26	-163.26	-161.26	-159.26	
JAPAN	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	12.60	9.20	14.40	10.85	7.90	6.10	29.40	32.80	27.60	31.15	34.10	35.90	42.00	42.00	42.00	42.00	35.00	
KOREA	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	0.00	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	19.86	24.00	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	2.00			1.05	1.98						0.95				2.00	2.00	2.00		
MAROC	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.40	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	1.60	1.50	2.00	2.00	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	25.00	20.00	12.00	15.89	9.00	10.00	12.00	4.00	13.00	13.11	21.00	20.00	18.00	29.00	30.00	30.00	30.00	25.00	
PANAMA	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00		0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		1.89	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
S. TOME & PRINCIPE	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	2.00	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	2.00			0.22	0.00	0.00	0.00			1.78	2.00	2.00	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	2.00	0.00	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	2.00	2.00
ST.VINCENT & GRENADINES			2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00		8.00	0.00	5.12	8.98	0.00		-6.00	-4.00	-2.00	-8.98	-6.98	-4.00	-2.00	0.00	-6.98	-4.98	
TR. & TOBAGO	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	19.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.36	-79.20	-64.20	-49.20	-34.20	-19.20	-4.56	-49.20	-34.20	-19.20	-4.20	10.44	
UK	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.25	0.30	0.19	0.21	0.29	0.19	1.75	1.70	1.81	1.79	1.71	1.81	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
VENEZUELA	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	157.98	150.09	67.89	51.43	35.40	31.77	-107.98	-208.07	-225.96	-227.39	-212.79	-194.56	-158.07	-175.96	-177.39	-162.79	-144.56	
TOTAL LANDINGS								469.11	340.45	258.48	173.73	133.73	83.16												
USA (# of bum+whm)	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	169.00	129.00	188.00	189.00	235.00	175.00	81.00	121.00	62.00	61.00	15.00	75.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
Rec. number	15-05	15-05	15-05	18-04	19-05	19-05	19-05													15-05	18-04	19-05	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 2019-2021 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 actual 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.

USA: total marlin landings for 2021 include 98 BUM, 56 WHM, and 21 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).

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2022 adjusted quota is 50 t in accordance with para 3 c) of Rec. 19-05.

NORTH ATLANTIC BLUE SHARK

YEAR	Initial catch limits			Current catches		Balance		Adjusted quota/catch limit			
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2022	2023
TAC	39102	39102	39102								
COSTA RICA				0.12	0.23						
EU	32578.00	32578.00	32578.00	30404.08	17347.38	2173.92	15198.04	32578.00	32545.42	32545.42	
JAPAN	4010.00	4010.00	4010.00	1896.60	1798.00	2113.40	2212.00	4010.00	4010.00	4010.00	
LIBERIA				3.30	7.56						
MAROC	1644.00	1644.00	1644.00	1497.80	1636.19	146.20	7.81	1644.00	1644.00	1644.00	1644.00
PANAMA				344.00	83.84						
TR. & TOBAGO				0.11	0.21						
UK	n.a.	32.58	32.58	0.01	4.22	n.a.	28.36	n.a.	32.58	32.58	
VENEZUELA				58.74	10.97						
TOTAL LANDING				34204.76	20888.59						
<i>Rec. number</i>	<i>19-07</i>	<i>19-07</i>	<i>21-10</i>					<i>19-07</i>	<i>19-07</i>	<i>21-10</i>	

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.

UK: 2021 quota resulting from the agreed percentage shares of the quotas transferred from European Union to the United Kingdom following the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union. See Circular ICCAT #4088 / 21 (32.58 t, rounded to two decimal places). UK TAC share as 0.10% of BSHN EU+UK TAC.

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Species	SWO						BFT				
	Jan	Apr	May	Jul	Aug	Nov	Jan	Apr	May	Jul	Nov
Recommendation Number	21-00	21-00	21-00	21-00	21-00	21-00	21-00	21-00	21-00	21-00	21-00
Gear/fishery	all	all	all	all	all	all	all	all	all	all	all
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 GJ or 7.5 kg DW	0 kg	6.4 kg	0 kg	0 kg	0 kg	30 kg	30 kg	30 kg
Min. size (cm)	A=125 cm LFL/ 63 cm CK or B= 119 cm LFL/ 63 cm CK	A=125 cm LFL/ 63 cm CK or B= 119 cm LFL/ 63 cm CK	90 cm LFL	75 cm FL	70 cm FL	75 cm FL	75 cm FL	115 cm FL	115 cm FL	115 cm FL	115 cm FL
All-SWO: Option chosen A or B			Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
BFT: Amount allocated to be introduced for (1), (2), (3) and (5)	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	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; B= 0% 15kg/119cm	5%	0%	100 (2)	0%	0%	5% between 0-30 kg; 75-115 cm FL	5% between 0-30 kg; 75-115 cm FL	5% between 0-30 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	Weight per allocation of max 100t	Weight or number of fish per total catch	Weight or number of fish per total landings of observation	Number of fish per total landings	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	Non applicable	Non applicable	2%	Non applicable	Non applicable	Non applicable	0%	Non applicable	0.4%	Non applicable	Non applicable
Angola	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Aruba	A:0	A:0	A:0	A:0	A:0	A:0	A:0	A:0	A:0	A:0	A:0
Bahamas											
Brazil											
Canada											
China	A: 2.0	0	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	0	Not applicable	Not applicable
Chinese Taipei	B: 2.26%(125cm) 0%(119cm)	B: 0.14%(125cm) 0%(119cm)	na								
Costa Rica	Costa Rica no cuenta con información de talla de pez espada del norte o de alito rojo del oeste.										Costa Rica no cuenta con información de talla de pez espada del norte o de alito rojo del oeste. No hay registros de descargas de alito rojo. Del oeste al Atlántico del norte.
Cuba											
Cote d'Ivoire		0%									
Cyprus											
Egypt			Zero				Zero				
El Salvador			Zero				Zero				
All raw data under min. size				1679.3t	100 t		222.15t				
France (SPM)	A: 14.64%	A	0.78%	0.61%			7.80%		0.82%		0.69%
France (SFM)											
Gabon											
Ghana		B: 3%									
Guatemala											
Guinea Ecuatorial											
Guinea Bissau											
Guinea-Bissau											
Guyana											
Honduras											
Indonesia											
Japan									0.00%		0.00%
Korea											
Libya											
Madagascar											
Mali											
Mauritania											
Mexico	A: 5.3	0%									
Namibia											
Nicaragua											
Nigeria											
Norway									0%		
Paraguay											
Philippines											
Russia											
San Tome											
Senegal	2.00%	0.00%									
Sierra Leone											
South Africa											
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	0%	0%									
Switzerland											
Tanzania											
Trinidad & Tobago	B: 0	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	0	Not applicable	Not applicable
Turkey	0%	0%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Turkey	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
UK	0.05%	0.05%	0.05%	0.05%	0.05%	0.05%	0.05%	0.05%	0.05%	0.05%	0.05%
USA	0.43%	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	16.67%	Not applicable	Not applicable
Uruguay											
USA	0.00%										0.00%
Venezuela											

In the event that harvest of any ICCAT stock exceeds specified minimum size tolerance adopted by the Commission, explain to the Compliance Committee:

- a) The magnitude of the over-harvest;
- b) Domestic measures implemented to avoid further over-harvest;
- c) Monitoring of compliance with domestic measures and;
- d) Any other actions to be taken to prevent further over-harvest.

(1) CPCs may allocate no more than 7% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its boats and trolling boats in the eastern Atlantic (Rec 21-00, Annex 1, §2).
 (2) French harbor vessels with an overall length of less than 17 m operating in the Bay of Biscay may catch a maximum of 100 t of bluefin tuna weighing no less than 6.4 kg or 70 cm fork length (to be reported in tons).
 (3) Croatia may define a tolerance level for specimens of bluefin tuna with a minimum weight of 6.4 kg or 66 cm fork length, with a maximum of 7% by weight of the quantities caught by its vessels in the Adriatic for farming purposes.
 (4) CPCs may allocate no more than 90% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its catching vessel in the Atlantic for farming purposes (Rec 21-00, Annex 1, §3).
 (5) CPCs may allocate no more than 2% of its quota for bluefin tuna among its small-scale coastal vessels for fresh fish in the Mediterranean (Rec 21-00, Annex 1, §3).

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9

Compliance Summary Tables

		2021				2022			
Action 2020	Category (Res 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2021	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022
Albania	No action necessary	Category A <i>Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				Letter on reporting issues, while noting positively that recent years have reflected substantial improvements.			No action necessary.
		Category B <i>Annual Report</i>							
		<i>Statistical data</i>		No Task 2 data			Observer programme in place but no ST09 received		
		<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	Check Sheets received late (29 Sept 2021)					
		Category C <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			Rec. 21-08 Retroactive registry/authorization of a newly included vessel and an existing one	For explanation see COC-305 App 3	
Other					ROP-BFT: one PNC and response contained in COC-305. JIS reports with possible infringement in COC-303-Appendix 4				

						2021					2022			
	<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>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2022</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2022</i>				
Algeria	No action necessary	Category A				No action necessary.				Letter on reporting.				
		<i>Compliance Tables</i>					Rec. 16-16	Compliance tables received late (15 Sept 22).						
		<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>												
		Category B												
		<i>Annual Report</i>												
		<i>Statistical data</i>							No observer data (ST09).					
		<i>Other reports</i>						Rec. 18-06	Shark check sheet received late.					
Category C														
<i>MCS- species related</i>														
<i>MCS General</i>														
<i>Port Controls</i>														
<i>Vessel Controls</i>														
Other				ROP-BFT: PNCs contained in COC-305. Some payments for observer coverage received late				JIS reports with possible infringement in COC-303-Appendix 4.						

2021							2022			
Action 2020	Category (Res 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2021	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	
Angola	Letter on recurring reporting issues, no list of designated ports (Rec. 18-09), and implementation of ICCAT requirements on domestic scientific observers.	Category A			The failure to submit information was due to COVID-19 related difficulties. Angola will contact the Secretariat to submit the necessary information				Letter on recurring reporting issues and implementation of ICCAT requirements on domestic scientific observers, no reply to 2021 COC letter, and fishing while subject to prohibition on retention of ICCAT species, while noting commitment expressed at the annual meeting and incremental progress with fulfilment of the Annual Report requirement yet also noting the possibility of identification next year under ICCAT's trade measure recommendation if substantial improvement is not made, and recommendation that Angola seek technical assistance through the Secretariat as needed.	
		<i>Compliance Tables</i>	Rec. 11-11	No compliance tables received		Rec. 11-11	No compliance tables received. Possible underreported blue marlin catches; also possible fishing while under prohibition (see COC-306/22)			
		<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>								
		Category B								
		<i>Annual Report</i>		No annual report received			Annual report received lat, in incorrect format and without explanation for Not applicable in many cases			
		<i>Statistical data</i>		No statistical data received			No statistical data received			
		<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	No check sheets received		Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	No check sheets received			
		Category C								
		<i>MCS- species related</i>								
		<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14	No information on scientific observer programme		Rec. 16-14	No information on scientific observer programme			
<i>Port Controls</i>			Rec. 18-09	Unclear if any in-port transshipment activity takes place. Need to provide any required information, seeking assistance with submission if necessary.						
<i>Vessel Controls</i>	Rec. 18-08	One vessel on IUU list								
Other					No reply to COC Chair letter. No reply to prohibition letter.					
			No reply to COC letter							

		2021				2022				
Action 2020	Category (Res 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/R es)	Potential issues of non-compliance- 2021	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance- 2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	
Barbados	Letter on no domestic scientific observer program in place and continued marlin overharvest.	Category A			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.	Rec. 19-05	* Continued overharvest of blue marlin: 2021 quota = 10, 2021 balance = -59.66 t BUM negative balance increasing: 2020 balance = -42.42 t, 2021 = -45.90 t, 2020 = -57.43 t * Continued Overharvest of white marlin: 2021 quota = 10, 2021 balance = -8.60. WHM Negative balance steady : 2020 balance = -9.73 t, 2019 = -8.60 t, 2020 = -14.09 t	Barbados recognised the overharvest of marlins but has difficulty in reducing these given the abundance of marlins in their waters and the high dependence on fisheries for food security. Are trying to take some measures but unlikely to be able to payback all previous overharvests.	Letter on reporting issues, lack of scientific observer program, and continued overharvest of blue and white marlin.	
		Compliance Tables	Some discrepancies between Compliance Tables and Task 1 data.							
		Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
		Category B Annual Report Statistical data								
		Other reports	Rec. 19-02	Some Task 1 of tropical tuna species submitted for 2020 but no corresponding quarterly reports.						
		Category C MCS- species related								
		MCS General	Rec. 16-14	No scientific observer programme.						See AR and response to COC letter.
		Port Controls Vessel Controls	Rec. 18-09	No list of authorised ports received.						See AR section 4.
Other										

		2021				2022						
Action 2020	Category (Res. 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2021	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022			
Belize	No action necessary	Category A				No action necessary.			Letter on retroactive vessel notification and to request additional information relevant to historical FAD data requirement, while noting positively steps reported by Belize to address certain issues raised.			
		<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>										
		Category B										
		<i>Annual Report</i>			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.							
		<i>Statistical data</i>						Rec. 21-01		Historical FAD data sent, but number of sets missing.		
		<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 18-05 and 18-06		Check sheets received late (28 Sept 2021)							
		Category C										
<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>					Rec. 18-09	One possible infringement reported under Port Inspection Scheme.	This matter is currently under investigation. Once our investigation is concluded we will be reporting back to the Commission.					
<i>Vessel Controls</i>	Rec. 18-08				Rec. 21-14 & Rec. 21-01	Retroactive authorization of a previously authorised vessel	Our Administration is currently in the pilot phase of a new data reporting/notification system. As a result minor system errors in the program did not identify the appropriate reporting period for vessel notification to ICCAT. As a result the data was not reported during the relevant period. These system errors are being rectified to ensure proper notification in the future. The authorization period was inconsistent with the standard period which resulted in this error.					
Other						See COC-312						

		2021					2022				
<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>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2022</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2022</i>		
Brazil	Letter on late BET quarterly reports, and missing compliance table size limits.	Category A			No action necessary.				Letter on continued overharvest of BET (2 years). Inform that reduction of 125% for BET pursuant to Rec. 21-01 para. 11(b) may be applied if insufficient actions taken to address issue.		
		<i>Compliance Tables</i>		Overharvest of bigeye tuna.		Rec. 21-02	* Continued overharvest of bigeye tuna: 2021 quota = 5946.31, 2021 balance = -793.69. Overharvest increasing: 2020 balance = -241.00				
		<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>									
		Category B									
		<i>Annual Report</i>									
		<i>Statistical data</i>									
		<i>Other reports</i>									
Category C											
<i>MCS- species related</i>											
<i>MCS General</i>											
<i>Port Controls</i>											
<i>Vessel Controls</i>											
Other											

		2021					2022			
<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>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2022</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2022</i>	
Cabo Verde	Letter on reporting issues, implementation requirements on domestic scientific observers.	Category A			Letter on recurring reporting issues, implementation requirements on domestic scientific observers.				Letter on recurring reporting issues, implementation requirements on domestic scientific observers, no reply to 2021 COC letter, and to request tropical tuna fishing plan and FAD management plan in light of BET catches in excess of 1,000 t.	
		Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions				Rec. 11-11	No compliance tables received.			
		Category B <i>Annual Report</i>								
		<i>Statistical data</i>		No fleet characteristics data received.		Rec. 21-01	Historical FAD data sent, but number of sets missing.			
		<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 16-15	No report on in-port transshipment.						
			Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	Check sheets received late (29 Sept 2021).			18-06	Shark sheet received late (19 September 2022).		
			Rec. 19-02	Some Task 1 of tropical tuna species submitted for 2020 but no corresponding quarterly reports.			Rec. 19-02/21-01	No monthly or quarterly reports of tropical tunas; No tropical tuna fisheries management plan/FAD management plan.		
		Category C <i>MCS- species related</i>								
		<i>MCS General</i> <i>Port Controls</i> <i>Vessel Controls</i>	Rec. 16-14	No scientific observer programme.			Rec. 16-14	No scientific observer programme but study in place for future implementation.		
Other				Other		No reply to COC Chair letter.				
			No reply to COC letter.							

		2021					2022			
<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>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2022</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2022</i>	
Canada	No action necessary.	Category A		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.	No action necessary.			No action necessary.	
		<i>Compliance Tables</i>								
		<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>								
		Category B								
		<i>Annual Report</i>								
		<i>Statistical data</i>								
		<i>Other reports</i>								
Category C										
<i>MCS- species related</i>										
<i>MCS General</i>										
<i>Port Controls</i>										
<i>Vessel Controls</i>										
Other										

		2021					2022						
	<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>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance- 2022</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2022</i>			
China	Letter on implementation of Rec. 18-09 requirements on designation of ports and late reporting on implementation of eastern bluefin measures.	Category A				Letter on implementation of Rec. 18-09 requirements on designation of ports, while noting improvement in ICCAT compliance.				Letter on reporting and retroactive vessel listing.			
		<i>Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>											
		Category B											
		<i>Annual Report Statistical data</i>											
		<i>Other reports</i>						Rec. 18-06	Shark check sheet received late.				
		Category C											
		<i>MCS- species related</i>							Rec. 20-08		Paper BCD sent late for conversion and with incorrect year.		
		<i>MCS General</i>											
<i>Port Controls</i>	Rec. 18-09	No list of authorised ports submitted.	See COC-309.										
<i>Vessel Controls</i>	Rec. 16-15	PNCs under ROP-transhipment and responses contained in COC-305.				Rec. 21-08	Retroactive listing of two EBFT vessels.						
Other							ROP Trans - PNCs and responses contained in COC-305.						

		2021					2022								
<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>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2022</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2022</i>						
Côte d'Ivoire	Letter on reporting issues, implementation of requirements on national scientific observers.	Category A			Côte d'Ivoire has taken due note of the deficiencies and commits to working with the Secretariat to meet all reporting obligations.	Letter on reporting issues, implementation of requirements on national scientific observers.	No compliance tables received.		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.						Rec. 11-11					
		<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>													
		Category B													
		<i>Annual Report</i>											IOMS section entered by Secretariat, some responses may be incomplete.		
		<i>Statistical data</i>								Some Task 1 data (or zero catch confirmation) missing for some species. Data received late. No billfish check sheet received; shark sheet received late (30 Sept 2021).		Rec. 21-01	Historical FAD data sent, but number of sets missing.		
		<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 18-05 and 18-06									Rec. 18-06	No updated shark sheet received.		
				Rec. 19-02						Some Task 1 of tropical tuna species submitted for 2020 but no corresponding quarterly reports.		Rec. 19-02	Some Task 1 of tropical tuna species submitted for 2021 but no corresponding quarterly reports.		
		Category C													
		<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).		Rec. 01-21 and 18-07	Late submissions of the SDP bi-annual reports (BET).		
<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14		No scientific observer programme.	See response to COC letter.	Rec. 16-14	No scientific observer programme.									
<i>Port Controls</i>					Rec. 18-09	Unclear if any in-port transshipment activity takes place. Need to provide any required information, seeking assistance with submission if necessary.									
<i>Vessel Controls</i>															
Other						Reply to COC Chair letter received late.									

Action 2020	Category (Res 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2021	2021		2022											
				Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022								
Curacao	No action necessary	Category A Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions	Some discrepancies in historic data between Compliance Tables and Task 1	The differences between CP13 and Task 1 data originate from the fact that CP13 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.	No action necessary	Rec. 19-05	* Overharvest of blue marlin: 2021 quota = 10, 2021 balance = -22.53 t. Negative balance decreasing: 2020 balance = -30.30 t, 2019 = -40.60 t, 2020 = -30.60 t	Curacao is fully committed to avoid over fishing of blue marlin. We will develop a payback plan and also send a circular with instructions to the vessels to adhere to this instruction. We monitor all the catches of the vessels via our 24/7 Halios Catch Management of CLS our electronic reporting system together with daily logbooks we receive from the vessels. We also have observer digital monitoring on board of the vessels that reports all fishing activities. Curacao submitted a payback plan for blue marlin of 2.5 tons per year from 2022 on. First year 2.53 t.	Letter on blue marlin overharvest, while noting overharvest decreasing, and to request additional information relevant to historical FAD data requirement.								
										Category B Annual Report							
										Statistical data			Rec. 21-01	Historical FAD data sent, but number of sets aggregated (breakdown through ST03 needed).			
										Other reports							
										Category C							
										MCS- species related							
		MCS General	Rec. 14-10	Retroactive inclusion of 13 vessels on ICCAT Record													
		Port Controls				Rec. 18-09	Five possible infringements reported under Port Inspection Scheme										
		Vessel Controls															
		Other															

		2021					2022			
Action 2020	Category (Res 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2021	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	
Egypt	No action necessary	Category A <i>Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				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.			No action necessary.	
		Category B <i>Annual Report</i>								
		<i>Statistical data</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>Other reports</i>								
		Category C <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>								
	Other									

Action 2020	Category (Res. 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2021	2021		2022		
				Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC
El Salvador	Category A				Letter on no Task 1 data for blue marlin, while noting substantial improvement in El Salvador's compliance over the past 2 years.			No action necessary.
	Compliance Tables		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.				
	Capacity, size, gear, time area restrictions							
	Category B Annual Report							
	Statistical data					Rec. 21-01	Historical FAD data sent, but number of sets aggregated (breakdown through ST03 needed)	
Other reports					Rec. 18-09	Eleven possible infringements reported under Port Inspection Scheme	As a general rule of procedure, the parties are informed of the findings and the potential infringements, and there is specific indication of the rule that has been allegedly infringed. This is the basis of due process and the essential mechanism that ensures the right to a defence within which framework the investigations must take place. We are concerned that the alleged non-compliances were raised for the first time when the document COC.308 was posted. Before this occasion, the Secretariat, or any other CPC, had not informed us about the potential non-compliances, which would have enabled us to carry out the corresponding investigations and issue an opinion. This is even more so within the context of due process and compliance with the provisions of ICCAT Recommendation 18-09 itself. El Salvador is committed to effective compliance with the provisions adopted within the framework of International Law, in particular, those that have been approved and are in force in ICCAT. In this respect, we will proceed with due rigor when we are informed, with the required precision, about the details of the claim. On account of the above, we hereby inform that the corresponding investigations have been initiated for each case, in accordance with the relevant regulations. Due to the short time that we have had, no significant progress had been made to date, beyond the commencement of the investigations. We also inform that we will submit the corresponding reports to the Secretariat at our earliest convenience. Meanwhile, we request that the comment on the alleged infringements be removed from the Compliance Table, since these are premature, and therefore, inappropriate in the short term.	
Category C								
MCS- species related								
MCS General								
Port Controls								
Vessel Controls								
Other								

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Action 2020	Category (Res. 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec./Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance- 2021	2021		2022			
				Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec./Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance- 2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by CPC in 2022
EU	Category A	Compliance Tables	Some discrepancies between Compliance	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 miscoding of billfish 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 EBFT investigations (Taramelo Operation), while thanking for updates provided to date both on status of investigation and steps taken to strengthen implementation of requirements in EU.			Letter on reporting (including potential issues with marlin), while positively noting improvements, and to seek additional information regarding farm management in Croatia. Request further updates on EBFT investigations (Taramelo Operation), while thanking for substantial updates provided to date both on status of investigation and steps taken to strengthen implementation of requirements in EU.	
	Category B	Annual Report							
	Statistical data		Some task 1 data (or zero catch confirmation) missing for some species for EU-France. Some data	The missing / zero catch under Task 1 for 5 species of EU-FRA was due to an incomplete ST02R. We confirm that there was no related catch to be reported and that the corresponding blank fields shall be filled with a "0".		Some statistical data received late. Possible miscoding of marlins.	Rec. 21-01	Historical FAD data sent, but number of sets missing for some member States.	We maintain the policy of raising awareness with all EU Member States about the importance of timely and complete data submission. We followed up with France on the data gaps and inconsistencies highlighted by the Secretariat. However, because of the specific nature of the EU and the complexity of some of the statistical data sets, some of the EU reporting came in with some delay. We will make extra effort to ensure timely data submission in future years. Have taken steps to clarify these issues with the member State in question in order to ensure correct reporting in the future and will report back on investigation and any changes to Task 1 required.
	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 EBFT 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 ICCAT 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.					
				See Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9 [COC-318-APP-1/2021].					
				Possible overharvest of E BFT and non-compliance with some MSC measures under 'Taramelo' operation			Rec. 18-09		Port inspection reports with infractions sent late / not sent to flag States. The reporting of late reports received by secretariat concerning the infractions received them, but they were sent quite late in relation to the inspection date. This misunderstanding was related to an interpretation that it was not necessary to send copies of the inspection reports to those CPCs that are not part of the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA). Despite this misunderstanding, and pending confirmation with the inspecting Member State, all detected infractions have been followed up by the Member State, this is because the procedures in this Member State in place requires provisional measures to be taken as soon as the infringement is detected (detention of the vessel, imposing a bond) which makes that the penalty which may arise from these procedures can be ensured. For the future, the EU will ensure that when an infringement is detected on another CPC fishing vessel, the EU will send a copy of the inspection report to the flag CPC concerned, in line with paragraph 35 of Recommendation 18-09.
	MCS General								
	Vessel Controls	Rec. 19-04	Four infractions under JIS	Upon verification, we identified no less than 7 infractions under JIS. In reply to ICCAT Circular #8102-21, we have provided the Secretariat with a list with all the cases we have reported. Please see COC-303, Table 2A.		Rec. 13-14		Chartering arrangements received late (after start of arrangement).	There was an unforeseen delay due to internal procedures within the relevant EU Member State administration. This administration considered that this delay should not come at the expense of the shipowner's interests, which explains the decision to grant consent ex post. We have reminded the EU national administration concerned about the importance of timely approval of such chartering arrangement and notification to the ICCAT Executive Secretary. Hence, the delay in reporting the consent that still reflects the original dates.
					Rec. 21-08		ROP-BFT, PNCs and responses contained in COC-305.	See also Addendum to COC-305 Appendix 3	
Other			ROP-BFT, PNCs and responses 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 ICCAT Secretariat on the implementation of the RO Programme and are not established in any Recommendation. Therefore, a non compliance with those 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.			JIS reports with possible infringement in COC-303- Appendix 4. Update on Operation Taramelo and Investigation into Croatian farm management practices to be reviewed.	See Addendum to COC-303 to Appendix 3. Update on Taramelo given in COC-306-B, the EU will report on the investigations currently under way on the issue of Croatian farming. Have carried out an audit and are currently reviewing the responses made by Croatia.	

