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

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**R E P O R T  
for biennial period, 2014-15  
PART II (2015) - Vol. 1  
English version           **COM****

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MADRID, SPAIN

2016

# INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS

## CONTRACTING PARTIES

(at 31 December 2015)

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, Guatemala, Guinea (Rep.), Honduras, Iceland, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Russia, Sao Tomé & Príncipe, Senegal, South Africa, Sierra Leone, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria, Trinidad & Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela

## COMMISSION OFFICERS

### Commission Chairman

M. TSAMENYI, GHANA  
(since 17 November 2015)

### First Vice Chair

S. DEPYPERE, EU  
(since 17 November 2015)

### Second Vice Chair

R. DELGADO, PANAMA  
(since 17 November 2015)

### Panel No.

### PANEL MEMBERSHIP

### Chair

-1- <i>Tropical tunas</i>	Angola, Belize, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canada, China (People's Rep.), Côte d'Ivoire, Curaçao, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea (Rep.), Honduras, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Panama, Philippines, Russia, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela.	Côte d'Ivoire
-2- <i>Temperate tunas, North</i>	Albania, Algeria, Belize, Brazil, Canada, China (People's Rep.), Egypt, European Union, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Guatemala, Iceland, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Panama, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, United States, Venezuela.	Japan
-3- <i>Temperate tunas, South</i>	Belize, Brazil, China (People's Rep.), European Union, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Mexico, Namibia, Panama, Philippines, South Africa, Turkey, United States, Uruguay.	South Africa
-4- <i>Other species</i>	Algeria, Angola, Belize, Brazil, Canada, China (People's Rep.), Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Gabon, Guatemala, Guinea (Rep.), Honduras, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Liberia, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, South Africa, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela.	Brazil

## SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COMMISSION

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION (STACFAD)

### Chair

S. LAPOINTE, Canada  
(since 15 November 2009)

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH & STATISTICS (SCRS)

Sub-Committee on Statistics: G. DÍAZ (United States), Convener

Sub-Committee on Ecosystems: K. YOKAWA (Japan), A. HANKE (Canada), Conveners

D. DIE, United States  
(since 3 October 2014)

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)

F. DONATELLA, European Union  
(since 16 November 2015)

STANDING WORKING GROUP TO ENHANCE DIALOGUE BETWEEN FISHERIES SCIENTISTS AND MANAGERS (SWGSM)

M. TSAMENYI, Ghana  
(since 25 November 2013)

## ICCAT SECRETARIAT

Executive Secretary: MR. D. MESKI

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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, 2014-2015, Part II (2015)*", which describes the activities of the Commission during the second half of said biennial period.

This issue of the Biennial Report contains the Report of the 24th Regular Meeting of the Commission (St. Julians, Malta, 10-17 November 2015) 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). Volumes 3 and 4 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.

*MARTIN TSAMENYI*  
*Commission Chairman*

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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 24th REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS**  
*(St. Julians, Malta, 10-17 November 2015)*

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

The Commission Chairman, Mr. S. Depypere, opened the 24th Regular Meeting of the Commission introducing Mr. K. Vella, European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. Mr. Vella invited all participants to continue being responsible in the sustainable use of the oceans. He commended ICCAT for its performance and encouraged to continue along the same path for the responsible management of bigeye tuna, Mediterranean swordfish and sharks. He also encouraged Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) to amend the ICCAT Convention in order to improve ICCAT management and its contribution to the governance of the oceans for sustainable blue growth.

Then Mr. R. Galdes, Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights, stressed the need for sustainable governance of the oceans and explained that Malta is particularly dependent on the marine environment. He considered the ICCAT conservation and fisheries management measures to be of utmost importance to contribute to the sustainability of the resources.

Ms. A. Fenech Farrugia, Director General of the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture of Malta, expressed the need to manage fisheries resources in a sustainable way without compromising future generations. She stressed the importance of research and also of collaboration among all Contracting Parties in view of implementing sustainable measures in the fisheries sector.

The Chairman thanked the Government of Malta for its hospitality and the European Union for hosting the meeting. He then reiterated that science should remain the principal basis for decision making and for implementation of management measures. He invited all delegates to participate in the discussions and, in particular, to progress on the Convention amendment and to conclude work on the organisation of the second performance review.

The opening addresses are attached as **ANNEX 3.1**.

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

The Agenda was adopted as attached in **ANNEX 1**. The Secretariat served as Rapporteur.

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

The Executive Secretary, Mr. D. Meski, introduced the following 43 Contracting Parties that attended the meeting: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Belize, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Curaçao, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (St. Pierre and Miquelon), Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea Republic, Honduras, Iceland, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Liberia, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Russian Federation, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, South Africa, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom (Overseas Territories), United States of America, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

The opening statements by the Contracting Parties to the plenary session, which were made only in writing, are attached as **ANNEX 3.2**. The List of Participants is attached as **ANNEX 2**.

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

The Executive Secretary introduced the Observers that had been admitted to the meeting. A Representative from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), depositary of the ICCAT Convention, attended the meeting.

Chinese Taipei and Suriname attended the meeting as Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities.

The inter-governmental organizations also in attendance were: Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses & Petrels (ACAP), CARICOM, Commission Sous-Régionale des Pêches (CSR), Conférence Ministérielle sur la Coopération Halieutique entre les États Africains Riverains de l'Océan Atlantique (COMHAFAT/ATLAFCO), and General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM).

The following non-governmental organizations were admitted as observers: Asociación de Pesca, Comercio y Consumo Responsable del Atún Rojo (APCCR), Association euro-méditerranéenne des pêcheurs professionnels de thon (AEPPT), Bluewater Fishermen's Association (BWFA), Confédération Internationale de la Pêche Sportive (CIPS), Defenders of Wildlife, Ecology Action Centre (EAC), European Bureau For Conservation And Development (EBCD), Européche, Federation of Maltese Aquaculture Producers (FMAP), Humane Society International (HSI), International Game Fish Association (IGFA), International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), Medisamak, Oceana, Organisation for the Promotion of Responsible Tuna Fisheries (OPRT), The Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew), Project Aware Foundation, The Ocean Foundation, The Shark Trust, The Varda Foundation, Turkish Marine Research Foundation (TUDAV), US-Japan Research Institute (USJI) and the World Wide Fund (WWF).

The list of observers is included in the List of Participants (**ANNEX 2**).

The statements made to the plenary session, submitted in writing by the Observers, are attached as **ANNEX 3.3**.

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

The SCRS Chairman, Dr D. Die, informed the Commission that the 2015 Plenary Meeting of the SCRS had been held in Madrid, Spain, from 28 September to 2 October 2015. He expressed his thanks for the work of the SCRS scientists and the ICCAT Secretariat.

Dr Die presented a summary of the Report of the SCRS, indicating that the specific recommendations for each species would be presented in the appropriate Panels, particularly for those species for which stock assessments had been conducted, i.e. bigeye (BET) and blue shark (BSH), as well as for bluefin tuna.

Dr Die summarised the response of the SCRS to the Commission's request to assess the ecological importance of the Sargasso Sea to tuna and tuna-like species and ecologically associated species. Progress on the understanding of this ecosystem has been made, but it was noted that other ecosystems may be of equal or greater importance to ICCAT species.

To assist with the correct implementation of Rec. 11-15, and linked to the request to evaluate the data deficiencies pursuant to Rec. 05-09, Dr Die indicated that a protocol for reporting zero catches had been developed by the Sub-Committee on Statistics. With regard to the recurrent problems concerning data quality and continuing deficiencies in terms of quantifications of discards and catches taken by the artisanal fisheries, there was unanimous agreement that action should be taken to remedy the situation and that the political will which seems to have been lacking to date must essentially be expressed by the CPCs identified as non-compliant with reporting of data required by ICCAT. The need to mandate one or several Working Group(s) on aspects related to the artisanal fisheries and collection of their data was also noted, and the ongoing dialogue between ICCAT scientists and managers could also lead to an effective approach in this regard.

The SCRS Chairman also highlighted the recommendation to establish a competitive research fund administered by the ICCAT Secretariat to support the research activities identified in the Science Strategic Plan for 2015-2020 for research developed by the SCRS. Such a fund should include the research programmes currently ongoing. In this regard there was interest by the Commission in considering the establishment of a competitive research fund further and consensus to carry out an evaluation of the GBYP, with a view to considering its extension, if needed subject to review.

Dr Die also noted that the SCRS called for strengthened cooperation with other international organisations to enhance capacity, share information and analyses available to develop and provide scientific advice, as well as a continuation of the peer review process.

In response to questions raised by the CPCs, the SCRS Chairman clarified that in order to achieve an effective use of the ecosystem approach for management purposes, there is a strong need to collaborate to a greater extent with different organisations (RFMOs and others) in particular on technical aspects, to have a well-defined ecosystem strategy and to take into account the continuous requests for inclusion of mortality parameters due to predation to which tuna and tuna-like species are subject as well as any other parameters required by the ecosystem approach (e.g. cultural, socio-economic, seismic, oceanographic, etc.).

In response to a question on the specific issue regarding identification of western Atlantic bluefin tuna stock spawning areas, in particular in the Gulf of Mexico, Dr Die agreed that there was a need to better define the spawning areas but indicated that this presented a challenge due to the availability of resources, and stressed the need for necessary funds and for sustained active participation of scientists from all ICCAT CPCs.

A question was raised on the level of discard data available, to which the SCRS Chairman indicated that they relied mainly on observer data for this; hence, coverage may be limited. Dr Die indicated that new electronic monitoring could provide additional information, although such technologies could not substitute for scientific observers, but merely complement them.

