

**Secretariat's Report to the
ICCAT Conservation and Management Compliance Committee**

NOTE: This report is based on information received by the Secretariat by **8 October 2023**, unless otherwise stated. Any information received after that date will be brought to the attention of the Compliance Committee (COC) Chair. Such additional information will not be translated.

This report contains only those measures for which review by the Compliance Committee is warranted. In some cases, measures may have expired, but were in force for the review period under consideration (2022).

TRO – TROPICAL - BET - BIGEYE TUNA (*Thunnus obesus*); YFT – YELLOWFIN (*Thunnus albacares*); SKJ - SKIPJACK (*Katsuwonus pelamis*)

[21-01] Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 19-02 replacing Recommendation 16-01 on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tunas

(Replaced by [22-01] Recommendation by ICCAT replacing Recommendation 21-01 on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tunas)

Tropical Tuna Fishing Management Plans and FAD Management Plans: The fishing plans received were submitted to the Intersessional Meetings of Panel 1.

Quarterly/Monthly catches of tropical tuna: Table 1 shows the catches of tropical tuna in 2022 reported quarterly and monthly. The requirements are somewhat conflicting, with some CPCs obliged to make both quarterly and monthly, and in some cases, weekly reports. It is very difficult to collect and extract data in any meaningful way, due to the duplications involved. Paragraph 13 requires reporting of tropical tuna species, while paragraph 14 requires monthly reporting for purse seiners or longliners, increasing to weekly “when 80% of their catch limits have been caught”, although catch limits only apply to bigeye tuna and not to all tropical tuna species.

Paragraph 13 stipulates that “CPCs shall report quarterly to the Secretariat the amount of tropical tunas (by species) caught by vessels flying their flag, within 30 days of the end of the period during which the catches were made”. The Secretariat understands that this refers to all CPCs catching tropical tuna species.

Task 1 data for 2022 indicates that the following CPCs fished for tropical tunas, but no corresponding quarterly (or monthly) catch reports were received:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Total tropical catches (t)</i>
Angola	16
Cabo Verde	2203
Costa Rica	55
Gabon	2
Guinée (Rep.)	6465
Liberia	1
S. Tomé e Príncipe	292
Senegal	52824
St Vincent and Grenadines	673

Catch limits: For compliance with quotas/catch limits, please see the Compliance Annex (document COC_304/2023).

List of authorised tropical vessels: Please see www.iccat.int/en/vesselsrecord.asp. Annex 5 contains the list of vessels having fished the previous year.

At the time of writing, the ICCAT Record of Vessels contained 1154 vessels (a decrease of 59 vessels from the 2022 level) in its Tropical Vessel Registry List, with vessels from 25 CPCs. It should be noted that the ICCAT Record is a dynamic list and may vary daily.

Capacity management: Capacity management plans and declarations on expansion of capacity are included in the fishing plans.

FAD management plans and steps undertaken to use non-entangling FAD: FAD management plans received in 2023 are available on the intersessional meeting document site, included in the fishing plans submitted.

CPC	FAD Management plan (2023) sent	ST-08 - FAD data (2022) sent
Belize	✓	✓
Cape Verde	No	✓
Curaçao	✓	✓
EU	✓	✓
El Salvador	✓	✓
Ghana	✓	✓
Guatemala	✓	✓
Guinea Republic	✓	✓
Morocco	✓	✓
Nicaragua	✓	n/a no Fads in 2022
Panama	✓	✓
Senegal	✓	✓
Costa Rica	✓	No PS catches in 2022

See PLE_105/2023, **Appendix 2** and document PA1_504/2023 for more details on FAD data received.

Data and information collected from sampling programme: Information from Port sampling as required by paragraph 61 of Rec. 21-01 has been submitted by Canada, Curacao, El Salvador, EU-France, Guatemala, Morocco, Mexico, Panama and Costa Rica.

Observer Programme: No difficulties in embarking observers in accordance with the Recommendation were reported to the Secretariat.

SWO - SWORDFISH (*Xiphias gladius*)

[03-04] Recommendation by ICCAT relating to Mediterranean swordfish

No specific reporting to the Secretariat is required other than through section 4 of Annual Reports. The Secretariat has nothing to report.

[16-05] Recommendation by ICCAT replacing the Recommendation [13-04] and Establishing a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Mediterranean Swordfish

Compliance with quotas/catch limits: Please see document COC_304/2023.

ICCAT Record of Mediterranean Swordfish Vessels: Authorised lists, received from six CPCs, have been published on the ICCAT website <https://www.iccat.int/en/VesselsRecord.asp>. The list of vessels fishing in 2022 is contained in **Annex 5**.

List of Authorised Vessels for Mediterranean Albacore: At the time of writing, four CPCs (Egypt, European Union, Morocco and Türkiye) had submitted lists of authorised vessels in accordance with this Recommendation. This list is published on <https://www.iccat.int/en/VesselsRecord.asp>.

[Note: In 2024, this requirement will be reported under Rec. 22-05, which entered into force in June 2023.]

ICCAT Record of Authorised Ports: A total of 882 ports, from a total of seven CPCs are published on <https://www.iccat.int/en/Ports.asp>. Algeria, Egypt, European Union, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Türkiye.

Inspection agencies, inspectors and ships: Information has been received from EU, Tunisia and Türkiye. Lists of agencies, means and inspectors are reported in **Annex 4**. A list of inspection vessels has been published on the ICCAT website. A summary of the inspection reports received has been included in **Table 2**. A summary of reports with infringements, as well as their responses where available, are contained in **Appendix 4** and copies of reports with infringements are included in **Annex 3**.

SWO-MED fishing plans: Plans were received in 2023 from the following CPCs: Algeria, Egypt, European Union, Morocco, Tunisia and Türkiye. These plans were circulated to CPCs and have been made available as PA4_802/2023.

Closures: Reports on the implementation of closure periods have been received from Algeria, European Union, Morocco, Tunisia and Türkiye and are contained in **Appendix 1** of this report. Algeria indicated that the information can be found in its Annual Report (see COC_301/2023). The EU report is shown as an addendum to Appendix 1 given that it was received past the deadline.

Quarterly reports: The quarterly reports received from CPCs for 2022 are shown below, together with the totals from Task 1 and Compliance Tables. In most cases, totals are the same or differences are very minor, except in the case of the European Union, where totals differ slightly more substantially.