2021							2022			
Action 2020	Category (Res.16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance 2021	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	
France (SPM)	Letter on late reporting.	Category A <i>Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				No action necessary.			No action necessary.	
		Category 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 directorate of SPM, who required time to understand reporting obligations. Furthermore, the agent in charge of these files was on sick leave until mid September.					
		Category C <i>MCS- species related MCS General Port Controls Vessel Controls</i>								
		Other								

		2021					2022					
<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>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2022</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2022</i>			
Gabon	Letter on reporting issues	Category A				Letter on recurring reporting issues.	Rec. 16-16			No action necessary.		
		<i>Compliance Tables</i>	Rec. 16-16	Compliance tables received late 29 Sept 2021								
		<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>										
		Category 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)								
		Category C <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>										
		Other										

		2021				2022					
Action 2020	Category (Res. 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2021	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022		
The Gambia	Letter on reporting issues.	Category A				Letter on significant reporting issues, scientific observer program, and to inquiry about actions taken with respect to IUU vessels.			Letter on significant recurring reporting issues and no reply to 2021 COC letter, as well as fulfillment of flag, State and market State responsibilities concerning vessels and product potentially connected to IUU fishing. Note the possibility of identification next year under ICCAT's trade measure recommendation if substantial improvement is not made, and recommendation that The Gambia seek technical assistance through the Secretariat as needed.		
		<i>Compliance Tables</i>	Rec. 16-16	Compliance tables received late 09 Sept 2021.			Rec. 11-11	No compliance tables received.			
		<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>						No Annual Report received.			
		Category B									
		<i>Annual Report</i>		No Annual report 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 ICCAT format Using codes provided by ICCAT 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.			No statistical data received.			
		<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	No check sheets received				Rec. 18-05 and 18-06		No check sheets received	
		Category C									
		<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 09-01-2020; 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 all registered vessels, among others. Furthermore, there are currently no vessels flying the flag of The Gambia in the ICCAT record of vessels.								
Other		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.			No reply to COC Chair letter. No reply to prohibition letter. See COG-312					

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							2021				2022			
Action 2020		Category (Res 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2021	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022				
Ghana	Letter on reporting issues.	Category A <i>Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				Letter on reporting issues, scientific observer program, noting positively request for technical assistance re. observer program.				Letter on to request additional information on access agreements.				
		Category B <i>Annual Report 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									
		Category C <i>MCS- species related MCS General Port Controls Vessel Controls</i>	Rec. 16-14	No scientific observer programme	Indicates need for assistance									
		Other												
						Rec. 14-07	Access Agreements mentioned in Annual Reports, but no details/CP39 sent							

		2021					2022			
<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>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2022</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2022</i>	
Grenada	Letter on recurring reporting issues, including no Annual Report, while noting improvement from previous years.	Category A				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.	Rec. 11-11	No compliance tables received, but overharvest of BUM in 2020 and previous years, as well as catches of N. SWO without quota	Identification for significant recurring reporting issues, including no Annual Report, blue marlin, overharvest, and catches of NSW0 without quota.	
		<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>								
		Category 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						
		Category C								
		<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>										
Other			No reply to COC letter			No reply to COC Chair letter				

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		2021					2022			
Action 2020	Category (Res 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2021	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	
Guatemala	Letter on reporting issues. Implementation of national scientific observer program.	Category A							Letter on implementation of marlin check sheet requirement in Rec. 19-05 and request to follow up on the issues raised in the 2021 COC letter and Guatemala's response letter.	
		Compliance Tables	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					
		Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
		Category B								
		Annual Report		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					
		Statistical data				Rec. 21-01	Historical FAD data sent, but number of sets aggregated (breakdown through ST03 needed)			
		Other reports	Rec. 18-05							
		Category C								
		MCS: species related								
		MCS General								
		Port Controls				Rec. 18-09	One possible infringement reported under Port Inspection Scheme	As a general rule of procedure, parties against which a non-compliance is asserted are entitled to know the specifics of the corresponding claim, i.e. an account of the facts under investigation, the evidence and a specific indication of the rule that has been allegedly infringed;		
		Vessel Controls						This is the basis of due process and the essential mechanism that ensures the right to a defence within which framework the investigations must take place. My delegation notes with concern that the alleged non-compliances were raised for the first time when the document COC 308 was published. Before this occasion, the Secretariat, or any other CPC, had not informed my country of these claims, which would have enabled the corresponding investigations to be carried out and an opinion issued. Furthermore, within the context of due process and compliance with the provisions of the ICCAT Recommendation 18-09 itself, my country is entitled to be informed of the circumstance that must be investigated and the specific Commission rule that it is claimed has been infringed. All of the above is absolutely essential to respond to an allegation and to ensure the right to a defence, and nothing of this has happened in the matter at hand. My country is committed to effective compliance with the provisions adopted within the framework of International Law, in particular, those that have been approved and are in force in ICCAT. In this respect, we will proceed with due rigor when we are informed, with the required precision, about the details of the claim. Meanwhile, we request that the comment on the alleged infringements be removed from the Compliance Table, since these are premature, and therefore, inappropriate.		
		Other								

	Action 2020	2021				2022				
		Category (Res 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2021	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022
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	Category A				Maintain identification under ICCAT Rec. 06-13 due to recurring significant reporting issues, including no Annual Report or statistical data received for five years in a row; no scientific observer program; continued prohibition on retention of ICCAT species under Rec. 11-15; and possible lack of implementation of billfish and shark recommendations.				Maintain identification under ICCAT Rec. 06-13 due to recurring significant reporting issues, including no Annual Report or statistical data received for six years in a row; continued prohibition on retention of ICCAT species under Rec. 11-15; and possible lack of implementation of billfish and shark recommendations. No reply to 2021 COC letter.
		<i>Compliance Tables</i>	Rec. 11-11	No compliance tables received	Guinea Bissau experiences many problems in complying with the requirements and looks forward to receiving training and assistance to fill out the various forms	Rec. 11-11	No compliance tables received			
		<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>								
		Category B								
		<i>Annual Report</i>		No annual report received				No annual report received. They requested assistance but do not specify exact nature how Secretariat can help		
		<i>Statistical data</i>		No fleet characteristics data received. No Task 1 or 2 data received				No statistical 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			Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	No check sheets received		
		Category C <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	Unclear if any in-port transshipment activity takes place. Need to provide any required information, seeking assistance with submission if necessary.	
<i>Vessel Controls</i>										
Other			No reply to COC letter; Prohibition imposed under Rec. 11-15			No reply to COC Chair letter. No reply to prohibition letter				

	<i>Action 2020</i>	<i>Category (Res 16-17)</i>	2021				2022			
			<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>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2022</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2022</i>
Guinea Equatorial	No action necessary	Category A				Letter on reporting issues, scientific observer program				Letter on reporting issues, scientific observer program
		<i>Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>	Rec. 11-11	No compliance tables received						
		Category 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						
		Category C								
		<i>MCS- species related</i>								
<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14	No scientific observer programme - assistance requested		Rec. 16-14	No scientific observer programme - assistance requested [more details needed on nature of assistance, no formal submission made to date]					
<i>Port Controls Vessel Controls</i>	Rec. 18-08	One vessel on IUU list								
Other										

	Action 2020	2021					2022				
		Category (Res 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2021	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	
Guinea Republic	Maintain identification due to recurring significant reporting issues, including no Annual Report received for three years in a row, while noting improvements.	Category A <i>Compliance Tables 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.				Lift identification in recognition of improved reporting. Letter on reporting issues.	
		Category B				Guinea Rep. has been making concerted efforts since 2016 to improve but would welcome additional technical assistance					
		Annual Report		No Annual Report received			Annual Report received late (30 September). IOMS section entered by Secretariat, some responses may be incomplete				
		Statistical data					Rec. 16-04	No ST09 received			
		Other reports	Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	No check sheets received			Rec. 21-01	Some historical FAD data available but incomplete for effort			
		Category C					Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	No check sheets received			
		MCS- species related					Rec. 19-02	Some Task 1 of tropical tuna species submitted for 2021 but no corresponding monthly or quarterly reports			
		MCS General	Rec. 16-14	No scientific observer programme	See response to COC letter		Rec. 16-14	No scientific observer programme			
		Port Controls					Rec. 18-09	Unclear if any in-port transshipment activity takes place. Need to provide any required information, seeking assistance with submission if necessary.			
		Vessel Controls									
Other							Reply to COC Chair letter received late	See COC-309-Addendum 1			

2021						2022								
	<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>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2022</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2022</i>				
Honduras	Letter on recurring reporting issues, including late or (in case of 2020) non-submission of Annual Report multiple years in a row.	Category A				Letter on reporting issues, implementation of shark and billfish requirements	Rec. 16-16	Zero catches reported late (15 Sept 2022)		Letter on late reporting.				
		<i>Compliance Tables</i> <i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>												
		Category B			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>Annual Report</i> <i>Statistical data</i>		Annual Report received late (23 Sept 2021) Task 1 (zero catch) data received late								Annual report received late (29 September)		
		<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								Rec. 18-06	Shark Check sheets received late (29 Sept 2022)	
		Category C <i>MCS- species related</i> <i>MCS General</i> <i>Port Controls</i> <i>Vessel Controls</i>												
Other			No reply to COC letter											

		2021					2022			
<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>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2022</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2022</i>	
Iceland	No action necessary	Category A <i>Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				No action necessary.			No action necessary.	
		Category B <i>Annual Report Statistical data Other reports</i>								
		Category C <i>MCS- species related MCS General Port Controls Vessel Controls</i>								
		Other								

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Action 2020	Category (Res 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2021	2021		2022		Actions taken by COC in 2022
				Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	
Japan	Category A				No action necessary.			Letter on late notification of chartering information and transmission of VMS data, while noting Japan's response committing to actions to prevent this from occurring in future.
	Compliance Tables		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.				
	Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions							
	Category B							
	Annual Report Statistical data Other reports							
Category C								
	MCS- species related							
	MCS General					Rec-13-14	<p>The notification of commencement of the chartering agreement of Fukuseki Maru No.3 was delayed. (i) Fukuseki Maru No. 3 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 24 February 2021 to 27 June 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 as circulated through ICCAT Circular 9484/21.</p> <p>This case is almost identical to the case of Matsufuku Maru No.28 which was reported to COC last year. Both of these miscommunications happened early 2021 under the same circumstances. As Japan responded to the case of Matsufuku Maru No.28 last year, 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. Therefore, Japan expects that similar late submission would not occur in 2022 and afterwards.</p>	
	Port Controls					Rec-18-09	<p>Late submission of chartering arrangement with Namibia</p> <p>Daito Maru No.8 had an inspection at Les Palmas in November 2021, and the inspector found that the vessel had not declared a quantity of BSH on board in Annex II (prior notification for third-country fishing vessels), while such catch was recorded in its logbook. The fisherman confirmed that Daito Maru No.8 had on board 3.8t of BSH, which were not included in Annex II by mistake, since the fisherman misunderstood that it is not necessary to include fish in Annex II if those fish will not be landed or transhipped at the port. In order to ensure that the same mistake will not happen in the future, the Fisheries Agency instructed the fisherman and Japan Tuna Fisheries Cooperation to take necessary procedures concerning port call.</p>	
	Vessel Controls	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 10 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.		Rec-21-16; Rec-13-14	<p>One possible infraction reported under Port Inspection Scheme</p> <p>Some VMS messages not sent in accordance with Rec. 21-16, para 3; Chartering arrangements received late (after start of arrangement)</p> <p>Some VMS messages have not been transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat from 29 April to 15 June 2022 due to an unknown system failure. When Fisheries Agency of Japan recognized this problem on 12 May, FAJ immediately notified the ICCAT Secretariat. FAJ tried to solve this problem while asking for advice from ICCAT Secretariat, however, it took more time than expected. Therefore, FAJ started manual transmission of VMS message to the ICCAT Secretariat from 20 May. Finally the issue was resolved and automatic transmission was recommenced from 15 June. Japan would like to note that the 2021 eastern bluefin tuna fishery of Japan was closed on 3 December 2021 (ICCAT Circular #0209/2022 dated 14 January 2022), and the 2022 fishing season had not yet started when the problem was occurring. Thus, no Japanese fishing vessel has been conducting eastern BFT fishery while the technical problem was occurring.</p>	
	Other						RDP Trains - PNCS and responses contained in COC-305	

		2021				2022					
Action 2020	Category (Res 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2021	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022		
Korea	No action necessary	Category A							Letter on late reporting and VMS transmission issues.		
		<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>									
		Category B <i>Annual Report</i> <i>Statistical data</i>									
		<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 16-15	Report on transhipment submitted late	Submitted a few days late due to some difficulties locating the ROP reports, but undertake to submit on time in the future.		Rec. 18-13	Annual BCD report received late		It was inadvertently omitted when submitting annual report and related reports. We noticed the omission after receiving secretariat's email in September 26. We immediately submitted the BCD report.	
		Category C <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.		Rec. 21-15	Report on transhipment received late		We apologised for the late submission of transhipment report. It took more time than expected to analyze the data and fill in the format.	
		<i>Port Controls</i>									
		<i>Vessel Controls</i>						Rec. 21-16		Some VMS messages not sent in accordance with Rec. 21-16, para 3	There has been transmission failures after renewing VMS certificates. Korean Fisheries Monitoring Center has consulted ICCAT Secretariat regarding this issue since October 4. We are now transmitting VMS data everyday via email, until the problem would be solved.
		Other									

	Action 2020	Category (Res 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2021	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2021	2022				
							ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	
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.	Category A				Letter on reporting issues, implementation of domestic scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14), blue marlin overharvest, retroactive vessel registration.				Letter on reporting issues, continued blue marlin and SWO overharvest (without quota), no reply to 2021 COC letter, and noting possibility of identification under Rec. 06-13 on Trade Measures if significant improvements are not made.	
		Compliance Tables	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		Rec. 19-05; 17-03	*Continued overharvest of northern swordfish: No quota, 2021 balance = -117.19 t. SWON negative balance increasing: 2018 balance = -19.49, 2019= -21.19, 2020 =-25.71 *Overharvest of blue marlin: 2021 quota = 10, 2021 balance = -83.62 t. BUM negative balance decreasing: 2018 = -107.97, 2019= -99.95, 2020 =-91.77			
		Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions									
		Category B Annual Report									
		Statistical data		No Task 2 data (catch and effort) received. Size data and Task 1 data received late.							
		Other reports	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				Rec. 19-02	Some Task 1 of tropical tuna species submitted for 2021 but no corresponding monthly or quarterly reports		
		Category C MCS- species related	Rec. 19-04	One vessel included on EBFT other list retroactively							
		MCS General	Rec. 16-14	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						
		Port Controls Vessel Controls									
Other			No reply to COC letter				No reply to COC Chair letter				

		2021				2022				
Action 2020	Category (Res 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2021	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	
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.	Category A				Letter on reporting issues, on implementation of ICCAT requirements on national scientific observers (Rec. 16-14), controlled transfer issues.			Letter on reporting issues.	
		<i>Compliance Tables</i>		Discrepancies between Compliance tables and Task 1 data						
		<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>								
		Category 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.		Task 1 and Task 2 data received late (13 October 2022)			
		<i>Other reports</i>								
		Category C								
		<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.		Rec. 21-08	One JFO reported late		
		<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 PNCs, although during this season (2021) we have received PNC and response was sent to ICCAT Secretariat and confirmed (clarified). NOTE: Please see COC-303, Table 2 for more information.							
Other	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.			ROP-BFT: PNCs and responses contained in COC-305				

		2021					2022					
<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>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2022</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2022</i>			
Mauritania	Letter on reporting issues, implementation of requirements on national observer programs.	Category A				Letter or recurring reporting issues, implementation of requirements on national observer programs.	Rec. 16-16	Zero catches reported late (1 Sept 2022)	Letter on recurring reporting issues, no reply to 2021 COC letter.			
		<i>Compliance Tables</i>	Rec. 11-11	No compliance tables received								
		<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>										
		Category 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						Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	No check sheets received	
		Category C <i>MCS- species related</i>										
		<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14	No information on or from scientific observer programme						Rec. 18-09	Unclear if any in-port transhipment activity takes place. Need to provide any required information, seeking assistance with submission if necessary.	
		<i>Port Controls</i>										
		<i>Vessel Controls</i>										
Other			No reply to 2020 COC letter			No reply to COC Chair letter						

	Action 2020	Category (Res 16-17)	2021				2022			
			ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2021	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022
Mexico	No action necessary	Category A				No action necessary.	Rec. 16-16	Compliance tables submitted slightly late (18 August 2022)		No action necessary.
		<i>Compliance Tables</i>								
		<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>								
		Category B								
		<i>Annual Report</i>								
		<i>Statistical data</i>								
<i>Other reports</i>										
		Category C								
		<i>MCS- species related</i>								
		<i>MCS General</i>								
		<i>Port Controls</i>								
		<i>Vessel Controls</i>								
		Other								

		2021				2022					
Action 2020	Category (Res 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2021	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022		
Morocco	No action necessary	Category A				No action necessary.				No action necessary.	
		Compliance Tables			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.		Rec. 19-05, 16-16	*Overharvest of blue marlin: 2021 quota = 10, 2021 balance = -32 t. BUM negative balance decreasing: 2018 = -62, 2019 = -52, 2020 = -42 4 consecutive years of zero catches			
		Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions									
		Category B Annual Report									
		Statistical data		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.						
		Other reports									
		Category C MCS- species related									
		MCS General	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)							
		Port Controls Vessel Controls									
		Other									

	Action 2020	Category (Res 16-17)	2021			2022														
			ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2021	Response / explanation by CPC	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022											
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), 94 t (2018), 52,72 t (2019), resulting in negative 185,72 t landings limit; letters also to note reporting issues. Recommend that the COC and Panel A consider additional measures at the 2021 Annual Meeting to address this continuing overharvest</p>	<p>Category A</p>	<p>Some discrepancies in historic data between Compliance tables and Task 1. Possible misidentification of BUM/WIM.</p>	<p>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 reports to track and manage our BUM catches.</p>	<p>Maintain identification due to reporting issues, recurring overharvest of blue marlin for 5 years in a row.</p>	<p>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</p>	<p>Potential issues of non-compliance-2022</p>	<p>Response / explanation by CPC</p>	<p>Actions taken by COC in 2022</p>											
										<p>Compliance Tables</p>	<p>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</p>	<p>Rec. 19-05, 16-16</p>	<p>Namibia is aware and regrets the discrepancies between data in compliance tables and Task 1 for albacore, bigeye, swordfish and blue marlin that were procedurally reported to ICCAT. The data available in the ICCAT compliance tables would show, for the past 10-15 years Namibia never fully landed her quotas of all the species under ICCAT management. Whenever Namibia had requested any increase in any of the quotas for these different species, the response from ICCAT, rightly so, was that quotas are considered for increase on the basis of previous landings. Our inability to land our catch/landing limit for the major species resulted in our large pelagic fisheries subsector to be unable to economically sustain itself. This prompted Namibia to endeavor increasing her tuna landing capacity or fishing effort to improve landings. Namibia thus embarked on a strategy to improve albacore landings through increasing the number of fishing rights and vessels. The increase in fishing licenses and fishing vessels may have resulted in increased southern albacore landings than what we qualified for under ICCAT. In fact, we have noticed major discrepancies even between data submitted to the compliance tables and the annual reports and that submitted to the Task 1 data on the same species and other species as mentioned above. This is indicative of faulty data reporting; which we believe is double reporting on the Task 1 figures. Ideally, data reported at Task 1 and that reported on the compliance tables from the same CPC and on the same species must be the same or nearly so. It is our conclusion that the reported discrepancies are due to wrong reporting and not over fishing on the permissible fishing limits for Namibia. Moreover, the increased fishing effort resulted in the need for increasing administrative officials (i.e. additional staff were recruited) tasked with capturing landing data to handle the increased data sites. The aforementioned operational and data capturing facts therefore made us conclude that the reported figures for southern albacore for 2021 for Namibia are not a true reflection of actual landings. An investigation is underway to establish the accuracy of the southern albacore landings data for 2021. We are of the opinion that the data presented in the compliance tables, being, 3,412.63 for southern albacore , 367.22 for bigeye, 9.85 for blue marlin and 252.99 for southern swordfish is more realistic and is therefore to be accepted as the final landings reported for Namibia. Namibia considers the albacore and swordfish fishing activities to be of immense national importance with respect to employment creation and overall economic contribution. Therefore, it is important for us to comply with the ICCAT management measures applicable to the resource. As a means to mitigate the present state of affairs, a number of measures have been put in place and include: training for data capturing staff, reconciliation of captured data between the Ministry and fishing vessels before Task 1 & 2 data are submitted to the ICCAT, reduction of fishing vessels on Namibia's quotas; suspension of all foreign fishing vessels in the Namibian EEZ, and termination of all affected fishing activities on Namibia's ICCAT fishing possibilities whenever catch limits are reached.</p>							
										<p>Category B</p>	<p>Annual Report</p>	<p>Some "not applicable" entries without explanation</p>	<p>Namibia will improve on that</p>	<p>Rec. 16-14</p>	<p>No ST09 form submitted</p>	<p>Rec. 18-06</p>	<p>No updated shark check sheet received</p>	<p>Rec. 16-14</p>	<p>No information on scientific observer programme</p>	
										<p>Statistical data</p>	<p>Other reports</p>	<p>Rec. 19-05 and 18-06</p>	<p>Check sheets received Late (30 Sept 2021)</p>	<p>Namibia will improve on that</p>	<p>Rec. 16-14</p>	<p>No ST09 form submitted</p>	<p>Rec. 18-06</p>	<p>No updated shark check sheet received</p>	<p>Rec. 16-14</p>	<p>No information on scientific observer programme</p>
										<p>Category C</p>	<p>MCS- species related</p>	<p>MCS General</p>	<p>5% scientific observer coverage not met in 2020</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Rec. 16-14</p>	<p>Rec. 16-14</p>	<p>No information on scientific observer programme</p>			
										<p>Part Controls</p>	<p>Vessel Controls</p>	<p>Rec. 13-14</p>	<p>One chartering arrangement notified at start of arrangement</p>	<p>Administration error. We will improve on that and strive to fully comply with Rec. 13-14.</p>	<p>Rec. 13-14</p>	<p>Rec. 13-14</p>	<p>Chartering arrangements received late (after start of arrangement)</p>			
										<p>Other</p>	<p>Rec. 16-15</p>	<p>One PNC under ROP transshipment and response contained in COC-305.</p>	<p>Responses contained in COC-305.</p>	<p>ROP Trans - PNCs and responses contained in COC-305; Reply to COC Chair letter received late</p>						

		2021					2022			
<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>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2022</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2022</i>	
Nicaragua	Letter on recurring reporting issues (no Billfish Check Sheet (Rec. 18-05) or updated Shark Check Sheet (Rec. 18-06)).	Category A				Letter on late reporting (including Annual Report not submitted until during Annual Meeting).	Rec. 16-16	Zero catch reported late (21 Sept 2022)	Letter on reporting, while noting positively improvements from previous year.	
		<i>Compliance Tables</i>								
		<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>								
		Category 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						
		Category C								
		<i>MCS- species related</i>								
		<i>MCS General</i>								
<i>Port Controls</i>				Rec. 18-09	Unclear if any in-port transshipment activity takes place. Need to provide any required information, seeking assistance with submission if necessary.					
<i>Vessel Controls</i>										
Other			No reply to COC letter							

	Action 2020	Category (Res 16-17)	2021				2022			
			ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2021	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022
Nigeria	Letter on reporting issues, including no Annual Report, no notification of designated ports (Rec. 18-09), no Billfish Check Sheet (Rec. 18-05).	Category A				Letter on reporting issues (including incomplete Annual Report) and implementation of billfish and shark requirements.				Letter on reporting (incomplete Annual Report) and no reply to 2021 COC letter.
		<i>Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>								
		Category B								
		<i>Annual Report</i>		Annual Report incomplete			Annual Report incomplete, only summary sent			
		<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						
		Category C								
		<i>MCS- species related MCS General</i>								
		<i>Port Controls</i>					Rec. 18-09	Unclear if any in-port transshipment activity takes place. Need to provide any required information, seeking assistance with submission if necessary.		
		<i>Vessel Controls</i>								
	Other		No reply to COC letter			No reply to COC letter				

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	2022			
							ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022
Norway	No action necessary	<p>Category A</p> <p><i>Compliance Tables</i></p> <p><i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i></p>				No action necessary.				No action necessary.
		<p>Category B</p> <p><i>Annual Report</i></p> <p><i>Statistical data</i></p> <p><i>Other reports</i></p>								
		<p>Category C</p> <p><i>MCS- species related</i></p>								
		<p><i>MCS General</i></p>	<p>Rec. 16-14</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>					
		<p><i>Port Controls</i></p> <p><i>Vessel Controls</i></p>								
		<p>Other</p>					<p>ROP-BFT: PNGs and responses contained in COC-305. Some requests for observer coverage on vessels received late</p>		<p>The Norwegian fleet had difficulties catching the mackerel quota this year. As the mackerel quota is one of the most important fisheries for the BFT-vessels, many of the vessels had to delay the start of the BFT season. This, unfortunately, led to some observer requests being sent late. The Norwegian authorities are now looking into how to avoid a similar situation next year.</p>	

		2021					2022								
	Action 2020	Category (Res 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2021	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022					
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.	Category A				Letter on recurring reporting issues and overharvest of SALB.	Rec. 16-16	Compliance tables received late (14 September)		Letter on reporting.					
		<i>Compliance Tables</i>	Rec. 11-11	Compliance tables received late. Overharvest of S. ALB					Coordination is being carried out for timely submission of the table.						
		<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>													
		Category 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.					Coordination is being carried out for timely submission of the templates.						
					We have had many problems arising from COVID-19 but have managed to get most reports in albeit late.				Some statistical data received 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. 21-01	Historical FAD data sent, but number of sets aggregated (breakdown through ST03 needed)			
				Rec. 16-15	Transshipment reports received late						Rec. 19-02	Monthly / quarterly reports of tropical tuna received late (2021 data received 11 October 2022)			
		Category C													
		<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)		Rec. 18-09	Eight possible infringements reported under Port Inspection Scheme	The note DCI-204-2022 was sent requesting further information, since Panama has not received notifications of these cases.							
Other			No response to COC letter												

		2021					2022				
	<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>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2022</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2022</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.	Category A <i>Compliance Tables</i> <i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				No action necessary.				No action necessary.	
		Category 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)					Zero catches reported late (15 August)		
		Category C <i>MCS- species related</i> <i>MCS General</i> <i>Port Controls</i> <i>Vessel Controls</i>									
		Other									