Some CPCs expressed concern over the schedule of assessment sessions for 2016. Dr Die agreed that the schedule, as submitted by the SCRS, could be amended to assess Mediterranean swordfish in 2016 and Mediterranean albacore in 2017, following the commitment from the European Union to provide all the updated data needed to carry out a robust Mediterranean swordfish stock assessment in 2016.

The concern over lack of active and meaningful participation in SCRS activities by a broad array of national scientists was again raised, and it was stressed that the SCRS needs to remedy not only the low level of participation of scientists, in particular those of developing coastal States, in some meetings but also to ensure that their involvement is inclusive and effective.

The Commission thanked Dr Die, the SCRS scientists and the Secretariat for their work and adopted the 2015 SCRS Report.

#### **6. Review of the Report of the Inter-sessional Meeting of Panel 2 and consideration of any necessary actions**

The Report was transmitted to Panel 2 for its review and was adopted by the Commission. It is contained in **ANNEX 4.1**.

#### **7. Review of the Report of the Tenth Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures and consideration of any necessary actions**

The report was transmitted to the PWG for its review. The report was adopted by the Commission and is contained in **ANNEX 4.2**.

#### **8. Review of the Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on FADs**

The Report was transmitted to Panel 1 for its review and was adopted by the Commission. The report is contained in **ANNEX 4.3**.

#### **9. Review of the Report of the Third Meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment and consideration of any necessary actions**

Ms. D. Warner-Kramer (USA), Chair of the Working Group, presented the report of the meeting held in Miami in May 2015, which is contained in **ANNEX 4.4** and also on the progress made in the session held before the 2015 Commission meeting. Additional progress was made to refine proposals related to the grounds for objections and a new article on general principles during discussions coinciding with the annual meeting, as well as to narrow the remaining issues still to be resolved in proposals for new dispute settlement procedures and fishing entity participation. Ms. Warner-Kramer noted that it was unfortunate that the Working Group had been unable to completely finish its work before the end of the 2015 Commission meeting. She indicated that the

Group had agreed that one more meeting would be needed to conclude the remaining two issues, namely, fishing entity participation, and dispute resolution procedures, and that a final agreed text could be presented to the Commission before its 2016 meeting. The Commission endorsed the report and work carried out so far, and agreed that a final meeting of the Working Group should be held in 2016.

**10. Review of the report of the Second Meeting of the Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) and consideration of any necessary actions**

The SWGSM Chair, Mr. M. Tsamenyi (Ghana) and SCRS Chair, Dr Die presented the report of the second meeting of the SWGSM. On the basis of the findings of this Working Group, the European Union put forward a proposal relating to Harvest Control Rules and Management Strategy Evaluation. Following some discussion and amendments, the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Development of Harvest Control Rules and of Management Strategy Evaluation (Rec. 15-07)* was adopted by the Commission and is included in **ANNEX 5**.

The Report of the SWGSM was transmitted to the Panels for their further consideration and was adopted by the Commission. The Report is contained in **ANNEX 4.5**.

**11. Review of the Report of the Third Meeting of the Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists in Support of the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment and consideration of any necessary actions**

The Report of the Third Meeting of the Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists in Support of the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment was transmitted to Panel 2 for its review and was adopted by the Commission. The Report is contained in **ANNEX 4.6**.

**12. Review of the Report of the Working Group on Performance Review**

The Commission reviewed the draft developed by the Working Group, which conducted the bulk of its work electronically. Several CPCs put forward their preferences where various options had been presented, and suggested some changes to the text. As the basic concepts were agreed, the Secretariat was instructed to circulate the final version for adoption after the meeting for final review. The procedures outlined in the report of the Working Group would then be followed, and the members of the review panel selected accordingly. The Report is contained in **ANNEX 4.7**.

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

The STACFAD Chair, Ms. Sylvie Lapointe (Canada), reported to the Commission that the Committee had reviewed and approved the 2015 Administrative Report and the 2015 Financial Report.

The STACFAD Chair presented the revised budget for the biennial period 2016-2017, which had been approved by STACFAD; and this was adopted by the Commission. Iceland and Norway stated that they had not been informed in due time about the late change of schedule of the STACFAD meeting and had therefore not been in position to attend the meeting. They therefore had to reserve their position with respect to the budget.

The STACFAD Chair indicated that discussions had taken place regarding the use of the Working Capital Fund and on the use of this fund to cover several extra-budgetary activities, including SCRS research requests. Many CPCs were of the view that SCRS funding should be a regular budget item, but few parties were willing to accept further increases in the budget for the forthcoming biennial period. It was agreed that this could be considered in the future. It was also agreed that the Chairman of the SCRS and the Executive Secretary would discuss the requests of the SCRS in order to fund the activities with highest priority for 2016 and 2017.

The reduction in the level of the Working Capital Fund was noted with concern, but it was agreed that the use of the fund for the purposes agreed by the Commission could be authorised by the Executive Secretary in conjunction with the STACFAD Chair until such time as an official mechanism was developed. Notwithstanding, the Executive Secretary would continue to seek voluntary contributions to cover extra-budgetary activities in order to protect the Working Capital Fund as far as possible.

Ms. Lapointe also presented the draft Vacancy Announcement for the position of Executive Secretary. There was some discussion regarding the requirements for this position, and it was agreed that it should be finalised in the intersessional period through correspondence and put to the Commission for adoption in 2016.

The Commission also took note of the work being carried out by the virtual working group on Communications Policy, and agreed that this work should continue intersessionally.

Ms. Lapointe was unanimously re-elected Chair of STACFAD. All delegates expressed their appreciation for her good work.

The Report of STACFAD was adopted by correspondence and is contained in **ANNEX 8**.

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

##### *Panel 1*

The Chair of Panel 1, Mr. H. Shep (Côte d'Ivoire) informed the Commission that Panel 1 had been joined by two new members, El Salvador and Liberia, and presented the Report of Panel 1 to the plenary. The Panel had agreed on *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish an Ad Hoc Working Group on Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)* (**Rec. 15-02**), but had not reached consensus on *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tunas* (**Rec. 15-01**). Following discussion at the Plenary, this was agreed and the two Recommendations were adopted by the Commission and are attached in **ANNEX 5**.

The delegate of El Salvador expressed his disappointment and dissatisfaction with the Recommendation 15-01, but agreed to its adoption for the sake of ensuring the conservation of bigeye tuna. He regretted the inflexibility shown by some CPCs and stressed the legitimate right of El Salvador, as a developing State, to develop its fisheries within the framework of the possibilities available.

The Commission thanked Mr. Shep for his leadership in the Panel and Cote d'Ivoire was re-elected Chair of Panel 1.

The Report of Panel 1 was adopted by correspondence and is contained in **ANNEX 9**.

##### *Panel 2*

The Chair of Panel 2, Mr. M. Miyahara (Japan) reported that one measure had been adopted by the Panel and was being presented to the Commission for approval. The Commission adopted the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Harvest Control Rules for the North Atlantic Albacore Stock* (**Rec. 15-04**), which is contained in **ANNEX 5**.

The Panel Chair informed the Commission that it had also agreed to meet intersessionally to adopt the 2016 eastern Atlantic/Mediterranean bluefin tuna (EBFT) fishing plans, although some delegates had expressed concern at the number of meetings to be attended. Several CPCs indicated that the subject of allocations should also be considered at the intersessional meeting, and Algeria made a statement expressing their reservation on the report of the previous intersessional meeting and regarding the reduction of its allocation share. The Algerian statement is attached as **ANNEX 3.2**. The Chairman of Panel 2 suggested that the eastern bluefin tuna allocation issue be added to the Panel 2 intersessional meeting agenda after the discussion of the fishing plans, and the Commission agreed this suggestion.

It was agreed that the Commission Chairman should write to the authorities of United Kingdom and Gibraltar expressing concern about possible catches of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna that were outside the current management framework for the stock.

Mr. Miyahara's excellent Chairing was again recognised by the Commission, and Japan was re-elected Chair of Panel 2.

The Report of Panel 2 was adopted by correspondence and is contained in **ANNEX 9**.

### ***Panel 3***

The Chair of Panel 3, Ms. S. Ndudane (South Africa), presented the Report of the Panel 3. Ms. Ndudane informed the Commission that no new management measures had been presented, but that the pro-rata distribution of the available quota for carry-over had been agreed and is contained in “A Schedule of CPCs Requesting Carry-Over of 2014 Underages in accordance with Rec. 13-06” (see **Appendix 7 to ANNEX 9**).

The Commission thanked Ms. Ndudane for her most efficient work, and South Africa was re-elected Chair of Panel 3.

The Report of Panel 3 was adopted by correspondence and is contained in **ANNEX 9**.

### ***Panel 4***

The Chair of Panel 4, Dr F. Hazin (Brazil), presented the report of Panel 4 and informed the Commission that Panel 4 had been joined by two new members, Cabo Verde and Liberia, and that a total of ten proposals had been put before the Panel in 2015, but two of these had been withdrawn following amalgamation with other proposals. Panel 4 had agreed on a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Porbeagle Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries”, but four other measures relating to sharks had not reached agreement in the Panel. Of those, one was put forward to the Commission for consideration: “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Blue Shark Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries”. Although there was some support for the principle of adopting a conservation measure for blue sharks, no consensus could be reached as to whether a TAC could be proposed and if so to what level it should be set based on the scientific advice.

