

Report on the implementation of the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme for east Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna

(ICCAT Secretariat)

The Regional Observer Programme for eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna (ROP-BFT) was carried out under the provisions of the [Recommendation by ICCAT amending the recommendation 19-04 amending recommendation 18-02 establishing a multi-annual management plan for Bluefin Tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean \(Rec. 21-08\)](#) and of [Recommendation by ICCAT amending the Recommendation 21-08 establishing a multi-annual management plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean \(Rec. 22-08\)](#).

The provisions of these Recommendations stipulate that observers are to be placed by the Secretariat to ensure observer coverage of 100% of purse seine vessels during all the annual fishing season. In this respect, an observer shall be present during the fishing operation; and during all transfer of bluefin tuna to the cages and all harvest of fish from the cage; and during all transfers of bluefin tuna from traps to transport cages.

Implementation in 2023

The Secretariat is pleased to report that ICCAT Regional Observers have been embarked on all vessels (209) for which requests for observer deployment were received and confirmed. For this reason, the Secretariat's did not circulate any interim reports during the season, as the special procedures agreed by the Commission in 2020 were not invoked. The only observers of same nationality deployed on vessels were on Turkish vessels, which is due to the language issue and not due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions.

On the authority of the CPCs concerned, observers for caging and harvesting operations were shared by EU-Spain, EU-Croatia, EU-Malta, Tunisia and Türkiye (which has one farm with three licences and hence three ICCAT numbers but operates as one farm in the same location, as has been the case since the inception of the programme)

The list of vessels flagged to the eight CPCs participating in the programme is attached as **Table 1**.

Since 2009, 797¹ farm deployments and 27 trap deployments have been requested, as shown in **Table 2**. The list of farms participating in the programme is attached as **Table 3**, and a list of traps which were observed by regional observers contained in **Table 4**.

All observer reports have been made available to CPCs as **Annex 1 and 2 to COC_305/2023**. The lists of potential non-compliance issues detected by observers on vessels, farms and traps are contained in the appendices to **COC_305/2023**, together with the responses received.

The Consortium MRAG/COFREPECH continues to implement the Programme. The Report of this Consortium, available as **Annex 1** (Executive Summary attached as **Appendix 1**), contains more details on the implementation of the programme.

Failure to follow the procedures for requesting deployments on farms and extensions to approved deployments continues to cause difficulties in the implementation, e.g., requests after 96 hours – in some cases one day before or even the same day; or requests for observers are not accompanied by proof of payment. It should be noted that the Secretariat cannot process any requests for which payment has not been made. In addition, a number of requests for deployment on vessels are sent in advance but later cancelled, which creates problems for logistics as the port of embarkation is often not known (or is changed) very near the start of the campaign.

¹ At 1 October 2023.

In 2023, Regional Observers were again issued with ICCAT seals for use on transport cages where voluntary transfers were not of sufficient quality to allow the correct count of the fish, in accordance with paragraph 128 of Rec. 21-08.

Future implementation

At present, no significant change is envisaged in the implementation of the ROP-BFT, unless required by any new measures adopted by the Commission. In the short term, early requests for deployment will facilitate timely deployment.

Table 1. List of purse seiner vessels which operated in 2023.

| <i>CPC</i> | <i>VESSEL DETAILS</i> | <i>Register Number</i> |
|------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Albania | Rozafa 15 | AT000ALB00010 |
| Albania | Rozafa 23 | AT000ALB00011 |
| Algerie | SIDI SLIMANE | AT000DZA00001 |
| Algerie | NEPTUNE V | AT000DZA00005 |
| Algerie | NEPTUNE VI | AT000DZA00006 |
| Algerie | YOUNES I | AT000DZA00007 |
| Algerie | CHAHID HASNI SAIDI | AT000DZA00009 |
| Algerie | Al Majed | AT000DZA00011 |
| Algerie | El Kader | AT000DZA00012 |
| Algerie | BRAHAM | AT000DZA00014 |
| Algerie | BENI LOUMA | AT000DZA00015 |
| Algerie | ECHAHID MOSTEFA BENBOULAID | AT000DZA00017 |
| Algerie | SIDI MAAMAR | AT000DZA00018 |
| Algerie | EL MAJDE | AT000DZA00332 |
| Algerie | Borhane I | AT000DZA00384 |
| Algerie | Sid Ahmed | AT000DZA00549 |
| Algerie | SIDI SLIMANE II | AT000DZA00792 |
| Algerie | AHMED ROBAINE | AT000DZA00816 |
| Algerie | Lalla Mennoune | AT000DZA00817 |
| Algerie | HABIB ALLAH I | AT000DZA00818 |
| Algerie | Fel Abdelkader | AT000DZA00819 |
| Algerie | El Chourouk | AT000DZA00820 |
| Algerie | AHMED ROBAINE II | AT000DZA00976 |
| Algerie | SERAJ | AT000DZA00977 |
| Algerie | HADJ SAID | AT000DZA00978 |
| Algerie | Riadh | AT000DZA00995 |
| Algerie | Meftahi | AT000DZA00996 |
| Algerie | EL-Bachir | AT000DZA00997 |
| Algerie | El Hadj Omar | AT000DZA00998 |
| Algerie | LES FRERES BENAMANE | AT000DZA00999 |
| Algerie | Merwa 1 | AT000DZA01000 |
| Algerie | WAFID ZINE EDDINE | AT000DZA01001 |
| Algerie | AHMED SALIM | AT000DZA01002 |
| Algerie | HADJ SOUFI MOHAMED | AT000DZA01003 |
| EU-Croatia | HRVATSKI USPJEH | ATEU0HRV00007 |
| EU-Croatia | PELAGOS II | ATEU0HRV00017 |