CPC	2022 quota (t)	Catches in 1st quarter	Catches in 2nd quarter	Catches in 3rd quarter	Catches in 4th quarter	Total 2022	Task 1 2022	Compliance Tables
Algeria	472.33	0.80	141.85	188.93	140.20	471.78	471.78	471.78
European Union	6363.63	0.00	927.01	2440.29	962.48	4329.78	4523.32	4389.96
Morocco	896.47	45.53	738.28	48.52	64.14	896.47	890.86	890.86
Tunisie	865.33	0.00	181.72	553.83	121.67	857.22	857.23	857.23
Türkiye	378.70	32.95	158.91	96.13	45.70	333.69	378.70	333.69
Other CPCs								
Egypt							26.00	
Libya							21.00	
Total	8976.46	79.28	2147.77	3327.70	1334.19	6888.94	7168.89	6943.52

[17-02] Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish, Rec. 16-03 and;

[21-02] Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT extending and amending Recommendation 17-02 amending the Recommendation 16-03 for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish

(Replaced by [22-03] Recommendation by ICCAT replacing supplemental Recommendation 21-02 extending and amending Recommendation 17-02 for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish)

Compliance with quotas/catch limits: Please see document COC_304/2023.

In accordance with paragraph 14 of Rec. 17-02, the following CPCs have included information in their Annual Reports on the maximum on board by-catch limit of SWO-N:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Response</i>
BELIZE	Belize has established an onboard bycatch limit across the board for all species inclusive of northern swordfish. The bycatch limit established for vessels not authorized to fish this specie exclusively is 10 m/t. This quantity is accounted for in the overall quota allocation for Belize. However, we have no vessels that have reported any northern swordfish taken as bycatch.
Chinese Taipei	Part of our longliners are authorized to fish N. SWO. For BET group, the individual vessel quota for N. SWO is 4.5 tons. For N. ALB group, the individual vessel quota for N. SWO is 5 tons. S. ALB group shall not retain onboard N. SWO, and no bycatch limit is granted.
CURAÇAO	Curaçao came to an agreement with the vessels on 10 tons maximum of by catch.
EUROPEAN UNION	In accordance with paragraphs 13 and 14 of ICCAT Recommendation 16-03, France has adopted a maximum by-catch limit for vessels not authorized to fish for North Atlantic swordfish. The catching and landing of North Atlantic swordfish with a live weight of less than 25 kg or a lower jaw length of less than 125 cm is prohibited, except for by-catches, which must not exceed 15% of the number of swordfish landed daily and by vessels.
FRANCE (St-Pierre et Miquelon)	The catching and landing of North Atlantic swordfish with a live weight of less than 25 kg or a lower jaw length of less than 125 cm is prohibited, except for by-catches, which must not exceed 15% of the number of swordfish landed daily and by vessels.

Note, the above shows only those who indicated that a limit had been set. In many cases, no limit is set because all relevant vessels have licences and/or by-catch is not permitted. Many of the responses to the maximum bycatch limits are incoherent, with CPCs not having read or understood the requirement. In several instances, species are mixed-up (and include even Mediterranean) or totally irrelevant answers are given e.g. there is no targeted fishery for this species; there are no xx-flagged vessels fishing for this species.

SWO-N fishery management/development plans: Updated versions received are contained in PA4_801/2023. Re-submission is no longer required if there have been no changes to previous plans.

Specific authorisation for SWO-N vessels: The authorised vessels of 20 m or greater with specific authorisations for SWO-N can be found in the ICCAT Record of Vessels (<https://www.iccat.int/en/VesselsRecord.asp>).

Seven CPCs with quota currently have no vessels (of 20 m or over) on the ICCAT Record of Vessels authorised to catch SWO-N: Barbados, Brazil, France (SPM), Mexico, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, UK, Venezuela.

Compliance with quotas/catch limits: please see document COC_304/2023.

[17-03] Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation for the Conservation of South Atlantic Swordfish, Rec. 16-04

[21-03] Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT on Recommendation 17-03 amending the Recommendation 16-04 for the Conservation of South Atlantic Swordfish

(Replaced by [22-04] Recommendation by ICCAT replacing supplemental Recommendation 21-03 extending and amending Recommendation 17-03 for the Conservation of South Atlantic Swordfish)

Specific authorisation for SWO-S vessels: The authorised vessels of 20 m or greater with specific authorisations for SWO S. can be found in the ICCAT Record of Vessels (<https://www.iccat.int/en/VesselsRecord.asp>)

Six CPCs with quota currently have no vessels (of 20 m or over) on the ICCAT Record of Vessels authorised to catch SWO-S: Angola, Ghana, São Tomé and Príncipe, UK, Uruguay and USA.

In accordance with Rec. 17-03, paragraph 9, the following CPCs have included information in their Annual Reports as follows:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Response</i>
BELIZE	Belize has established an onboard bycatch limit across the board for all species inclusive of southern swordfish. The bycatch limit established for vessels not authorized to fish this specie exclusively is 10 m/t. This quantity is accounted for in the overall quota allocation for Belize. However, we have no vessels that have reported any southern swordfish taken as bycatch.
CHINA (P.R.)	China does not have vessels targeting N-SWO and S-SWO, all the SWO are caught as by-catch and every tropical long liner can by-catch SWO. In 2022, China has 107.78 t quotas of N-SWO and 375.6 t of S-SWO, we set catch limit for N-SWO and S-SWO for each longliner based on the TAC allocated to China according to Recommendations of N-SWO and S-SWO. Each vessel must strictly comply with the catch limit set for it.
CURAÇAO	Curaçao came to an agreement with the vessels on 10 tons maximum of by catch.
EUROPEAN UNION	See Appendix II for more details on EU Member States.

Note, the above shows only those who indicated that a limit had been set. In many cases, no limit is set because all relevant vessels have licences and/or bycatch is not permitted. Many of the responses to the maximum bycatch limits are incoherent, with CPCs not having read or understood the requirement. In several instances, species are mixed-up (and include even Mediterranean) or totally irrelevant answers are given e.g. there is no targeted fishery for this species; there are no xx-flagged vessels fishing for this species

Compliance with quotas/catch limits: please see document COC_304/2023.

ALB - ALBACORE (*Thunnus alalunga*)

[21-04] Recommendation by ICCAT on Conservation and Management Measures, including a Management Procedure and Exceptional Circumstances Protocol, for North Atlantic Albacore

No specific reporting to the Secretariat is required other than through section 4 of Annual Reports.

In accordance with Rec. 21-04, the authorised vessels of 20 m or greater with specific authorisations for ALB-N can be found in the ICCAT Record of Vessels (<https://www.iccat.int/en/VesselsRecord.asp>).

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Response</i>
Belize	Belize has established an onboard bycatch limit across the board for all species, inclusive of northern albacore. The bycatch limit established for vessels not authorized to fish this specie exclusively is 10 m/t. This quantity is accounted for in the overall quota allocation for Belize. However, we have no vessel that has reported any <i>N. albacore</i> taken as bycatch.
China	China does not have vessels targeting N-ALB and S-ALB, all the ALB are caught as by-catch and every tropical longliner can by-catch ALB. In 2022, China has 295.75 t of N-ALB and 250 t of S-ALB, we set catch limit for N-ALB and S-ALB for each longliner based on the TAC allocated to China according to Recommendations of N-ALB and S-ALB. Each vessel must strictly comply with the catch limit set for it.
Curaçao	Res. 16-06 Limit by catch on N-Alb Curaçao agreed with the vessels on 200 ton limit.
EU	Depending on the EU-Member state, bycatch limits may differ. Additional details are included in the Annual Report.
France (SPM)	Regarding the application of paragraph 14 of Rec. 16-03, paragraph 11 of Rec. 17-02: the vessel ATLANTIC ODYSSEY does not catch swordfish and North Atlantic albacore as bycatch but as target species.
USA	The United States does not authorize vessels to fish for or retain NALB without a permit.