In addition, three other measures had been discussed by the Panel and although consensus had not been reached, the Panel agreed to forward these to the Commission for consideration as follows:

- “*Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish*”

The proposal would have added a requirement for CPCs to submit their list of vessels authorized to fish for North Atlantic swordfish. The United States noted that a similar requirement had been deleted from the South Atlantic swordfish proposal (“Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for the Conservation of South Atlantic Swordfish”) and questioned the utility of establishing such a list for the northern swordfish fishery alone if the intent of establishing this requirement was to fight IUU fishing in the whole of the Atlantic swordfish fishery. Several parties expressed their preference that any additional measures on North Atlantic swordfish be discussed in conjunction with the review of additional scientific advice in 2016, and this draft proposal was not adopted.

- “*Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for the Conservation of South Atlantic Swordfish*”

Given that the main aim of this proposal was to clarify that ICCAT’s current minimum size requirements apply to both the North and South Atlantic swordfish stocks, this proposal was adopted by consensus by the Commission, the vessel listing provision having been previously deleted by the panel.

- “*Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Stocks*”

This proposal was adopted, with minor changes, by the Commission.

The adopted measures, *Recommendation by ICCAT on Porbeagle Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries (Rec. 15-06)*, the *Recommendation by ICCAT for the Conservation of South Atlantic Swordfish (Rec. 15-03)* and *Recommendation by ICCAT to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Stocks (Rec. 15-05)* are contained in **ANNEX 5**.

Dr Hazin’s excellent chairing was recognised by the Commission, and Brazil was re-elected Chair of Panel 4.

The Report of Panel 4 was adopted by correspondence and is contained in **ANNEX 9**.

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

Mr. D. Campbell (USA), Chairman of the Compliance Committee, presented a summary report of the conclusions of the Compliance Committee and informed the plenary that the Committee had approved the *Resolution by ICCAT Establishing Guidelines for the Implementation of the Recommendation by ICCAT on Penalties Applicable in the Case of Non-fulfilment of Reporting Obligations (Res. 15-09)*. This Resolution was adopted by the Commission (**ANNEX 6**).

The Compliance Committee had also adopted all the compliance tables (**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10**) except those for North and South Atlantic albacore and white and blue marlins, which would be revised in 2016 before being circulated intersessionally for final adoption. In addition, the Committee had approved the list of actions proposed by the Chairman in consultation with the Friends of the Chair group, and which would be incorporated into the compliance summary tables (see **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**).

The Chairman reported that the Committee had agreed to the renewal of cooperating status for Bolivia, Chinese Taipei, Guyana, and Suriname. This decision was approved by the Commission, but it was stressed that additional information should be required of Bolivia, particularly in response to the concerns raised in 2014 that had not yet been addressed, if Bolivia wished to retain such status in the future.

The Committee had noted that no response to the letters sent by the Secretariat after the 2014 Commission meeting had been received from Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts & Nevis, and St. Lucia, and suggested that the Commission send letters to these countries regarding their catches of ICCAT species and encouraging greater participation in the work of the Commission.

The Committee had also welcomed and endorsed the “Concept Note on an ICCAT Online Reporting System” (see **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 10**) put forward by the United States and requested that the Secretariat and, as appropriate, CPCs gather information before the 2016 Commission meeting about the possible development of an online reporting tool for submission of Annual Reports and potentially other information.

The Committee noted the need to find ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Compliance Committee. It was agreed that the Compliance Committee should meet intersessionally in 2016 to discuss ways to improve its functioning. In addition, the Committee asked the Compliance Committee Chairman, the Friends of the Chair group, and the Secretariat to collaborate intersessionally to identify possible compliance matters that could potentially be referred to other ICCAT subsidiary bodies for review/discussion during ICCAT annual meetings under a dedicated agenda item. Suggestions resulting from this collaboration will be considered in 2016.

The Commission thanked Mr. Campbell for his good work, and he was unanimously re-elected as Chairman of the Compliance Committee.

The report of the Compliance Committee was adopted by correspondence and is contained in **ANNEX 10**.

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

Mr. T. El Ktiri, Chairman of the PWG, presented the report of the work of the PWG to the Plenary.

The PWG put forward two proposals to the Plenary for consideration. With regard to the first, the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Clarify and Amend Aspects of ICCAT’s Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program to Facilitate the Application of the eBCD System (Rec. 15-10)* the PWG did not have time to complete its deliberations. The Commission considered the draft proposal and after a few additional revisions, adopted it. The Commission also discussed the importance of training on the eBCD system for industry and the Executive Secretary noted that the Consortium has provided training, including online tutorials, and will continue to provide assistance as requested. The second proposal, the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Deadlines of Two ICCAT Recommendations (Rec. 15-08)*, was approved by the PWG and was forwarded to the Commission for adoption. This recommendation was adopted without debate. Both recommendations are contained in **ANNEX 5**.

Mr. El Ktiri also presented the 2015 IUU list, which was adopted by the Commission and is attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 11**.

The PWG had also considered a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish an ICCAT Scientific Observer Programme within the ICCAT Convention Area” and a “Draft [Recommendation] [Resolution] by ICCAT for a [Model] Joint International Inspection Scheme”. No consensus had been reached on these, and the PWG had agreed that they should be considered intersessionally at a meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM).

In relation to port inspection, the Chairman of the PWG concluded that CPCs should express their capacity building needs to the Secretariat. The Commission agreed with this suggestion, and indicated that the Secretariat should investigate the possibilities of developing training in line with the needs indicated, although it was recognised that training was not the only impediment to the full implementation of the ICCAT measure on port inspection.

The Commission thanked Mr. El Ktiri, the outgoing Chairman, for his hard work, dedication, and excellent leadership in dealing with the complex issues under the remit of the PWG and the IMM Working Group. Mr. F. Donatella (European Union) was elected Chairman of the PWG for the next biennial period.

The report of the PWG was adopted by correspondence and is contained in **ANNEX 11**.

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

Mr. D. Meski, the ICCAT Executive Secretary, briefly presented a document “Summary of assistance provided in 2015 to developing coastal States” prepared by the Secretariat on the various funds available for capacity building and assistance. He thanked the various parties which had contributed to these funds but noted that the increase in the number of different funds placed a significant administrative burden on the Secretariat. An increase in the funding of the Meeting Participation Fund was approved in order to continue assistance to representatives of developing States to attend ICCAT meetings.

### **18. Review of the implementation of the Kobe recommendations**

The Executive Secretary presented a document prepared by the Secretariat on progress made on issues arising from the Kobe process. The Chair of the Kobe Steering Committee, Mr. Russel Smith (USA), indicated that a meeting of the Steering Committee would take place on 18 November 2015, and that ways to enhance collaboration among the tuna RFMOs on the issue of FADs and other issues of mutual interest would be considered.

### **19. Report on the implementation of the ABNJ/GEF Program**

The Executive Secretary reported on the funding received by ICCAT under the ABNJ/GEF Program, noting that the ICCAT request for financial assistance for the eBCD could not be approved under GEF procedures. The ABNJ/GEF Coordinator expressed his regret that the procedures had not allowed the program to assist in eBCD funding, but he hoped that alternative projects could be found. It was foreseen that ICCAT would take the lead in a working group on MSE which would be financed by GEF in 2016, and would also be involved in a meeting on by-catch and ecosystems. Many delegates indicated continued interest in cooperating with the ABNJ/GEF Program, but indicated that increased benefits to ICCAT should be expected. It was agreed that if the program had any concrete offer to make to ICCAT it should be accepted.

### **20. Inter-sessional meetings in 2016**

The Commission agreed that the following intersessional meetings should be held in 2016:

- Meeting of Panel 2 to approve EBFT fishing plans and consider EBFT allocation issues
- Meeting of Panel 2 on Harvest Control Rules for northern albacore
- Meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment

- Meeting of the Compliance Committee on procedural issues
- Meeting of the Working Group on FADs (to be held in conjunction with the yellowfin assessment)
- Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures

In order to reduce the number of meetings, it was agreed that efforts should be made to organise the meetings at the same venue and sequentially where possible, with the Panel 2 fishing plans meeting being possibly held at the same venue as the Working Group on Convention Amendment and the Compliance Committee, and the IMM Working Group with the second intersessional of Panel 2.

Although it was agreed that no meeting of the Working Group on Recreational Fisheries was required in 2016, the Secretariat was requested to recirculate the questionnaire on recreational fisheries in order to try to obtain sufficient information and data to support a future meeting of this group.

## 21. Election of Commission Chairman and Vice Chairs

Mr. M. Tsamenyi (Ghana) was unanimously elected Chairman of the Commission for the next biennial period. The Commission was also unanimous in its election of Mr. S. Depypere (EU) as First Vice Chair, and Mr. R. Delgado (Panama) as Second Vice Chair. The Commission thanked the outgoing Commission Chairman, Mr. Depypere for his excellent chairmanship and welcomed the incoming Chairman. Mr. Tsamenyi thanked the Commission for the trust placed in him. The Executive Secretary congratulated the new Chairman and Vice Chairs, and thanked the outgoing Chairman, for his admirable work and leadership. The Executive Secretary also took the opportunity to thank the EU and the Government of Malta for hosting the meeting and for the excellent meeting preparation and organisation. He also thanked the Secretariat staff for their hard work both during the meeting and throughout the year. The excellent support provided by the interpreters was also recognized.