| | | |
|------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| EU-Croatia | OSLJAK DVA | ATEU0HRV00020 |
| EU-Croatia | PREKO | ATEU0HRV00021 |
| EU-Croatia | KALI | ATEU0HRV00037 |
| EU-Croatia | EVA | ATEU0HRV00049 |
| EU-Croatia | PONOS | ATEU0HRV00058 |
| EU-Croatia | SARDINA I | ATEU0HRV00133 |
| EU-Croatia | NEPTUN I | ATEU0HRV00134 |
| EU-Croatia | NEPTUN II | ATEU0HRV00140 |
| EU-Croatia | KORNAT | ATEU0HRV00153 |
| EU-Croatia | TULJAN DVA | ATEU0HRV00155 |
| EU-Croatia | MARLIN | ATEU0HRV00156 |
| EU-Croatia | SARDINA II | ATEU0HRV00161 |
| EU-Croatia | CARICA | ATEU0HRV00163 |
| EU-Croatia | TACOMA | ATEU0HRV00164 |
| EU-Croatia | NOA | ATEU0HRV00330 |
| EU-Croatia | CICILO | ATEU0HRV00081 |
| EU-Cyprus | ALKYA | ATEU0CYP00103 |
| EU-España | GEPUS | ATEU0ESP00119 |
| EU-España | LA FRAU DOS | ATEU0ESP00172 |
| EU-España | LEONARDO BRULL SEGON | ATEU0ESP00173 |
| EU-España | NUEVO ELORZ | ATEU0ESP00250 |
| EU-España | NUEVO PANCHILLET | ATEU0ESP00276 |
| EU-España | TIO GEL SEGON | ATEU0ESP00394 |
| EU-France | ANNE ANTOINE 2 | ATEU0FRA00003 |
| EU-France | CAP HORIZON | ATEU0FRA00013 |
| EU-France | CHRISDERIC II | ATEU0FRA00019 |
| EU-France | CISBERLANDE 5 | ATEU0FRA00021 |
| EU-France | GERALD JEAN III | ATEU0FRA00026 |
| EU-France | GERARD LUC IV | ATEU0FRA00028 |
| EU-France | JANVIER GIORDANO | ATEU0FRA00037 |
| EU-France | JEAN LOUIS RAPHAEL 2 | ATEU0FRA00038 |
| EU-France | JEANMARIE CHRISTIAN 3 | ATEU0FRA00040 |
| EU-France | JEAN MARIE CHRISTIAN 4 | ATEU0FRA00041 |
| EU-France | JEAN MARIE CHRISTIAN 6 | ATEU0FRA00043 |
| EU-France | SAINT SOPHIE FRANCOIS 2 | ATEU0FRA00064 |
| EU-France | SAINT SOPHIE FRANCOIS 3 | ATEU0FRA00065 |
| EU-France | JEAN MARIE CHRISTIAN 7 | ATEU0FRA00078 |
| EU-France | JANVIER LOUIS RAPHAEL | ATEU0FRA00083 |
| EU-France | ERIC MARIN | ATEU0FRA00087 |
| EU-France | PIERRE JOSEPH SALVADOR | ATEU0FRA00088 |
| EU-France | VILLE D'AGDE IV | ATEU0FRA00089 |
| EU-France | VENT DU NORD II | ATEU0FRA00090 |
| EU-France | GERALD JEAN IV | ATEU0FRA00093 |
| EU-France | CHRISDERIC V | ATEU0FRA14500 |
| EU-Italy | ATLANTE | ATEU0ITA00065 |
| EU-Italy | DOBERMAN | ATEU0ITA00163 |
| EU-Italy | ENZA MADRE | ATEU0ITA00188 |