Note, the above shows only those who indicated that a limit had been set. In many cases, no limit is set because all relevant vessels have licences and/or by-catch is not permitted. Many of the responses to the maximum by-catch limits are incoherent, with CPCs not having read or understood the requirement. In several instances, species are mixed-up (and include even Mediterranean) or totally irrelevant answers are given e.g. there is no targeted fishery for this species; there are no xx-flagged vessels fishing for this species

[16-07] *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Southern Albacore Catch Limits for the Period 2017 to 2020 (as amended by Rec. 21-05)*

(Replaced by [22-06] *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Southern Atlantic Albacore Catch Limits for the period 2023-2026*)

List of authorised vessels: The authorised vessels of 20 m or greater with specific authorisations for ALB-S can be found in the ICCAT Record of Vessels (<https://www.iccat.int/en/VesselsRecord.asp>).

In accordance with paragraph 11 of Rec. 16-07, the following CPCs have included information in their Annual Reports on maximum on board bycatch limit of SALB:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Response</i>
BELIZE	Belize has established an onboard bycatch limit across the board for all species, inclusive of southern albacore. The bycatch limit established for vessels not authorized to fish this specie exclusively is 10 m/t. This quantity is accounted for in the overall quota allocation for Belize. However, we have no vessel that has reported any <i>S. albacore</i> taken as a bycatch.
CHINA (P.R.)	China does not have vessels targeting N-ALB and S-ALB, all the ALB are caught as by-catch and every tropical longliner can by-catch ALB. In 2022, China has 295.75 t of N-ALB and 250 t of S-ALB, we set catch limit for N-ALB and S-ALB for each longliner based on the TAC allocated to China according to Recommendations of N-ALB and S-ALB. Each vessel must strictly comply with the catch limit set for it.
CURAÇAO	Res. 16-06 Limit by catch on S-ALB Curaçao agreed with the vessels on 50 ton limit.
EUROPEAN UNION	Spain allows bycatches of albacore tuna by the surface longline fleet catching South of 5°N. The maximum catch limit is 5% of the total catch. In practice bycatches by this fleet are very small, less than 1% of the total catch.

USA	The United States does not authorize vessels to fish for or retain SALB without a permit.
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Note, the above shows only those who indicated that a limit had been set. In many cases, no limit is set because all relevant vessels have licences and/or bycatch is not permitted. Many of the responses to the maximum bycatch limits are incoherent, with CPCs not having read or understood the requirement. In several instances, species are mixed-up (and include even Mediterranean) or totally irrelevant answers are given e.g. there is no targeted fishery for this species; there are no xx-flagged vessels fishing for this species.

[21-06] Recommendation by ICCAT to establish a Rebuilding Plan for Mediterranean Albacore

(Replaced by [22-05] Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 21-06 to establish a Rebuilding Plan for Mediterranean Albacore)

Compliance with quotas/catch limits: Please see document COC_304/2023.

List of Authorised Vessels for Mediterranean Albacore: At the time of writing, four CPCs (Egypt, European Union, Morocco and Türkiye) had submitted lists of authorised vessels in accordance with this Recommendation. This list is published on <https://www.iccat.int/en/VesselsRecord.asp>.

[Note: in 2024, this requirement will be reported under Rec. 22-05, which entered into force in June 2023.]

BFT - BLUEFIN TUNA (*Thunnus thynnus*)

[21-08] 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

(Replaced by [22-08] Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean)

ICCAT Record of FFBS: The ICCAT Record of farms, currently containing 69 farms, is published on the ICCAT website: <https://www.iccat.int/en/Ffb.asp>. Annual lists/authorisations are not required. Many of the farms listed as authorised to operate on the ICCAT website do not participate in the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (ROP-BFT).

[16-24] Guidelines for preparing the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna Fishing, Inspection and Capacity Management Plans

Fishing, Inspection and Capacity Management Plans were received within the deadline and following the adopted Guidelines, from all CPCs with a quota for BFT-E. All plans were endorsed and can be found attached to the Report of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2 in PA2_603/2023.

[17-06] Recommendation by ICCAT for an interim conservation and management plan for Western Atlantic bluefin tuna (amended by 20-06 and 21-07)

(Replaced by [22-10] Recommendation by ICCAT for a Conservation and Management Plan for Western Atlantic bluefin tuna)

Monthly catch reports: Please see **Table 7** for a summary of reports received during the year. The reported amounts continue to be published on the password protected area of the ICCAT website.

Compliance with quotas/catch limits: Please see document COC_304/2023.

[21-08] Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 19-04 establishing a Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic

(Replaced by [22-08] Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a Multi-annual Management Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean)

Compliance with quotas/catch limits: Please see document COC_304/2023.

Fishing Plans: Plans were received within the deadline and, following requests for clarification, were all endorsed by Panel 2 (see Ref. 16-24 above).

Joint fishing operations: 30 Joint fishing operations (JFO) were reported for 2023. The Secretariat received the necessary information five days before the JFOs. The information has been posted on the ICCAT webpage: <https://www.iccat.int/en/JFO.asp>. The short deadline continues makes it difficult to get full information entered into the data base and synchronised with eBCD and to get it to the ROP observers in time for their embarkation. In addition, the current system does not allow for any JFOs to be entered without information on farming destination, and some difficulties were encountered when changes were required, as once eBCDs are associated with a JFO the information cannot be updated unless all eBCDs are reissued. Further difficulties have been encountered as a result of last-minute quota transfers which can change both the individual quotas and the relative shares of a given vessel in a JFO. If eBCDs have already been associated, any change involves the reissuing of **every** eBCD which is associated with that JFO.