## 22. Other matters

### 22.1 Ecosystem and precautionary approaches

Canada presented two draft proposals for consideration: A “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Application of an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management” and a “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Use of the Precautionary Approach in Implementing ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures”. Following discussion, it was considered that, as agreement had been reached that these principles were to be enshrined in the amended Convention, the proposals would be more appropriate in the form of Resolution, and the Commission adopted the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning the Application of an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (Res. 15-11)* and the *Resolution by ICCAT Concerning the Use of the Precautionary Approach in Implementing ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures (Res. 15-12)*, both of which are included in **ANNEX 6**.

### 22.2 Cooperation with other international organisations

The Executive Secretary presented a document outlining the principle areas of cooperation between ICCAT and other international organisations, and informed the Commission that both OSPAR and ACAP (Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels) had requested the establishment of formal agreements for cooperation with ICCAT. The Commission agreed that such an agreement should be signed with ACAP, and approved the text as circulated in “Collaboration with other International Organizations”. However, some Contracting Parties indicated that they did not have sufficient knowledge of OSPAR to enable them to agree to the signing of an agreement with that body at that time.

### 22.3 Allocation of fishing possibilities

Turkey and Korea presented a joint proposal regarding the conversion of the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities into a resolution and to add the concept of transparency to the document. This was accepted and the Commission adopted the *Resolution by ICCAT on Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities (Res. 15-13)* (**ANNEX 6**).

#### ***22.4 Review of the Role of the Council***

The Commission reviewed the letter received from Uruguay in relation to this issue. Given that any reactivation of the Council involved budgetary and administrative issues which may need to be considered by STACFAD, it was agreed that this issue should be discussed in 2016.

#### ***22.5 Technical Working Group on Data Improvement***

The United States presented a “*Draft Resolution by ICCAT for a Technical Working Group on Data Improvement*”. There was agreement that discussions on the issues contained in the draft were important. Some delegations were of the opinion, however, that the establishment of an additional working group could add unnecessarily to the burden imposed on CPCs given the intersessional meetings already required, and that an additional meeting could attract a low level of participation. It was suggested that the issues proposed could be examined in existing ICCAT bodies, such as the PWG or the SCRS species groups. As consensus could not be reached, the draft proposal was not adopted.

#### ***22.6 Sargasso Sea***

A “*Draft Resolution by ICCAT on the Sargasso Sea*” was put forward jointly by several CPCs, but consensus was not reached and the proposal was not adopted.

#### ***22.7 Streamlining of ICCAT recommendations and resolutions***

As requested by STACFAD in 2015 the Secretariat prepared, in consultation with the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies, a document indicating possible redundant Recommendations or other areas which may require action by the Commission. The relevant Panels had reviewed this document, and it was agreed by the Commission that the following measures were redundant and should be removed from the Active Compendium: Recommendation 01-08 and Resolution 01-09. It was agreed that Recommendations 98-08, 94-14 and 13-04 as well as Resolution 01-04 would be considered in 2016 when revised management measures for these stocks will be considered. Similarly, the Commission agreed that the Resolution 94-09 required amendment in the future, and could be combined with Recommendation 97-11. Some decisions on remaining recommendations remained open and would be presented in 2016.

In addition, the Secretariat presented a “*Proposal to Unify Scientific Data Reporting Requirements*”, previously presented in 2014. It had not been approved at that time as some CPCs required more time to consider its implications. The Commission approved the document, attached as **ANNEX 7.1**, and agreed that the list of scientific reporting requirements should be adjusted accordingly.

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

The tentative dates proposed for the next Commission meeting are 14-21 November 2016, at a venue to be determined.

### **24. Adoption of the Report and adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned on 17 November 2015.

The Report was adopted by correspondence.

**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 work of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
6. Review of the Report of the Inter-sessional Meeting of Panel 2 and consideration of any necessary actions
7. Review of the Report of the Tenth Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures and consideration of any necessary actions
8. Review of the Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group on FADs
9. Review of the Report of the Third Meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment and consideration of any necessary actions
10. Review of the Report of the Second Meeting of the Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) and consideration of any necessary actions
11. Review of the Report of the Third Meeting of the Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists in Support of the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment and consideration of any necessary actions
12. Review of the Report of the Working Group on Performance Review
13. Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
14. Reports of Panels 1 to 4 and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
15. Report of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
16. Report of the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures (PWG) and consideration of any proposed recommendations therein
17. Assistance to developing coastal States and capacity building
18. Review of the implementation of the Kobe recommendations
19. Report on the implementation of the GEF project
20. Inter-sessional meetings in 2016
21. Election of Chair and Vice Chairs
22. Other matters
23. Date and place of the next meeting of the Commission
24. Adoption of the Report and adjournment

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## OPENING ADDRESSES & STATEMENTS TO THE PLENARY SESSIONS

### 3.1 OPENING ADDRESS

**By Mr. Stefaan Depypere, ICCAT Chairman**

Welcome to the 24th Regular Meeting of ICCAT!

Let me first of all thank Malta and the European Union for offering their kind hospitality which greatly facilitate having this meeting and having it at such an exquisite location.

Malta has a great tradition in fostering ocean governance. It was a Maltese ambassador (Amb. Arvid PARDO) who was a critical driver of the Law of the Sea Convention. Under this Convention and the fish stock agreement that was built on it, RFMOs have been given the particular responsibility to offer the Global Public Good of proper ocean governance within the scope of their Convention. This is a big responsibility.

ICCAT is one of the largest and most complex RFMOs. It is our challenge to make it operate smoothly.

Dear Colleagues, I have mentioned this repeatedly: we wish to build an inclusive organisation in which all Contracting Parties can and do participate. I think that we are advancing well on this account. This requires an effort both financially and in terms of human resources to enable all parties to attend. It also imposes a responsibility on everybody to make serious attempts to remain informed about the state of the art and to contribute to the debate. This means more than just attending the meeting, this means getting involved and working on practical outcomes. Making ICCAT perform well is hard work! As I said, we are doing increasingly well even if, for some meetings, especially in the domain of dialogue between science and management, an extra effort would be useful.

Science remains our basic guidance. The formal objective of ICCAT is to study the species under the Convention scope. So we need to continue investing in science by making available money and human resources. But then science should lead to understanding the species and to preparing good decisions. We have invested a lot in looking at improving our decision making capacity and our capacity to monitor proper implementation of such decisions. Monitoring, compliance and surveillance are key to maintain a credible system. We are making progress and the capacity of ICCAT to identify problems and to take actions has been greatly enhanced and it will be tested again this week. Our capacity to take relevant decisions should be enhanced through the amendments to our Convention. The Working Group has made excellent progress and we hope that this effort comes to fruition at this annual meeting so that we can move towards a formal agreement as soon as possible.

At very regular intervals, the question of ocean governance is raised and it is fair to say that – at least for the part of ocean governance entrusted to ICCAT – the organisation performs well. It has moved from being a bad pupil – I refer to comments under the previous performance review – to becoming a model.

Maybe this is not yet sufficiently recognized. But that is part of life: recognition usually comes rather late.

Of course, we should not work for recognition but for the declared purpose of understanding and managing the fisheries properly in the Atlantic. Nevertheless, we are curious to learn whether we are performing as well as we should and this is a reason for undertaking a second performance review. We submit ourselves to independent assessors and we will be most interested to hear this evaluation. We have also, with the Secretariat, been fostering modern management, offering business continuity and organisational resilience. This is how we managed to cope with the terrible mishap of our friend Miguel who had a traffic accident and who is now fortunately recovering well. Our best wishes go to him and his family.

I take this occasion to also thank and applaud the Executive Secretary and the staff of the ICCAT Secretariat for doing such a splendid job in preparing our annual meeting and in organising the work throughout the year.

As during previous meetings, we face a very busy schedule and we need to allocate our time with precision.

I will –together with the Secretariat and reacting to your recommendations and to the progress of events – try to manage the agenda in a flexible manner.

Without further ado, let me once again welcome you and open this 24th Regular Meeting!

**By Mr. Karmenu Vella, European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries**

It is a great pleasure to welcome you around this table today and, in particular, to open this meeting in my home country.

Growing up here, the sea is never more than a few kilometres away. As a result, you quickly come to appreciate how crucial healthy seas and oceans are for our livelihood.

And, as you all know, we cannot have healthy oceans without healthy fish stocks. They are the ocean's natural capital. Using them sustainably is our shared responsibility.

ICCAT has embraced that responsibility. All of us in this room are working towards one thing: making sure that fish stocks are in good health. For some stocks our measures are bearing fruit. For others we still need to do better.

That is why we are here this week: to see where and how we can do better. And that is my main message today: let us, all together, do better.

Let's do better on fish stocks – be it bluefin or bigeye, swordfish or sharks.

And let's do better on the governance of ICCAT itself. Since its humble beginnings nearly 50 years ago, ICCAT has turned into a model of best practice among Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, in particular those for tuna. If we continue to raise the bar, others will follow.

### ***Bluefin tuna***

Because what we have achieved is inspiring. Just think of the recovery of bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean.

This progress is the result of sustained sacrifices, efforts and determination, on your part and on the part of the fisheries sector. It has not been easy, but it has worked.

Last year, we were finally able to progressively increase catch limits, for three years into the future. This year, it looks as if that decision was right. According to latest data, the measures in place for bluefin tuna will ensure the recovery of this emblematic stock.

This success should not make us more lenient or less vigilant. And it does not mean that we cannot improve.

Technology like the electronic bluefin catch document system can help us do even better. I encourage you to settle the last open questions this week so that we can get the system up and running next year.

Modern technology in itself is not a panacea; it should go hand in hand with rules that ensure a level playing field for all. And of course, if we have rules, we should stick to them. That is what leading by example is all about.