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|----------|-------------------------|---------------|
| EU-Italy | GIUSEPPE PADRE SECONDO | ATEU0ITA00289 |
| EU-Italy | MADONNA DI FATIMA | ATEU0ITA00348 |
| EU-Italy | MARIA ANTONIETTA | ATEU0ITA00368 |
| EU-Italy | ONDA | ATEU0ITA00459 |
| EU-Italy | PADRE PIO P | ATEU0ITA00470 |
| EU-Italy | SPARVIERO UNO | ATEU0ITA00565 |
| EU-Italy | VERGINE DE ROSARIO | ATEU0ITA00617 |
| EU-Italy | MATTEO NOVELLA | ATEU0ITA00623 |
| EU-Italy | ALTO MARE PRIMO | ATEU0ITA00631 |
| EU-Italy | ANGELA MADRE | ATEU0ITA00635 |
| EU-Italy | ANGELO CATANIA | ATEU0ITA00636 |
| EU-Italy | ANGELA ARCELLA | ATEU0ITA00639 |
| EU-Italy | FUTURA PRIMA | ATEU0ITA00651 |
| EU-Italy | GENEVIEVE PRIMA | ATEU0ITA00654 |
| EU-Italy | LUCIA MADRE | ATEU0ITA00664 |
| EU-Italy | MICHELANGELO | ATEU0ITA00671 |
| EU-Italy | GAETANO PADRE | ATEU0ITA00693 |
| EU-Italy | MARIA GRAZIA | ATEU0ITA00694 |
| EU-Malta | COSTABILE | ATEU0MLT01102 |
| EU-Malta | MARIA MADRE | ATEU0MLT02619 |
| Libya | RAS ETIN | AT000LBY00022 |
| Libya | OEA | AT000LBY00026 |
| Libya | ELHADER 2 | AT000LBY00037 |
| Libya | ALNOGOM ALMODIAA 1 | AT000LBY00072 |
| Libya | ALHARES 2 | AT000LBY00074 |
| Libya | ALBAHR ELHADER | AT000LBY00077 |
| Libya | ALAMWAJE ALHADERE | AT000LBY00078 |
| Libya | AL-MUSTAKBEL | AT000LBY00085 |
| Libya | AL KAPTAN | AT000LBY00091 |
| Libya | TAKNES | AT000LBY00092 |
| Libya | NASEEP | AT000LBY00093 |
| Libya | MEAJILLAN 1 | AT000LBY00096 |
| Libya | MALITA | AT000LBY00099 |
| Libya | SALAM | AT000LBY00100 |
| Libya | AL-FATAYEH | AT000LBY00111 |
| Maroc | SONS | AT000MAR04760 |
| Maroc | MEDIOUNA | AT000MAR01418 |
| Maroc | SAAD ALLAH | AT000MAR04759 |
| Maroc | AZROU 1 | AT000MAR00081 |
| Norway | Hillersøy | AT000NOR00001 |
| Norway | Bluefin | AT000NOR00004 |
| Norway | Spjæringen | AT000NOR00018 |
| Norway | M/S Sjarmør | AT000NOR00019 |
| Norway | Edna Synnøve | AT000NOR00021 |
| Norway | Orfjord | AT000NOR00012 |
| Norway | Vestbris | AT000NOR00017 |
| Tunisia | Abou Chamma (Abouchema) | AT000TUN00002 |