		2021					2022			
<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>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2022</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2022</i>	
Russia	Letter on late reporting, while noting improvement in reporting compared to previous years.	Category A <i>Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				No action necessary.			No action necessary.	
		Category B <i>Annual Report 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.					
		Category C <i>MCS- species related MCS General Port Controls Vessel Controls</i>								
		Other								

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		2021					2022			
<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>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2022</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2022</i>	
São Tomé and Príncipe	Letter on reporting issues, while noting improvement from previous years.	Category A			Letter on significant and recurring reporting issues, noting possibility of identification under Rec. 06-13 on Trade Measures if significant improvements are not made.				Identification for significant and recurring reporting issues, including no Annual Report for two years, and to encourage it seeks technical assistance from Secretariat.	
		<i>Compliance Tables</i> <i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>	Rec. 11-11	No compliance tables received		Rec. 11-11	No compliance tables received			
		Category B								
		<i>Annual Report</i>		No annual report received			No annual report received			
		<i>Statistical data</i>		No fleet characteristics data received. No Task 2 data received			No Task 1 or other statistical data received			
		<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	No check sheets received		Rec. 18-06	Shark sheet submitted late			
			Rec. 19-02	Some Task 1 of tropical tuna species submitted for 2020 but no corresponding quarterly reports		Rec. 19-02	No quarterly catch reports (unclear if applicable; no Task 1 data reported)			
		Category C <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	Unclear if any in-port transshipment activity takes place. Need to provide any required information, seeking assistance with submission if necessary.						
<i>Vessel Controls</i>										
Other			No reply to COC letter				No reply to COC Chair letter			

Action 2020	Category (Res 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2021	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	
Senegal	Letter on late reporting, implementation of requirements on national scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14).	Category A								
		Compliance Tables		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.	Rec. 21-02	*Overharvest of bigeye tuna: 2021 quota = 1312.15, 2021 balance =599.47, 2020 balance = -1377.77, this overharvest will be deducted from 2022 quota. The adjusted quota for 2022= -65.62	Identification due to concerns about lack of fulfillment of flag and market State responsibilities to take appropriate actions in response to IUU fishing activity, including possible significant amounts of illegal transshipment and/or overharvest of ICCAT species as reflected by recurring discrepancies between exports and reported catch, validation of exports of such fish, and overharvest of BET. Letter to also address reporting issues including historical FAD data, implementation of requirements on national scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14). Request action plan clearly outlining steps it will take sufficient actions to address these matters, to inform the COC's consideration of whether to lift identification at the 2023 meeting.	
		Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
		Category B								
		Annual Report							Some responses in Part 1 (scientific) in IOMS may be incomplete	
		Statistical data							Some Task 1 data or confirmation of zero catches missing	
		Other reports	Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	Check sheets received late 29 Sept /1 Oct 2021)	Will try to improve timeliness of reporting in future		Rec. 21-01	Some historical FAD data available but incomplete for effort		
		Category C					Rec. 17-02 and 21-02	N-SWO Management plan received late		
		MCS- species related	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.		Rec. 19-02 and 21-01	No Monthly or Quarterly reports of tropical tuna species received		
		MCS General	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.		Rec. 16-14	No information in annual report summary on the scientific observer programme requirement		
Port Controls					Rec. 18-09	One possible infringement reported under Port Inspection Scheme				
Vessel Controls	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.		Rec. 21-02	Catches of northern albacore taken by vessels without authorisation on N. ALB vessel record (See COC-306 and COC-312 for more information).				
Other		No reply to COC letter				See COC-312				

		2021					2022					
	<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>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2022</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2022</i>		
Sierra Leone	Letter on late reporting and no scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14)	Category A				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.				Letter reporting, while positively noting improvements.		
		<i>Compliance Tables</i>	Rec. 11-11	No compliance tables received	IT issues		Rec. 16-16	Task 1 for 2020 and 2021 received late (12 October)				
		<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>										
		Category B										
		<i>Annual Report</i>		No annual report received	Will soon be sent			Annual report received late (21 and 23 September)				
		<i>Statistical data</i>		No statistical data received				No Task 1 received				
		<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	No check sheets received			Rec. 18-06	Shark check sheet received late				
		Category C										
		<i>MCS- species related</i>										
		<i>MCS General</i>	Rec. 16-14	No information on or from scientific observer programme				Rec. 18-09	Unclear if any in-port transshipment activity takes place. Need to provide any required information, seeking assistance with submission if necessary.			
<i>Port Controls</i>												
<i>Vessel Controls</i>												
Other							No reply to COC Chair letter					

		2021					2022				
<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>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2022</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2022</i>		
South Africa	Letter on reporting issues.	Category A				No action necessary.			Letter on notification of chartering arrangement and potential import of fish caught by IUU vessel.		
		<i>Compliance Tables</i>		Some differences in historic figures between Compliance tables and Task 1	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>									
		Category 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							
		Category C									
<i>MCS General</i>											
<i>Port Controls</i>						Based on the documentation received by the South African Fisheries Authorities for the application of the Import Permit, the Import Permit was issued on the basis of the documents received confirming that the fish being imported have been caught, processed and exported in accordance with the Namibian Fisheries Domestic Legislation					
<i>Vessel Controls</i>						Possible imports of fish caught by IUU vessel					
Other						Rec. 13-14 Early termination of chartering arrangement not notified					

	Action 2020	Category (Res 16-17)	2021				2022				
			ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2021	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	
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.	Category A				Letter on late reporting issues, implementation of requirements for national scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14).				Letter on reporting issues, continued overharvest of southern swordfish with no quota and negative balance increasing, and continued overharvest of white marlin.	
		Compliance Tables	Rec. 16-16 and Rec. 11-11	Compliance Tables received late (30 Sept 2021). Overharvest of WHM			Rec. 17-03; 16-16	*Continued overharvest of southern swordfish: No quota, 2021 balance = -64.54. SWOS negative balance increasing: 2018 balance = -17.84, 2019 = -32.68, 2020 = -32.68 *Continued overharvest of white marlin: 2021 quota = 2, 2021 balance = -6.98t WHM negative balance is irregular: 2018 balance = -4.00t, 2019 = -2.00t, 2020 = -8.98t *Compliance tables received late (14 Sept 2022)			
		Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions									
		Category B									
		Annual Report									
		Statistical data		No fleet characteristics data received							
		Other reports	18-05 and 18-06	Check sheets submitted late (30 Sept 2021)			Rec. 18-06	Shark sheet submitted late (29 Sept 2022)			
			Rec. 19-02	Quarterly/monthly reports for 2020 incomplete (sent to June 2020 inclusive)			Rec. 19-02	No quarterly/monthly reports for 2021 received			
		Category C									
		MCS- species related									
		MCS General	Rec. 16-14	No scientific observers deployed in 2020	Possibly due to COVID? See Annual Report Section 4 on observer programme and coverage						
		Port Controls									
		Vessel Controls									
		Other									
							ROP Trans - PNCS and responses contained in COC-305				

		2021					2022				
	<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>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2022</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2022</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.	Category A				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.				Letter to reiterate issues raised in 2021 COC letter to which there was no reply.	
		<i>Compliance Tables</i> <i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>									
		Category B									
		<i>Annual Report</i> <i>Statistical data</i>									
		<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 18-06	Shark check sheet received late (17 Sept 2021)							
		Category C									
		<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									
Other									No reply to COC Chair letter		

2021						2022				
Action 2020	Category (Res 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2021	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	
Trinidad & Tobago	Letter on reporting issues and implementation of requirements on scientific observer program (16-14).	Category A			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.	Rec. 19-05 and 16-16	*Overharvest of white marlin: 2021 quota = 15, 2021 balance = -4.56 t WHM negative balance is decreasing: 2018 balance = -49.20 t, 2019 = -34.20 t, 2020 = -19.20. 4 consecutive years of 0 catches		Letter on implementation of scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14).	
		<i>Compliance Tables</i>	Rec. 11-11	Overharvest of WHM						Landing of WHM has been prohibited, along with exports since 2017.
		<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>								
		Category B								
		<i>Annual Report</i>		Annual Report submitted late (17 September 2021)						Slightly late due to some difficulties caused by COVID-19
		<i>Statistical data</i>								
		<i>Other reports</i>	Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	Check sheets received late (1 Oct 2021)						Late reporting due to a misunderstanding of the requirement this year
		Category C								
		<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>										
Other			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.							
									See COC-312	

		2021					2022			
<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>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2022</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2022</i>	
Tunisia	Letter on reporting issues and implementation of requirements on scientific observer program (16-14).	Category A <i>Compliance Tables</i> <i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>		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.			Letter on documentation for replacing BFT vessel.	
		Category B <i>Annual Report</i> <i>Statistical data</i> <i>Other reports</i>								
		Category C <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		Rec-21-08	No supporting justification regarding the replacement of a BFT vessel by another		
		Other	ROP-BFT: PNCs contained in COC-305. Some payments for observer coverage received late					JIS reports with possible infringement in COC-303-Appendix 4		
								ROP-BFT: PNCs and responses contained in COC-305		

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2021						2022				
	Action 2020	Category (Res 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2021	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022
Türkiye		Category A Compliance Tables <i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				No action necessary.				No action necessary.
		Category B Annual Report Statistical data								
Türkiye		<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; Türkiye has no industrial or non-industrial fisheries that interact with billfish, blue marlin or white marlin/spearfish. Türkiye 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.BIL01 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. Türkiye'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. Türkiye also responded to additional questions from USA with regard to the billfish Check sheet, through document COC-319/2021.					
		Category C MCS- species related MCS General <i>Port Controls</i>								
	No action necessary				Türkiye 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 23/09/2021. 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, ciggins 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					
Türkiye		<i>Vessel Controls</i>	Rec. 19-04	19 infractions under JIS			19-02/21-08		All BFT fishing vessels authorized by the Ministry in 2022 have had the legal obligation to be equipped with two functional VMS transponder devices to ensure an uninterrupted VMS signal transmission during the period of authorization. Throughout the 2022 bluefin tuna fishing campaign and their specified period of authorizations, all authorized BFT fishing vessels have regularly transmitted VMS messages to Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) software of the Ministry. However, due to a certification problem between Ministry's VMS Server and ICCAT VMS Server, the VMS messages that were automatically transmitted to the Ministry from the F.Y.s could not be transmitted automatically to ICCAT's SW for a certain period of time. As soon as it was recognized, the Secretariat was contacted on the issue at an early date to initiate the required technical works. Due to the certification issue, VMS data sent by other CPCs' fishing vessels could not reach the Ministry's VMS software. The ICCAT Secretariat was notified about the issue on 11/05/2022 and technical support was requested by providing online remote access in order to resolve the issue at short notice. Technical works aimed at understanding and resolving the automatic transmission problem continued in the form of mutual e-mail exchanges with the participation of expert software personnel in the process. As a result of ongoing tests and works, it has been possible to automatically transmit VMS messages to ICCAT servers again on the date 16/06/2022. As of the same date, the Ministry's VMS software have started to receive automatic VMS messages from other CPC vessels through the ICCAT Servers. The accumulated VMS messages/data could have been sent to the Secretariat following the SW technical problems have been solved mutually. All the VMS data that properly reached the VMS software run by the Ministry but could not have been transmitted automatically by the system during the period of technical issue described above have been provided to the Secretariat via e-mails that contain the daily VMS messages in NAF format.	
Türkiye		Other					JIS reports with possible infringement in COC-303- Appendix 4 with response			
							ROP-BFT: PNCs and responses contained in COC-305			

	Action 2020	Category (Res 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2021	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2021	2022				
							ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	
United Kingdom	No action necessary	Category A <i>Compliance Tables</i> <i>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.				No action necessary.	
		Category B <i>Annual Report</i>									
		<i>Statistical data</i>							Some statistical data received late.		
		<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.						
		Category C <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</i> <i>Vessel Controls</i>									
		Other									

		2021				2022			
<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>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2022</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2022</i>
United States of America	No action necessary	Category A		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.			No action necessary.
		<i>Compliance Tables</i>							
		<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>							
		Category B							
		<i>Annual Report</i>							
		<i>Statistical data</i>							
		<i>Other reports</i>							
Category C									
<i>MCS- species related</i>									
<i>MCS General</i>									
<i>Port Controls</i>									
<i>Vessel Controls</i>									
Other									

	Action 2020	Category (Res 16-17)	2021				2022			
			ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2021	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022
Uruguay	No action necessary	Category A <i>Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				No action necessary.				No action necessary.
		Category B <i>Annual Report Statistical data Other reports</i>								
		Category C <i>MCS- species related MCS General Port Controls Vessel Controls</i>								
		Other								

	Action 2020	2021					2022				
		Category (Res 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2021	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	
Venezuela	Letter on continued reporting issues, no designated ports submitted (Rec. 18-09), no compliance table received.	Category A				Letter on continued reporting issues and implementation of ICCAT requirements related to turtle bycatch, and national scientific observer program (Rec. 16-14).				Letter on continued reporting overharvest of NALB and WHM, no response to 2021 COC letter.	
		Compliance Tables		Some discrepancies between Compliance Tables and Task 1 data			Rec. 19-05; 20-04 and 16-16	<p>*Overharvest of North albacore: 2021 quota = 337.50, 2021 balance = -122.84t. ALBN negative balance decreasing: 2018 balance = -294.99, 2019= -215.91, 2020 = -161.83</p> <p>*Overharvest of white marlin: 2021 quota = 50, 2021 balance = -194.56 t. WHM negative balance decreasing: 2018 balance = -225.96, 2019= -227.39, 2020 = -212.79</p> <p>*Compliance tables received late (02 Sept 2022)</p>			
		Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions									
		Category B									
		Annual Report		Annual report received late (27 Sept 2021)				Annual report received late (18 September). Converted to IOMS by Secretariat, some answers may be incomplete			
		Statistical data									
		Other reports	Rec. 18-05 and Rec. 18-06	No Check Sheets received				Rec. 18-05 and Rec. 18-06	Shark Check Sheet received late (1 Oct 2022). No billfish check sheet 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				Rec. 19-02/21-01	No Monthly or Quarterly reports of tropical tuna species received	We are working to provide the data to the Secretariat	
		Category C									
		MCS- species related	Rec- 10-09/13-11	Response on measures relating to turtle by-catch does not seem pertinent							
		MCS General	Rec. 16-14	No observer programme in 2020, no explanation provided							
		Port Controls Vessel Controls						Rec. 18-09	No list of designated ports and applicability unclear		
		Other		No reply to COC letter					No reply to COC Chair letter		

2021						2022					
Action 2020	Category (Res 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2021	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022		
Bolivia	Letter on late reporting issues. Cooperating status renewed.	Category A				No action necessary.			Letter on late reporting.		
		<i>Compliance Tables</i>					Re. 16-16	Zero catches reported late (1 Sept 2022)			
		<i>Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>									
		Category B							IOMS completed but text file (Sections 1, 4 or 5) received late (1 November). No fisheries		
		<i>Annual Report</i>									
		<i>Statistical data</i>							Zero catches reported late		
		<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.			Rec. 18-06	Updated shark check sheet received late		
Category C											
<i>MCS- species related</i>											
<i>MCS General</i>											
<i>Port Controls</i>											
<i>Vessel Controls</i>											
Other											

		2021					2022			
<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>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2022</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2022</i>	
Chinese Taipei	No action necessary	Category A				Letter on potential issues with shortfin mako reporting.			No action necessary.	
		<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>								
		Category B <i>Annual Report Statistical data Other reports</i>								
		Category C <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.					
		Other			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.					
				Vessel sighting reported by USA						ROP-Trans- PNCs and responses contained in COC-305. See COC-312

		2021				2022				
Action 2020	Category (Res 16-17)	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance- 2021	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance- 2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022	
Costa Rica	Category A				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.				Lift identification in recognition of improvement from previous year. Letter to raise issue of continued overharvest of NSW and BUM, while recognizing national efforts notified to ICCAT in COG-308/2022.	
		Compliance Tables	Recs. 11-11 and 18-07	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.			Rec-19-05 and 17-02	<p>*Continued overharvest of northern swordfish: No quota, 2021 balance = -246.64 t, SWON negative balance increasing: 2018 balance = -149.34, 2019= -172.85, 2020 = -196.03</p> <p>*Continued overharvest of blue marlin: 2021 quota = 10, 2021 balance = -181.18t, BUM negative balance increasing: 2018 balance = -141.83, 2019= -159.28, 2020 = -167.49</p>	According to the international nomenclature, the fishing vessels operating in the Costa Rican Caribbean are small scale. The fisheries in this area are not developed; given that it is a small-scale fleet, it is evident that there are limitations on fishing. In the near future, there is interest in developing these fisheries. In Costa Rica, the catch of these species is historical. The statistical and compliance data have been submitted to ICCAT, as well as the scientific documents with the historical catch information (SCRS/2022/047 and SCRS/2022/161) for the purpose of transmitting the country's information and transparency of its fishery. In addition, this year, the country submitted to the Commission a North Atlantic swordfish management plan, through form CP41-NSWOPlan. To transition to the measures required by ICCAT, effective compliance is proposed through permanent dialogue with the fishers to ensure a reduction in the overage of these species as a mechanism to offset the overharvest that appears in the ICCAT data records and for the purpose of contributing to the international management and conservation of these species. Costa Rica will continue its efforts so that ICCAT recognises its historical participation rights, since the country has caught these species prior to becoming a Cooperating non-Contracting Party and hopes soon to become a Contracting Party by acceding to the Convention through the 2019 Accession Protocol, but we recognise that as a developing country we have some limitations in terms of staffing, fishery statistics data processing, budgetary limits, lack of instruction on the ICCAT data submission requirements and no onboard observers programme is in place on account of the characteristics of the national vessels. The Costa Rican fisheries in the Atlantic are not developed industrially, as mentioned above, it is a small-scale fleet. There are socioeconomic characteristics that must also be taken into account. It is therefore vital to establish a dialogue with the fishers. Moreover, in the Caribbean, there are two important factors: it is an economically depressed area, as is the case of the rest of the Central American region, and it is high risk due to international drugs trafficking, which is why regulated fishing activities in the Caribbean are part of our commitment, with the objective of preventing illicit or criminal activities that affect us nationally and internationally.	
		Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions								
		Category B								
		Annual Report	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					
		Statistical data	Rec. 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					
		Other reports	Rec. 18-06	Shark check sheet received late (21 Sept 2021)				Rec-19-02	Some Task 1 of tropical tuna species in 2021 but no corresponding quarterly reports	The fishing activity is carried out by small scale vessels, and consolidation of statistical data with the mechanisms that currently exist for this purpose, mean that with the information available quarterly catch reports cannot be submitted. It should be noted that Costa Rica does not have a fleet of purse seine tuna vessels in the Atlantic Ocean.
		Category C								
		MCS-species related	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						
		MCS General	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					
		Port Controls								
		Vessel Controls								
Other		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								

	Action 2020	Category (Res 16-17)	2021			2022						
			ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2021	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken in 2021	ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)	Potential issues of non-compliance-2022	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions taken by COC in 2022		
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.	Category A				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.				Lift identification in recognition of actions taken with respect to longline vessels to address overharvest. Send letter due to continued overharvest of ICCAT species while noting improvement in reporting.		
		Compliance Tables	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.			*Continued overharvest of northern swordfish: No quota, 2021 balance = -28.48 t. SWON Negative balance increasing: 2018 balance = -19.49, 2019=-21.19, 2020 =-25.71 *Continued overharvest of blue marlin: 2021 quota = 10, 2021 balance = -161.26t. BUM negative balance increasing: 2019=-118.22, 2020 =-147.05 *Overharvest of white marlin: 2021 quota = 2, 2021 balance = -212.31t. WHM negative balance decreasing: 2018=-167.26t, 2019=-165.26t, 2020 =-163.26t. 3 years of consecutive zero catches. GUY informs that the Tuna fishery which was responsible for these catches is closed				
		Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions										
		Category B										
		Annual Report		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.							
		Statistical data		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.							
		Other reports	Rec. 18-05 and 18-06	Check sheets received late (1 Oct 2021)	See above			Rec. 19-02	Some Task 1 of tropical tuna species in 2021 but no corresponding quarterly reports			
		Category C										
		MCS- species related										
		MCS General	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.							
Port Controls												
Vessel Controls												
Other												

		2021					2022			
<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>	<i>ICCAT measures (Rec/Res)</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2022</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions taken by COC in 2022</i>	
Suriname	No action necessary	Category A <i>Compliance Tables Capacity, size, gear, time, area restrictions</i>				No action necessary.			No action necessary.	
		Category 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>								
		Category C <i>MCS- species related MCS General Port Controls Vessel Controls</i>								
		Other								

Statement to COC by Pew Charitable Trusts

The Pew Charitable Trusts appreciates the ongoing efforts of the Secretariat and Compliance Committee (COC) to improve ICCAT's compliance review processes. To build on this progress, we encourage the COC to prioritize the below items to ensure CPCs continue to improve the likelihood that their fleets are complying with ICCAT's conservation and management measures:

Read and consider the new RFMO compliance recommendations in document [COC_313, Annex 1](#) scheduled for presentation at this meeting, these recommendations were developed by recognized experts working directly in this area. They were drawn from the outcomes of three expert workshops and two webinars, held over 2020 – 2021. Convened by Pew and ISSF, these workshops closely examined the major challenges experienced within RFMO compliance review mechanisms and their potential solutions. The recommendations provide a rich menu of options to help guide the work needed to improve ICCAT's compliance review procedures and includes a toolkit to help review the current status of an RFMO's compliance review mechanism. We encourage ICCAT to make such an assessment, as its results, in tandem with the menu of recommendations in [COC_313](#), would greatly assist in setting priority areas for discussion at the 2023 special 2-day meeting of the COC.

- Continue to develop the severity table as embodied in last year's Chairs paper [COC_307/2021](#) with the aim to adopt it at this meeting or in 2023 – a tool that ranks the severity of non-compliance in the context of existing ICCAT measures would be an important step towards delineating minor versus significant infractions and would assist the Commission in allocating its limited resources to address the most serious cases of non-compliance.

In addition to the above items, and recalling the rationale outlined in Annex 1 of ICCAT [Recommendation 16-19](#), Pew supports the case as set out in document [COC-319](#) for the development of an Integrated Online Management System. This has the potential to bring to the compliance review process exactly the efficiencies for both CPCs and the Secretariat that form an important component of the afore-mentioned recommendations from the expert group.

Taking these steps would ultimately progress ICCAT's mandate to ensure the sustainability of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean, and we look forward to offering our support toward any such endeavours.

ANNEX 10

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE PERMANENT WORKING GROUP FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF ICCAT STATISTICS AND CONSERVATION MEASURES (PWG)**1. Opening of the meeting**

The Chair of the Permanent Working Group (PWG), Mr. Neil Ansell (European Union), opened the meeting and welcomed the delegates. The ICCAT Executive Secretary also welcomed the participants.

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Mr. Alexander Miller (United States) was appointed Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair explained that each of the proposals would be discussed as they corresponded to the appropriate Agenda items. Nonetheless to ensure the best use of time, the Chair informed he intended to move through the Agenda to ensure all proposals were introduced in the first session.

The Agenda was adopted without change and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 10**.

4. Review of the report of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) and other relevant subsidiary working groups and consideration of any necessary actions

The Chair of the PWG introduced the [Report of the 15th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures \(IMM\)](#) held online from 8-10 June 2022, noting the participation of 20 Contracting Parties, three Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities, and two non-governmental observers. The Chair of the PWG informed the Group that the work IMM discussed in June would be taken up and considered under the respective Agenda items. The Group recommended that the report be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.

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**

The Chair noted that the discussion within this section of the Agenda would include an update on the Ad Hoc Working Group on a Catch Document Scheme (CDS), an update on the eBCD program, including technical points and considerations related to the eBCD system, a proposal referred to the PWG from Panel 2 regarding incorporating processing requirements into the eBCD system, and the derogation to validate eBCD for trades within the European Union (EU).

Statistical and Catch Documentation Programs (SDP/CDS)

The Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group on a Catch Document Scheme (CDS WG), provided an update on the initial work of the Group, noting that it met online between 4-5 April 2022 with participation from 24 CPCs ([Report of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on a Catch Document Scheme](#)).

The Chair noted that the CDS WG started its meeting with a presentation from the FAO on their report on Voluntary technical guidelines for CDS programs. The CDS WG discussed where ICCAT and other RFMOs were in terms of the development or implementation of SDP/CDS schemes and reminded themselves that ICCAT adopted SDPs in 2001 for swordfish and bigeye. CPCs were given the opportunity to present any

domestic schemes and exchange views. There was discussion on the species that might be covered by a potential new CDS in ICCAT and the CDS WG was reminded that any work ICCAT did and the species considered needed to be risk-based and consider the likelihood of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. There was discussion by the CDS WG about practical and technical difficulties, including how eBCD could potentially be used if ICCAT was to agree on extension of CDS to other species. The CDS WG also noted that it was important to take note of what other RFMOs were doing with regard to CDS development. The CDS WG agreed that more information on the potential difficulties and challenges related to developing further CDS schemes within ICCAT would be best gathered by a questionnaire, and a Circular was sent by the Secretariat requesting such information from CPCs.

There was broad support for the work of the CDS WG and the PWG adopted the [Report of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on a Catch documentation Scheme](#) and fully supported the implementation of their workplan through 2023, including by way of further meetings of the CDS WG. The PWG encouraged CPCs to complete and return the CDS questionnaire sent by the Secretariat to facilitate their work before the next meeting of the CDS WG, as only a few CPCs had responded to date.

The PWG also considered the possibility of making the validation seals and signatures from the SDPs available to the public, but in a format that would not allow their misuse. There was general support for this proposal, but some CPCs needed more time to ensure that there would be no difficulties with this, and the Secretariat noted that they would await confirmation before work started.

eBCD program and technical considerations

The Chair of the eBCD Technical Working Group (eBCD TWG), provided an update on the eBCD system development and operation, noting the Group met once online between 6-7 April 2022, that the system is working well, and that the [Report of the Meeting of the eBCD Technical Working Group \(eBCD TWG\)](#) includes a status update from the developing consortium, Tragsa.

The Chair noted that when the eBCD TWG met online, which included the developer and manager of the system Tragsa, participants went through pending issues, discussed potential development items, determined which items needed time cost estimates, and determined which items to move forward for development. Some eBCD TWG members felt that some items had policy implications and needed to be brought to the attention of IMM, which are included in the [Report of the 15th Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures \(IMM\)](#). The eBCD TWG also discussed the potential use of the eBCD system for CDS expansion and noted that the system was very complex and, hence, would need to be simplified if used for other species. There were also useful exchanges regarding budget and contract issues by the eBCD TWG, and the eBCD TWG asked Tragsa for estimates of cost for a number of items that are included in the Annexes of the eBCD TWG Report.