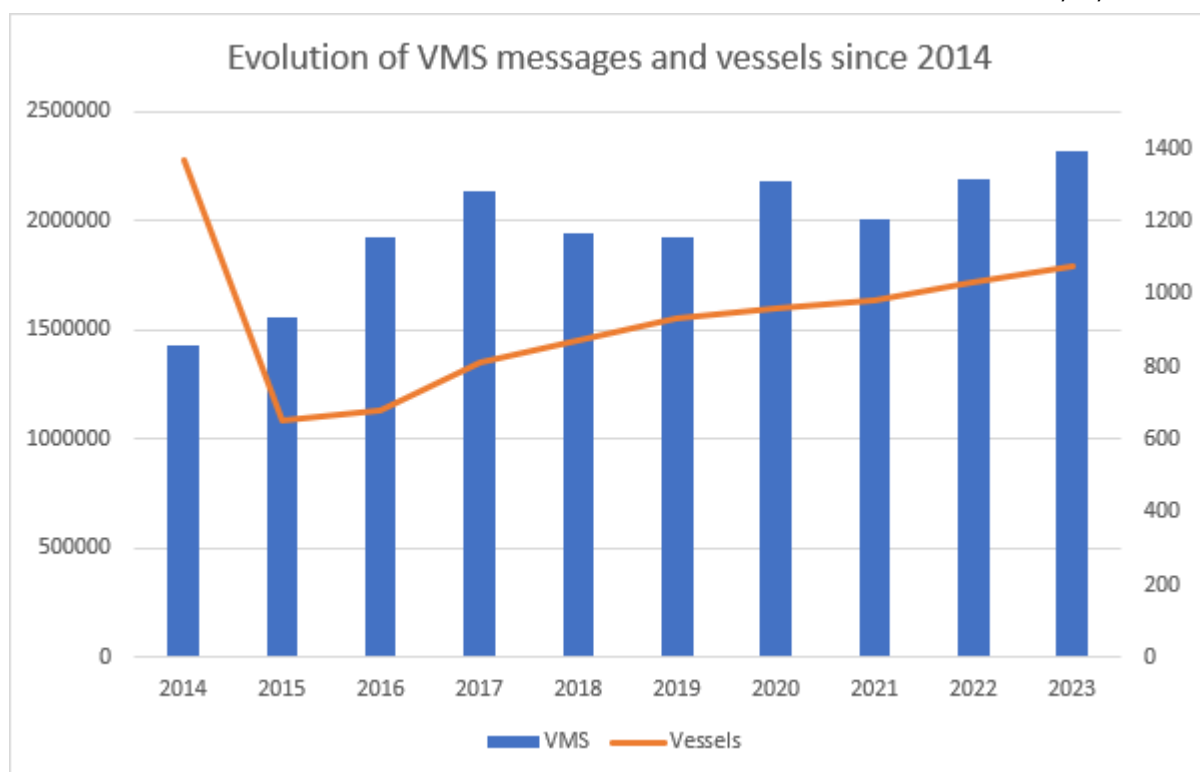
Request from the Secretariat: Although such practices may be permitted by the Recommendation in force, the Secretariat would like to request all CPCs to make every effort to finalise any quota transfers before the start of the fishing season and before the submission of JFOs in order to avoid the problems above which are extremely complex to resolve.

VMS: This year, up to 8 October 2023, a total of 2,319,497 VMS messages have been received (in calculating this total, the messages that the system identifies as port positions have not been taken into account). In comparison with the same period last year, 131,807 more messages have been received or approximately an increase of 6%. Over the same period this year, 1075 vessels have been active (as in the criterion for messages, active vessels are considered to be those that have transmitted at least one message with an out of port position), which is 44 vessels more than last year, i.e. an increase of approximately 4,3%.

This year, an insignificant number of VMS messages (>10) have been received from unknown vessels, i.e. not registered on the ICCAT List of Vessels.

For more details regarding VMS messages transmitted, please see **Tables 4, 5 and 6**.

Since 2014, the number of VMS messages received has increased by 62% approximately.



Bi-Weekly catch reports: Please see **Table 8**.

Farming reports/caging declarations/carry over of caged fish: According to the declarations received at the Secretariat, no caging took place after 22 August 2023. Carry-over of caged fish was reported by EU, Tunisia and Türkiye, as shown in **Table 9**. Morocco and Albania reported that no fish were carried over from 2022 to 2023.

ICCAT Record of BFT Catching / BFT Other vessels: Authorised lists were published on the ICCAT website <https://www.iccat.int/en/VesselsRecord.asp>. There was a retroactive registry of two Chinese BFT-E catching vessels and one Albanian BFT other vessel, as well as the listing of one Albanian BFT-E other vessel which was originally listed 15 days in advance but the authorisation start date was subsequently brought forward (COC_308/2023).

Information on the list of vessels fishing in 2022 is contained in **Annex 5**.

Authorised Port lists: There are currently 866 ports (145 more than in 2022) on the ICCAT Record of ports authorised for landing and/or transshipment for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, published on <https://www.iccat.int/en/Ports.asp>

Trap lists: There are currently 32 traps on the ICCAT Record of traps authorised to catch eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna: <https://www.iccat.int/en/Traps.asp>

Fishery closure: in accordance with paragraph 87 (21-08) and (22-08), CPCs have informed of their date of quota utilisation as follows:

CPC	Date on which entire quota of BFT-E has been utilized
Albania	2023-06-03
Algeria	2023-07-11
China	2022-11-24; quota not fully utilised at time of reporting.
Egypt	Not applicable; quota fully transferred to Türkiye but 1% allocated to bycatch.
European Union	15/07/2023; quota not fully utilised at time of reporting (99.8%).
EU-Croatia	
EU-Cyprus	
EU-France	
EU-Italy	
EU-Spain	
Iceland	Not applicable; no Icelandic vessels will be conducting targeted fisheries for eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna in 2023, due to unforeseen circumstances.
Japan	Not applicable; quota not fully utilized at time of reporting.
Korea	Not applicable; quota not fully utilized at time of reporting.
Libya	2023-06-28
Morocco	2023-10-18
Norway	Not applicable; quota not fully utilized at time of reporting.
Syria	Not applicable; quota fully transferred to Türkiye but 0.8% allocated to bycatch.
Tunisia	2023-07-05
Türkiye	2023-06-26
Chinese Taipei	Not applicable; no BFT fishery.

Inspection reports under Joint Inspection Scheme and list of agencies and inspectors' names: Please refer to **Table 2** for the list of BFT inspection reports submitted by EU, Tunisia and Türkiye. Copies of reports submitted with infringements are available as **Annex 3** and **4** contains the list of agencies, means and the inspectors' names received from EU, Tunisia and Türkiye. A list of inspection vessels has been published on the ICCAT website. A summary of reports with infringements, as well as their responses where available, are contained in **Appendix 4**.

Implementation Reports: As the Recommendation did not enter into force until June 2021, no request for information was made in 2022. As the report is required biennially, the Secretariat has requested information in 2023 and it will be compiled in doc XXXX.

Observer Programmes: As the requirements and procedures for the submission of information was not developed by the Commission by 2009, as required by Recommendations, information from national observer programmes is included in regular scientific submissions. For information on the Regional Observer Programme for Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, please see documents PA2_601/2023 (ROP implementation) and COC_303/2023 (PNCs).

Intra-farm transfers and random controls

In accordance with paragraph 215 of Rec. 22-08, 23 farms flagged to four CPCs communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat the results of the random controls carried in their bluefin farm facilities. As summarised in **Table 11**, a total of 24 reports were submitted during the period from 3 to 17 April 2023 for the years 2022 and 2023. In order to clarify the information presented, a new column "Year" has been added to indicate the year to which the report refers. As this table did not include this column in 2022, last year's data (shaded in orange) has been added with the additional information relating to the reporting year.