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|---------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Tunisia | Haj hedii | AT000TUN00007 |
| Tunisia | Hassen | AT000TUN00008 |
| Tunisia | Imen | AT000TUN00010 |
| Tunisia | Jamel | AT000TUN00011 |
| Tunisia | Mohamed Adem | AT000TUN00012 |
| Tunisia | Mabrouk | AT000TUN00015 |
| Tunisia | Sallem | AT000TUN00023 |
| Tunisia | Tapsus | AT000TUN00024 |
| Tunisia | Hadj Mokhtar | AT000TUN00025 |
| Tunisia | Ghali | AT000TUN00036 |
| Tunisia | Ibn Rachiq | AT000TUN00037 |
| Tunisia | Yousri | AT000TUN00040 |
| Tunisia | Jannet 2 | AT000TUN00044 |
| Tunisia | Mohamed Yassine | AT000TUN00045 |
| Tunisia | Abderrahmen | AT000TUN00047 |
| Tunisia | El Houssaine | AT000TUN00049 |
| Tunisia | EL HADJ ABDELWAHEB | AT000TUN00050 |
| Tunisia | Mohamed Essadok | AT000TUN00051 |
| Tunisia | Hadj Ahmed | AT000TUN00070 |
| Tunisia | Riadh | AT000TUN00495 |
| Tunisia | Amir | AT000TUN00506 |
| Tunisia | Montaçar | AT000TUN00974 |
| Tunisia | Fakhreddine Errrazi II | AT000TUN00975 |
| Tunisia | Awled Sahbi (Aoueled Essahbi) | AT000TUN00977 |
| Tunisia | El Kods | AT000TUN00978 |
| Tunisia | Oueled Hammali | AT000TUN00979 |
| Tunisia | Mabrouka | AT000TUN00980 |
| Tunisia | Yosri II | AT000TUN00981 |
| Tunisia | Mohamed Salim II | AT000TUN00983 |
| Tunisia | El Behi | AT000TUN00985 |
| Tunisia | Mohamed Zied II | AT000TUN00986 |
| Tunisia | Haj Issaoui | AT000TUN00987 |
| Tunisia | Hadj Ali III | AT000TUN00988 |
| Tunisia | Assil | AT000TUN01048 |
| Tunisia | Hadj Sadok | AT000TUN01049 |
| Tunisia | Wassim | AT000TUN01050 |
| Tunisia | El Haj Salem | AT000TUN01051 |
| Tunisia | ABDERRAHIM | AT000TUN01166 |
| Tunisia | El Horchani | AT000TUN00009 |
| Tunisia | El Khalij | AT000TUN00014 |
| Tunisia | Denphir 1 | AT000TUN00479 |
| Tunisia | Ghedir El Gholla | AT000TUN00030 |
| Tunisia | SAYFALLAH | AT000TUN00043 |
| Tunisia | Jawhar (or Jaouhar) | AT000TUN00046 |
| Tunisia | Futuro 1 | AT000TUN00065 |
| Tunisia | Mohamed Ali | AT000TUN00973 |
| Tunisia | Dou Allah | AT000TUN00976 |

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|---------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Tunisia | El Beji | AT000TUN00984 |
| Tunisia | Tijani | AT000TUN00026 |
| Tunisia | Meimouna | AT000TUN00048 |
| Türkiye | CINAR IBRAHİM | AT000TUR00014 |
| Türkiye | FATOGLU KARDESLER 2 | AT000TUR00021 |
| Türkiye | HACI MUSTAFA KULOGLU | AT000TUR00024 |
| Türkiye | MAMULİ REİS III | AT000TUR00033 |
| Türkiye | IŞIKLAR-3 | AT000TUR00224 |
| Türkiye | EMINOĞULLARI-4 | AT000TUR00283 |
| Türkiye | AVCI BABA | AT000TUR00375 |
| Türkiye | MAHMUTCAN-1 | AT000TUR00419 |
| Türkiye | TUNCAY SAGUN 2 | AT000TUR00455 |
| Türkiye | HICAZ-5 | AT000TUR00497 |
| Türkiye | DENİZER | AT000TUR00501 |
| Türkiye | TUNCAY SAGUN-7 | AT000TUR07658 |
| Türkiye | KORKMAZLAR BALIKÇILIK | AT000TUR07905 |
| Türkiye | BOZOĞLU KARDEŞLER-3 | AT000TUR07936 |
| Türkiye | BANDIRMA BALIKÇILIK | AT000TUR08044 |
| Türkiye | HACI EMRULLAH REİS 3 | AT000TUR08042 |
| Türkiye | MAMULI ISMAIL | AT000TUR08045 |
| Türkiye | SURSAN-26 | AT000TUR08041 |
| Türkiye | AZİZLER - II | AT000TUR00004 |
| Türkiye | AKGUN BALIKÇILIK-3 | AT000TUR00296 |
| Türkiye | MUSTAFA REİS BALIKÇILIK | AT000TUR00451 |
| Türkiye | GEÇİCİLER BALIKÇILIK-1 | AT000TUR00220 |
| Türkiye | MARGO MAHMUT | AT000TUR07659 |
| Türkiye | SABAN KIYAK-1 | AT000TUR08043 |
| Türkiye | IBRAHİM REİS-III | AT000TUR00026 |
| Türkiye | MEHMET KAPTAN-7 | AT000TUR00034 |
| Türkiye | KASIRGA-2 | AT000TUR07906 |
| Türkiye | KÖROĞLU BALIKÇILIK A | AT000TUR07932 |
| Türkiye | ULUCAN BALIKÇILIK | AT000TUR07935 |

Table 2. Number of farm/trap deployments by year*.