The PWG supported the work of the eBCD TWG, adopted the [Report of the Meeting of the eBCD Technical Working Group \(eBCD TWG\)](#), and supported the ongoing work of the Group into 2023, including the steering of new development tasks throughout 2023 and liaising with the developing consortium Tragsa, CPCs, and Secretariat for the ongoing implementation of the eBCD system.

Following a request from Panel 2, there was discussion regarding the proposal “Discussion Paper on BFT processing vessel” from Japan concerning the potential to incorporate processing requirements into the eBCD system. Japan explained that most farmed bluefin tuna is processed into fillets or loins by processing vessels immediately after being harvested, and currently, the eBCD system does not record this processing activity. Japan further explained that this creates difficulties for importing CPCs as it can potentially allow illegal product to be smuggled. A number of CPCs voiced support for this proposal, while some suggested that this matter should be discussed first in the eBCD TWG and/or IMM prior to any formal agreement.

European Union (EU) Derogation and “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 21-18 on the application of the eBCD System”

The Chair of the PWG introduced a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 21-18 on the application of the eBCD System” with regard to the implementation of the derogations laid out in the Recommendation and noted that this proposal should be considered together with the report from European Union (EU) concerning the derogation “Report on the implementation of the derogation to validate BCDs for trades of BFT between Member States of the EU in 2021 (Paragraph 5b and 5d of ICCAT Recommendation 18-12)”.

The EU presented its report on the implementation of the derogation to validate eBCDs for trades of BFT in certain product forms between Member States of the EU, a revised version of which is contained in **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10**. The EU noted that the derogation, as well as the requirement for the report, was due to end in 2022 unless renewed. The United States thanked the EU for the report and its efforts and noted that it would be helpful if future reports included a time series approach to understand any changes from year-to-year. The United States further explained that receiving additional information on the EU's risk analysis and spot check procedures would provide additional clarity.

Citing difficulties with administrative burdens in the initial absence of the derogation, if granted, the EU sought a more prolonged derogation period beyond one year.

There was an agreement on a revised version of the "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 21-18 on the application of the eBCD System" extending the EU's derogation through 2024, and it was forwarded to the Commission for adoption.

5.2 Observer Programmes and EMS

The Chair introduced a "Draft Resolution by ICCAT establishing a pilot project to test the use of stereoscopic cameras during first transfer and the automation of video footage analysis". It was noted that the proposed pilot project included the following objectives: 1) to test stereoscopic cameras during first transfers of bluefin tuna at sea from the purse seine vessel or traps to a towing vessel, and 2) test the use of available Artificial Intelligence (AI) software for the automatic determination of the number of bluefin tuna and their weight, on both, conventional and stereoscopic camera video footage. A number of CPCs voiced their support for the proposal, and one CPC requested changes to ensure the proposal was in line with current technological capabilities. With those changes the PWG endorsed the proposal establishing a pilot project for the use of stereoscopic cameras during first transfers and automation of video footage analysis by way of a revised version of the draft resolution and forwarded it to the Commission for adoption.

The Chair also introduced the "Regional Observer Program (ROP) – Bluefin Tuna Implementation Report" and the "Report on the Implementation of the ICCAT Regional Observer Program (ROP) for Transshipment". A few CPCs provided feedback to these reports including one CPC that noted concern about the shift from onboard to remote inspections of fishing vessels in the Regional Observer Program for transshipment and hoped that transshipment observers can resume fishing vessel-boarding operations soon.

With regard to electronic monitoring, the Chair of the Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Systems Working Group (WG-EMS) presented the reports of its two meetings held in 2022 ([Report of the First Meeting of the Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Systems \(WG-EMS\) \(online, 28 February 2022\)](#) and [Report of the Second Meeting of the Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Systems \(WG-EMS\) \(online, 6-7 June 2022\)](#)). During the first meeting in February, the Chair of WG-EMS explained that the SCRS Technical Sub-group on Electronic Monitoring updated the WG-EMS on its work in order to identify which aspects of electronic monitoring it could potentially assist with. The WG-EMS discussed how it could compile information and inform given the requirements of *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish minimum standards for fishing vessel scientific observer programs (Rec. 16-14)* related to scientific observer program minimum standards, considered strategy recommendations, and started developing EMS minimum standards for longline and purse seine fisheries and a prioritization strategy for EMS implementation. The second meeting, held in June 2022, included work on the documents prepared by the EU for minimum standards for electronic monitoring to be used for science and/or compliance purposes. The WG-EMS moved forward with a prioritization and an implementation strategy and collectively mentioned that priority should be given to stocks where relevant ICCAT measures already contemplate the use of electronic monitoring.

The PWG adopted the [Report of the First Meeting of the Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Systems \(WG-EMS\)](#) and the [Report of the Second Meeting of the Working Group on Electronic Monitoring Systems \(WG-EMS\)](#) and CPCs supported the work and continued implementation of the WG-EMS workplan including further meetings of that Group throughout 2023.

5.3 At-sea and in-port transshipment requirements

Following consultation with the Chair of the PWG, the Secretariat introduced “Document number on transshipment declaration”, a proposed amendment to the transshipment declaration form (CP19_TransDec). The origin of this document came from the eBCD Technical Working Group (eBCD TWG) and IMM discussions given language within the eastern bluefin tuna measure to link transshipment to the eBCD system. IMM and the eBCD TWG had discussed potential approaches to link relevant eBCD and transshipment information in line with ICCAT’s existing requirements. To assist in this regard, the IMM proposed that a declaration number be included on the general transshipment declaration in the *Recommendation by ICCAT on transshipment* (Rec. 21-15) as already required by the transshipment declaration form included as part of the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna management recommendation. Amendment of the form in Rec. 21-15 would, therefore, be useful to CPCs as they could use only one declaration when transshipping bluefin tuna. The Secretariat noted that there were other slight proposed changes to the transshipment form, including the ‘Transshipment Position (latitude/longitude)’ and the ‘units and number of units’, if available. A number of CPCs supported the proposal to include a document number on the transshipment declaration form but noted that they would like to see it implemented on a voluntary basis, at least initially. Another CPC noted that the ICCAT transshipment measure (Rec. 21-15) includes a review clause in 2024 and agreed with the voluntary use of the revised transshipment form until Rec. 21-15 can be reviewed, during which the new FAO transshipment guidelines should also be considered. The PWG endorsed the proposal to amend the Transshipment Declaration in CP-19 with the new “document number” field to be provided on a voluntary basis (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**).

5.4 Rules for chartering and other fishing arrangements

The PWG did not discuss any specific point under this Agenda item.

5.5 At-sea vessel sighting and inspection programmes

Joint International Inspection Scheme in the Convention area in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)

The Chair of the PWG asked Canada to introduce its proposal on a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for a Joint International Inspection Scheme in the Convention Area in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)”. Canada explained that they were still concerned about illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities, and given the high level of support that other CPCs expressed in 2021 at the 27th Regular Meeting of the Commission, submitted an updated proposal. Their updated proposal now included a holistic Convention-wide approach as previously requested by some CPCs. Canada noted that it sought to continue to build consensus on this issue, especially in view of the current lack of a cooperative enforcement scheme in the western Atlantic, in contrast to the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean where schemes are already in place for eastern bluefin tuna and Mediterranean swordfish. Senegal strongly supported the proposal and co-sponsored.

The PWG discussed the proposal extensively, and there was broad support for it; however, there was no consensus. Canada and Senegal introduced three revised drafts of the proposal after consulting with other CPCs and making revisions to address their concerns. Many CPCs shared their support for the proposal and need for capacity building, although a few CPCs expressed reservations. Concerns from CPCs were broadly related to the following: the scope of the proposal regarding the participation of all CPCs versus restricting participation to Contracting Parties, exchange of inspectors, the ability of developing coastal CPCs to participate in a fair and equitable manner in the scheme, particularly developing CPCs, and the transition period to full implementation. Various suggestions were made on the floor in an attempt to reach consensus and it was agreed that if any progress could be made a final revised draft of the proposal could be forwarded to the Commission for further consideration.

Boarding ladders

The EU introduced their proposal “Modification of the E-BFT and SWO Joint Inspection Schemes (JIS) to include specifications for boarding ladders”. The EU explained that its proposal was driven by inspections that could not take place because of the difficulties with boarding ladders and that the boarding ladders needed to meet the requirements outlined by the International Maritime Organization’s (IMO) Resolution 8a-21. One CPC requested that implementation of this measure be delayed into 2024 to allow time for vessel

owners to purchase ladders. The PWG agreed to a revised version of this proposal (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**) for modification of the eastern bluefin tuna and swordfish JIS, including specifications for boarding ladders, which was forwarded to the Commission for adoption.

Inspector exchanges

The PWG received updates from CPCs' experiences in implementation of the *Resolution by ICCAT amending the Resolution 18-11 establishing a pilot program for the voluntary exchange of inspection personnel in fisheries managed by ICCAT* (Res. 19-17), noting the value of such exchanges and encouraged further inspector exchanges between CPCs into 2023.

5.6 Port inspection schemes and other port State measures

The Chair of the Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity Building and Assistance (PIEG) presented the [Report of the 2022 Meeting of the Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity Building and Assistance \(online, 13 June 2022\)](#). It was noted that scheduling of the Expert Group meeting had been delayed by the pandemic but that, ultimately, the virtual meeting was held in June 2022. The Chair of the Expert Group explained that in 2020-2021 participants were able to complete the inspection manual in three languages and in 2022 they discussed ongoing work on the manual and noted that there was possible funding for training sessions. Expert Group participants also discussed the availability of training sessions and the countries to be covered by the sessions. The PWG approved their report and the ongoing work of the Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity Building and Assistance.

In light of some concerns raised, in particular on the level of port inspections and follow-up, there was a discussion and desire to further consider a review of the implementation and potential strengthening of the port inspection programmes into 2023 under the *Recommendation by ICCAT on port state measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing* (Rec. 18-09), which it was noted did foresee a review of the measure in 2020.

5.7 Vessel listing requirements

The United States presented a discussion paper "Exceptions to ICCAT's authorized vessel listing requirements for vessels taking ICCAT species as bycatch". The United States noted that its delegation has continued concern that the bycatch exceptions in the authorized vessel list requirements undermine the monitoring, control, and surveillance of ICCAT fisheries. There are a number of measures that establish species-specific authorized vessel lists, but include an exception for vessels catching those species as bycatch if a CPC establishes a maximum onboard bycatch limit for such vessels and reports this information in its Annual Report. One CPC supported the United States raising this issue while another CPC suggested that the topic deserved a proper discussion and should be a point for intersessional work. The PWG discussed possible exceptions to ICCAT's authorized vessel listing requirements for vessels taking ICCAT species as bycatch and agreed to continue discussions intersessionally in 2023.

5.8 Vessel Monitoring Satellite System requirements

The PWG did not discuss any specific point under this Agenda item.

5.9 Flag State responsibilities

Control of nationals

Regarding the control of nationals, the EU introduced a "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to replace 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". The EU explained that its proposal built on the work of the 27th Regular Meeting of the Commission held in 2021 targeting natural and legal persons engaged in or supporting IUU fishing, and further explained, that there was a need to align ICCAT's rules with the different measures adopted in other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs). The PWG broadly supported the proposal barring a few edits, including making it clear that the recommendation does not require CPCs to make amendments to their domestic legislation. The United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States cosponsored the proposal. Various NGOs also voiced support for the proposal.

With minor edits, the PWG agreed to a revised proposal for a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to replace 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”, which would repeal and replace 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). The recommendation was forwarded to the Commission for adoption.

Labour standards

The Chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Labour Standards (LSWG) presented the [Report of the Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Labour Standards \(LSWG\) \(online, 14-15 March 2022\)](#). The Chair of the LSWG noted that experts from the International Labor Organization (ILO) helped guide the discussion at the first meeting and determine what CPCs could do at a national and regional level. The LSWG also developed a workplan to guide its work and next steps. The first step and goal included creating a repository of which some CPCs provided information related to national legislation, relevant international instruments, and other training guides that can help combat forced labour in ICCAT fisheries. The PWG approved this report and the continued work of the LSWG, which may be carried out online.

5.10 Other issues

The PWG did not discuss any specific point under this Agenda item.

6. Review and establishment of the IUU vessel list

The Chair explained that the “2022 IUU List - Draft List of Vessels presumed to have carried out IUU fishing activities”, incorporated changes from other RFMOs and CPCs. Several CPCs discussed a number of small edits to the list, and the Secretariat explained that they would work to make the changes. The PWG agreed to the removal of one vessel which had been included from cross listing (*EROS DOS/IMO# 8604668*. Namibia’s request to delist *HALIFAX*, Colombia’s request to delist *HALELUYA* / ICCAT IUU number 20200012 and Indonesia’s request to delist *SAMUDERA PASIFIK NO. 18* / ICCAT IUU number 20130013) were considered by the PWG. The PWG considered that the current flag for *SAMUDERA PASIFIK NO. 18* could be changed to “Unknown” if Indonesia in the future provided the necessary supporting documents but should not be delisted. It was considered that there was insufficient evidence to warrant the removal of the *HALELUYA* or the *HALIFAX*, and the Chair encouraged Namibia to work with the EU intersessionally to address the concerns raised.

The Draft 2022 IUU list, as amended, was agreed by the PWG and referred to the Commission for adoption. The adopted 2022 IUU Vessel list is included in **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 10**. The Chair also noted that the document “Advancing RFMO IUU Vessel List Utility” could be taken up intersessionally.

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

The Group referred the progress on “Follow up to the Performance Review of ICCAT - PWG” to the IMM meeting in 2023.

8. Other matters

A joint statement* by Oceana, Pew Charitable Trusts and Worldwide Fund for Nature was submitted to the PWG.

* Statement not included as in excess of word limit and not provided in the three official languages of ICCAT.

9. Adoption of the report and adjournment

It was agreed to adopt the report by correspondence. The Chair thanked the Secretariat and interpreters for all their hard work as well as the CPCs for their contributions to the PWG meeting and adjourned the meeting.

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Review of the report of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Working Group Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) on and other relevant subsidiary working groups 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. Review and establishment of the IUU vessel list
7. Review of progress on follow up on the Second Performance Review and consideration of any necessary actions
8. Other matters
9. Adoption of the report and adjournment

Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10**Report on the implementation of the derogation to validate BCDs for trades of BFT between Member States of the EU in 2021 (Paragraph 5b and 5d of ICCAT Recommendation 18-12)**

*(Submitted by the European Union)
(Revised version of 17 November 2022)*

Introduction

As other ICCAT Contracting Parties (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 2022, 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 correspond to the period 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021. These data were partially extracted through the functionality in the eBCD system. Additional data on verification were received from the Member States administrations.

The scope of this report has been restricted to the trade events for bluefin tuna from seller in EU Member States, in order to avoid duplication, and because the selling Member State is responsible for the validation of the trade in eBCD.

In 2021, the EU Member States recorded 145,099 trade events¹ in the eBCD system involving 46,668 t. Regulation (EU) 640/2010² provides the obligation to register trade events inside of the EU Member States. Consequently, 76% of the trades recorded in the eBCD by the EU are internal trades inside single EU Member States' territories (111,093 trades). The remaining trades include 7,701 exports to other CPCs (5%), and 26,305 trades between EU Member States (18%).

The quantities involved amounted to 11,522 t (25%) for internal trades, and 29,579 t (63%) for exports. Trades between EU Member States amounted to 5,567 t, which represents 12% of the total weight traded (**Figure 1**).

Amongst the total trade, 41% (59,269) of the total trades were validated, and 59% (86,100) were exempted of validation, for a quantity of 31,171 t (87%) and 13,404 t (29%) respectively (**Figure 2**). In addition to the intra-Member State trade, the exemptions include 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 from validation, 19,851 of them concerned trades between EU Member States (derogation under para 5b) (14%), and 2,151 involved tagged fish (5%), with respective quantities of 1,650 (4%) and 2,151 t (5%) (**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.

The average quantity by trade (by eBCD) was 156 kg for trades exempted of validation in line with the derogation 5b, and of 265 kg for trades of tagged fish (**Figure 5**).

Additional details by EU-Member state are provided in the **Addendum 1 to Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10**.

¹ Does not include rejected (REJ), pending (PEN) and requested (REQ) trading events present in the eBCD system.

² 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*.

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.

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, 94% 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.

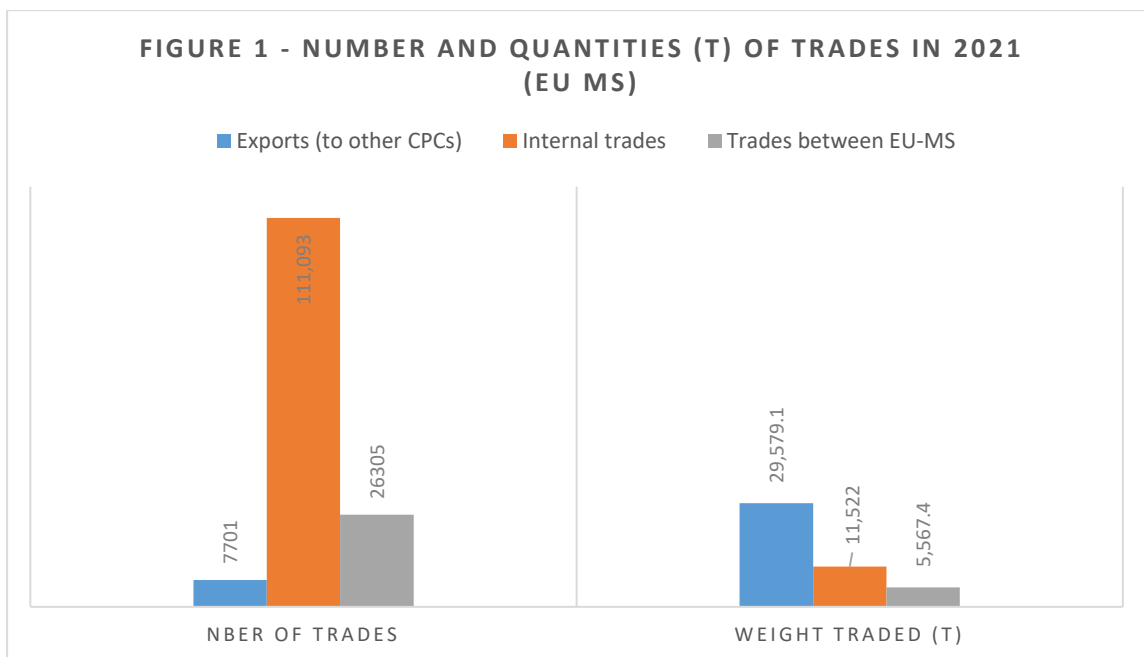


Figure 1. Number and quantities (t) of trades from EU Member states.

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.

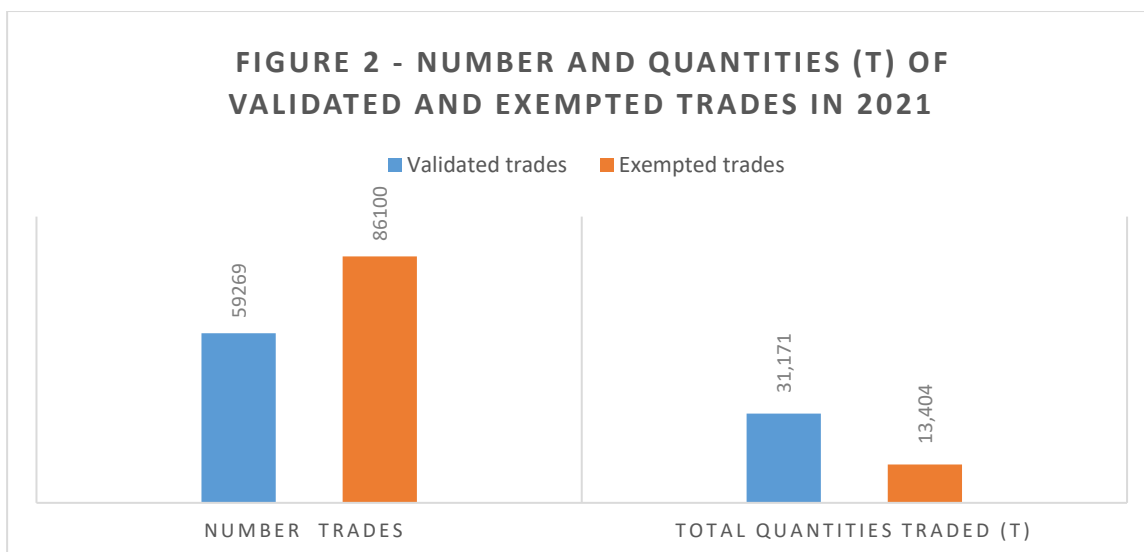


Figure 2. Number and quantities (t) of validated and exempted trades in 2021.

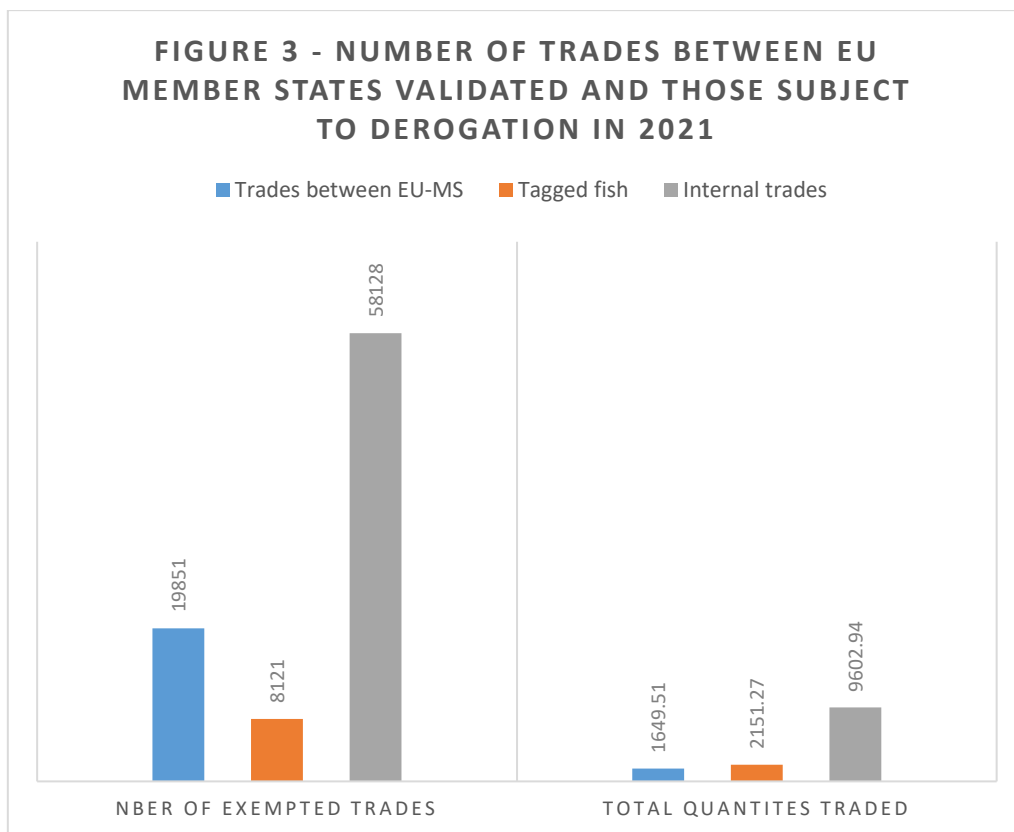


Figure 3. Number of trades between EU Member States validated and those subject to derogation in 2021.

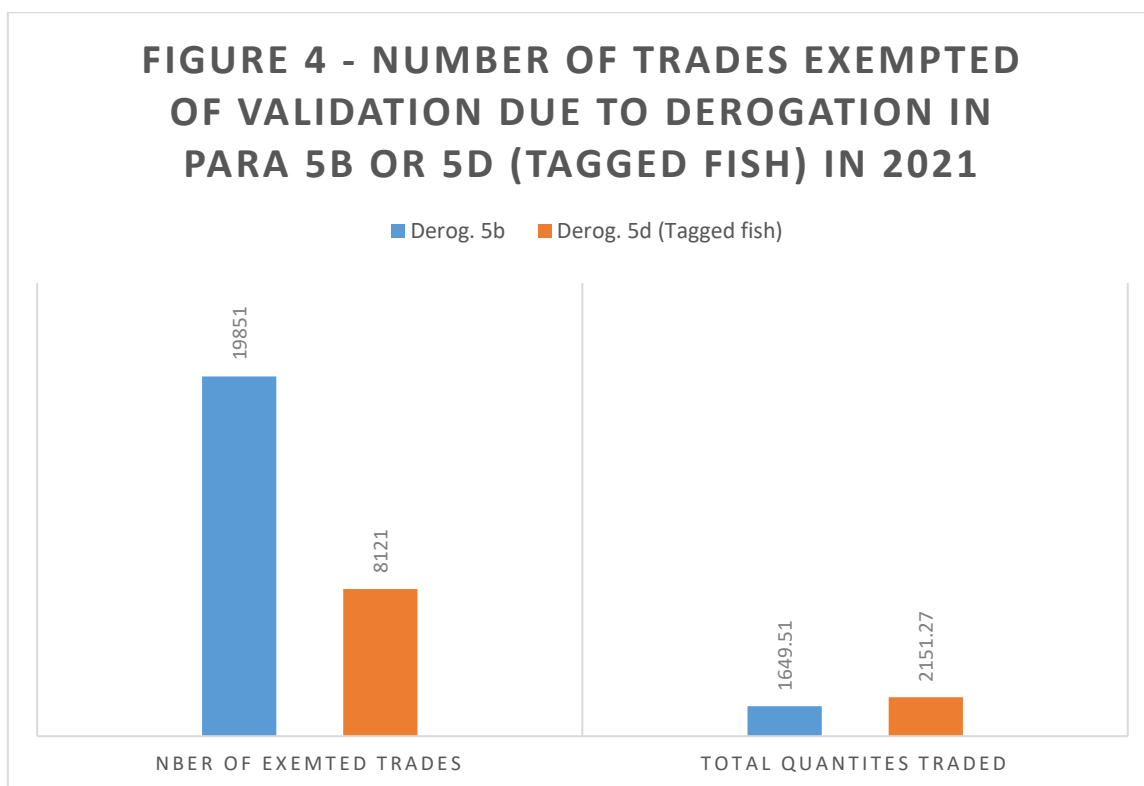


Figure 4. Number of trades exempted of validation due to derogation in para 5b or 5D (tagged fish) in 2021.