### ***Bigeye tuna and Mediterranean swordfish***

Bluefin tuna could become a real success story. But other stocks are just as important and sometimes just as critically overfished. Here too, we must do better.

Take bigeye tuna, a stock now struggling with overfishing. Or Mediterranean swordfish, another worrying example.

Urgent steps are needed to halt the decline of these stocks, once and for all.

For bigeye tuna, the winning formula will be a mixed bag of measures: some to address the various sources of mortality; others to reduce the risk of loopholes and to prevent illegal and unreported fishing.

For Mediterranean swordfish too, we must not delay action to ensure the sustainable exploitation of this stock. The European Union stands ready to initiate a dialogue with all Contracting Parties this year so that we can adopt a far-reaching plan in 2016. Such plan would greatly benefit from a new stock assessment. I hope this new assessment can be delivered already next year. In the meantime, we should ensure effective enforcement of the rules already in place and continue to monitor this fishery closely.

I am convinced that these steps will deliver results, even if results will not be seen overnight. The key now is swift and decisive action. That is what the European Union is aiming at. I count on your support.

### ***Sharks***

We can also do better to protect sharks. And we do not have to wait for Convention changes for that.

We know that certain species are critically endangered and particularly vulnerable. Let's do what we can to keep them healthy.

Blue sharks are one of the shark species you will be considering this week. Scientists have warned us about uncertainties surrounding the assessment of this stock.

Let me be clear: uncertainties should not delay action and postpone decisions. Instead, uncertainties call on us to be prudent. Applying the precautionary principle is the wise course of action.

I know how challenging it has been to advance on sharks in this forum.

But ICCAT is not new to challenges. We have overcome them in the past. So I hope that, once again, important progress can be made this week.

### ***ICCAT Convention***

Finally, allow me to move away from fish stocks and say a few words on the way ICCAT works.

I sincerely hope that you will be able to agree on amending the ICCAT Convention. I said it before: for many other regional fisheries organisations ICCAT is a role model. Where ICCAT leads, others follow. So let's seize the moment and do what we can to confirm this leading role.

Let's enter the modern era of international fisheries management: by modernising the Convention; widening and clarifying its scope and objectives; making decision-making more efficient, robust and inclusive; and adapting ICCAT's practices to today's management standards.

If we do this, we are not only improving ICCAT. We are also improving the governance of the oceans to the benefit of sustainable blue growth.

I therefore count on your efforts to make the Convention change happen at this meeting and to conclude a process that has already taken up too much of your time.

ICCAT has achieved a lot over the past five decades, and we are right to be proud. But we would be wrong to lean back and pretend that all problems have been solved. Our successes should not make us complacent; our successes should spur us on.

That is why I urge you all: this week, let's work to maintain ICCAT's leadership in responsible fisheries management. Let's further improve the governance of the oceans.

This week, let's do even better.

**By The Hon. Roderick Galdes, Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights of Malta**

With honour I welcome you to Malta.

This November will go in the history books as a very busy and ambitious one. In addition to this important and very well attended meeting, Malta is also hosting the EU-Africa Summit on migration, and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting that will also cover climate change.

We are hosting this year's ICCAT annual meeting with great pleasure and satisfaction, especially since ICCAT's objectives mirror perfectly our long-term vision.

Sustainable governance is our top priority.

As a small Island State Malta depends on the marine environment, its resources, and the various opportunities it presents. To ensure our islands' prosperity, for generations, it has been crucial for the Maltese people to balance the various dimensions of sustainability.

The sustainable management of the seas that surround us is vital for Malta. Our marine environment is an integral component of our excellent and wide-ranging touristic product. We have developed one of the most competitive and advanced shipping and maritime industries. And we treasure a fishing sector that for generations has successfully co-existed with its resources. We are intrinsically dependent on the quality and the sustainable management of the waters that surround us.

With pleasure, I note that ICCAT is a success story. This organisation has managed to develop successful strategies that provided unparalleled results on the ground. ICCAT, through its various structures effectively engaged all the stakeholders involved. As partners, we moved together towards the increased sustainability levels we enjoy today.

Bluefin tuna is a remarkable example which has registered an unrivalled recovery. From the black books of fisheries management this fishery is now used as a blueprint for others.

We would like to see the success we registered for bluefin tuna, repeated and improved upon in other fisheries. As you may imagine our main focus is the Mediterranean region. The success of these ICCAT measures prove that a more sustainable future is within reach.

Malta was and will continue to contribute to the sustainability of our resources. This is a long term process that requires us to balance various considerations ranging from socio-cultural factors, economic ones, and the environmental dimension. These are all mutually dependent.

Our fishery is predominantly small-scale and artisanal. Although this form of fishing is renowned for its high sustainability, its economic resilience is limited. The bluefin tuna recovery plan was a very big challenge and our sector endured long years of tremendous sacrifice. Looking to the future, we need to focus on the lessons learnt and ensure that any such future measures for other fisheries take full account of the particularity of small scale fishermen. Artisanal activities cannot be put on the same page as industrial ones. It is our duty to safeguard small scale practices as this will allow us to attain our sustainability objectives quicker, and in a more equitable manner.

We need to move ahead in safeguarding our resources whilst at the same time ensuring the prosperity of those who depend on them. With these words, I wish you all fruitful deliberations, I wish the meeting all success and I wish you all an enjoyable stay in Malta.

**By Dr Andreina Fenech Farrugia, Director-General of the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture of Malta**

Hon. Galdes has described how our vision is deeply entrenched in sustainability considerations.

I find it remarkable to note that today we are discussing the great recovery of bluefin tuna when only 5 years ago the stock was on the brink of collapse. Sustainable decisions were key. ICCAT is increasingly synonymous with sustainability. It manages some of the most iconic and economically valuable fish stocks and it has developed the most advanced and holistic fisheries management strategies in the world.

As would be expected, Malta has been an active player and has strived to improve its administrative setup to fulfil the obligations incumbent on it as a stakeholder. We have also shared our expertise and worked hand in hand with ICCAT and our other partners to contribute towards this success. Together we have obtained impressive results. It is now fundamental to move ahead and allow the sector to capitalise on this success.

Whilst noting that our fishery is predominantly small-scale and artisanal, Malta also has a thriving farming industry. This is also proving important to the advancement of the fishery. Important research projects could create new opportunities that would further alleviate the pressure on wild stocks.

From my experience collaborating with you all under ICCAT, the most important element learnt from this journey is the effective engagement of all the parties involved. We need to valorise our diverse attributes and work hand in hand around the same table with a common goal – the prosperity of our sectors through improved sustainability practices.

Capitalising on the momentum built through the recovery plan, that is bearing its first fruits, our walk toward Maximum Sustainable Yield needs to be based on scientific advice and a regional approach. We need to identify all our strengths and weakness and work intensively at maximising our common potential through joint strategies.

Malta's Presidency of the EU Council is fast approaching and in this regard we are already working hand in hand with the European Commission. Our main aim is to facilitate as much as possible the work that is required to continue bringing our region forward.

In conclusion I would like to convey the message that we have to continue working towards improved sustainability levels. We need healthy resources to sustain a thriving fishing and aquaculture industry. Balance is essential, and it is also fundamental to safeguard small scale artisanal practices. Our solutions need to be regional ones with the aim to contribute equally to the best of our abilities to a more prosperous and sustainable fisheries sector.

**3.2 *ADDESSES BY CONTRACTING PARTY MINISTERS & OPENING STATEMENTS BY CONTRACTING PARTIES***

**By Mr. Kobenan Kouassi Adjoumani, Minister of Animal and Fisheries Resources of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire**

It is both a pleasure and a great honour for us to address this august assembly of the 24th Regular Meeting of ICCAT, organised in this beautiful city of St. Julians.

It is an opportunity for us to greet and congratulate you, on behalf of his Excellency Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, and to express our full support to you.

We would like to thank the Maltese Government and people for the quality of the reception extended to us. We also extend our thanks to the ICCAT Chairman and the ICCAT Secretariat for the perfect organisation of this 24th meeting which will enable us to address the multiple issues which relate to the conservation of Atlantic tuna and tuna-like species.

Like other member countries of ICCAT, Côte d'Ivoire is highly interested in the conservation of Atlantic tuna and tuna-like species. This conservation, it should be stressed, contributes in my country to the creation of employment, food security and development of the tuna industry.

This is why Côte d'Ivoire, through the Ministry of Fisheries Resources which we have the honour to lead, has constantly translated ICCAT recommendations in practice. ICCAT, it should be recalled, is for us an essential reference tool in the conservation of Atlantic tuna and tuna-like resources.

This 24th Regular Meeting of ICCAT will enable us to address important issues for the smooth functioning of our common organisation, in particular, the proposals for amendment to the Convention, solutions to overfishing of bigeye tuna, regulation of fish aggregating devices (FADs), elections of leaders and panel chairs, to mention but a few. On all these points, and in the best interests of our organisation, we urge the Contracting Parties to engage in constructive dialogue so as to achieve consensus solutions.

Before concluding my remarks, may I, as Chair of ATLAFCO, Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation Among African States Bordering the Atlantic, extend my gratitude to the ICCAT Chairman and the ICCAT Executive Secretary as well as to all their collaborators for the outstanding quality of the work undertaken.

**By The Hon. Sherry Ayittey, Minister for Fisheries and Aquaculture Development of the Republic of Ghana**

It gives me great pleasure to convey warm greetings from the Government and people of the Republic of Ghana. Let me begin by thanking our hosts, the European Union and the Government of Malta for hosting this meeting and for their hospitality. I also wish to express appreciation to the ICCAT Secretariat for their excellent preparation for the 24th Annual Meeting.