BIL - BILLFISHES: Blue marlin (*Makaira nigricans*), White marlin (*Tetrapturus albidus*), Sailfish (*Istiophorus albicans*), Spearfish (*Tetrapturus pfluegeri* and *T. belone*)

[19-05] Recommendation by ICCAT to establish rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish

For compliance with quotas/catch limits, please see document COC-304/23. For other information, please refer to Rec. 18-05 below.

[16-11] Recommendation by ICCAT on Management Measures for the Conservation of Atlantic Sailfish

If the total catch of either stock of Atlantic sailfish exceeds in any year the level corresponding to 67% of the average estimate of their Maximum Sustainable Yield (i.e. 1,271 t for the eastern stock and 1,030 t for the western stock), the Commission shall review the implementation and effectiveness of this Recommendation. The total catches, are shown below:

Task 1 data (including SCRS estimates):

Sailfish	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
ATE	1631	936	2244	1176	1706	1110
ATW	1436	1688	1476	1321	876	1029

Task 1 data (reported data only):

Sailfish	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
ATE	1631	934	2244	1173	1706	1053
ATW	1436	1686	1476	1321	874	938

Task 1 reporting obligations are reviewed under Rec. 11-15. The Recommendation requires CPCs beginning in 2017, to describe their data collection programmes and steps taken to implement this Recommendation in their Annual Reports. These reports are included in the Billfish Check Sheet (see Rec. 18-05 below).

[18-05] Recommendation by ICCAT on improvement of compliance review of conservation and management measures regarding billfish caught in the ICCAT Convention area

Revised/updated Billfish Check Sheets were received this year from 42 CPCs, with 21 CPCs confirming that their check sheets were the same as the previous versions and 21 CPCs submitting revised/updated versions. These are contained in document COC_315/2023. The content of these Billfish Check Sheets is summarized in Annex 1 of COC_315/2023.

The following 8 CPCs have never provided billfish check sheets: Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea (Rep.), Mauritania and Venezuela, while the following 7 CPCs have failed to communicate whether or not any changes have been made to their previous Billfish Check Sheets: Cabo Verde, Honduras, Iceland, St Vincent and the Grenadines, São Tomé e Príncipe, Sierra Leone and Trinidad and Tobago.

BYC - BYCATCH SPECIES

[04-10] Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT

For information reported, please see Rec. 18-06 below.

[07-06] Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT concerning sharks

For information reported, please see Rec. 18-06 below.

[07-07] Recommendation by ICCAT on reducing incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries

Please see Rec. 11-09 below. The Secretariat reiterates its suggestion that these two Recommendations be combined.

[09-07] Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of thresher sharks caught in association with fisheries in the ICCAT Convention area

For information reported, please see Rec. 18-06 below.

[10-06] Recommendation by ICCAT on Atlantic shortfin mako sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries

For information reported, please see Rec. 18-06 below.

[10-07] Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of oceanic whitetip sharks caught in association with fisheries in the ICCAT Convention area

For information reported, please see Rec. 16-13 / 18-06 below.

[10-08] Recommendation by ICCAT on Hammerhead Sharks (family Sphyrnidae) caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT

For information reported, please see Rec. 16-13 / 18-06 below.

[10-09] Recommendation by ICCAT on the bycatch of sea turtles in ICCAT fisheries

(Replaced by [22-12] 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))

In 2021, the Secretariat recommended that CPCs cite their legislation in their Annual Reports given that noted that the applicability of the requirements relating to the maximisation of survival of sea-turtles is not dependent on the extent of interactions, i.e. this should be implemented by all those with purse seine and/or longline fishery. Some, but not all, CPCs have followed this Recommendation. The full extract of responses entered into the IOMS system for M: BYC01 has been made available as **Annex 9**.

[11-08] Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of silky sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries

For information reported, please see Rec. 18-06 below.

[11-09] Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT on reducing incidental by-catch of seabirds in ICCAT longline fisheries

Seabird incidental by-catch is included in PLE_105/2023. Mitigation measures and other actions reported by CPCs through form CP44 in 2022 are shown below:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Night setting with minimum deck lighting</i>	<i>Bird-scaring lines (tori lines)</i>	<i>Line weighting</i>	<i>Status of NPOA on seabirds</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Belize	Yes	Yes	Yes	NPOA Seabirds was adopted in 2016.	Legally binding Circular was issued in accordance with this requirement. Vessels required to utilize one or more of these three measures on board their vessels. These requirements are also captured in our NPOA for Seabirds.
Chinese Taipei	Yes	Yes	Yes	In 2006, we adopted the first edition of NPOA-Seabirds, within which the three mitigation measures (night setting, tori lines and line weighting) required by ICCAT were included. In 2014, we further revised the NPOA-Seabirds to fulfill the objective of reducing incidental catch of seabirds in longline fisheries.	We encourage our fishing vessels fishing in the area South of 20°S to adopt the measure of night setting with minimum deck lighting.
Costa Rica	Not applicable because there is no interaction with seabirds in the fishing activities of the artisanal fleet.	Not applicable because there is no interaction with seabirds in the fishing activities of the artisanal fleet.	Not applicable because there is no interaction with seabirds in the fishing activities of the artisanal fleet.	Not applicable because there is no interaction with seabirds in the fishing activities of the artisanal fleet.	
EU-Malta	Night setting is generally not applied for most surface longline and bottom longline operations.	Not applied.	Line weighting utilised in bottom longlines but generally not in surface longlining.	No national plan of action is currently into place.	Seabird bycatch by surface and bottom longlining is extremely low.
Japan	Yes	Yes	Yes	In place – update provided – see Annex 10 to COC_303/2023.	Required by Ministerial order No. 57.
Korea	Yes	Yes	Yes	The Republic of Korea developed its National Plan of Action for Reducing Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries (NPOA-Seabirds) in 2014 and ensures that Korean-flagged longliners are compliant with the NPOA-Seabirds. The NPOA can be found in the FAO website: https://www.fao.org/fishery/en/publications/92760	In accordance with the requirements of Table 1 of 11-09, Korean longliners use line weighting and either tori lines or setting at night.