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.

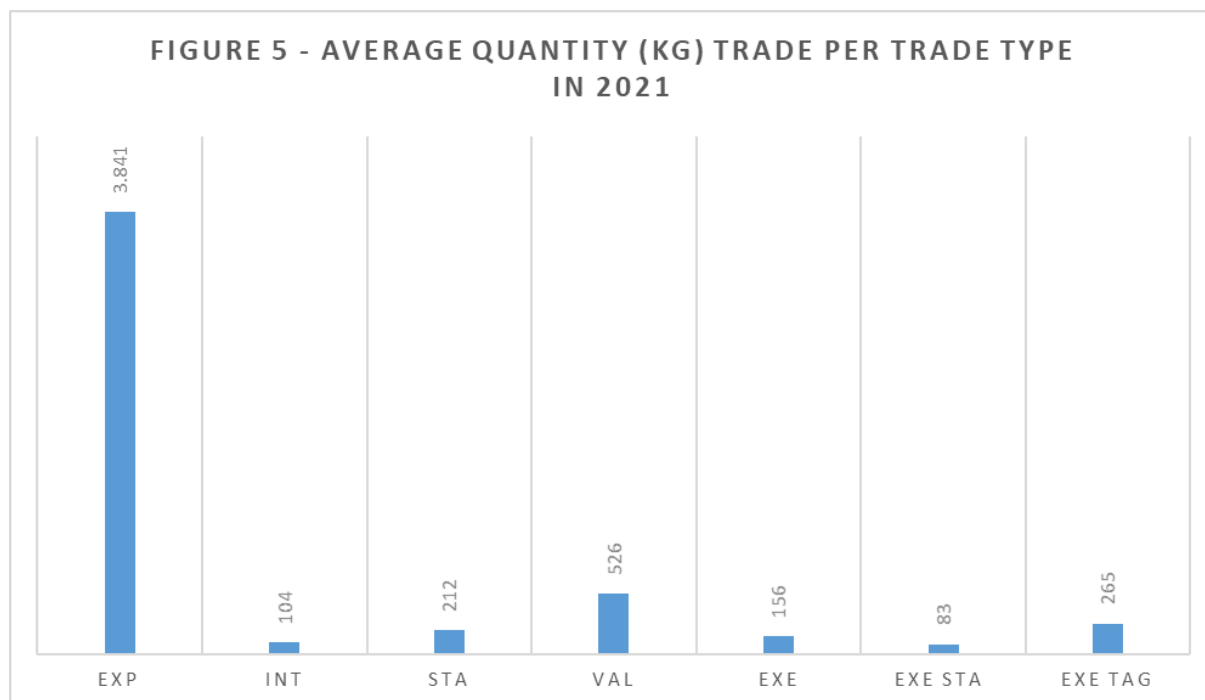


Figure 5. Average quantity (kg) trade per trade type in 2021.

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	135	55,882	26,386	4,512	2,701	50,683	2,278	2,522
Weight (t)	69	14,970	5,474	354	5,189	7,106	12,790	716

(2) Number of trades and amount of tonnage for which an exemption from validation (EXE)³ 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	135	42,779	25,553	4,512	163	12,604	1	353
	(t)	69	4,958	1,894	354	5,668	443	0	17

(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	8,482	8,099	2,957	3	278	-	1
	(t)	63	426	595	257	147	9	-	152
EXE TAG ⁴	Trades	69	3,379	3,660	1,013	-	-	-	-
	(t)	2	1,397	510	242	-	-	-	-

(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	-	5,634	95	896	116	79	844	37
	(t)		7,251	3,497	58	4,371	2,122	12,057	223

(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	11,604	8,930	2,957	358	1,322	631	472
	(t)	63	797	680	257	697	2,492	250	331

(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	104	38,644	17,361	659	2,227	49,282	803	2,013
	(t)	6	6,922	1,296	39	121	2,492	483	162

³ Include trades between EU Member States, trades of tagged fish and internal trades of non-tagged fish.⁴ Tagged fish may concern both trades between EU Member States and internal trades inside an EU Member State; number of trade events equates to one or several tagged fish.

Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**Modification of the E-BFT and SWO Joint Inspection Schemes (JIS)
to include specifications for boarding ladders***(Proposal submitted by the EU)*

During the meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) in June 2022, the EU presented a proposal to include specific boarding ladder provisions in the E-BFT and SWO Joint Inspection Schemes (JIS). The EU noted that contrary to other joint inspection schemes (NAFO, NEAFC, GFCM), the ICCAT schemes does not provide for specific measures for boarding ladders.

The motivation behind this amendment arose when, under the E-BFT JIS, some fishing vessels were not able to consistently provide ladders to allow ICCAT inspectors to board safely. In some cases, the vessels provided boarding ladders that the inspectors did not consider safe (i.e., swimming pool-type rigid ladders), and in other cases the vessels did not provide a ladder at all. This resulted in an impossibility to perform inspections at sea, but it also complicated the follow-up that can be given to these cases because the lack of specific regulation.

The EU's proposal was drafted to be harmonized with the specifications already required in the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), which would prevent vessels participating in ICCAT BFT and GFCM fisheries from having to carry two separate boarding ladders. However, after discussion with a CPC that showed some concerns during the IMM meeting, the EU has changed the proposal as shown below.

Finally, during the IMM meeting, the EU also expressed the desirability that any breach of this provision to be considered a serious infringement.

The relevant modifications proposed are underlined below.

1. **Modification Annex 7 of Recommendation 21-08 (E-BFT ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection)**

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:

r) Not providing to ICCAT inspectors a boarding ladder meeting the requirements of IMO Resolution A.889(21) to facilitate safe access to any fishing vessel which requires a climb of 1,5 metres or more.

II. Conduct of inspections

9. Subject to the arrangements agreed under paragraph 15 of this Annex, a vessel flagged to a Contracting Government and fishing for tuna or tuna-like fishes in the Convention area outside waters under national jurisdiction shall stop when given the appropriate signal in the International Code of Signals by a ship flying the ICCAT pennant described in paragraph 7 and carrying an inspector unless the vessel is actually carrying out fishing operations, in which case it shall stop immediately once it has finished such operations. The master of the vessel shall permit the inspection party, as specified in paragraph 10 of this Annex, to board it and must provide a boarding ladder meeting the requirements of IMO Resolution A.889(21), to facilitate safe and convenient access to any vessel which requires a climb of 1,5 metre or more. For compliance with the requirements of boarding ladders, a transitional period is allowed for vessels operating in the Atlantic, until January 2024.

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.

2. Modification Annex 1 Recommendation 16-05 (**MED SWO ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection**).

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:

p) Not providing to ICCAT inspectors a boarding ladder meeting the requirements of IMO Resolution A.889(21) to facilitate safe access to any fishing vessel which requires a climb of 1,5 metres or more.

II. Conduct of inspections

9. Subject to the arrangements agreed under paragraph 16 of this Annex, a vessel flagged to a Contracting Government and fishing for tuna or tuna-like fishes in the Convention area outside waters under national jurisdiction shall stop when given the appropriate signal in the International Code of Signals by a ship flying the ICCAT pennant described in paragraph 7 and carrying an inspector unless the vessel is actually carrying out fishing operations, in which case it shall stop immediately once it has finished such operations. The master of the vessel shall permit the inspection party, as specified in paragraph 10 of this Annex, to board it and must provide a boarding ladder meeting the requirements of IMO Resolution A.889(21), to facilitate safe and convenient access to any vessel which requires a climb of 1,5 metre or more. The master shall enable the inspection party to make such examination of equipment, catch or gear and any relevant documents as an inspector deems necessary to verify compliance with the ICCAT Commission's recommendations in force in relation to the flag State of the vessel being inspected. Further, an inspector may ask for any explanations that he or she deems necessary.

Appendix 4 to ANNEX 10

Recommendation 21-13: ICCAT IUU List
2022 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	

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<i>Serial No.</i>	<i>Lloyds/IMO Number</i>	<i>Reporting CPC/RFMO</i>	<i>Date Informed</i>	<i>Reference #</i>	<i>Current Flag</i>	<i>Previous Flag</i>	<i>Name of Vessel (Latin)</i>	<i>Name (Previous)</i>	<i>Call Sign (Previous)</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Name</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Address</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>
20060001	Not available	SOUTH AFRICA - vessel had no VMS, suspected of having no tuna licence and of possible at-sea transhipments	23/10/2006	2431	Unknown	Unknown	BIGEYE	NO INFO	FN 003883	NO INFO	NO INFO	UNKN	
20060002	Not available	SOUTH AFRICA - vessel had no VMS, suspected of having no tuna licence and of possible at-sea transhipments	23/10/2006	2431	Unknown	Unknown	MARIA	NO INFO	FN 003882	NO INFO	NO INFO	UNKN	
20060003	7302548	EU – Vessel suspected to have carried out IUU fishing activities in the Convention area, observed near the port of Shidao (CNSHD) EU (14/10/2022): has strong suspicions that the vessel has been renamed FREEDOM 7 and flies the flag of Cameroon, as indicated by several open databases (TMT IUU list, IMO/GISIS).	EU: 13/06/2019 EU: 14/10/2022	EU: E19-05088 EY: E22-10250	Cameroon	Mongolia: Panama	FREEDOM 7	ZHI MNG: GOLDEN LAKE: NO. 101 GLORIA	JVAW7	INTERA COMPAGNY S.A.	Suite 1203, 12th Floor, Ocean Business Plaza Building, Calle Aguilino de la Guardia y Calle 47 Este, Panama City, Panama		Longline

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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	
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	

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20060011	Not available	EU – Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Honduras	No. 3 CHOYU	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI	
20060012	Not available	EU – Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Honduras	ORIENTE No.7	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI	
20080001	Not available (previously on ICCAT record as AT000GUI00002)	Japan - Bluefin tuna caught and exported without quota	14/11/2008	COC-311/08 and Circular 767/10	Unknown	Rep. of Guinea	DANIAA	CARLOS	3X07QMC	ALPHA CAMARA (Guinean company)	NO INFO	E-ATL or MEDI	Longliner
20080004	Not available (former ICCAT Register number AT000LIB00039)	ICCAT Chairman information	27/06/2008	1226	Unknown	Libya (previously British)	SHARON 1	MANARA 1 (previously POSEIDON)	NO INFO	MANARAT AL SAHIL Fishing Company	AL DAHRS. Ben Walid Street	MEDI	Purse seiner
20080005	Not available (former ICCAT Register number AT000LIB00041)	ICCAT Chairman information	27/06/2008	1226	Unknown	Libya (Previously Isle of Man)	GALA I	MANARA II (previously ROAGAN)	NO INFO	MANARAT AL SAHIL Fishing Company	AL DAHRS. Ben Walid Street	MEDI	Purse seiner
20090001	7826233	IOTC. Contravention of IOTC Resolutions 02/04, 02/05 and 03/05	IOTC 09/03/2020	IOTC: E20-02026	Unknown	Panama: Equatorial Guinea	XING HAI FENG	OCEAN LION	3FWH5	Ocean Lion Shipping SA	Panama City, Panama	IN	

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		Panama: informs that the flag of this vessel was changed from "Panama" to "Unknown" by the IOTC where it had been listed by ICCAT through cross-listing.	PANAMA: 21/10/2022	PANAMA: E22-10518									
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 MELYN 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

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20110012		IATTC	30/08/2011	E11-5762	Unknown	Indonesia	Bhaskara No. 9	Bhaskara No. 9				Pacific Ocean	LL
20110013		IATTC	30/08/2011	E11-5762	Unknown	Belize	Camelot					Pacific Ocean	LL
20110014	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			

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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
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

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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
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		

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20150005	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 01		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150006	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 02		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150007	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 06		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
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		

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20150011	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 13		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150012	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 17		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150013	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 20		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
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		

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20150017	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 30		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150018	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Malaysia	HOOM XIANG 101		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150019	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Malaysia	HOOM XIANG 103		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
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		

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20150023	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	KUANG HSING 196		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150024	7322897	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03 CCAMLR Commission Report (para. 8.20): Sighting 57 (26 Feb 2015) EU (14/10/2022): information should be corrected accordingly with the information retrieved from the CCAMLR IUU Vessel List	IOTC: 09/03/2020 EU : 14/10/2022	IOTC: E20-02026 UE : E22- 10250	Unknown	Indonesia; Unknown; Tanzania; Korea; Panama; Sierra Leone; Korea; Equatorial Guinea; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Uruguay	ASIAN WARRIOR	Kunlun; Taishan; Chang Bai; Hongshui; Hongshui, Huang He 22; Sima Qian; Baru 22; Corvus; Galaxy; Ina Maka; Black Moon; Red Moon; Eolo; Thule; Magnus; Dorita	3CAG 5IM877; 5IM487; 5IM487; HMVF2; 3ESP3; 9LD2176; HMVF2; Unknown; HO3746; CXMX	High Mountain Overseas S.A. (Stanley Management Inc; Rep Line Ventures S.A. Rajan Corporation; Metora 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		

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20150028	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	SHUEN SIANG		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150029	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	SIN SHUN FA 6		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150030	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	SIN SHUN FA 67		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150031	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	SIN SHUN FA 8		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
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		

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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		
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		

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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		
20150047	9042001	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03 CCAMLR Commission Report (para. 8.4): Fishing 58.4.1H (12 Jan 2015) EU (14/10/2022): information should be corrected accordingly with the information retrieved from the CCAMLR IUU Vessel List	IOTC: 09/03/2020 EU: 14/10/2022	IOTC: E20-02026 EU: E22-10250	Unknown	Tanzania; Equatorial Guinea; Indonesia; Unknown; Tanzania; Unknown; Cambodia/ Panama; Sierra Leone; Korea; Togo; Korea; Uruguay	ATLANTIC WIND	Zemour 2; Luampa; Yongding; Jiangfeng; Chengdu; Shaanxi Henan 33; Xiong Nu Baru 33; Draco I / Draco I; Liberty; Chilbo San 33; Hammer; Seo Yang No. 88; Carran	5IM813 3CAE; Inconnu; 5IM403; 5IM479; HMVU8; XUUG8/H 05466; 9LD2177; HMWM5; 5VHR2; 6KBJ; CXAR	High Mountain Overseas S.A.; Redlines Ventures AS; Rajah Corporation; Global Intercontinental Services; Unknown; Viarsa Fishing Company/ Navalmar 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 Kaohsiung; 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		

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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		
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; SUPPHERMNAVE E 21	Unknown (HSN5282)	Unknown / (Marine Renown SARL)	Unknown		

Serial No.	Lloyds/IMO Number	Reporting CPC/RFM0	Date Informed	Reference #	Current Flag	Previous Flag	Name of Vessel (Latin)	Name (Previous)	Call Sign (Previous)	Owner/Operator Name	Owner/Operator Address	Area	Gear
20190001	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	CHOTCHAINAV EE 35		Unknown	Green Laurel International SARL / Master/Patron : Mr Prawit Kerdsuwan			
20190002	7330399	SEAFO (2017): Seen in Yongon 6 Feb 2020; Fishing inside FAO Area 47 in 2016. Investigation initiated by Ecuadorian Fisheries Authority	24/09/2019	E19-09119	Unknown	Illegally Bolivia; (Bolivia, 04/2014); (São Tomé and Príncipe, 01/2014); (Unknown, 06/2013); (South Africa, 04/1998); (Canada, 11/1973)	Cobija	Cape Flower (Cape Wrath)	CPB3000	Unknown (Express Financial Ventures Group Inc.)			
20190003	7036345	CCAMLR: Commission Report (para. 8.20): Sighted 58.4.2 (23 Jan 2004) EU (14/10/2022): information should be corrected accordingly with the information retrieved from the	CCAMLR: 09/03/2020 EU: 14/10/2022	CCAMLR: E20-02026 EU: E22-10250	Unknown	Unknown; Togo; Belize	Amorinn	Iceberg II; Lome; Noemi	5VAN9 (Unknown; V3QW2)	Unknown; Seric Business S.A.; Infitco Ltd (Ocean Star Maritime Co.)			

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<i>Serial No.</i>	<i>Lloyds/IMO Number</i>	<i>Reporting CPC/RFMO</i>	<i>Date Informed</i>	<i>Reference #</i>	<i>Current Flag</i>	<i>Previous Flag</i>	<i>Name of Vessel (Latin)</i>	<i>Name (Previous)</i>	<i>Call Sign (Previous)</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Name</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Address</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>
		CCAMLR IUU Vessel List											
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) EU (14/10/2022): information should be corrected accordingly with the information retrieved from the CCAMLR IUU Vessel List	CCAMLR: 18/06/2021 EU: 14/10/2022	CCAMLR: E21-05716 EU: E22-10250	Unknown	Tanzania, Nigeria; Unknown; Mongolia; Togo; Sierra Leone	Baroon	Lana; Zeus; Triton I	5IM376 (5NVA; 5VZS5; 9LYC09)	Vero Shipping Corporation (Punta Brava Fishing SA.)			
20190006	6622642	CCAMLR Commission Report (para. 9.11): Sighted 58.4.3b (08 Feb 2008) EU (14/10/2022): information should be corrected accordingly with the information retrieved from the CCAMLR IUU Vessel List	CCAMLR: 09/03/2020 EU: 14/10/2022	CCAMLR: E20-02026 EU: E22-10250	Unknown Equatorial Guinea	Unknown United Kingdom	Challenge	Perseverance; Mila	H05381 (3CM2190; ZDLV1)	Advantage Company S.A.; (Mar de Neptuno 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) EU (14/10/2022): information should be corrected accordingly with the information retrieved from the CCAMLR IUU Vessel List	CCAMLR: 09/03/2020 EU: 14/10/2022	CCAMLR: E20-02026 EU: E22-10250	Unknown	Sierra Leone; Belize; Unknown; Equatorial Guinea, South Africa	Jinzhang	Hai Lung; Yele; Ray; Kily; Constant; Tropic; Isla Graciosa	PQBT V3RB2; Unknown; 3CM2191; ZR6204)	Belfast Global S.A.; Vidal Armadores S.A.; Nalanza S.A.; Arniston Fish Processors Pty Ltd.)			
20190009	7322926	CCAMLR Commission Report (para. 8.3): Fishing 57 (29 Jul 2005)	09/03/2020	E20-02026	Unknown	Unknown	Heavy Sea	Duero; Julius; Keta; Sherpa Uno	3ENF8	Barroso Fish S.A. (Metora Shipping Inc.; Meteroros Shipping; Muner S.A.; C & S Fisheries S.A.)			
20190010	7905443	CCAMLR Commission Report (para.9.1 & 9.9): Sighted 58.4.1 (15 Feb 2011)	09/03/2020	E20-02026	Iran, Islamic Republic of	Unknown	Koosha 4	EGUZKIA	9BQK	Pars Paya Seyd Industrial Fish			

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20190011	7388267	CCAMLR Commission Report (para. 8.20): Sighted 58.4.3b (25 Jan 2007)	09/03/2020	E20-02026	Unknown	Unknown	Limpopo	Ross; Alos; Lena; Cap George; Conbaroya; Tercero	Unknown	Alos Company Ghana Ltd (Lena Enterprises Ltd; Grupo Oya Perez (Kang Brothers))			
20190012	8808903	CCAMLR Commission Report (para. 3.49): Supporting IUU-listed vessels (03 Mar 2016)	09/03/2020	E20-02026	Angola	Unknown	Northern Warrior	Millennium; Sip 3	PJSA	Orkiz Agro-Pecuaria, Pescas, Transportes E Comercio Geral, Limitada (South Atlantic Fishing NV; Snoek Wholesalers; Areapesca 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.			

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										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		
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		

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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) EU (14/10/2022): noted that NEAFC, which listed the vessel in first instance, is indicating that this vessel flag is UNKNOWN https://www.neafc.org/iuulist/maine , as well as all the other RFMOs cross-listing this vessel (GFCM, IOTC, NAFO, SEAFO, SIOFA).	SEAFO: 24/09/2019 EU: 14/10/2022	SEAFO: E19-09119 EU: E22-10250	Unknown	Guinea Conakry Unknown	LABIKO	Claude Moinier; Maine	Unknown (3XL2)	Unknown	Unknown		
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		

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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: AT000VUT00017; 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: AT000SEN00031)	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

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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
20200012	4000354 (as per http://uvicolombia.org/#)	EU : suspects this vessel, may be engaging in fishing activities in ICCAT Convention Area. Believed by Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) this vessel without nationality, to be flagged or previously flagged to Tanzania (See Doc. COC-312/2020)	02/09/2020	E20-09219	Unknown	Tanzania	Haleluya		5IM615	Imanely SAS / NIT: 900076756 / Reg No.: 21591712 / Status: Active / Country: Colombia Mr. Chin Tien Chen / ID n°: 3264069 / Chinese Taipei	Barrio Bosque Transversal 52, No 21A-62, Cartagena de Indias, Colombia		LL
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		

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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
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; 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

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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
20210009	Not available	SIOFA: Engaged in fishing for fishery resources in the Agreement Area and are not on the SEAFO Record of Authorized Vessels	E21-11113	26/11/2021	Unknown		ABISHAK PUTHA 3	Unknown	4SFXXXX	Unknown	Unknown		
20210010	8025082	CCAMLR: Fishing inside a closed area (Subarea 58.7) (26 May - 8 Aug 2015 and 6 May - 22 Jun 2016) (26 May 2015)	E21-10355	02/11/2021	South Africa		EL SHADDAI	BANZARE	ZR6358	Braxton Security Services CC			
20220001	Not available	IOTC: Vessel marked with vessel name only. IOTC license: No record found under vessel name; No fishing gear marked. Illegal fishing; without a license; IOTC species caught: Swordfish (<i>Xiphias gladius</i>).	E22-04753	09/06/2022	India		AVEMARIYA	Unknown	Unknown			Indian Ocean	
20220002	Not available	IOTC: Illegal fishing; without a license. IOTC license: No record found under vessel name - unauthorised fishing in IOTC waters.	E22-04753	09/06/2022	India		LITTLESHA	Unknown	Unknown			Indian Ocean	

<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>
20220003	Not available	IOTC: The vessel entered into the French EEZ but did not give proper notice of entry and did not report the quantity of fish on-board. The vessel was caught having catches taken inside French waters.	E22-04753	09/06/2022	Sri Lanka		MANGALA	Unknown	Unknown	PMMN CHATHURANGA / WAR FERNANDO	05, PALAYOOTHU ROAD, TRINDO / 214, IHALA MAHAWEWA, MAHAHWEWA	Indian Ocean	
20220004	Not available	IOTC: Illegal fishing; without a license. IOTC license: No record found under vessel name - unauthorised fishing in IOTC waters	E22-04753	09/06/2022	India		NOVA	Unknown	Unknown			Indian Ocean	
20220005	Not available	IOTC: Illegal fishing; without a license. IOTC license: No record found under vessel name - unauthorised fishing in IOTC waters.	E22-04753	09/06/2022	India		YONA	Unknown	Unknown			Indian Ocean	

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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
20220006	9038402	SENEGAL: Illegal transshipments and collection of products at sea / Suspicions of transshipping activity and collection of species managed by ICCAT at sea in 2020 (26 May-30 June 2020). EU: Engage in fishing or fishing related activities contrary to any other ICCAT conservation and management measures	SENEGAL: E22-04298 EU: E22-08338	28/05/2022 05/09/2022	Unknown or The Gambia (to be confirmed by The Gambia)	Senegal	LUCAS	MAXIMUS	C5J128 (6WMS)	HSIN FEI TRADING INVESTMENT COMPANY dite NATIC SARL	6 rue Malan x 22 Bd Djily mbaye BP 22288 - DAKAR PONTY		
20220008	7929176	EU: Engaged in fishing or fishing related activities contrary to any other ICCAT conservation and management measures	E22-08338	05/09/2022	The Gambia or unknown. (To be confirmed by The Gambia)	Senegal	KIKI	LISBOA	C5J130 (6WMP)	Previous: HSIN FEI TRADING INVESTMENT COMPANY dite NATIC SARL Current: (to be confirmed by The Gambia)	Previous: 6 rue Malan x 22 Bd Djily mbaye BP 22288 - DAKAR PONTY Current: (To be confirmed by The Gambia)	AO	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 draft IUU list in 2022

In the framework of the implementation of Paragraph 11 of Rec. 21-13
Intersessional incorporation of IUU Vessel Lists of other RFMOs

The nine RFMOs and their IUU Vessel Lists, contemplated by Rec. 21-13 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 2022 IUU Vessel Lists' cross-listing carried out and updates/changes made

<i>All nine RFMOs</i>	<i>Incorporation to ICCAT IUU List</i>	<i>Removal from ICCAT IUU List</i>	<i>Some changes in ICCAT IUU List from the other lists or following new information communicated by CPCs (in database)</i>	<i>No changes or minor rectifications</i>	<i>Total of actions</i>
Total	10	1	9	122	141

The ICCAT 2022 Draft IUU Vessel List should include 141 vessels.

Information for the ICCAT IUU Vessels List in 2022

A. Regarding the IUU vessels addressed by ICCAT by cross-listing from IUU lists from other RFMOs (para. 11 of Rec. 21-13):

1. There have been two IUU vessels added to the ICCAT IUU Vessel List by cross-listing from other RFMOs: the first from SEAFO (E21-11113 on 26/11/2021) and the second from CCAMLR (E21-10355 on 02/11/2021).