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Number of farm deployments</i> | <i>Number of trap deployments</i> |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2009 | 3 | |
| 2010 | 41 | |
| 2011 | 53 | |
| 2012 | 51 | |
| 2013 | 50 | 2 |
| 2014 | 45 | 3 |
| 2015 | 52 | 3 |
| 2016 | 53 | 2 |
| 2017 | 49 | 2 |
| 2018 | 56 | 4 |
| 2019 | 69 | 4 |
| 2020 | 67 | 3 |
| 2021 | 61 | 1 |
| 2022 | 81 | 3 |
| 2023 | 66 | 2 |

* At 1 October 2023.

Table 3. Farming facilities on which ICCAT Regional Observers were deployed in 2021 - 2023.

| <i>CPC</i> | <i>2021</i> | <i>2022</i> | <i>2023</i> |
|-------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Albania | AT001ALB00001 | AT001ALB00001 | AT001ALB00001 |
| EU-Croatia | ATEU1HRV00006 | ATEU1HRV00006 | ATEU1HRV00006 |
| EU-Croatia | ATEU1HRV00008 | ATEU1HRV00008 | ATEU1HRV00008 |
| EU-Croatia | ATEU1HRV00011 | ATEU1HRV00011 | ATEU1HRV00011 |
| EU-Croatia | ATEU1HRV00012 | ATEU1HRV00012 | ATEU1HRV00012 |
| EU-Italy | | | ATEU1ITA00015 |
| EU-Malta | ATEU1MLT00001 | ATEU1MLT00001 | ATEU1MLT00001 |
| EU-Malta | ATEU1MLT00002 | ATEU1MLT00002 | ATEU1MLT00002 |
| EU-Malta | ATEU1MLT00003 | ATEU1MLT00003 | ATEU1MLT00003 |
| EU-Malta | ATEU1MLT00004 | ATEU1MLT00004 | ATEU1MLT00004 |
| EU-Malta | ATEU1MLT00007 | ATEU1MLT00007 | ATEU1MLT00007 |
| EU-Malta | ATEU1MLT00008 | ATEU1MLT00008 | ATEU1MLT00008 |
| EU-Portugal | ATEU1PRT00002 | ATEU1PRT00002 | ATEU1PRT00002 |
| EU-Portugal | | ATEU1PRT00003 | ATEU1PRT00003 |
| EU-Spain | ATEU1ESP00001 | ATEU1ESP00001 | ATEU1ESP00001 |
| EU-Spain | ATEU1ESP00003 | ATEU1ESP00003 | ATEU1ESP00003 |
| EU-Spain | | | ATEU1ESP00004 |
| EU-Spain | ATEU1ESP00005 | ATEU1ESP00005 | ATEU1ESP00005 |
| Morocco | AT001MAR00002 | AT001MAR00002 | AT001MAR00002 |
| Morocco | AT001MAR00003 | AT001MAR00003 | AT001MAR00003 |
| Morocco | | AT001MAR00004 | AT001MAR00004 |
| Tunisia | AT001TUN00001 | AT001TUN00001 | AT001TUN00001 |
| Tunisia | AT001TUN00002 | AT001TUN00002 | AT001TUN00002 |
| Tunisia | | | AT001TUN00003 |
| Tunisia | AT001TUN00004 | AT001TUN00004 | AT001TUN00004 |
| Türkiye | AT001TUR00004* | AT001TUR00004* | AT001TUR00004* |
| Türkiye | AT001TUR00005* | AT001TUR00005* | AT001TUR00005* |
| Türkiye | AT001TUR00010 | AT001TUR00010 | AT001TUR00010 |
| Türkiye | AT001TUR00011 | AT001TUR00011 | AT001TUR00011 |
| Türkiye | AT001TUR00013* | AT001TUR00013* | AT001TUR00013* |
| Türkiye | AT001TUR00014 | AT001TUR00014 | AT001TUR00014 |

*These constitute one farm with three licences.