ICCAT is one of the most important international organizations for Ghana. Ghana ratified the ICCAT Convention in April 1968, the fourth Contracting Party to do so and has actively participated in the work of the Commission since then. On the occasion of the 24th Annual Meeting of ICCAT, let me assure you of Ghana's unwavering commitment to collective efforts to achieve the long term sustainability of tropical tunas and dependent and associated species in the ICCAT Convention area. We are committed to taking all necessary actions to comply with our ICCAT obligations.

We recognise that the tuna resources in our waters are shared resources and we are committed to working cooperatively with all ICCAT Contracting Parties to ensure the long term sustainability of these resources. More fundamentally, we are committed to the on-going efforts to modernize ICCAT through the Convention amendment process to ensure fairness and equity for all members of the ICCAT family.

Illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing poses a major threat to the long term sustainability of our shared tuna resources. The eradication of IUU fishing requires collective efforts at the regional and global levels. Ghana is, therefore, committed to regional and global initiatives to combat IUU fishing. To this end, Ghana has already taken a number of far reaching actions at the national level. We have modernized our fisheries legislation to provide comprehensive framework to implement our international and regional obligations and to address IUU fishing. We have significantly increased the penalties for IUU fishing. We have developed a new fisheries management plan to ensure that our fisheries resources are managed sustainably. We have upgraded our vessel monitoring system in line with ICCAT standards and specifications; and we have commenced the internal process to ratify the Port State Measures Agreement and the UN Fish Stocks Agreement.

I thank you sincerely for your attention and wish you all a very productive meeting.

**Algeria**

Algeria denounces the subjectivity with which ICCAT has treated its legitimate claim to re-establish its historical bluefin tuna quota, in particular in light of the different reaction of the Commission to a comparable situation which arose in 2015.

Accordingly, and until ICCAT assumes its responsibility by remedying the harming it has caused to Algeria since 2010, Algeria will fix as the potential bluefin tuna catch limit that of its historical quota which is 5.07% of the TAC for this species.

## **European Union**

The European Union would like to express its deep appreciation to Malta for hosting the 24th Regular Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) in the beautiful venue of St Julians. There is no better place for discussing ocean governance and fisheries management than on an island in the midst of the sea. We would also like to praise the hard and excellent work done by the Executive Secretary, Mr. Meski, and his wonderful team throughout the year and for the preparation of this meeting. We wish also the best to the Chair, Mr. Depypere.

In recent years, ICCAT and its CPCs have delivered efficiently on an increasing range of issues and have therefore contributed in raising high expectations from the civil society and the fishing industry on the role of ICCAT and its capacity to manage fish stocks under its purview. As a result ICCAT has become today a model of best practice in the RFMO world. However, this should not prevent us from taking stock and launching a second performance review this year, while at the same time making progress and hopefully reach consensus on the Convention amendment. This would present a considerable governance improvement and turn ICCAT into an even more modern organisation.

The European Union firmly believes that ICCAT should also continue promoting ambitious measures for the sustainable management of resources under its purview. This year it will be particularly important to bring bigeye tuna back to a healthy stock situation. The continuation of the Working Group on FADs will also be essential in this respect and consideration should be given to the creation of a joint tuna-RFMOs FAD Working Group. We also would like to have an earlier stock assessment for the Mediterranean swordfish in order for us to prepare an ambitious management framework in the near future.

The European Union wants also to ensure that shark stocks that are caught in association with ICCAT fisheries are managed in a precautionary way. This is particularly the case for blue shark stocks, which were evaluated this year. The European Union will also continue promoting the protection of other vulnerable shark species, in particular porbeagle and shortfin mako as well as the introduction of a fins naturally attached policy for which the European Union welcomes the increasing support by many Contracting Parties. The adoption of these proposals would further contribute in positioning our Organisation as the lead RFMO in the management of sharks.

The European Union is pleased with the developments towards better science, including the dialogue between scientists and fisheries managers. Better science comes at a cost. The European Union has recognised this by providing substantial amounts of funding to the GBYP research programme (€8 million over the last 6 years) and more recently the important programme for the Tagging of Atlantic Tropical Tunas (€13.7 million for over the next five years). The European Union hopes that other Contracting Parties or associations will be in a position to provide the necessary co-financing of 10% over the period covered by the programme.

As in the past, the European Union continues to attach the utmost importance to the compliance process. Compliance should be at the core of the work we are doing, and we should also assist the CPCs to fully implement and respect the rules. Only full compliance by everybody guarantees a level playing field across the entire Convention area and among all ICCAT members and their industries. We are committed to ensure that ICCAT maintains a high effort for the compliance review and assessment and we are confident that this process will continue to be guided by a solution-oriented and pragmatic approach in order to further enable ICCAT to stand by its global mission.

The European Union also considers it is now time to finalise the impressive work done so far on the electronic bluefin tuna catch document. We are truly committed to work with all the Contracting Parties during this session to achieve this objective which is essential for the control of the BFT fishery and for any future development that ICCAT would like to pursue for traceability of other species.

The European Union is looking forward to working constructively with all CPCs in order to achieve these ambitious goals at the 24th Regular Meeting of ICCAT.

## **Gabon**

I would like on behalf of the Gabonese Republic to thank the ICCAT Executive Secretary, the Commission of the European Union and in particular the Government and the people of Malta for hosting our 24th session in this marvellous city of St Julians.

As a reminder, since Gabon joined ICCAT in September 1977, Gabon has participated in the different work and meetings of the organisation. This participation is due to the growing interest of the country in the tuna fisheries.

In fact, the statistics produced by ICCAT amply show the central role played by the Gabonese EEZ in the tropical tuna catches.

This interest has led the Government over the last 5 years to initiate reforms aimed at improving knowledge on the fisheries and aquaculture in general and on the tuna fisheries in particular. These reforms have come about as a result of establishment for the first time of a Ministry entirely devoted to the fisheries, reorganisation of the General Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture and creation of the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Agency, with specific powers aimed at making the management of the sector more dynamic.

In addition, for better management of tuna fisheries, Gabon has taken the following measures:

- redesign of the system for granting access to the fisheries, in particular shifting from an access right, simple authorisation to fish, to a fishing right which carries many more responsibilities with advantages and obligations;
- implementation of an observer programme on board fishing vessels;
- redesign of fishing methods and practices in particular prohibiting discards at sea;
- drafting of an implementing text of the law on the fisheries code banning shark finning;
- implementation of the Gabonese Spatial Studies and Observations Agency (AGEOS) which enables monitoring of variations in the climate and oceans in a reception scope of 2800 kilometres covering the entire Gulf of Guinea;
- reinforcement of the surveillance device with additional means to fly over fishing areas and sea patrols.

In relation to the 24th session of ICCAT, Gabon reaffirms that non-regulation of FADs is related to IUU fishing, hence its adherence to the principles of:

- limitation of the number of FADs per vessel;
- communication to the competent administrations of data on positions of FADs deployed;
- routine tagging by each vessel of FADs used.

It requests for this purpose capacity-building assistance and accreditation of its observers as well as the taking into account of the issue of collection of FADs at the end of each fishing campaign within the framework of draft Recommendation PA1-502 submitted by the European Union.

Finally, Gabon takes the opportunity of this 24th session of ICCAT to invite potential stakeholders to come to study the development possibilities of the fisheries sector in Gabon in view of its industrialisation.

## **Japan**

On behalf of the Government of Japan, our delegation would like to express our deepest appreciation to the Government of Malta and the European Union for hosting this important meeting in this beautiful and historic city, St. Julians. We also thank Mr. Driss Meski, the Executive Secretary, and the other ICCAT Secretariat staff for the excellent preparation and arrangements as well as wish all the best to our Chair, Mr. Depypere.

Japan attaches importance to conservation of bigeye tuna and implementation of an eBCD at this annual meeting. Although the last bigeye stock assessment in 2010 indicated that the stock status was neither overfished nor overfishing, this year's stock assessment showed a totally different picture, that is, the stock is currently under overfished and overfishing. The SCRS recommends to reduce the TAC to a level that would allow the recovery of the stock with high probability and in as short period as possible.

Japan agrees that the Commission should consider reduction of TAC, but at the same time consideration should be given to the reasons why the stock has been deteriorating despite the fact that the total catch has been within the level recommended by the SCRS. Japan understands from the SCRS report that this is due to a large amount of juvenile bigeye catches made by surface fisheries. The SCRS report stated "The proportion of small age 0 and 1 bigeye has shown a continuous increase since the beginning of the time series which may affect the prospect of recovery of the population and worsened the status of the stock as it was forecast in 2010." Thus, it would be meaningless if the Commission only focuses on the extent of the TAC reduction without addressing reduction of juvenile catches. Having this in mind, Japan would like to work with other CPCs towards sustainable use of bigeye resources.

There is no question that the Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Scheme (BCD) has been greatly contributing to elimination of IUU products from the market. While the BCD has been very useful to detect illegal products, it has become clear that the current paper-based system has some limitations and also cannot address the ever-increasing workload of CPCs and the Secretariat, particularly as the trade amount of bluefin tuna is expected to increase in the next few years. The Commission should start an electronic BCD system (eBCD) as soon as possible. Towards this goal, Japan submitted a proposal on the implementation schedule, giving due regard to the need for gradual introduction of the system. Japan sincerely hopes that this meeting will be able to agree on this.