ICCAT IUU ID	VesselName	FlagVesID	GearID	IRCS	IMONo
20210009	ABISHAK PUTHA 3	Unclassified	0	4SFXXXX	Unknown
20210010	EL SHADDAI	South Africa	0	ZR6358	8025082

2. There was one IUU Vessel, namely “EROS DOS/IMO# 8604668”, promptly removed from the ICCAT IUU List (IUU Serial Number: 20200002), with the following additional information from NEAFC (E22-00564 on 25/01/2022): “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) || This vessel was originally listed by NEAFC and as the originating RFMO, NEAFC decided to remove the vessel from the NEAFC IUU B list as agreed by the 2021 Annual Meeting, as the vessel had been scrapped”.
3. There have been five IUU vessels added to the ICCAT IUU Vessel List by cross-listing following communication from IOTC, received by ICCAT on 09/06/2022 (E22-04753). These are: AVEMARIYA, LITTLESHA, MANGALA, NOVA, and YONA, with ICCAT SNs assigned: 20220001, 20220002, 20220003, 20220004, and 20220005, respectively.
4. Following a request, on 22 April 2022 (E22-03168), from the EU since the publication of the final IUU list, there has been a correction to the chronological order of the previous names of the IUU and their respective previous flags, as suggested by the EU in the case of those cross-listed from CCAMLR, namely AMORINN (ICCAT IUU SN.: 20190003), BAROON (ICCAT IUU SN.: 20190005), and, JINZHAG (ICCAT IUU SN.: 20190008), and available on the ICCAT website: <https://www.iccat.int/en/IUUlist.html>
5. Exchanges with NEAFC and SEAFO (with which ICCAT cross-lists according to Rec. 18-08/21-13) which resulted in that IUU vessel “LABIKO / ICCAT SN.: 20200005” has had several updates/changes over the last months, but one of its previous names (CLAUDE MOINIER) has seemingly been removed from the current NEAFC IUU List (bearing in mind that SEAFO confirmed that it did cross-list it from NEAFC) and that NEAFC is currently checking this further. Looking at the current information, as it has been published by different RFMOs, with regard to LABIKO, there is no doubt that its Flag has been changed to “UNKNOWN”, however it is not yet clear from which Flag (from REP. of GUINEA or from REP. of TANZANIA) with a previous name recently added as “CHEVALIER d’ASSAS”. We strongly believe that before making any changes in the ICCAT IUU database, further clarifications are required, for which the Secretariat is currently in contact with the relevant RFMOs.

Following further informal exchanges during June 2022, by mail and also through TCN Basecamp, with NEAFC, IOTC, and SIOFA, it looks like there may be a problem regarding this IUU vessel, as IOTC's response mentions the following text: "As you will note the record from SIOFA was kept over that of SEAFO", however if the Secretariat understands correctly, ICCAT was not supposed to cross reference from RFMOs with which it does not cross reference (i.e. the information from SIOFA should be appended but not incorporated into the IUU List), therefore ICCAT should really be using the "SEAFO/NEAFC"- information, and this will surely cause discrepancies among the various RFMOs IUU Vessels Lists and increase confusion. Considering this, the Secretariat brought this issue to the attention of the 2022 IMM seeking guidance when such cases occur.

B. In addition to the above, during 2022, there have been issues related to ICCAT's Final IUU List which are those related to the following IUU vessels:

Question	ICCAT IUU ID	Lloyds/IMO#	Name of Vessel (Latin)	Current Flag	Gear	Area
1	20130013	Unknown	SAMUDERA PASIFIK NO. 18	Indonesia	LL	Atl. Ocean
2	20200011	8529533	HALIFAX	Namibia	L	Atl. Ocean
3	20210006	8004076	ISRAR 1	Oman	LL	Indian Ocean
3	20210007	8568694	ISRAR 2	Oman	LL	Indian Ocean
3	20210008	8568682	ISRAR 3	Oman	LL	Indian Ocean

1. Indonesia requested the delisting of its vessel "SAMUDERA PASIFIK NO. 18" (E22-03137) (22/04/2022), however the EU and the USA objected to this. Indonesia has been informed of this for a possible change of Flag to "Unknown" with the necessary supporting documents. Indonesia has not yet brought forward any additional information.
 2. Namibia had requested the delisting of its vessel "HALIFAX" (previous "MARIO 11/ IMO 8529533" of Senegal) (E21-09607) (05/10/2021). The Secretariat is still awaiting a response from Namibia with the additional information requested by the EU and the United States regarding the number of shares and duration of operation of the company, which owns this vessel, as well as any additional explanations that Namibia would like to provide regarding the issues raised by these two CPCs. The last ICCAT Circulars regarding this issue were #6314 and #6364 sent out on 19/08/2022 and 23/08/2022, respectively.
 3. So far, no response has been received from the Sultanate of Oman to the Secretariat's series of notifications/reminders (October 2021 – June 2022), following the inclusion in ICCAT's IUU List of its three LL vessels in 2021 by the EU on 08/10/2021, other than the information sent to IOTC objecting to their inclusion on the IOTC list (cross-listed from ICCAT).
- C. Regarding the two vessels included by ICCAT as communicated by some ICCAT CPCs (para. 2 of Rec. 21-13):**
1. Correspondence from Senegal on 28/05/2022 (E22-04298): the Secretariat circulated the request for inclusion in the ICCAT Draft IUU Vessel List of "MAXIMUS / NatRegNo.: DAK-1274 / IMO 9038402 /IRCS: 6WMS", in Circular #3755 of 03/06/2022. No objections have been received by the deadline (05/09/2022). This potential IUU vessel has been assigned ICCAT IUU No. 20220006.
 2. Correspondence from the European Union on 05/09/2022 (E22-08338), the Secretariat circulated the request for inclusion in the ICCAT Draft IUU Vessel List of "LUCAS / ex-MAXIMUS / IRCS: C5J128 (6WMS) / IMO 9038402", forwarded to The Gambia and Senegal by ICCAT letters (08/09/2022, n° 06807 and 06808, respectively). As of the day of drafting this ICCAT Draft IUU Vessels List, there have been no responses from these two CPCs. This potential IUU vessel has been assigned the ICCAT IUU No. 20220006 (Senegal supported by the EU).

3. Correspondence from the European Union on 05/09/2022 (E22-08338), for inclusion in the ICCAT Draft IUU Vessel List of “KIKI / ex-LISBOA / IRCS: C5J130 (6WMP) / IMO 7929176”, which was forwarded to The Gambia and Senegal by ICCAT Letters (08/09/2022, No. 06807 and 06808, respectively). As of the day of drafting this ICCAT Draft IUU Vessels List, there have been no responses from these two CPCs. This potential IUU vessel has been assigned ICCAT IUU No. 20220008.
- D. Regarding other communications from ICCAT CPCs and TMT information:**
1. Correspondence from Colombia on 26/09/2022 (E22-09471), requesting the removal of IUU vessel “HALELUYA / ICCAT IUU SN: 20200012” from the ICCAT Final IUU Vessels List. This correspondence from Colombia “*S-DIESA-22-23895 Caso buque Haleluya*”, is attached herein. This IUU vessel should be discussed at the 2022 PWG (November 2022).
 2. IMO numbers (attached herein) available in TM Tracking as provided in <https://www.iuu-vessels.org/>. The 2022 PWG should decide whether these IMOs be changed in the ICCAT IUU database.
- E. Regarding the communications from ICCAT CPCs following review of the 2022 Draft IUU List of Vessels (Circulars No. 7863 and 8158):**
1. Following the comments and instructions from the EU, on 14 October 2022 (E22-10250), in response to Circular No. S22-08158 on the Draft ICCAT List of IUU Vessels, updates have been made to the eight IUU vessels below, according to the existing information in the List of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) for the first six and based on the EU observations for the last two:
 - ASIAN WARRIOR (ICCAT IUU serial number: 20150024),
 - ATLANTIC WIND (ICCAT IUU serial number: 20150047),
 - AMORRIN (ICCAT IUU serial number: 20190003),
 - BAROON (ICCAT IUU serial number: 20190005),
 - CHALLENGE (ICCAT IUU serial number: 20190006)
 - JINZHANG (ICCAT IUU serial number: 20190008),
 - FREEDOM 7 (ex- ZHI MING; ICCAT IUU serial number: 20060003) and
 - LABIKO (ICCAT IUU serial number: 20200005).
 2. Panama has requested that the flag of the vessel XING HAI FENG / IMO 7826233/ ICCAT IUU Serial Number: 200900001 be changed from "PANAMA" to "Unknown", as has been done by the IOTC where it had been listed by ICCAT, in 2009, by cross-listing. The supporting documents of this request were attached (Annex 1 to 5) to the email from Panama of 21 October 2022 (E22-10518), attached.



Madrid, 3 June 2022

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 3755 / 2022

SUBJECT: INFORMATION FOR INCLUSION OF A SENEGALESE VESSEL IN THE DRAFT ICCAT IUU LIST

I should like to transmit herewith the information on the Senegalese vessel *MAXIMUS* / DAK-1274 / IMO 9038402 /IRCS: 6WMS / AT000SEN00028, as submitted by Senegal in accordance with paragraph 2 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on establishing a list of vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities* (Rec. 18-08/21-13).

The information on this vessel and its IUU fishing activities was submitted by Senegal on 28 May 2022, through the form contained in Addendum 1 of that Recommendation (attached).

If any CPC has additional information on the IUU activities of this vessel that should be included in the draft list, you are requested to transmit it to the Secretariat as soon as possible and no later than **5 September 2022**.

This vessel will be included in the draft ICCAT IUU vessels list for 2022 which will subsequently be disseminated by the Secretariat as stipulated in paragraph 3 of Rec. 18-08/21-13.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary



Camille Jean Pierre Manel

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- Head Delegates

- Cooperating Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities

Attachment: Information submitted by Senegal [ICCAT Entrada E22-04298 of 28 May 2022].

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	MAXIMUS (DAK-1274, AT000SEN00028)
B	Flag and previous flags	Senegal (previous flag)
C	Owner and previous owners, including beneficial owner	HSIN FEI AND INVEST CO LTD (previous owner)
D	Owner's place of registration	Current place unknown. Previous owner in Senegal.
E	Operator and previous operators	
F	Call sign and previous call signs	6WMS
G	IMO number	9038402
H	Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI), or, if not applicable, any other vessel identifier	
I	Length overall	52.99
J	Photographs	
K	Date first included on the ICCAT IUU list	None.
L	Date of alleged IUU fishing activities	May to June 2020.
M	Position of alleged IUU fishing activities	High seas.
N	Summary of alleged IUU activities (see also section B)	Illegal transshipments and collection of products at sea
O	Summary of any actions known to have been taken in response to the activities	Removal from the ICCAT list of authorised vessels, removal from the national flag of Senegal
P	Outcome of any actions taken	
Q	Other relevant information, as appropriate (e.g., possible false flags or vessel names used, <i>modus operandi</i> , etc.)	

B. Details of alleged IUU activity

(Indicate with an "X" the applicable elements of the activity and provide relevant details including date, location, source of information. Extra information can be provided in an attachment if necessary.)

Rec. 21-13 para 1	Vessel fished for species covered by the ICCAT Convention within the Convention area and:	Indicate and provide details
a	Harvest tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention area and are not registered on the relevant ICCAT list of vessels authorized to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention area	
b	Harvest tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention area, and the vessel's whose flag State is without quotas, catch limit or effort allocation under relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures	
c	Do not record or report their catches made in the ICCAT Convention area, or make false reports	
d	Take or land undersized fish in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures	
e	Fish during closed fishing periods or in closed areas in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures	
f	Use prohibited fishing gear or fishing methods in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures	
g	Transship or participate in other operations, such as re-supplying or re-fueling, with vessels included in the IUU vessels list;	X Suspicions of transshipping activity and collection of species managed by ICCAT at sea in 2020 (26 May-30 June 2020).
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	

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS



COMMISSION
CONSERVATION D

ICCAT SALIDA
22-07-02
S-22-4737

COMISION INTERNACIONAL PARA LA
CONSERVACION DEL ATUN ATLANTICO

Madrid, 1 July 2022

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 4737 / 2022

SUBJECT: INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM PANAMA ON IUU ACTIVITIES OF THE QIAN YUAN

Please find attached a letter from the Acting General Administrator of the Aquatic Marine Resource of Panama informing the Commission of Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported activities of the Panamanian-flagged vessel **Qian Yuan** (IMO number 8819691).

As requested by Panama, I should like to call on all Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities to refrain from engaging in any activities with this vessel. Should any CPC have any information on recent activities of this vessels, we should appreciate your informing the Secretariat as soon as possible.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary



Camille Jean Pierre Manel

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– **Head Delegates**

– **Cooperating Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities**

Attachment: Letter from Panama (ICCAT Entrada E22-5692, dated 1 July 2022).

ICCAT-ENTRADA
2022-07-01
E22-05692



MINISTERIO DE
DESARROLLO AGROPECUARIO

AUTORIDAD DE LOS RECURSOS
ACUÁTICOS DE PANAMÁ

**AQUATIC RESOURCES AUTHORITY OF PANAMA
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE**

Panama, June 30th, 2022.
AG-611-2022

To Honorable
Camille Jean Pierre Manel
Executive Secretary
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, ICCAT.

Dear Mr. Manel:

The Republic of Panama, through the Aquatic Resources Authority, respectfully addresses you in order to inform that, the refrigerated cargo vessel **QIAN YUAN**, with IMO number **8819691**, call sign **H3YK** and owned by **GINSIL HOLDING GROUP LIMITED**, with international fishing license of activities related to fishing number 04-105-6063-252-979, has been suspended since May 4th, 2022, and subsequent suspension before the different RFMOs where she was registered; As a result of an administrative sanctioning process before this Authority, through final resolution, the vessel has been sanctioned for contravening our national laws, and carrying out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities.

According to our IUU Protocol, this Authority in coordination with the Panama Maritime Authority as an asset restraint measure preventing the vessel from being cancelled from the registry (Panamanian flag) and the transference of ownership; however, despite the efforts to conclude this sanctioning proceeding, in our investigations we have noticed that the said vessel continued to be engaged in transshipping operations after this administration suspended the fishing related activities license.

Therefore, we request your contribution in transmitting CPC and CNCP members of the Commission to not allow this vessel to continue with fishing related activities, discharge any products or receive services at sea in your regulated body waters because they are related to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities. We really appreciate if you have related information that you can provide to this Authority and please, kindly proceed to circulate this document among the Commission members.

I take this opportunity to reiterate the assurances of my highest esteem and distinguished consideration.

Yours sincerely,

CARLOS CASTRO
Acting General Administrator



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EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES
International Ocean Governance and Sustainable Fisheries
The Acting Director

Brussels,
MARE/B2/AM/Ares

Mr Camille Jean Pierre Manel
Executive Secretary
International Commission for the
Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
(ICCAT)

Subject: Recommendation 21-13 – ICCAT: IUU vessels list

Dear Mr. Manel,

The EU would like to submit to the ICCAT Secretariat the attached comments in relation to the ICCAT List of Vessels presumed to have carried out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities ('IUU vessels list').

Firstly, pursuant to Recommendation 21-13 (paragraph 2), please find the attached information on a vessel presumed to have carried out IUU fishing activities in the ICCAT Convention area (Annex 1 – vessel LISBOA).


Secondly, you will find the attached addendum to Circular #3755/2022. In reference to the latter, Senegal has already proposed the IUU listing of vessel MAXIMUS through the latter Circular. Hereby, the EU would like to provide further information in relation to this vessel and its activities (Annex 2 – vessel Maximus).

Yours sincerely,

Anders C. JESSEN
Head of the EU Delegation to
ICCAT

Annexes: Annex 1 (vessel Lisboa) and Annex 2 (vessel Maximus)

Commission européenne/Europese Commissie, 1049 Bruxelles/Brussel, BELGIQUE/BELGIË - Tel. +32 22991111

 Electronically signed on 05/09/2022 17:37 (UTC+02) in accordance with Article 11 of Commission Decision (EU) 2021/2121

Annex 1

ICCAT reporting form for IUU activity

Pursuant to paragraph 2 of Recommendation 21-13, attached are the details of the alleged IUU activity and the available vessel information.

Except otherwise mentioned, information on the vessels particulars, history and ownership is based on data available in the ICCAT Record of Authorised Vessels (<https://www.iccat.int/fr/VesselsRecord.asp>), in the IMO Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS), in the FAO Global Record (<https://www.fao.org/global-record/information-system/en/>) and the IHS Maritime database (<http://maritime.ihs.com/>)

A. Details of vessel

(Please detail information on the vessel and the incidents(s) in the format below, where such information is applicable and available)

Item		Available Information
A	Name of vessel and previous names	Current name: KIKI Name at the time of the IUU activity described in this form: LISBOA
B	Flag and previous flags	Current flag: The Gambia or unknown. To be confirmed by The Gambia Flag at the time of the IUU activity described in this form: Senegal
C	Owner and previous owners, including beneficial owner	Current owner : to be confirmed by The Gambia The EU has received information suggesting that the owner of the vessel would now be a company called Bay-Route Shipping. Absence of connection with the previous owner would need to be demonstrated by The Gambia. Owner at the time of the IUU activity described in this form: HSIN FEI TRADING INVESTMENT COMPANY dite NATIC SARL DAKAR PONTY 6 rue Malan x 22 Bd Djily mbaye BP 22288
D	Owner's place of registration	To be clarified by The Gambia

Annex 1

E	Operator and previous operators	Current operator: unknown. To be clarified by The Gambia. Operator at the time of the IUU activity described in this form: HSIN FEI TRADING INVESTMENT COMPANY dite NATIC SARL DAKAR PONTY 6 rue Malan x 22 Bd Djily mbaye BP 22288
F	Call sign and previous call signs	C5J130 Call sign at the time of the IUU activity described in this form: 6WMP
G	IMO number	7929176
H	Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI), or, if not applicable, any other vessel identifier	ICCAT Serial Number : AT000SENO0029
I	Length overall	43 meters according to the FAO Global Record. Other sources refer to 45.45 meters. To be confirmed by The Gambia
J	Photographs	Should be available from the current and previous Flag State
K	Date first included on the ICCAT IUU list	N/A
L	Date of alleged IUU fishing activities	Year 2020
M	Position of alleged IUU fishing activities	ICCAT Convention Area
N	Summary of alleged IUU activities (see also section B)	Exceeding the annual quota of albacore tuna allocated to Senegal. According to catch certificates validated by Senegal for export to the EU ¹ , the vessel caught and landed in 2020 at least 579 tons of albacore tuna, subsequently exported to the EU. This catch of 579 tons exceeds by 141,25% the total annual quota allocated to Senegal in ICCAT (240 tons). The EU cannot exclude either that part of this albacore tuna stems from illegal transshipments at sea in the Convention area (FV LISBOA was not registered as an authorized carrier in 2020).

¹ EU Regulation No 1005/2008 of 29 September 2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing – Article 12 and 20. Certificates available upon request to the EU if necessary.

Annex 1

O	Summary of any actions known to have been taken in response to the activities	The EU was not able to receive from Senegal clear information on actions taken in response to the activities, nor to collect evidence that Senegal took sanctions of adequate severity. See details in section B.
P	Outcome of any actions taken	To be clarified by Senegal
Q	Other relevant information, as appropriate (e.g., possible false flags or vessel names used, <i>modus operandi</i> , etc.)	This vessel is currently not in the ICCAT Record of authorized vessels, and there is no information on its activities since November 2020. Information received from The Gambia points to the fact that the vessel has been in Dakar for at least part of the period November 2020 – March 2022. Further clarification on its location and activities throughout the period November 2020-September 2022 would be needed from The Gambia and Senegal.

B. Details of alleged IUU activity

(Indicate with an "X" the applicable elements of the activity and provide relevant details including date, location, source of information. Extra information can be provided in an attachment if necessary.)

Rec. 21-13 para. 1	Vessel fished for species covered by the ICCAT Convention within the Convention area and:	Indicate and provide details
a	Harvest tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention area and are not registered on the relevant ICCAT list of vessels authorized to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention	
b	Harvest tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention area, and the vessel's whose flag State is without quotas, catch limit or effort allocation under relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures	
c	Do not record or report their catches made in the ICCAT Convention area, or make false reports	
d	Take or land undersized fish in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures	
e	Fish during closed fishing periods or in closed areas in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures	
f	Use prohibited fishing gear or fishing methods in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures	
g	Transship with, or participate in other joint operations, such as re-supplying or re-fueling, with vessels included in the IUU vessels list	
h	Harvest tuna or tuna-like species in the waters under the national jurisdiction of the coastal States in the Convention area without authorization and/ or infringes on that State's laws and regulations, without prejudice to the sovereign rights of coastal States to take measures against such vessels	

Annex 1

i	Are without nationality and harvest tunas or tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention area	
j	Engage in fishing or fishing related activities contrary to any other ICCAT conservation and management measures	X

j) Engage in fishing or fishing related activities contrary to any other ICCAT conservation and management measures

On the basis of the EU catch certificates validated by Senegal for export to the EU², a minimum of 579 tons of albacore tuna (*thunnus alalunga*) have been caught by the sole fishing vessel LISBOA in 2020. The EU cannot exclude that additional catches were exported to other markets³. Further clarifications from Senegal on total quantities landed by the vessel in 2020 (all species) would be needed.

In accordance with ICCAT Recommendations 16-06 and 16-07, Senegal total albacore tuna quota for 2020 was 240 tons (215 tons for Northern-albacore, and 25 tons for Southern-albacore). Therefore, the annual quota allocated to Senegal has been overshoot by a minimum of 141,25% by the sole fishing vessel LISBOA.

The EU notes that there is also no indication that these catches (officially certified as legal by Senegal in the EU catch certificates associated to these exports) were reported to ICCAT⁴.

The EU finally notes that there are reasons to suspect that this vessel followed the same pattern of activity as the vessel MAXIMUS, and therefore it cannot be excluded that part of this albacore tuna stems from illegal transshipments at sea in the Convention area (FV LISBOA was not registered as an authorized carrier in 2020).

As regards actions taken by Senegal in response to the activities, the EU notes the following:

- The validation of EU catch certificates by Senegal confirm that these illegal activities were not detected by Senegal at the time they occurred, neither upon landing in Dakar.
- In a bilateral exchange with the EU (August 2022) Senegal mentions the following actions:

- i) deregistration of the vessel in November 2020. However, the deregistration certificate states that the deregistration was requested by the company in October 2020 and the EU is not aware of any report of IUU activities sent by Senegal to ICCAT on this vessel. The EU also notes that catch certificates confirming the legality of the catches were validated as late as 27 August 2020 by Senegal, and that there was no attempt by Senegal to recall these catches or inform the EU that they were illegal in the following months. There is consequently no evidence that the deregistration of the vessel was a sanction.

The EU further observes that the deregistration of an IUU vessel before effective financial sanctions are taken is actually allowing the operator of the vessel to escape real sanctions and resume under another flag the IUU activities of the vessel. The EU specifically notes, in that respect, that it did not collect any evidence that Senegal took sanctions addressing benefits made through these IUU activities.

- ii) withdrawal of the "agrément" of the company as of 9 August 2022. The exact consequences of this suspension are unclear to the EU, which specifically remarks that as of 01.09.2022 the company still has a vessel with active authorizations in the ICCAT Record of Authorised vessels (vessel

² EU Regulation No 1005/2008 of 29 September 2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing - Article 12 and 20. Certificates available upon request to the EU if necessary.

³ Quantities in the EU catch certificates (579 tons in total) are only the ones exported to the EU.

⁴ No mention of albacore tuna catches by Senegal in Doc. No. COC_304-C / 2021 (C), dated 22 November 2021.

Annex 1

DIAMALAYE 1909, ICCAT Serial Number AT0005EN00023). The EU also notes that this suspension was only decided in August 2022, while the infringement dates back to 2020 and whereas this company was also the owner of the IUU listed vessel MARIO 11 (IUU listed by ICCAT since November 2020).

Annex 2

Note in relation to ICCAT Circular N°3755/2022

The ICCAT Executive Secretariat circulated in June the request made by Senegal to include the vessel MAXIMUS in the ICCAT IUU vessel list, and the information provided by Senegal in relation to the vessel and the IUU activities it engaged in (Circular N°3755/2022).

The European Union (EU) takes note of this IUU listing request, but considers that it is not up to date (the vessel at the time of the request was named LUCAS and flying the flag of The Gambia) and not complete, as it does not reflect all the IUU activities carried out by this vessel.

CPCs and the ICCAT Executive Secretariat will find below an amended version of the tables provided by Senegal, based on the information currently available to the EU and complementing the one already sent by Senegal (**in bold** = new information or requests added by the EU).

A. Details of vessel

(Please detail information on the vessel and the incidents(s) in the format below, where such information is applicable and available)

Item		Available Information
A	Name of vessel and previous names	<p>Current name: LUCAS</p> <p>Name at the time of the IUU activity described in this form: MAXIMUS</p>
B	Flag and previous flags	<p>Current flag: The Gambia or unknown. To be confirmed by The Gambia</p> <p>Flag at the time of the IUU activity described in this form: Senegal</p>
C	Owner and previous owners, including beneficial owner	<p>Current owner : to be confirmed by The Gambia</p> <p>The EU has received information suggesting that the owner of the vessel would now be a company called Bay-Route Shipping. Absence of connection with the previous owner would need to be demonstrated by The Gambia.</p> <p>Owner at the time of the IUU activity described in this form:</p> <p>HSIN FEI TRADING INVESTMENT COMPANY dite NATIC SARL DAKAR PONTY 6 rue Malan x 22 Bd Djily mbaye BP 22288</p>

D	Owner's place of registration	To be clarified by The Gambia
E	Operator and previous operators	Current operator: unknown. To be clarified by The Gambia Operator at the time of the IUU activity described in this form: to be clarified by Senegal
F	Call sign and previous call signs	C5J128 Call sign at the time of the IUU activity described in this form: 6WMS
G	IMO number	9038402
H	Unique Vessel Identifier (UVI), or, if not applicable, any other vessel identifier	ICCAT Serial Number: AT000SEN00028
I	Length overall	56.2 m according to the FAO Global Record 52.99 according to request made by Senegal To be clarified by The Gambia
J	Photographs	Should be available from the current and previous Flag State
K	Date first included on the ICCAT IUU list	N/A
L	Date of alleged IUU fishing activities	May to June 2020, with possible extension to the entire period January 2020 - September 2020 The EU requests that Senegal provides the details of all species landed by this vessel from January 2020 to September 2020, since the fraud identified by the EU for the period May-June 2020 is highly likely to have been repeated throughout the period January 2020 - September 2020.
M	Position of alleged IUU fishing activities	ICCAT Convention Area (high seas)
N	Summary of alleged IUU activities (see also section B)	Illegal transshipments and collection of products at sea Or / and Exceeding the total annual Northern swordfish quota allocated to Senegal (see details in Section B)

O	Summary of any actions known to have been taken in response to the activities	<p>Request sent by Senegal refers to removal from the ICCAT list of authorised vessels and removal from the national flag of Senegal.</p> <p>The EU notes that the deregistration certificate bilaterally received from Senegal states that the deregistration was requested <u>by the company</u> in September 2020, and the EU is not aware of any report of IUU activities sent by Senegal to ICCAT on this vessel before the EU raised in 2021 the issue of fraudulent swordfish exports to the EU. The EU also notes that catch certificates confirming the legality of the catches were validated in July 2020 by Senegal, and that there was no attempt by Senegal to recall these catches or inform the EU that they were illegal in the following months. There is consequently no evidence that the deregistration of the vessel was a sanction.</p> <p>The EU further observes that the deregistration of an IUU vessel before effective financial sanctions are taken is actually allowing the operator of the vessel to escape real sanctions and resume under another Flag the IUU activities of the vessel. The EU specifically notes, in that respect, that it did not collect any evidence that Senegal took sanctions addressing benefits made through these IUU activities.</p>
P	Outcome of any actions taken	To be clarified by Senegal
Q	Other relevant information, as appropriate (e.g., possible false flags or vessel names used, <i>modus operandi</i> , etc.)	<p>This vessel is currently <u>not</u> in the ICCAT Record of authorized vessels, and there is no information on its activities since November 2020.</p> <p>Information received from The Gambia points to the fact that the vessel has been in Dakar for at least part of the period November 2020 - March 2022. Further clarification on its location and activities throughout the period November 2020- September 2022 would be needed from The Gambia and Senegal.</p>

B. Details of alleged IUU activity

(Indicate with an "X" the applicable elements of the activity and provide relevant details including date, location, source of information. Extra information can be provided in an attachment if necessary.)