South Africa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Published in 2008 and is currently under review.	Part of Permit Conditions (section 21.2).
Türkiye	Partly implemented.	No legal obligation exists, implemented on voluntary basis.	No legal obligation exists, implemented on voluntary basis.	<p>There are project initiatives undertaken by various bodies aiming to create the basis for an inventory of Marine Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and to train staff and volunteers on seabird research and conservation methods.</p> <p>Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture) has initiated a far-reaching programme aiming to take out the outspread “ghost nets” and ghost fishing at the principal coastal water sites of Türkiye.</p> <p>During the implementation phase of the Project of “Cleansing of Seas from Abandoned Fishing Nets”, 103.077.618 m² inland water and marine areas have been dredged and a total of 747.890 m² fishnets and 34.817 pieces of pots and similar fishing gears have been extracted from inland water and marine areas within the period 2014-2023.</p> <p>The project named "Understanding multi-taxa 'bycatch' of vulnerable species and testing mitigation a collaborative approach" has been implemented with the project's partners ACCOBAMS, GFCM, IUCN Med, MEDASSET, RAC/SPA in the Mediterranean Basin. Project duration is from September 2017 to October 2022.</p> <p>In the scope the project sensitive species bycatch data collection and bycatch mitigations methods test studies are done. In addition, good practice guide for the handling of seabirds and identification guide of vulnerable species caught incidentally in Mediterranean have been prepared for the fisherman and inspection officers.</p> <p>“Effects of PAL Pingers to Reduce Bycatch of Marine Mammals (Cetaceans) in Turbot Gill Nets in the Black Sea” was completed in June 2022. It was observed the PAL devices reduced the amount of catching of the Black-throated loon (<i>Gavia arctica</i>) by 89.2% compared to the control group.</p>	<p>In accordance with the fifth paragraph of Article 14 and the first paragraph of Article 15 of the Notification No. 5/1 Regulating Commercial Fisheries (2020-2024), Longlines, gill nets and entangling nets to be set (anchored) at sea must be marked with signal flag / float in day-time and with illuminated-buoy in night-time.</p>

In addition, some CPCs which do not fish south of 20° S or in the Mediterranean have indicated in their Annual Reports that an NPOA for seabirds is in place.

[11-10] Recommendation by ICCAT on information collection and harmonization of data on by-catch and discards in ICCAT fisheries

Please see Rec. 16-14 and PLE_105/2023 for information relating to this Recommendation.

[13-11] Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 10-09 on the bycatch of sea turtles in ICCAT fisheries (Replaced by [22-12] 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))

[14-06] Recommendation by ICCAT on shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries

For information reported, please see Rec. 16-13 below.

[15-06] Recommendation by ICCAT on porbeagle caught in association with ICCAT fisheries

For information reported, please see Rec. 16-13 below. Catches have not exceeded 2004 levels in any year.

[19-07] Recommendation 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 (as amended by 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 [21-10])

Compliance with quotas/catch limits: Please see document COC_304/2023.

Please see the shark sheets submitted in accordance with Rec. 18-06 (COC_314/2023) for implementation of these measures.

[19-08] Recommendation by ICCAT on management measures for the conservation of South Atlantic blue shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries and

[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

An annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 28,923 t for South Atlantic blue shark is established. The Annual TAC may be revised subject to a decision of the Commission based on the updated advice of the SCRS in 2023, or at an earlier stage if enough information is provided by the SCRS.

The total catches, are shown below from which it can be seen that the stock has been overharvested in 2022:

Task 1 data (reported data only):

Blue shark	2020	2021	2022
ATS	33688	33446	31727

Task 1 reporting obligations are reviewed under Rec. 11-15. The Recommendation requires CPCs beginning in 2020, to describe their data collection programmes and steps taken to implement this Recommendation in their Annual Reports. These reports are included in the Shark Implementation Check Sheet (see Rec. 18-06 below).

[21-09] Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of the North Atlantic stock of shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries

[22-11] Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of South Atlantic stock of shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries

The total fishing mortality for North Atlantic shortfin mako shall be no more than 250 tonnes until new SCRS advice is provided to the Commission.

Monthly reports: The total amount for the monthly reports received from CPCs for 2022 are shown below, together with the totals from Task 1, from which it can be seen that the stock has been overharvested in 2022. There is a substantial difference between the amount reported monthly and in Task 1 since just one CPC submitted these monthly reports in 2022.

Shortfin mako	2022 total fishing mortality (t)	Total 2022 catches reported monthly	Task 1 2022
ATS	250	1.03	831

Task 1 reporting obligations are reviewed under Rec. 11-15. The Recommendation requires CPCs beginning in 2020, to provide information in their Annual Reports on how this Recommendation is being implemented. These reports are included in the Shark Implementation Check Sheet (see Rec. 18-06 below).

[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

Forty-three CPCs submitted updates to the Shark Check Sheets in 2023 to include the implementation of new measures. These are contained in document COC_314/2023. The content of these Shark Check Sheets is summarized in Annex 1 of COC_314/2023.

No sheets have been received from the following 14 CPCs: Angola, Cabo Verde, The Gambia, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea (Rep.), Honduras, Iceland, Mauritania, St Vincent and the Grenadines, São Tomé e Príncipe, Sierra Leone, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela.

MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE

GEN - GENERAL ISSUES

[96-14] Recommendation by ICCAT regarding compliance in the bluefin tuna and North Atlantic swordfish fisheries

Information on compliance with minimum size regulations is reported through COC-304/23.

[96-15] Resolution by ICCAT on large-scale pelagic driftnets

Please see Rec. 08-09 for more information.

[97-01] Recommendation by ICCAT to improve compliance with minimum size regulations

Information on compliance with minimum size regulations is reported through COC-304/23.

[97-08] Recommendation by ICCAT regarding compliance in the South Atlantic swordfish fishery

The Secretariat has nothing to report at this time.

[98-11] Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the ban on landings and transshipments of vessels from non-Contracting Parties identified as having committed a serious infringement

The Secretariat has nothing to report at this time.

[00-14] Recommendation by ICCAT regarding compliance with management measures which define quotas and/or catch limits

CPCs have implemented Rec. 00-14, and through the form CP13 have reported their underages/overages for the species under quota/catch limit management. These are presented in document COC_304/2023.

[01-12] Recommendation by ICCAT regarding the temporary adjustment of quotas

Authorised adjustments are contained in various Recommendations and reflected in document COC_304/2023.

[01-18] Resolution by ICCAT further defining the scope of IUU fishing

See PWG_405/2023.

[03-12] Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the duties of Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities in relation to their vessels in the ICCAT Convention area

The Secretariat has nothing to report at this time.

[03-13] Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the recording of catch by fishing vessels in the ICCAT Convention area

The Secretariat has nothing to report at this time.

[03-16] Recommendation by ICCAT to adopt additional measures against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing

The Secretariat has nothing to report at this time.

[04-12] Recommendation by ICCAT to adopt measures concerning sport and recreational fishing activities in the Mediterranean Sea

The CPCs shall take the necessary measures so that catch data from sport and recreational fishing are collected and transmitted to the SCRS.

[06-13] Recommendation by ICCAT concerning trade measures

Completed forms containing information on imports and landings were submitted in accordance with this measure within the deadline by China, Chinese Taipei, El Salvador, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Tunisia and Türkiye. The information submitted by CPCs is contained in **Annex 1**.

[06-14] 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

(Replaced by *[22-14] 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 Secretariat has nothing to report at this time.

[21-16] 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

The Secretariat has nothing to report at this time.