Japan also understands that it is expected to finalize the draft Convention amendment as soon as possible based on the work of the Working Group on Convention Amendment and adopt an agreed set of amendments. It's our sincere hope that the amendments can significantly contribute to the strengthening of the Commission. One of the important amendments proposed is that the Convention will cover shark species under its management purview. Since the entry into force of the amended Convention is expected to take a long time, Japan is in a position to consider conservation of shark species even before the amendment takes effect. Japan would like to emphasize, however, that any conservation measure for sharks should be based on good scientific advice from the SCRS, and that any proposed measure should cover major fisheries targeting or incidentally catching the species subject to the measure. Japan would also like to point out that any conservation measure on sharks must be based on a consensus as the existing Convention has no mandate on management of sharks.

Japan is ready to work closely and cooperatively with other delegations to find good solutions and sincerely hopes that this regular meeting will be successfully and fruitfully concluded.

## **Namibia**

This Regular Meeting of ICCAT is remarkable for Namibia due to the fact that a new Government was inaugurated in April 2015 when a new Head of State took the reigns of our Republic. The new Head of State His Excellency Dr. Hage Geingob explicitly and clearly stipulated three major objectives for the coming five years which are inclusivity, hunger eradication and economic development. The Namibian delegation thus has a mandate to at minimum derive the above stated from this meeting. We have not been deriving optimum benefit from the ICCAT total allowable catch as of late and we have seen our catches for tuna and tuna-like species dwindling. We have been hampered by low fishing capacity in this case where we have to charter tuna vessels from our neighbours who in turn should be exploiting their quota before engaging with our fishermen. Second, a significant limiting factor and which is destabilizing is the presence of seismic activities in our waters and within the same period with our tuna fishing season. The performance of this subsector is seriously hampered by these activities. We are however in scientific and technical tug-of-war with the mining industry with regard to this issue. It has been proven through empirical work in other parts of the world that seismic activities are detrimental to fisheries. Namibia needs technical and scientific assistance from ICCAT in order to prove to the mining sector that seismic activities have led to reduction in catches. We need a dedicated scientist to analyse seismic data, its implication and guide the implementation and research strategy.

Mr Chairman, we would like to thank the Working Group on Convention Amendment for the work they have done so far during the intersessional period. We understand that this WG has made quite good progress on most of the proposals put forward for amending the Convention. In particular, we fully concur with the proposal agreed upon by this Working Group that only those by-catch species (caught in relation to ICCAT targeted fisheries) that are not already managed by other International Fisheries Organisations or that are not under the competent authority of coastal States, should fall under the mandate of ICCAT.

We are also really satisfied by the good work done by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), this is quality work and the current and previous Chairs of this body are being commented by Namibia. The Committee delivers the best scientific information to the Commission, Namibia urges the Commission to always abide by the scientific recommendations of this important organ of the Convention. Looking at the biology, indicators, state of the stock and management recommendation from the SCRS, Namibia is satisfied that perpetuity in exploitation of this resource will be attained if management measures are adhered to.

The additional endeavour should be the creation of dialogue with other users of the ocean environmental resources such as maritime traffic, mineral exploration, tourism and any such as cultural utilization of the oceans. We are called to establish some kind of strategic environmental assessment for sustainable use of the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas. Co-existence of these livelihood vital activities should be investigated and resolutions found for implementation for an equitable and just global society.

Finally, Namibia as a developing State is open to cooperation with developed partners for the sake of safeguarding the Atlantic Ocean and Adjacent Seas, as we borrow these from future generations and they need this intact. We shall welcome relevant assistance in perfecting our surrounding for sustainable utilization and prudent management thereof.

Namibia would like to thank you all and we are looking forward to a successful 24th Regular Meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

#### **United Kingdom (Overseas Territories)**

The UK Overseas Territories would like to extend their sincere thanks and appreciation to the Republic of Malta for hosting the 24th Regular Meeting.

The UK Overseas Territories represents four different United Kingdom Overseas Territories – Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands and the Territory of St. Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha. These are small coastal States in varying stages of development. During the year we have worked hard to meet all our ICCAT obligations and hope that we have managed to do so to the satisfaction of the Commission. The UK Government and its Overseas Territories are also committed to ensuring that marine resources are managed to a high standard, a strategy which was highlighted in the UK Government's most recent White Paper on the UK OTs. The UK Overseas Territories recognise that scientific information is necessary to underpin sound decision-making at ICCAT and are working with the UK Government to improve understanding of marine resources in the Territories.

We look forward to the outcome of species specific discussions in the Panels this year. For swordfish and bigeye tuna, we hope that Contracting Parties can work together in order to strengthen the management, and safeguard the future sustainability, of these fisheries, for the benefit of all members. Whilst the measures taken to protect sharks at previous annual meetings were very welcome, we would like to see the proposed recommendations adopted this year to protect other vulnerable shark species that are not already covered by specific ICCAT recommendations. In particular, we consider it essential that ICCAT takes firm action to protect the porbeagle shark, as this species is now listed under Appendix 2 of CITES. Additionally, the UK Overseas Territories would support protection of shortfin mako. The UK Overseas Territories would also support strengthening the prohibition on shark-finning, as in previous years, as well as other measures to protect other bycatch species, such as birds and turtles.

The UKOTs would also like ICCAT to consider the resolution on the Sargasso Sea which we are tabling in conjunction with Canada, the European Union, South Africa, and the United States. This resolution seeks to allow continuation by the SCRS of the good work already done under the previous Sargasso Sea resolution, 12-12, with a further report in 2017. The Sargasso Sea is internationally recognised as an ecologically and biologically significant area, within which some ICCAT species are among the top predators. It is also important as a pupping, spawning and nursery area for several ICCAT species, including porbeagle, marlin and albacore tuna.

Finally, we would like to express our thanks and appreciation to the ICCAT Secretariat for the outstanding work that it continues to do on behalf of the Contracting Parties. We wish them, the chair of ICCAT, the other chairs of the various Committees and Panels and other Contracting Parties our best wishes for a constructive and successful meeting.

### ***3.3 OPENING STATEMENTS BY OBSERVERS FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS***

#### **Ecology Action Centre**

The Ecology Action Centre (EAC) is pleased to be participating once again as a Canadian civil society observer to ICCAT. The EAC has worked proactively at Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and the United Nations General Assembly for many years lending expertise in fisheries science and experience working with sustainable fishing industries. At ICCAT, we work to support sustainable fisheries and continued progress towards ecosystem-based and precautionary management measures.

The EAC calls on ICCAT parties to take the following actions at the 24th Regular meeting:

**1. Begin the development of management procedures for priority species, including Atlantic bluefin tuna, to ensure long-term sustainability of ICCAT stocks**

ICCAT has been saddled with unsustainable management practices that have led to overfished stocks, with many still rebuilding. Within the current management approach, these stocks risk future decline or failed recovery without additional rules in place. Furthermore, managers rely on science with a wide array of uncertainties, and the industry faces unpredictable fluctuations in quotas on a regular basis.

Establishing management procedures for priority species informed by Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) can offer particular advantages over the traditional approach to fisheries management. Under this approach, management objectives are determined at the outset, when the priority can be placed on objectives such as stability, abundance and yield. Scientists, managers and stakeholders work together throughout the process. Since managers can determine the parameters for sustainable fisheries first, rules can be put in place to monitor stock statuses and ensure that stocks will remain healthy or continue to rebuild. Management procedures can help to account for risk and allow for the balancing of trade-offs, enable managers to act swiftly and efficiently to ensure the health of the resource and long-term profitability, and effectively implement best practices in modern fisheries management. Many RFMOs around the world have begun to use management procedures to address fisheries management challenges. ICCAT has the opportunity this year to agree to a path forward to develop these for stocks under its jurisdiction.

At the 2015 Commission meeting, to start the process of developing management procedures, the Commission should:

- Agree to a timeline to adopt a management strategy for Atlantic bluefin tuna by 2017, which includes deadlines for defining target and limit reference points, as well as a suite of possible harvest control rules.
  - Set management objectives this year in Panel 2 as the critical first step;
  - Require that all Panels set at least a 75% probability of achieving the established target with only a 5% likelihood of breaching the limit;
  - Make clear that a fishery will be suspended and scientific monitoring instituted when limits are breached.
- Fully support the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) in developing an MSE tool including direct engagement with managers when necessary to ensure that the MSE can be used to inform harvest strategy development.

**2. Implement the electronic Bluefin Catch Document (eBCD) by the March 2016 deadline**

The current paper-based system used by ICCAT to track catch is outdated and contains a number of loopholes for the trade of illegally-caught bluefin. ICCAT has developed the eBCD system to replace the paper-based system and to help combat the serious problem of illegal fishing, particularly within the eastern fishery. Unfortunately, the implementation of the eBCD has already been delayed multiple times, and there is ongoing discussion about whether to allow for future derogations from the BCD measure. While a few ICCAT Parties have already begun using the eBCD, to effectively reduce loopholes for illegal activity and to support the recovery of bluefin, it is critical that the eBCD be fully and comprehensively implemented by the 2016 purse seine fishing season.

- We therefore urge the Commission to set a deadline of March 2016 for full eBCD implementation, including continuing to require validated eBCDs for trade including between Member States of the European Union.

**3. Reduce the total allowable catch (TAC) for bigeye tuna and put in place measures to reduce FAD-related mortality**

A new assessment for bigeye tuna was conducted in 2015 and found the stock to be overfished with overfishing occurring. Managers should immediately put measures in place to end overfishing and rebuild the stock. Specifically, the SCRS recommends that the Commission “reduce the TAC to a level that would allow the recovery of the stock with high probability and in as short period as possible in accordance with the principles of Recommendation 11-13.”