Rec. 21-13 para. 1	Vessel fished for species covered by the ICCAT Convention within the Convention area and:	Indicate and provide details
a	Harvest tunas and tuna-like species in the Convention area are not registered on the relevant ICCAT list of vessels authorized to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention area	
b	Harvest tuna and tuna-like species in the Convention area, and the vessel's whose flag State is without quotas, catch limit or effort allocation under relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures	

c	Do not record or report their catches made in the ICCAT Convention area, or make false reports	
d	Take or land undersized fish in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures	
e	Fish during closed fishing periods or in closed areas in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures	
f	Use prohibited fishing gear or fishing methods in contravention of ICCAT conservation measures	
g	Transship with, or participate in other joint operations, such as re-supplying or re-fueling, with vessels included in the IUU vessels list	X
h	Harvest tuna or tuna-like species in the waters under the national jurisdiction of the coastal States in the Convention area without authorization and/ or infringes on that State's laws and regulations, without prejudice to the sovereign rights of coastal States to take measures against such vessels	
i	Are without nationality and harvest tunas or tuna-like species in the ICCAT Convention area	
j	Engage in fishing or fishing related activities contrary to any other ICCAT conservation and management measures	X

According to information gathered by the EU, this vessel engaged in fishing or fishing related activities contrary to ICCAT conservation and management measures (Recommendation 21-13, paragraph 1.i).

The EU has received from Senegal bilateral confirmation that part or the entirety of the 311 tons (live weight equivalent) of northern swordfish that were exported to the EU in 2020 stemmed in all likelihood from illegal transshipments made by the vessel MAXIMUS. The VMS data received from Senegal further confirms this.

The vessel did not hold an authorisation to carry out transshipments in 2020, contrary to Recommendation 16-15¹; it was authorised only as a catching vessel that year. All transshipments carried out by the vessel are therefore illegal activities.

The EU underlines that, in addition, the northern swordfish catches landed by this sole vessel exceed the total annual northern swordfish quota allocated to Senegal.

Indeed, based on the analysis of EU catch certificates associated with exports from this vessel², 311 tons of northern swordfish (live weight equivalent) have been exported to the EU in 2020 (all catches made that same year). In accordance with the figures provided by Senegal in Annex 1 of Doc. No. COC_304 / 2021, in 2020 Senegal had a quota of 225 tons for northern swordfish (N-SWO).

Whatever the origin of the swordfish landed by the vessel MAXIMUS, its landing and subsequent export were therefore a direct and major breach of ICCAT conservation and management measures.

The EU also notes with specific additional concern that the 311 tons of swordfish that were exported to the EU had been reportedly landed following a single fishing trip of 36 days (26 May – 30 June 2020). There is therefore a major risk that the fraud detected by the EU is only a part of the illegal activities carried out by the vessel in 2020.

¹ Amended by Recommendation 21-15.

² EU Regulation No 1005/2008 of 29 September 2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing – Articles 12 and 20. Certificates available upon request to the EU if necessary.

The EU would therefore call on Senegal to provide the details of all species landed by this vessel in 2020. The EU specifically notes in that respect that partial extracts from the logbook received from Senegal refer to catches of swordfish in the period following exports to the EU: a clarification by Senegal of the exact amount of the illegal landings is therefore necessary, as well as Senegal full cooperation in the identification of the donor vessels involved.

The EU would consequently suggest that Senegal shares with all ICCAT CPCs the 2020 VMS data of the vessel, for subsequent identification of possible interactions at sea with CPC-flagged vessels.

COLOMBIA / S-DIESA-22-23895.

ICCAT-ENTRADA
2022-09-26
E22-09471

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Directorate of Economic Social and Environmental Affairs - extend warm greetings to the honourable Executive Secretariat of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and has the honour to refer to the communication S22-05414 of 26 July 2022, which refers to the activities of the vessel *HALELUYA*.

In this regard, you are referred to the attached document which contains the verified facts and considerations of Colombia, following a joint in-depth review of the case by the relevant national authorities.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Directorate of Economic Social and Environmental Affairs - takes the opportunity to renew to the honourable Executive Secretariat of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) the assurances of its highest and distinguished consideration.

(signed)

Bogota D.C., 26 September 2022

To the honourable
Executive Secretariat of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)
Madrid, Spain

I) Regarding the presumed fishing activities of the vessel *HALELUYA*:

1. The Maritime General Directorate (DIMAR) has found, during the review of the documents of the Captain's Office of the Port of Cartagena, that the motor-vessel *HALELUYA*, at the time flagged to TANZANIA, was authorized to set sail on 18 May 2019 for the fishing area of the Colombian Caribbean Sea, which had been requested by the maritime agency *Ape/mar Limitada Agentes Maritimos*. It is important to highlight that this type of vessels are granted a round trip for a period of 45 days, which may be extended.
2. The National Aquaculture and Fisheries Authority (AUNAP) has been able to verify that renewal of the vessel's licenses was requested and processed on 26 May 2019; at this time it had not lost the flag of the government of TANZANIA. Regarding the internal procedures for issue of licenses, AUNAP issued the renewal maintaining the continuity of the fishing authorisation.
3. According to the records of arrival and departure of the Integrated Traffic and Maritime Transport System (SITMAR) and the Maritime Traffic Control System, DIMAR has confirmed that it did NOT issue authorization to set sail on 26 June 2019 to the motor-vessel *HALELUYA*. For the period from 26 June to 6 October 2019, the motor-vessel was in the port of Cartagena (illustration 1).

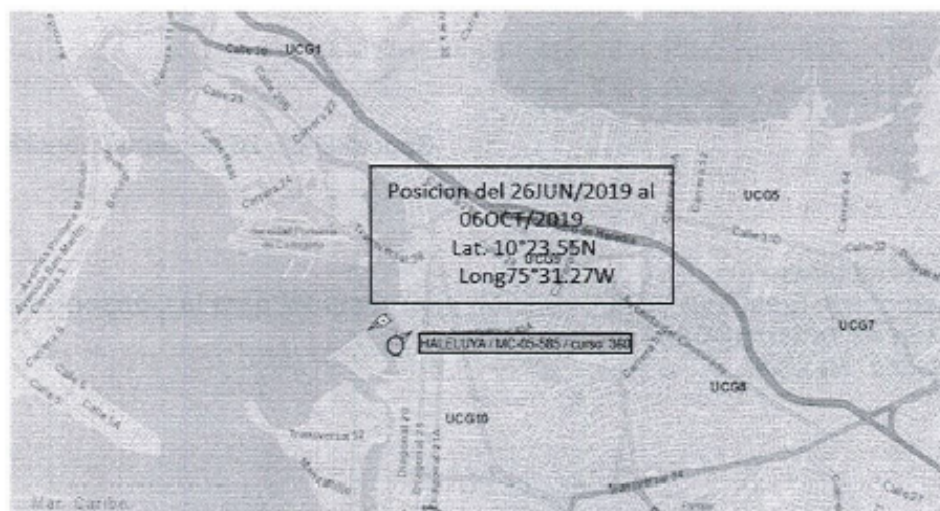


Illustration 1. Position of the motor-vessel from 26 June to 6 October 2019.

4. On 21 August 2019, the maritime agency Alpelmar informed of the unflagging from TANZANIA of the motor-vessel *HALELUYA*, which occurred on 27 June 2019, and requested that DIMAR process the deflagging of the motor-vessel registered under No. 152019108238. It is important to highlight that the motor-vessel *HALELUYA* was in port from 26 June to 6 October 2019.
5. As regards the presumed departure on 5 October 2019 of the motor-vessel *HALELUYA*, DIMAR has been able to verify that departure was NOT granted on that date, which is consistent with illustration 1.
6. On 7 October 2019, the provisional registration No. CP-05-0284-A of the Captain's Office of the Port of Cartagena was issued to the motor-vessel *HALELUYA*.
7. Subsequently, the vessel owner requested AUNAP to change the resolution with regard to its new registration No. on 8 October 2019, based on the provisional certificate issued by DIMAR, effective from 7 October 2019 to 7 April 2020; and in response to this request AUNAP issued RESOLUTION 2472 OF 31 OCTOBER 2019, reflecting the change of vessel flag.

8. According to the records of DIMAR, the motor-vessel *HALELUYA* was authorized to set sail by the Captain's Office of the Port of Cartagena on 4 November 2019, for the fishing area of the northern islands. According to the Maritime Traffic Control System, the motor-vessel entered the Port of Cartagena on 12 December 2019 (Illustration 2).

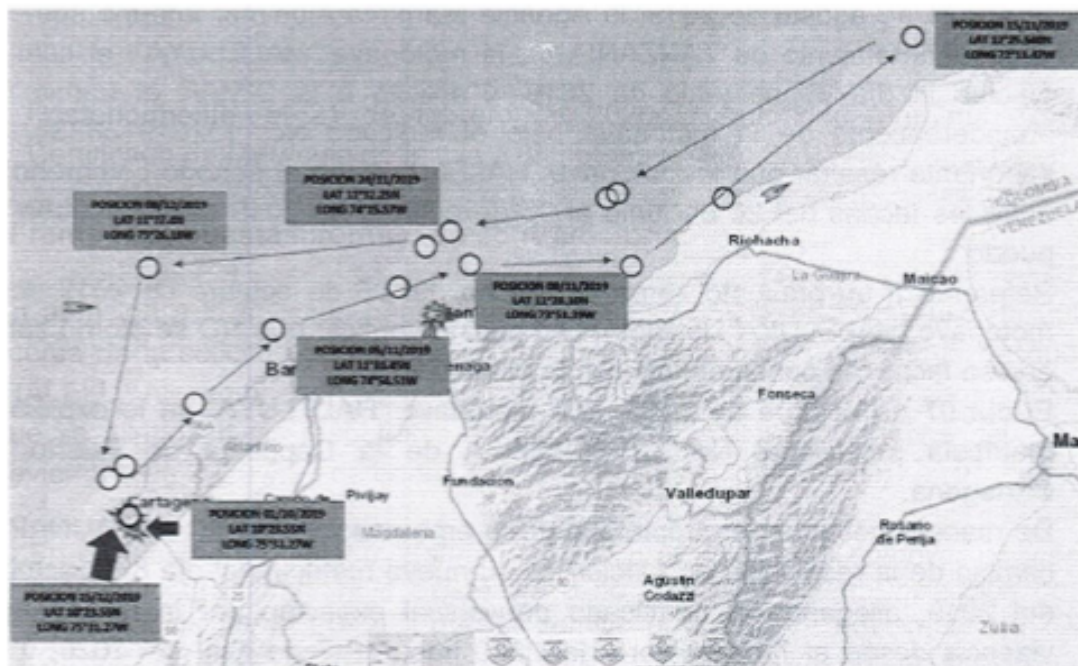


Illustration 2. Position of the motor-vessel from 1 October to 31 December 2019.

9. Subsequently, on 21 February 2020 the Maritime Authority issued the definitive Registration Certificate to the motor-vessel *HALELUYA*.

II) Regarding the alleged contradictory information:

In response to the request made through ICCAT S22-05412 on 26 July 2022 for information on the activities of the fishing vessel *HALELUYA*, requiring clarifications on the alleged contradictory information contained in the responses sent by AUNAP on 26 November 2020 and 27 January 2021, the following is indicated:

1. In the document titled "Preliminary Technical Study to Compile Evidence and Determine the Existence or Not of an Alleged Infringement by the Vessel *Haleluya*", which was circulated on 26 November 2020 (ICCAT Circular # 8131/20), AUNAP set out all the prior facts transmitted by ICCAT and the actions of technical analysis carried out, concluding the following:

"Based on the above, it is determined that there is a gap in flagging of the vessel *Haleluya* between 27 June and 6 October 2019. AUNAP has requested the trips from the Captain's Office of the Port of Cartagena and the VMS navigation tracks from DIMAR to verify the vessel's operations during this period. In the document transmitted by Colombia to request Cooperating Non-Contracting Party status in ICCAT, the fishing vessels registered at national level were listed and the information was detailed that was submitted by the permit holder IMANELY SAS on requesting the procedures; on this date, the vessel owner of *Haleluya* had not yet requested or notified its change of flag to the fishing authority. Consequently, it is unclear for AUNAP if the details of this communication transmitted by Colombia to ICCAT constitutes an inclusion in the list of permit holders authorised to conduct fishing activities within the jurisdiction of this RFMO; therefore, ICCAT is requested to inform AUNAP if this vessel has a fishing permit within its jurisdiction" (not bolded in text).

As can be observed, in this response AUNAP does NOT confirm the departure or operation of the vessel *HALELUYA*; on the contrary, it states that it will consult the relevant Maritime Authority for it to provide the evidence of the activity of this vessel, and thereby constituting the evidence for clarification of the facts.

2. The second communication transmitted by AUNAP on 27 January 2021 (ICCAT Circular No. 508/2021) reiterates that there was a gap in flagging of the vessel *HALELUYA* from 27 June to 6 October 2019. However, it is indicated in its annexes that according to the certificate issued at that time by the Captain's Office of the Port of Cartagena, Colombia, "this motor-vessel was inactive during the period in question" (not bolded in the text). This has been corroborated by DIMAR through communication No. 29202204389 of 18 August 2022.
3. In light of the above, AUNAP, as the authority mandated, according to number 13 of Article 5 of Decree 4181 of 2011 to "Establish control and surveillance mechanisms for compliance with the rules that regulate the fishing activities and aquaculture in the national territory in coordination with (...) other authorities, within their respective powers", has indicated that, based on the above information, it finds that the vessel *HALELUYA* has not committed an infringement associated with the facts set out by ICCAT, which is why Colombia requests removal of the record on that list, in accordance with what is established 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).

List of IMO numbers available in TM Tracking at <https://www.iuu-vessels.org/>

ICCAT IUU ID number	Current Name of Vessel	IMO number according to TMT
20060009	ARCOS No. 2	7379345
20080001	CARLOS	7234014
20200005	LABIKO 2	7325746
20110003	NEPTUNE	8977596
20060012	ORIENTE No. 7	8430586
20150033*	PALOMA V	9319856
20050001	SOUTHERN STAR	7378119
20130010	TA FU No. 1	9259070
20130012	WEN TENG No. 688	8994295

Note: this number is shown in the historic record but not the current list, hence CPCs may wish to exclude this.

From: MALCZEWSKA Agata
To: info
Cc: BROCHE Jérôme (MARE); CESARI Roberto (MARE); COSTICA Florina (MARE); JESSEN Anders (MARE); KERHERVÉ Lil (MARE); MIRANDA Fernando (MARE); SERNA Matthieu (MARE); SWIDEREK Pawel (MARE)
Subject: EU comments on draft IUU vessel list - Ares(2022)7116917
Date: 14 October 2022 12:15:41
Attachments: image002.png 7863-22_ENG.pdf 8158-22_ENG.pdf

**** CORREO EXTERNO. Verifique remitente antes de abrir adjuntos o hacer clic sobre enlaces ****

[EU comments on draft IUU vessel list – Ares \(2022\)7116917](#) (Please use this link only if you are an Ares user – Svp, utilisez ce lien exclusivement si vous êtes un(e) utilisateur d’Ares)

Dear ICCAT Secretariat,

We refer to ICCAT Circulars #7863/2022 and # 8158/2022 regarding the ICCAT Draft IUU vessel list. The EU would like to submitted the following observations in that respect:

- Vessel ZHI MING (IMO 7302548): the EU has strong suspicions that the vessel has been renamed FREEDOM 7 and flies the flag of Cameroon, as indicated by several open databases (TMT IUU list, IMO/GISIS);
- Vessel LABIKO (IMO 7325746): We notice that the flag State of vessel LABIKO is indicated ‘Guinea Conakry’; the EU already raised this question with the Secretariat in April. The Secretariat indicates that “*there is no doubt that its Flag has been changed to “UNKNOWN”*”, therefore we suggest that this is modified accordingly in the ICCAT IUU list, except if the Secretariat has received in the meantime evidence that this vessel is indeed flying the flag of Guinea. Please note that NEAFC, which listed the vessel in first instance, is indicating that this vessel flag is UNKNOWN <https://www.neafc.org/iuulist/maine>, as well as all the other RFMOs cross-listing this vessel (GFCM, IOTC, NAFO, SEAFO, SIOFA). We do note the difficulty of cross-listing and we took note that this issue will be discussed during the 2022 IMM.
- Following our exchanges earlier this year, we have noticed improvements in the column “previous information” of the ICCAT IUU list.

Nevertheless, we would like to point out that not only information about vessels AMORINN, BAROON and JINZHANG should be corrected accordingly with the information retrieved from the CCAMLR list, but also vessels ASIAN WARRIOR, ATLANTIC WIND, CHALLENGE. We notice that for vessels ASIAN WARRIOR, ATLANTIC WIND, CHALLENGE and JINZHANG, not all the information available on the previous flags is indicated (information available on CCAMLR list <https://www.ccamlr.org/en/compliance/iuu-vessel-lists>).

Kind regards,

Agata Malczewska

ICCAT - ENTRADA
Nº 10518 of 21
October 2022

REPUBLIC OF PANAMA
NATIONAL GOVERNMENT
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
AQUATIC RESOURCES AUTHORITY OF PANAMA

Panama, 14 October 2022
AG-950-2022

Dear Mr. Camille:

I hereby extend my greetings to you and would like to reply to ICCAT Circular # 7863 / 2022 of 28 September 2022 on the Draft ICCAT List of IUU Vessels, Rec. 21-13 to establish a list of vessels presumed to be involved in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities, to which the Draft 2022 List of Vessels presumed to have carried out illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities is attached, having been adopted at the 2021 meeting, for publication by the Secretariat on the ICCAT website.

Following review of this document, Panama, as a member of the Commission, submits the following comments and objections as regards the vessels referred to, and listed as flagged to Panama:

	IMO	7826233
	Name	XING HAI FENG
	Flag	UNK (DESC)
	RMFO	IOTC
1	Panama's position	<p>This vessel was included in Panama's record between 1995 and 1999. We have submitted the communication addressed to the IOTC by Panama, Nota AG-739-2021 (see Annex 1), informing it that since 1999 this vessel has not been included in Panama's record, and requesting removal from its list of Panama as the current flag of this vessel.</p> <p>In response to Panama's request, the IOTC communicated that the request to change the vessel details must be submitted by a member or a Non-contracting Cooperating Party of the IOTC, in accordance with paragraph 30 of IOTC Resolution 18/03.</p> <p>Given that Panama is not a party to the IOTC, the recommendations of the IOTC were followed and the current flag of vessel was finally updated to UNKNOWN in the IUU list.</p> <p>In addition, we are submitting the certificates of the Maritime Authority of Panama showing the removal of this vessel from Panama's record on 1 April 1999 under Resolution 647-98-10-08 (see Annexes 2-5).</p>
	Comments	It is requested that the ICCAT Evaluation Committee take into consideration the comments of Panama as a member of this Commission so as not to perpetuate this error of information integrity, based on the information provided.
	Digital documents of reference	<p>IOTC Official list of IUU vessels: https://iotc.org/sites/default/files/documents/compliance/vessel_lists/IUU%20lists/IOTC_IUU_Vessels_List_20220526EF.pdf</p>

IMO	8819691
Name	QIAN YUAN
Flag	PANAMA
RFMO / CPC	COLOMBIA
Panama's position	<p>In accordance with Official Communication No. AG-611-2022 of 30 June 2022, submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat by this Authority, Panama, as the flag of the vessel QIAN YUAN, informed that administrative proceedings involving penalties against the vessel were ongoing, due to non-compliance with the national legislation and the regulations established by the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC), on account of engaging in activities within the Convention area and with resources regulated by this Commission (see Annexes 6-7).</p> <p>It should be noted that Panama submitted its proposal for inclusion of the vessel in the IUU list to the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC), on 25 July 2022. However, the decision on its inclusion in this IUU list, will be taken at the next Annual Meeting of the NPFC Commission, which will possibly be held in March 2023.</p>
Comments	<p>It is requested that the ICCAT Evaluation Commission consider including officially the vessel QIAN YUAN in the ICCAT IUU List, even though the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC) has not formalised this inclusion in the original IUU list. We believe that once Panama's request has been considered, that it should be submitted to your consideration for inclusion based on the cross-listing criterion.</p>
Digital documents of reference	<p>IOTC Official list of IUU vessels: https://iotc.org/sites/default/files/documents/compliance/vessel_lists/IUU%20lists/IOTC_IUU_Vessels_List_20220526EF.pdf</p> <p>NPFC Official list of IUU vessels: https://www.npfc.int/npfc-iuu-vessel-list</p>

In accordance with paragraph 3 of the Recommendation 21-13 referred to above, it is requested that the ICCAT Secretariat, as well as its Evaluation Committee, carry out the relevant revisions to correct the list based on the objections and comments of Panama, so as to conserve the integrity of the information in the future list of vessels involved in IUU fishing that will be adopted by the Commission.

Please accept the assurance of my highest consideration and respect,
 Signed and sealed
 Flor Torrijos
 General Administrator

Mr.
 CAMILLE JEAN PIERRE MANEL
 International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
 Calle Corazón de María 8, 28220 Madrid, Spain

cc: General Administration
 FT/YV/rk/ma/vq

AQUATIC RESOURCES AUTHORITY OF PANAMA
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

ICCAT-ENTRADA
2022-10-21
E22-10518

Panama, September 14, 2021.
AG-739-2021

Honorable
Christopher O'Brien
Executive Secretary
Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

Dear Mr. O'Brien:

Through these means I respectfully address you, with the purpose of referring to the vessel named XING HAI FENG, with IMO 7826233, which appears registered as a vessel under the flag of Panama in the IUU lists of different Regional Fisheries Management Organizations since 2005, for contraventions to Resolutions 02/04, 02/05, 02/05 of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).

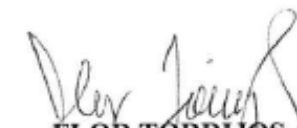
In this regard, we hereby inform you that this vessel was registered in the Panamanian registry from 1995 to 1999, as stated by the General Directorate of Merchant Marine of the Panama Maritime Authority. Also, the General Directorate of Integral Management of the Aquatic Resources Authority has informed that this vessel has never been registered as a fishing vessel. Therefore, we request an update of the vessel's information, which is wrongly and currently enlisted with Panamanian flag in the IUU list. During our investigation, we have found that this vessel is under the registry of Equatorial Guinea since 2003.

We also wish to take this opportunity to inform that, the fishing vessel named NIKA is no longer under the flag of the Republic of Panama since March 16, 2020. It is important to highlight that it was precisely Panama who decided to request to the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) to include this vessel in the Commission's list of vessels involved in IUU activities. As reference, attached you will find the Circular No. COMM CIRC 21/05, where the CCAMLR informs about the deletion of this vessel from our registry.

Taking in consideration the aforementioned cases, Panama requests the update the IUU list of the commission removing the flag of Panama as current flag in both vessels.

Reiterating the assurances of my highest consideration, not without first thanking you for any steps you may be good enough to take in response to our request.

Sincerely yours,



FLOR TORRIJOS
General Administrator



FT/RD/mea/rk



Panamá, 27 de abril de 2021
Nota No.103-01-00217-DGMM –NSM

Respetada Administradora General,

Sean mis primeras palabras portadoras de un cordial saludo y a la vez hacer referencia a la Nota No. AG-269-21 fechada el 26 de abril de 2021, por medio de la cual nos solicitan que le indiquemos si la nave **XING HAI FENG** con IMO No. **7826233**, se encuentra o encontraba inscrita en el registro panameño.

Sobre el particular, tenemos a bien indicarle, que se procedió con la verificación en nuestros registros y se pudo corroborar que el número OMI 7826233, corresponde a la nave **OCEAN LION**, que estuvo inscrita en el registro panameño desde el 30 de junio de 1995 hasta la fecha de cancelación el 01 de abril de 1999.

Aunado a lo antes expuesto, se realizó la búsqueda de la nave en la plataforma de IHS (SEA-WEB) y se pudo evidenciar que con el número de IMO No. 7826233, aparece la nave **OCEAN GLORY** bajo el registro de Guinea Ecuatorial. Adjunto, la documentación para su referencia.

Aprovecho la ocasión para reiterar a usted, las seguridades de mi distinguida consideración.


2021 ABR 28 11:35AM
BRAP


RAFAEL N. CIGARRUISTA G.
Director General

Licenciada
FLOR TORRIJOS
Autoridad de los Recursos Acuáticos de Panamá
Ministerio de Desarrollo Agropecuario
E. S. D.

RNCG/JLO/KP
645

Av. Omar Torrijos Herrera
Edificio PanCanal Plaza, piso 4, oficina 401
P. Box 0843-00533, Balboa, Ancón, Rep. de Panamá

100
Tel.: (507) 501-5106 / 5227
Fax: (507) 501-5405


: THIS REPORT CREATED 26 Apr 2021 21:40

Ship Detail

Ship Name	OCEAN GLORY	Shiptype	Fishing Vessel
IMO/LR No.	7826233	Gross	2,657
Call Sign	3CM2155	Deadweight	1,741
MMSI No.		Year of Build	1980
Flag	Equatorial Guinea	Status	In Service/Commission
Operator	<u>Ocean Lion Shipping</u>	Shipbuilder	<u>Bohaterow Westerplatte</u>

Ownership

Group Owner	Unknown	Address Location	Company No.	9991001
Shipmanager	<u>Ocean Lion Shipping</u>	Address Location	Singapore	Company No. 1637877
Operator	<u>Ocean Lion Shipping</u>	Address Location	Singapore	Company No. 1637877
DOC Company	Unknown	Address Location	IMO Company No (DOC)	
Registered Owner	<u>Ocean Lion Shipping</u>	Address Location	Singapore	IMO Registered Owner No 1637877
Technical Manager	Unknown	Address Location	Company No.	9991001
Bareboat Owner		Address Location	Company No.	