Table 4. Traps observed under the ICCAT Regional Observers Programme in 2021-2023.

| <i>CPC</i> | <i>2021</i> | <i>2022</i> | <i>2023</i> |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| EU-Italy | ATEU2ITA00003 | ATEU2ITA00003 | ATEU2ITA00003 |
| EU-Italy | | ATEU2ITA00008 | ATEU2ITA00008 |
| EU-Italy | | ATEU2ITA00009 | ATEU2ITA00009 |
| EU-Portugal | | ATEU2PRT00001 | ATEU2PRT00001 |
| EU-Portugal | | | ATEU2PRT00002 |
| Morocco | | AT002MAR00001 | AT002MAR00001 |
| Morocco | AT002MAR00002 | AT002MAR00002 | AT002MAR00002 |
| Morocco | AT002MAR00003 | AT002MAR00003 | AT002MAR00003 |
| Morocco | AT002MAR00004 | AT002MAR00004 | |
| Morocco | AT002MAR00005 | AT002MAR00005 | AT002MAR00005 |
| Morocco | | AT002MAR00006 | AT002MAR00006 |
| Morocco | | AT002MAR00007 | AT002MAR00007 |
| Morocco | | AT002MAR00008 | AT002MAR00008 |
| Morocco | | AT002MAR00009 | AT002MAR00009 |
| Morocco | AT002MAR00010 | AT002MAR00010 | AT002MAR00010 |
| Morocco | AT002MAR00011 | AT002MAR00011 | AT002MAR00011 |
| Morocco | AT002MAR00012 | AT002MAR00012 | AT002MAR00012 |
| Morocco | AT002MAR00013 | AT002MAR00013 | AT002MAR00013 |
| Morocco | AT002MAR00014 | AT002MAR00014 | AT002MAR00014 |
| Morocco | AT002MAR00015 | AT002MAR00015 | AT002MAR00015 |
| Morocco | AT002MAR00016 | AT002MAR00016 | AT002MAR00016 |
| Morocco | AT002MAR00017 | AT002MAR00017 | AT002MAR00017 |
| Morocco | AT002MAR00018 | AT002MAR00018 | AT002MAR00018 |

Consortium's report on the implementation of the ROP-BFT

(Executive Summary)

The service provider for implementing year fourteen (April 2023 / March 2024) of the ICCAT ROP-BFT (hereafter the Programme) comprises of a Consortium led by MRAG Ltd (hereafter MRAG) based in London, UK and Cofrepeche in Paris, France and assisted by regional partners (Sur-Koop in Türkiye and Oceanis in Italy and Malta), as well as regional hubs staffed by associate personnel in Portugal, Spain, Croatia and Algeria (hereafter the Consortium) (**Table 1**).

Table 1. List of regional partners and hubs.

| <i>Region</i> | <i>CPC Coverage</i> | <i>Consortium & Associates Coverage</i> |
|--|---|--|
| Eastern Mediterranean and Adriatic Sea | Türkiye EU.Croatia Egypt Syria Libya Albania | MRAG (UK) Cofrepeche (France) Sür-Koop (Türkiye) MRAG Associate staff (Croatia) |
| Southern and central Mediterranean | Türkiye Libya Algeria Tunisia Morocco | Cofrepeche (France) Cofrepeche Associate staff (Algeria) Sür-Koop (Türkiye) Oceanis (Malta) |
| Western Mediterranean | EU.Cyprus EU.France EU.Italy EU.Malta EU.Portugal EU.Spain | MRAG (UK) Cofrepeche (France) MRAG Associate staff (Spain) MRAG Associate staff (Portugal) Oceanis (Italy and Malta) |
| Norway | Norway | MRAG (UK) |

The Programme allows ICCAT to assess compliance with the regulatory framework. This report summarises a total of 203 deployments on authorised purse seiners during the 2023 fishing season, as well as the 33 farm and 2 trap deployments completed to date since the start of the current contract. In addition, 39 farm deployments are included from the previous season following the submission of the last annual report and the start of the current contract for services.

One hundred percent observer coverage has been achieved on all authorised purse seiners, farms and traps within the remit of the Programme, which included monitoring all fishing, transfer, caging and harvesting activities.

This report describes the key issues and developments in implementing the Programme in year fourteen in line with the requirements. These are divided into operational and technical categories and provide perspective on issues that affected the observer role during deployments. The ability of observers to estimate numbers of tuna and comparisons with official estimates during transfer and caging operations are reviewed. Potential non-compliance events (PNC) recorded by observers are summarised, including both those reported for transfer and caging operations as well as for general events.