[08-09] Recommendation by ICCAT to establish a process for the review and reporting of compliance information

The information submitted by NGOs, together with the responses to date, is available in COC_312/2023.

[11-11] Recommendation by ICCAT to Clarify the Application of Compliance Recommendations and for Developing the Compliance Annex

Compliance Tables are contained in COC_304/2023.

[11-15] Recommendation by ICCAT on penalties applicable in case of non-fulfilment of reporting obligations

Following the 2022 Commission meeting, prohibition was imposed on Angola, The Gambia, Grenada and Guinea-Bissau. The Secretariat is pleased to report that the prohibition has since been lifted from Angola and Grenada as they have submitted the missing data during 2023. However, it is noted that the Task 1 reported by Angola reveals that Angolan vessels continued to fish while under prohibition.

No Task 1 statistics for 2022 were received during 2023 from The Gambia, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras and Sierra Leone (at 9 October), as shown in **Appendix 3**. In addition, some data or confirmation of zero catches (white cells in **Appendix 3**) are missing from Egypt, European Union, France (St-Pierre et Miquelon), Iceland, Korea (Rep.), São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal and United Kingdom.

A history of prohibitions applied is contained in **Annex 8**.

[21-13] Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 18-08 on establishing a list of vessels presumed to have carried out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing activities

The information gathered by the Secretariat since the 2022 Commission meeting is presented in document PWG_405/2023. It should be noted that the current system of cross listing poses some serious challenges to ensure accuracy of information, as there is no standard presentation for the information from the RFMOs involved. Please see PWG_424/2023 for Question from the Secretariat on this issue.

[18-09] Recommendation by ICCAT on port State measures to prevent, deter and eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

Information on contact points for AREP and receipt of reports is published on the password protected area of the ICCAT website under <https://www.iccat.int/en/portinspection.html>, as well as any infringements reported, and the actions taken. In some cases, it is not clear from the reports if infringements have taken place, and if/when these infringements relate to ICCAT requirements:

Request from the Secretariat: In order to ensure correct implementation of the requirement for CPCs to submit inspection reports which contain ICCAT infringements for inclusion on the ICCAT website, it would be helpful if the CPCs submit a summary of the relevant information for publication, as well as the date on which they sent the report to the Flag State.

The European Union has submitted 5 Port Inspection Reports with alleged infringements for 1 vessel from El Salvador, 2 vessels from Bahamas and 2 vessels from Panama, respectively.

Rec. 18-09 provides that the submission of inspection reports in which no infraction has been found is voluntary. A summary of reports received is contained **Table 3**. In many cases, reports are received late, and the Secretariat has noted that copies of the reports have not been made available to the flag States in all cases.

Reporting of designated ports under Rec. 18-09

The ICCAT Record of Ports into which foreign vessels may enter is published on the ICCAT website at <https://www.iccat.int/en/Ports.asp>.

[21-14] Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 13-13 concerning the establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 meters in Length Overall or greater authorized to operate in the Convention area

See also Rec. 21-14 below for issues of retroactive reporting. At the time of writing, no IMO numbers were missing from any vessels of 20 m or greater (unless exempt, e.g. wooden or non-commercial vessels).

Updates to internal action reports (presented in the form CP10) were received from Belize and Ghana. These are contained in **Annex 2**.

[13-14] Recommendation by ICCAT on vessel chartering

The chartering summary reports are contained in **Appendix 2** and the table summarizing the chartering arrangements reported in **Table 10**. Although the CP53 form introduced in 2021 has been correctly integrated by the parties involved in the chartering agreements improving the coordination and the processing of data, some difficulties remain in terms of deadlines to receive the information in a timely manner. Six of the vessels involved in Chartering arrangements are flagged to a non-Contracting Party (Vanuatu).

[14-07] Recommendation by ICCAT on access agreements

Updates relating to ongoing Access Agreements were received from the European Union, Gabon, Morocco, Suriname and United Kingdom since the last Commission meeting. Some of the agreements reported in previous years were multi-annual and are still ongoing. The full list of Access Agreements is contained in **Annex 6**.

In order to avoid any confusion with Task 1 reporting, the Secretariat published a revised reporting form for submitting information on Access Agreements; both for the Agreement itself and for the catches made under such agreement (see CP39) in 2020, but this section on catch reporting is not currently being used by CPCs.

Extracts from other CPC Annual Reports in relation to Access Agreements are shown below.

CPC	Response
CABO VERDE	According to the fisheries access agreement between Cabo Verde and third countries, the following are authorised to operate in the Cabo Verde EEZ: European Union.
EUROPEAN UNION	See Annex I.
LIBERIA	There were tuna vessels under access arrangements that conducted fishing activities with the EEZ of Liberia. Annual production per species in KG- BET- 65, SKJ- 369, YFT- 369, ALB- 4, SWO- 493, SAI- 25,391, LTA- 280, and BSH- 95.
SENEGAL	Senegal signed an agreement with the European Union in 2014. Under the second protocol signed in 2019, twenty-six (26) tuna vessels operated for total catches of 438.4 t.
UNITED KINGDOM	The UK sent one access agreement during 2023 and this will be reported in the next annual report.

[14-09] Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 03-14 concerning minimum standards for the establishment of a vessel fishing monitoring system in the ICCAT Convention area

(Replaced by [18-10] Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for Vessel Monitoring Systems in the ICCAT Convention Area)

The current Recommendation does not contain any direct reporting requirements. For compliance issues with the implementation of VMS, please refer to Rec. 19-04.

[21-14] Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 13-13 concerning the establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 meters in Length Overall or greater authorized to operate in the Convention area

Retroactive submissions were noted above in the BFT-E-other vessel list (Albania) and the BFT-E Catching List (China).

[15-09] Resolution by ICCAT establishing Guidelines for the implementation of the Recommendation 11-15 by ICCAT on penalties applicable in the case of non-fulfilment of reporting obligations

Please see Rec. 11-15 above.

[16-14] Recommendation by ICCAT to establish Minimum Standards for Fishing Vessel Scientific Observer Program

Several CPCs have indicated difficulties in implementing scientific observer programmes. A summary of CPC's observer programmes can be found in PLE_105/2023 and COC_317/2023.

[21-15] Recommendation by ICCAT on Transshipment

Carrier vessels and associated LPLVs are published on the ICCAT website in the ICCAT Record of Vessels at <https://www.iccat.int/en/VesselsRecord.asp>.

PWG-402/23 contains more information. PNCs reported by observers and responses from CPCs are contained in COC-305/23. The reports of the observers have been published on the ICCAT website (<https://www.iccat.int/en/ROP.html>) as required by the Recommendation.

Several Supply Declarations have been received in Word format, that are not consistent with the template of the form CP54 provided by the Secretariat. These declarations are in a text format (letter style), which is very different from the proposed table. Coordinates are not indicated and very often the type of product to be transhipped is not indicated. This makes it very difficult for the Secretariat to determine which documents are being sent in accordance with the requirement to submit Supply Declarations, particularly as a few CPCs persist in submitting information not required by the Recommendation which causes an enormous additional burden on the Secretariat (registration and review of non-relevant submissions) and seriously hinders the correct processing of information.