Ownership History

Show extended history

Date	Name	Flag	Group Owner	Shipmanager	Operator	DOC Company	Registered Owner	Price
2003-11	OCEAN GLORY	Equatorial Guinea						
2003-09		Maldives						
1999-10		Belize						
1997-11						Unknown		
1995-07	Ocean Lion	Panama		<u>Ocean Lion Shipping</u>	<u>Ocean Lion Shipping</u>		<u>Ocean Lion Shipping</u>	
1995-99		Unknown						
1994-07		Liberia					<u>Sunwind Holdings</u>	
1994-06			Unknown					
1994-99							Owner Unknown	
1993-06			<u>Vladivostok Trawling</u>					
1993-99		Russia					<u>Vladivostok Trawling</u>	
1992-06			<u>Dalryba JSC</u>					
1992-00		Russia						
1989-06			<u>USSR</u>					
1980-00	Trokhus	U.S.S.R.					<u>Dalryba JSC</u>	

Not recorded Bonavista I

Originally Trokhus

Registration, P&I, and Communications

Port of Registry		Flag	Equatorial Guinea
Official Number		Sat Com ID	
Sat Com Ans Back		Fishing Number	
Current P&I Club	Unknown		

P&I Club History

Date	P&I Club
2006-02-20	Unknown

Flag, Call Sign & MMSI History

Date	Flag	Port of Registry	Call Sign	MMSI
2003-11	Equatorial Guinea		3CM2155	
2003-09	Maldives	Male		
1999-10	Belize	Belize City		
1995-99	Unknown			
1995-07	Panama	Panama		
1994-07	Liberia	Monrovia		
1993-99	Russia	Vladivostok		
1992-00	Russia	Nevelsk		
1980-00	U.S.S.R.	Nevelsk		

Three Year Event Summary

Significant Event	Last 12 months	Between 1 and 2 years ago	2-3 years ago
Casualties	0	0	0
Class status changes	0	0	0
Detentions	0	0	0
DOC certificates	0	0	0
Flag changes	0	0	0
Group Owner changes	0	0	0
Inspections	0	0	0
Name changes	0	0	0

Class

Class History

Date	Class	Status
1999-04-00	Russian Maritime Register (IACS)	(Disclassed)
1980-03-00	Russian Maritime Register (IACS)	In Class

Surveys

Crew List

Inspections & Detentions

Data as reported by Port State Control Authorities [Paris MOU Data Feed Update](#)

Safety Management Company

Safety Certificates

Casualty & Events

At most, the first fifty Events are returned. Click [here](#) to return the entire list into Search Results.

Event ID	Name at time of Incident	Event Type	Detail	Significance	Start Date
606398	Trokhus	Casualty	Foundered	Serious	1994-05-27

Construction Overview

ShipType	Fishing Vessel	Built	1980
GT	2,657	Deadweight	1,741

Alterations & Conversion**Arrangement**

Structure	Sequence (Bow to Stern)	Position	Type	Material	Length	Breadth
Tank	01	Cargo Tank	Centre Or Only	Steel (Unspecified)		
Tank	02	Cargo Tank	Centre Or Only	Steel (Unspecified)		
Tank	03	Cargo Tank	Centre Or Only	Steel (Unspecified)		

Construction Detail

Statcode5:B11B2FV; Hull Type:Single Hull; Hull Material:Steel; Hull Connections:Welded; Decks:1 dk; Ice strengthened

Recycling Detail (Broken up ships only)**Service Constraints**

Fishing Industry; Sea, Unspecified

Shipbuilder

1980-03 [Stocznia Polnocna im Bohaterow Westerplatte - Gdansk](#) Yard/hull No.: B406/05

Sister Ships**Status History**

Date	Status
1980-03-01	In Service/Commission
1979-07-20	Launched
1979-04-11	Keel Laid
1978-12-00	On Order/Not Commenced

Supplementary Features**Feature**

Ice strengthened
Seiner
Tuna Fishing

Dimensions

Length Overall	85.000	Length (BP)	75.010
Length (Reg)	0.000	Bulbous Bow	No
Breadth Extreme	15.030	Breadth Moulded	0.000
Draught	6.000	Depth	9.200
Keel To Mast Height	0.000		
Displacement	4058	T/CM	0.0

Tonnages

Tonnage Type	One tonnage, unspecified	Tonnage System	New System (International 1969)
Effective Date	1995-07		
Gross Tonnage (GT)	2,657	Net Tonnage (NT)	797
Deadweight (DWT)	1,741	Compensated Gross Tonnage (CGT)	0
Formula Deadweight		Light Displacement Tonnage (LDT)	2,317

Cargo Overview

Grain	0	Bale	1,850	Liquid	0	Gas	0
TEU	0	TEU 14t	0	Insulated	0	Passengers	0
Bollard Pull (t)	0						

Capacities

Bale 1,850

Cargo Handling Gear

Compartments

Hatches

Ro-Ro (Lanes, Ramps & Doors)

Specialist

Tanks

3 Steel (Unspecified) Centre Or Only Cargo Tank(s)

Machinery Overview

1 oil engine geared to screw shaft driving 1 FP propeller Total Power: Mcr 3,825kW (5,200hp) Service Speed: 16.00kts

Auxiliary Engines

Auxiliary Generators

3 x 380kW

Bollers

Bunkers

Prime Mover Detail

Design: Sulzer (Group: Wartsila), Engine Builder: Zaklady Urzadzen Technicznych 'Zgoda' SA - Poland 1 x 8ZL40/48, 4 Stroke, Single Acting, In-Line (Vertical) 8 Cy. 400 x 480, Mcr: 3,825 kW (5,200 hp) at 530 rpm

Thrusters

1 Thwart. CP thruster (f) , 1 Tunnel thruster (a)

Trading Areas Last 12 Months

AIS Position

(No AIS Messages) +
--



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Berth Calls

At most, the last 50 movements are returned for calls in the previous 12 months.

Click [here](#) to return all. Berth calls are comprehensive for cargo carrying ships; tankers, bulk carriers, container ships visiting major ports but may cover smaller ports

Country	Port	Terminal	Berth	Arrival	Departure	Hours	Draught +/-
---------	------	----------	-------	---------	-----------	-------	-------------

Port Calls

At most, the last 50 movements are returned.
 Click [here](#) to return all movements for the ship or on a port to view port details.

Ships in Port **Port of Call** **Country** **Arrival Date** **Arrival Draught** **Sailing Date** **Sail Draught** **Hours in Port**

[Click here to see the latest movements displayed in OpenStreetMap Maps](#)

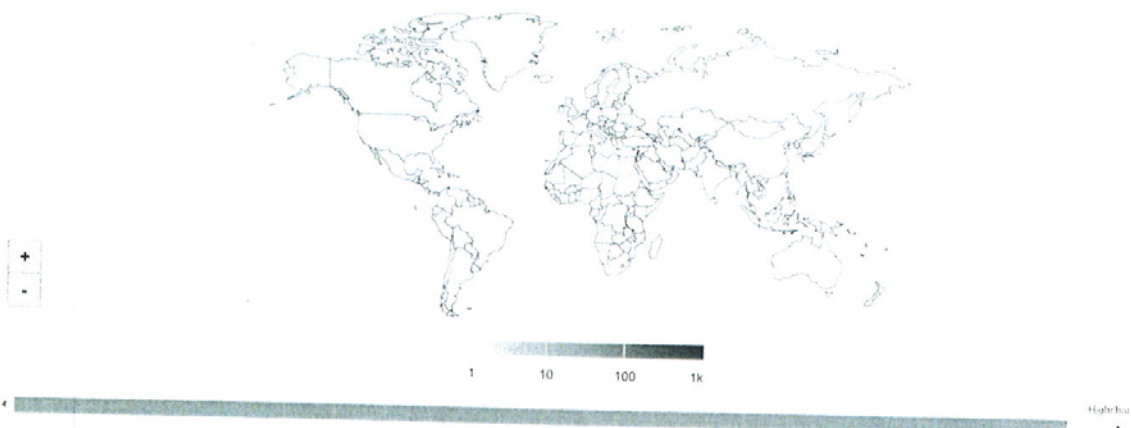
Port Callings Calendar

No port callings calendar data available for last 12 months. If you believe this is an error contact CustomerCare@ihsmarkit.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	30	1 2 3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Port Callings Visualisation

No port callings data available for last 12 months. If you believe this is an error contact CustomerCare@ihsmarkit.com.



STS Pairings

At most, the last 50 suspected STS pairings for the last year and the possible STS type are returned. Suspected STS pairings are recorded for cargo carrying ships; tankers, bulk carriers, container ships over 5,000gt for cargo and bunkering operations. Fishing transshipments to refrigerated vessels over 5,000gt are also recorded.

Draught +/- **Berth or Position** **Type** **Other Ship** **Ship Type** **STS Start** **STS End** **Hours** **Draught +/-**

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Zimbra:

vquiros@arap.gob.pa

RE: Official Letter AG-739-2021 - XING HAI FENG and NIKA vessels

De : Domingue, Gerard (NFITD)
<Gerard.Domingue@fao.org>

mié., 29 de sept. de 2021 04:51

📎 5 ficheros adjuntos

Asunto : RE: Official Letter AG-739-2021 - XING HAI FENG
and NIKA vessels

Para : Flor Torrijos <ftorrijos@arap.gob.pa>

Para o CC : hsfs <hsfs@arap.gob.pa>, Rudick Kant
<rkant@arap.gob.pa>, IOTC-Secretariat <IOTC-
Secretariat@fao.org>

Dear Ms Torrijos,

We wish to inform you that we have examined the requests made by your office to update the details of the vessels, XING HAI FENG and NIKA, in relation to flag State identified in the IOTC IUU Vessels List. In relation to our examination we wish to inform you of the following:

- Updating the flag information for the vessel, NIKA, should be a straightforward procedure since the vessel was cross-listed by the IOTC from the list of CCAMLR. Given that CCAMLR has already updated the flag information for this vessel to "Unknown", we can follow suit on that basis.
- Updating the flag information for the vessel, XING HAI FENG, is a bit more complicated. Since the vessel was directly listed by the IOTC, request to change the vessel detail (in this case the flag State) is required to be submitted by an IOTC Member or a Cooperating non-Contracting Party (CPC). Please refer to paragraph 30 of the attached Resolution. Since Panama is not a CPC of the IOTC, the request will have to be tabled at the next meeting of the Compliance Committee and Commission meeting, in May next year. Alternatively, if Panama has "friendly" country, which is an IOTC CPC, you could explore the possibility for that country to submit the request. The list of IOTC CPCs can be found at the following link: <https://www.iotc.org/about-iotc/structure-commission>. Please let us know which way that your office would wish to proceed, so that we can take a decision on when to update the IOTC IUU Vessels List.

We thank you and look forward to receive your soonest advice.

Kind regards,

Gerard Domingue

From: Flor Torrijos <ftorrijos@arap.gob.pa>

Sent: 28 September 2021 19:25

To: IOTC-Secretariat <IOTC-Secretariat@fao.org>

Cc: hsfs <hsfs@arap.gob.pa>; Rudick Kant <rkant@arap.gob.pa>

Subject: Re: Official Letter AG-739-2021 - XING HAI FENG and NIKA vessels

7/10/22, 11:35

Zimbra:

Dear Mr. Executive Secretary O' Brien,

Thanks for your communication and confirmation.

We thank you in advance for your considerations, remaining at your disposal to clarify or answer any consult you may have on the subject.

Kind regards,

Flor



Flor Torrijos Oro
Administradora General

Edificio la Riviera - Avenida Justo Arosemena y Calle 45, Bella Vista (Antigua Estación El Árbol)
 Correo: ftorrijos@arap.gob.pa
 Tels: (507)511-6000

www.arap.gob.pa

Síguenos:
[arap_panama](#)

De: "iotc-secretariat" <IOTC-Secretariat@fao.org>
Para: "ftorrijos" <ftorrijos@arap.gob.pa>
CC: "hsfs" <hsfs@arap.gob.pa>, "Rudick Kant" <rkant@arap.gob.pa>, "iotc-secretariat" <IOTC-Secretariat@fao.org>
Enviados: Martes, 28 de Septiembre 2021 7:51:56
Asunto: RE: Official Letter AG-739-2021 - XING HAI FENG and NIKA vessels

Dear Ms Oro,

We acknowledge receipt of your below message and the one previous to that, which were addressed to the Executive Secretary of the IOTC. Please accept our apologies for not acknowledging the earlier message, which unfortunately escaped our attention, after first sight.

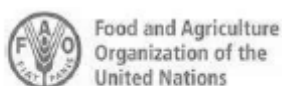
We shall give consideration to the official letters and revert back to your office in the coming days.

Thank you for your kind understanding.

Sincerely,

Gerard Domingue

Compliance Manager
 Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
 P.O. Box 1011, Seychelles
 Tel: +248-4225494
 E-mail: Gerard.Domingue@fao.org
<http://www.iotc.org>



From: Flor Torrijos <ftorrijos@arap.gob.pa>
Sent: 24 September 2021 04:49
To: OBrien, Chris (NFITD) <Chris.OBrien@fao.org>
Cc: IOTC-Secretariat <IOTC-Secretariat@fao.org>; Domingue, Gerard (NFITD) <Gerard.Domingue@fao.org>; DeBruyn, Paul (NFITD) <Paul.DeBruyn@fao.org>; hsfs <hsfs@arap.gob.pa>; Rudick Kant <rkant@arap.gob.pa>
Subject: Re: Official Letter AG-739-2021 - XING HAI FENG and NIKA vessels

Dear Mr. Executive Secretary O' Brien,

We hope you and all you staff are well.

I communicate in this opportunity, as a kindly reminder if our previous communication and in order to consult of said email and attachments were duly received by the the Commission.

Thanks in advance,

Kind regards,

Flor

	Flor Torrijos Oro Administradora General
	Edificio la Riviera - Avenida Justo Arosemena y Calle 45, Bella Vista (Antigua Estación El Árbol) Correo: ftorrijos@arap.gob.pa Tels: (507)511-6000
	www.arap.gob.pa <small>Síguenos: arap_panama</small>

De: "ftorrijos" <ftorrijos@arap.gob.pa>
Para: "chris obrien" <chris.obrien@fao.org>
CC: "iotc-secretariat" <iotc-secretariat@fao.org>, "gerard domingue" <gerard.domingue@fao.org>, "paul debruyn" <paul.debruyn@fao.org>, "hsfs" <hsfs@arap.gob.pa>, "Rudick Kant" <rkant@arap.gob.pa>
Enviados: Martes, 14 de Septiembre 2021 16:01:08
Asunto: Official Letter AG-739-2021 - XING HAI FENG and NIKA vessels

Dear Mr. Executive Secretary O' Brien,

We hope that you and all the IOTC staff are well during this complex times.

On this opportunity, we proceed to submit the official letter in reference and regarding the aforementioned vessels, for your consideration.

We thank you in advance for the attention on this subject.

Kind regards,

Flor




Flor Torrijos Oro
Administradora General

Edificio la Riviera - Avenida Justo Arosemena y Calle 45, Bella Vista (Antigua Estación El Árbol)
Correo: ftorrijos@arap.gob.pa
Tels: (507)511-6000

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631 KB



MINISTERIO DE
DESARROLLO AGROPECUARIO

AUTORIDAD DE LOS RECURSOS
ACUÁTICOS DE PANAMÁ

DESPACHO DE LA ADMINISTRACIÓN GENERAL

Panamá, 26 de abril de 2021.
AG-269-21

Ingeniero
RAFAEL CIGARRUISTA
Director General
Dirección General de Marina Mercante
Autoridad Marítima de Panamá
República de Panamá

Estimado Ing. Cigarruista:

Me dirijo a usted con la finalidad de saludarlo y a la vez solicitar su asistencia para que nos brinde información de la nave denominada XING HAI FENG, con IMO No. 7826233, si la misma se encuentra o encontraba inscrita dentro del registro panameño. Esto se debe a que el buque en referencia está incluido en las distintas listas de buques que han cometido actividades de Pesca INDNR. En dichas listas, se muestra como pabellón la República de Panamá, situación que consideramos necesaria dilucidar oportunamente para conocer si efectivamente esta nave es o fue de nuestro pabellón o si dicha nave no ha portado nuestro registro patrio.

Para su referencia, abajo encontrará detalles de la nave con información registrada en cada una de las listas indicada por OROP:

Vessel Name	Previous Names	Flag	Previous Flags	Callsign	IMO no	Beneficial Owner	Operator	Activities	Listing RFMOs
XING HAI FENG	OCEAN LION	PANAMA	EQUATORIAL GUINEA	3FHW5	7826233	Ocean Lion Shipping S.A., Panama City, Panama	Ocean Lion Shipping S.A., Panama City, Panama	Contravention of IOTC Resolution 02/04, 02/05, 03/05/ Violation de la résolution de la CTOI 02/04, 02/05, 03/05.	IOTC, ICCAT, GFCM, SIOFA

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

DESPACHO DE LA ADMINISTRACIÓN GENERAL

Panamá, 26 de abril de 2021.
AG-269-21

Ingeniero
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XING HAI FENG	OCEAN LION	PANAMA	EQUATORIAL GUINEA	3FHW5	7826233	Ocean Lion Shipping S.A., Panama City, Panama	Ocean Lion Shipping S.A., Panama City, Panama	Contravention of IOTC Resolution 02/04, 02/05, 03/05/ Violation de la résolution de la CTOI 02/04, 02/05, 03/05.	IOTC, ICCAT, GFCM, SIOFA

Ing. Cigarruista
AG-269-21
Página 2 de 2

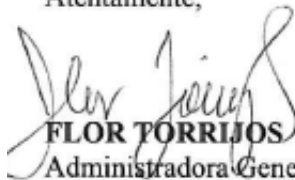
Aunado a lo anterior, en el caso que la nave en mencion sea panameña, quisieramos conocer su opinión en cuanto a la posibilidad de realizarse una diligencia de inspección y posible detención de la nave. Como en casos anteriores, somos conocedores que estas acciones dependerán de las solicitudes que le hagamos al respecto, sin embargo, quisieramos contar con esta información para manejar el caso de una manera proactiva.

En virtud de todo lo antes expuesto, por este medio le solicitamos la interposición de sus buenos oficios para que nos certifique el estatus de dicha nave ante la AMP o en su defecto si la nave no ha sido registrada.

Nos mantenemos atentos a sus comentarios, a fin de poder tomar las decisiones que correspondan, dependiendo de la situación registral que mantenga la nave ante la Dirección que usted regenta.

Quedo de usted, aprovechando la oportunidad para reiterar las seguridades de mi más alta estima y distinguida consideración.

Atentamente,


FLOR TORRIJOS
Administradora General

FT/RD/rk





AUTORIDAD MARITIMA DE PANAMA
DIRECCION GENERAL OF MARINA MERCANTE
Departamento de Registro de Buques
NAVE CANCELADA

27-abr.-2021

NAVE	<i>OCEAN LION</i>		
NOMBRE ANTERIOR	BONAVISTA I		
NUMERO PATENTE	2249996		
RADIO	3FHW5	LIC. RADIO	MMSI
PROPIETARIO	OCEAN LION SHIPPING S.A.		
DIRECCION	C/O 2 JURONG EAST STREET 21 05-19/20 IMM BUILDING, SINGAPORE 2260		
PAIS PROPIETARIO	POLAND		
REPRESENTANTE	SHIRLEY & ASOCIADOS		
CLASIFICACION	PESCA		
TIPO DE BUQUE			
T. BRUTA	2,657.00	T. NETO	797.00
FEC ABANDERAMIENTO	30-junio-1995		
FEC_IMPUESTO	01-enero-2000		
AÑO CONSTRUCCION	1980		
ESTATUS	NO ESPECIFICADO		
NO IMO	7826233		
SOCIEDAD_CLASIFICADORA	PANAMA REGISTER CORPORATION		
Lugar Abanderamiento	DIRECCION GENERAL DE MARINA MERCANTE		
PAIS RENUNCIA	LIBERIA		
RESPONSABLE CUENTA RADIO	PANAMA MARINE COMPANY, INC.		
DATOS DE CANCELACION			
FEC CANCELACION	01-abr.-1999		
RESOLUCION	647-98-10-08		
CAUSA	Oficio		
PAIS DESTINO	NO INDICATED		
COMPRADOR	EJEC. 99-01-04		

**AQUATIC RESOURCES AUTHORITY OF PANAMA
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE**

Panama, June 30th, 2022.
AG-611-2022

To Honorable
Camille Jean Pierre Manel
Executive Secretary
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, ICCAT.

Dear Mr. Manel:

The Republic of Panama, through the Aquatic Resources Authority, respectfully addresses you in order to inform that, the refrigerated cargo vessel **QIAN YUAN**, with IMO number **8819691**, call sign **H3YK** and owned by **GINSIL HOLDING GROUP LIMITED**, with international fishing license of activities related to fishing number 04-105-6063-252-979, has been suspended since May 4th, 2022, and subsequent suspension before the different RFMOs where she was registered; As a result of an administrative sanctioning process before this Authority, through final resolution, the vessel has been sanctioned for contravening our national laws, and carrying out illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities.

According to our IUU Protocol, this Authority in coordination with the Panama Maritime Authority as an asset restraint measure preventing the vessel from being cancelled from the registry (Panamanian flag) and the transference of ownership; however, despite the efforts to conclude this sanctioning proceeding, in our investigations we have noticed that the said vessel continued to be engaged in transshipping operations after this administration suspended the fishing related activities license.

Therefore, we request your contribution in transmitting CPC and CNCP members of the Commission to not allow this vessel to continue with fishing related activities, discharge any products or receive services at sea in your regulated body waters because they are related to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities. We really appreciate if you have related information that you can provide to this Authority and please, kindly proceed to circulate this document among the Commission members.

I take this opportunity to reiterate the assurances of my highest esteem and distinguished consideration.

Yours sincerely,


CARLOS CASTRO
Acting General Administrator



Zimbra:

meaguilar@arap.gob.pa

Re: PA Official Letter_Qian Yuan, IMO 8819691

De : Vivian Quiros <vquiros@arap.gob.pa>
Asunto : Re: PA Official Letter_Qian Yuan, IMO 8819691
Para : Info <info@lccat.int>

dom, 03 de jul. de 2022 00:20
2 ficheros adjuntos

Para o CC : hsfis <hsfis@arap.gob.pa>, administraciongeneral <administraciongeneral@arap.gob.pa>, Gabriel Caballero <gcaballero@arap.gob.pa>

Dear Ms. Jeanny,

Thank you for your prompt assistance in this important situation. I hereby inform you that we are evaluating all the possible actions to follow according to our protocol, so your wise comments, based on the provisions of Rec. 21-13 of the ICCAT, will be internally proposed to our Administration to be considered in decision-making.

We reiterate our gratitude for your considerations and the Commission's support.

Best regards.

**Licda. Vivian Quiros (OWD)**

Asistente Técnico

Dirección de Cooperación y Asuntos Pesqueros Internacional

Edificio la Riviera - Avenida Justo Arosemena y Calle 45, Bella Vista (Antigua Estación El Árbel)

CORREO: vquiros@arap.gob.pa

Télex: (507) 511-6006 Ext. 205

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arap.panama

From: "Info" <info@lccat.int>**To:** "Vivian Quiros" <vquiros@arap.gob.pa>, "Info" <info@lccat.int>**Cc:** "hsfis" <hsfis@arap.gob.pa>, "administraciongeneral" <administraciongeneral@arap.gob.pa>, "Gabriel Caballero" <gcaballero@arap.gob.pa>**Sent:** Friday, July 1, 2022 2:03:09 AM**Subject:** RE: PA Official Letter_Qian Yuan, IMO 8819691

Dear Vivian,

We acknowledge receipt of your mail and attached letter, which will be circulated to all CPCs as you request.
Does Panama wish for this vessel to be included on the draft ICCAT List of IUU Vessels which is currently being compiled? If so, we should be grateful if you could provide us the information required by Rec 21-13 on form <https://www.iccat.int/Forms/CP11-IUUList.xls> available on the ICCAT web site.
Thanking you in advance,

Yours sincerely,

Jenny Cheate
Head of Compliance Department
ICCAT Secretariat
c/Corazon de Maria 8-6º
28002 Madrid
Spain – Espagne – España

From: Vivian Quiros <vquiros@arap.gob.pa>
Sent: viernes, 1 de julio de 2022 4:44
To: info <info@iccat.int>
Cc: hsf@arap.gob.pa; administraciongeneral@arap.gob.pa; Gabriel Caballero <gcaballero@arap.gob.pa>
Subject: PA Official Letter_Qian Yuan, IMO 8819691
Importance: High

** CORREO EXTERNO. Verifique remitente antes de abrir adjuntos o hacer clic sobre enlaces **

Dear Mr. Camille,

Hope this email finds you well. Please find attached the Official Letter AG-611-2022 from our General Administration regarding the Panamanian Cargo Reefer Vessel: Qian Yuan, IMO 8819691 related to IUU activities, kindly proceed to circulate this document among the Commission Parties.

Best regards,



Licda. Vivian Quiros (OWD)
Asistente Técnico
Dirección de Cooperación y Asuntos Pesqueros Internacional
Edificio la Riviera - Avenida Justo Arosemena y Calle 45, Bella Vista (Antigua Estación El Árbol)
Correo: vquiros@arap.gob.pa
Tels: (507) 511-6006 Ext. 205 www.arap.gob.pa     Síguenos:
[arap.panama](https://www.facebook.com/arap.panama)

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- Anonymous. 2017b. Report of the 2017 ICCAT Shortfin Mako Stock Assessment Meeting (Madrid, Spain 12-16 June 2017). ICCAT Collect. Vol. Sci. Pap. ICCAT, 74(4): 1465-1561.
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- Anonymous. 2022b. Report of the 2022 ICCAT Atlantic Swordfish Stock Assessment Meeting (Online, 20-28 June 2022). Collect. Vol. Sci. Pap. ICCAT, 79(2): 392-564.
- Anonymous. 2022c. Report of the Joint ICCAT/ICES Benchmark Workshop in advance of the North-eastern Atlantic Porbeagle Stock Assessment. Collect. Vol. Sci. Pap. ICCAT, 79(4): 1-60.

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