Request from Secretariat: CPCs limit themselves to submitting to the ICCAT Secretariat only the documentation required by the Recommendation, and use the ICCAT approved formats where applicable.

[19-17] 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

Contact points have been published on the ICCAT website at:
<https://www.iccat.int/Documents/Comply/InspectionPersonnelPilotProgram.xlsx>

[19-09] Recommendation by ICCAT vessel sightings

Four vessel sightings were reported by EU, 3 from Morocco and 1 from Tunisia. These are contained in **Annex 11**. As one Inspection report under Joint Inspection Scheme was also received for one of the aforementioned Moroccan vessels, the response from Morocco regarding these vessels sightings is available in **Appendix 4**.

Additional information from NGOs is contained in COC_312/2023.

[19-10] *Recommendation by ICCAT on protecting the health and safety of observers in ICCAT's regional observer programs*

To date, 16 Emergency Action Plans have been received; these are published on <https://www.iccat.int/en/EAP.html>

[19-11] *Recommendation by ICCAT on abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear*

No information has been submitted to date.

SANC - SANCTIONS, TRADE-RELATED MEASURES

[No measures currently active.]

SDP - STATISTICAL DOCUMENT PROGRAMS

[01-21] *Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the ICCAT Bigeye Tuna Statistical Document Program*

Information can be found in documents PWG_401/2023 and PLE_105/2023.

[01-22] *Recommendation by ICCAT establishing a Swordfish Statistical Document Program*

Imports and re-exports of both bigeye and swordfish from unknown flag and/or unknown area continue to be reported by some CPCs.

More information can be found in documents PWG_401/2023 and PLE_105/2023.

[Rec. 18-13] *Recommendation by ICCAT Replacing Recommendation 11-20 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program*

(as amended by [Rec. 21-19] *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 18-13 Replacing Recommendation 11-20 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program*)

Please see document PWG_401/2023 for information on the implementation of Rec. 18-13 under the eBCD system. Refer also to Rec. 21-18 below.

[21-18] *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Rec. 20-08 on the Application of the eBCD System*

(Replaced by [22-16] *Recommendation by ICCAT amending Recommendation 21-18 on the application of the eBCD System*)

In accordance with Annex 3 of Rec. 21-18, outside the Secretariat's office hours and the technical assistance' hours contracted with the Consortium, any CPC can self-register an incident on the ICCAT web page <https://www.iccat.int/en/eBCDprog.asp> to inform all CPCs of its temporary use of the paper BCD. The problems reported by China in 2022 persist. More information on the eBCD systems can be found in documents PWG_401/2023 and PWG_403/2023.

The report on the derogation allowed under paragraph 5b) is available as PWG_407/2023.

TOR - TERMS OF REFERENCE

[16-19] *Recommendation by ICCAT for the Development of an Online Reporting System*

Information on progress to date can be found in document COC_302/2023, and Ref. 12-13 below.

MISC - MISCELLANEOUS*[99-07] Resolution by ICCAT on improving recreational fishery statistics*

Information is included in Annual Reports (COC_301/2023) and in Task 1 statistics. Given that the wording of the Resolution is vague (“each CPC provide specific data to SCRS to allow the Commission to determine separately the magnitude of recreational fisheries of each species of Atlantic tuna and tuna-like fish”), the Commission may wish to better define the information required.

[21-24] Recommendation by ICCAT to replace Recommendation 03-20 by ICCAT on criteria for attaining the status of Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity in ICCAT

Bolivia, Chinese Taipei, and Costa Rica, Guyana, and Suriname currently enjoy Cooperating status. Review of compliance by Cooperating parties, Entities and Fishing Entities is included in document COC_308/2023.

[05-09] Recommendation by ICCAT on compliance with statistical reporting obligations

Please see PLE_105/2023 for more details on statistical reporting, as well as Rec. 11-15 above. The following non-Contracting Parties have provided data this year: Gibraltar, Palestine and Sta Lucia.

[05-11] Resolution by ICCAT on pelagic Sargassum

The Secretariat has nothing to report at this time. Barbados has included some information in their Annual Reports.

[12-13] Revised guidelines for the preparation of the Annual Reports

(as amended by *[Rec. 22-17] Recommendation by ICCAT on the application of the Integrated Online Management System*)

Document COC_311/2023, contains a summary of section 5 of Part II of the Annual Reports (“Difficulties encountered in implementation of and compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures”) presenting the main difficulties of some CPCs and raising the possible need for technical assistance.

From 2023 onwards, the data of the scientific requirements summary and the reporting summary tables shall be entered by CPCs directly into the ICCAT Integrated Online Management System (IOMS). However, some confusion still remains, with few CPCs continuing to submit outdated Word tables or having completed the IOMS sections but did not submit any text to complement their report.

In IOMS, as in the previous Word versions of Annual Reports, it is clear that many CPCs do not read adequately the question/requirement, and do not revert back to the original Recommendations. Note that on the ICCAT website <https://www.iccat.int/en/SubmitCOMP.html>, the Recommendation numbers and paragraph numbers can be found as well as an indication as to who is expected to respond.

Below is just one example (there are many) of the types of “incorrect” answers received:

Example: Maximum onboard by-catch limit of N. SWO (Rec. 17-02 para 14)

Some responses to this requirement (which relates to NORTHERN swordfish):

XXX does not fish for the SWO-MD / XXX doesn't have vessels targeting SWO-MD / All XXX vessels authorized to operate in the Convention are authorized to catch and retain SWO-S.

Secretariat Request: In addition to paying attention to the questions/requirements, CPCs are requested to refrain from responding, in the IOMS, answers such as

- See above
- See Annual Report
- Same as last year
- No change

The system is designed to extract all the responses to a particular requirement, in order to be able to report easily on that requirement to the Compliance Committee. Therefore, a full answer to each question is required to extract coherent information.

Of the 45 CPCs that submitted their reports through the System, only 22 have used some of the standard responses. At the forthcoming meetings of the IOMS, those participating may wish to suggest improvements to the standard responses to make them more widely applicable if those currently offered do not cover adequately the needs of CPCs.

To avoid confusion in the field “Not applicable”, as in previous years, the nomenclature has been changed to “Applicable”, as well as its functionality. As such it is more intuitive for the user when to select it (if the requirement in question applies to the CPC) and provide the relevant explanations.

Only three CPCs have submitted one of the two required reports through the IOMS, either the Statistics or the Compliance Report: Angola, Nicaragua and Venezuela. Twelve CPC did not submit in 2023 either report through the system: Côte d’Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, The Gambia, Grenada, Guinea (Rep.), Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Mauritania, Nigeria, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sierra Leone, and Trinidad and Tobago.

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