As such, Commission should reduce the TAC for bigeye tuna to 50,000 tonnes to allow for a greater than 60% chance of success of immediately ending overfishing. It is also important to prevent any rollover of underage and include minor harvesters within the allocation key to ensure that the stock can rebuild and to prevent future overfishing.

Another challenge to the recovery of Atlantic bigeye tuna is the prolific use of FADs in the Convention area. The SCRS cautions the Commission that the increased bigeye harvest on FADs could have negative consequences for the productivity of bigeye tuna fisheries. Therefore, the Commission should put in place a measure to reduce FAD-related mortality of small bigeye tunas.

#### ***4. Prohibit the retention of porbeagle sharks in the ICCAT Convention area***

According to the SCRS, porbeagle sharks are one of the most vulnerable sharks in the ICCAT area; they have also been assessed as Endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. In March 2013, porbeagle sharks were included in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

In the North West Atlantic, current fishing mortality adds decades to the already slow recovery trajectory for this vulnerable shark, pushing it to upwards of 100 years. Estimates of dead discards, post release mortality or environmental changes over the possible century of recovery time are not accounted for, and there may be unregulated and unreported high seas catch not represented in abundance models.

We urge the Commission to prohibit the retention of porbeagle sharks in the ICCAT Convention area to ensure the shortest recovery time for porbeagles and to help ensure that the CITES Appendix II listing can be implemented successfully.

#### ***5. Establish science-based catch limits for shortfin mako and blue sharks***

The SCRS continues to recommend that fishing mortality should not increase for shortfin mako. Catch should be limited to historical catch averages that ensure mortality is below current levels until such a time as scientifically-based catch limits can be established. Specifically, the “Committee reiterates, as a precautionary approach, that catches of shortfin mako sharks should not be increased with respect to the 2006-2010 levels until more reliable stock assessment results are available for both the northern and southern stocks.”

The SCRS Ecological Risk Assessment has also identified blue sharks as vulnerable and recommends measures to ensure catches stay within the Convention objective. This year, the SCRS recommends that, “methods for mitigating shark by-catch by these fisheries also need to be investigated and applied.” Further, the Committee recommends that recent catch levels (2009-2013) should not be increased for the South Atlantic stock of blue sharks. While the Committee could not reach a consensus on a specific management recommendation for the North Atlantic stock, the Commission needs to act with precaution to ensure sustainable harvest of blue shark is maintained before this shark becomes as depleted as other shark species in the Convention area.

We urge the Commission to establish precautionary catch limits for both shortfin mako and blue sharks, based on the SCRS recommendations so that recent catch levels are not increased.

#### ***6. Improve the existing finning ban by moving to a ‘fins naturally attached’ rule***

At ICCAT, support for a fins naturally attached rule has been growing each year, with an increasing number of co-sponsors.

The EAC urges the Commission to support a proposed ‘fins naturally attached’ regulation this year to strengthen the safeguard for sharks.

#### ***7. Amend the ICCAT Convention text to include current best practices***

The EAC applauds the efforts so far to modernize the ICCAT Convention text. As part of this process, we urge members to expand the list of species covered explicitly by the Convention. Specifically, all shark species listed in Article 64 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Annex 1) should be officially managed by ICCAT.

In addition, the EAC urges the Commission to integrate the precautionary approach and ecosystem-based management, as outlined by the Food and Agriculture Organization Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, when amending the Convention text. Furthermore, the amended Commission Convention should provide the Commission with the authority to make recommendations aimed at maintaining or restoring the abundance of ICCAT species above levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield.

ICCAT was the first RFMO to ban shark finning, but loopholes exist with the 5% rule, which mean illegal shark fins are still being landed. Requiring sharks to be landed with fins attached at the first point of landing is the most straightforward way of enforcing the finning ban and will greatly improve species-specific data collection for sharks.

**Fishwise, International Pole & Line Foundation, International Seafood Sustainability Foundation and OPAGAC**

This letter is submitted on behalf of the undersigned non-governmental organizations and fishing industry organizations that participate in the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (Commission) process, or may seek to do so in the future.

Collectively our organizations have thousands of staff working in offices and partner organizations in over a 100 countries and engage suppliers and provide advice to retailers, buyers and food service sectors regarding improvements in tuna sustainability. In addition, the undersigned industry organizations represent a considerable number of purse seine, longline and pole & line vessels active in tuna fisheries and we recognize that the sustainability of tuna stocks is integral to our businesses as well as the health of the marine environment.

We are writing to bring to your attention our views on harvest control rules and reference points – an issue we see as a fundamental to sustainable fisheries management – and one on which the Commission must take action.

We support the Commission's efforts to adopt fundamental science-based management measures to ensure the sustainability of tuna populations in the Atlantic Ocean, and we request your support for additional management reforms. We also support the application of the Precautionary Approach using clear target and limit reference points and harvest control rules, as called for by the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement. Harvest control rules are a set of well-defined management actions to be taken in response to changes in stock status, and include appropriate, biologically-based reference points. However, we are concerned that the Commission has not yet adopted interim biological reference points or harvest strategies, including harvest control rules, for most priority tuna stocks.

As you prepare for the upcoming 24th Regular Meeting of the Commission, we urge Governments to support the adoption of robust and precautionary harvest strategies, including appropriate biologically-based reference points, harvest control rules and acceptable levels of risk, for priority tuna stocks, noting the positive progress towards the implementation of these elements in the North Atlantic albacore fishery. In addition, we request that the Commission adhere to best practices when developing harvest strategies, and establish clear interim deadlines where appropriate to ensure progress toward implementation. Finally, in order to optimize harvest control rules for all tuna stocks in the future, we suggest that the Commission request regular updates from your scientific advisors regarding reference points and performance indicators, and consider a monitoring scheme.

We urge ICCAT to take these actions at its upcoming Commission meeting as a matter of priority.

**The General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean of the FAO (GFCM)**

At the outset I would like to express to you my sincere gratitude for the invitation to attend the 24th Regular Meeting of ICCAT. I have been participating in sessions of the Commission for many years and I am always pleased to join you and have the opportunity to represent the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean of the FAO (GFCM) in this important forum.

As you are aware of, GFCM and ICCAT are geographically linked, in that both organizations have an institutional mandate on the Mediterranean Sea and currently there are only four Contracting Parties to the GFCM which are not Contracting Parties to ICCAT. This is the reason why cooperation has been actively pursued and several areas of our work are indeed shared. As an instance, I would like to highlight in particular the fight against IUU fishing in the Mediterranean Sea. There are fishing vessels that appear both in the record of vessels of ICCAT and that of the GFCM. In addition, there is a set of ICCAT recommendations which have been endorsed by the GFCM and are now included in the Compendium of GFCM decisions. These are just examples, as there are numerous areas for cooperation.

Regardless, we are witnessing an unprecedented focus on partnerships as tools in support of a better governance of natural resources. Within FAO in particular, there is a clear policy, which encourages the signature of agreements between organizations having similar objectives in order to promote coordination and synergies. When it comes to the cooperation between GFCM and ICCAT, I do believe that it is high time to capitalize on past efforts and formalize our interactions through the adoption of a memorandum of understanding. In this regard, I would like to inform you that a similar call was already made within the remit of the GFCM and I have personally encouraged those Contracting Parties which participate in both RFMOs to actively support this proposal in ICCAT as well.

A memorandum of understanding would surely help us to identify activities to be undertaken under relevant areas of cooperation including, the issue of IUU fishing I previously mentioned. In this respect, I would like to refer to the statement by my colleagues in FAO mentioning the ongoing process aiming at the declaration of an international day for the fight against IUU fishing. Should this proposal be eventually presented to COFI and favourably considered, all RFMOs will be concerned by such an initiative. ICCAT's support for such an initiative would hence be essential.

I thank you very much for your attention and I wish you a fruitful meeting.

### **Oceana**

Oceana would like to thank the European Union for hosting this promising meeting. Our hope is that it will deliver a real discussion that translates into sustainable fisheries management for highly migratory species in the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea.

In this important year for ICCAT, Oceana would like to stress that the only path to fulfilling the Convention's objectives is through applying the precautionary principle and putting an end to overfishing. In this context, Oceana encourages Contracting Parties to adopt adequate management measures to guarantee the recovery and sustainable exploitation of species under ICCAT's purview that have been too long neglected.

These immediate actions are urgently required:

- Mediterranean swordfish: Adopt a recovery plan to rebuild the stock, in line with Convention objectives. According to the SCRS<sup>1</sup>, this stock has been reduced to 1/3 of the levels of the 1980s. The 2014 stock assessment showed similar results to previous assessments since 2003: the stock is overfished and subject to continued overfishing. The absolute absence of management measures aimed at rebuilding biomass is blatantly undermining the Convention objectives. In addition, inaction sets a different management standard for swordfish stocks depending on their geographical distribution. While the overfishing of North and South Atlantic swordfish was addressed a long time ago, administrative silence prevails in the Mediterranean region. Inaction should no longer be an option.
- Commercially exploited sharks (blue shark and shortfin mako): Adopt precautionary management measures for these species. It is particularly important to note that targeted fishing of sharks has increased in recent years<sup>2</sup>. Blue shark is the 4th most important ICCAT species in terms of reported catches, yet lacks any management within the ICCAT Convention area. Precautionary catch limits should be adopted in order to ensure blue shark fisheries remain within the exploitation boundaries established by the Commission. A similar approach should also be applied to shortfin mako sharks.
- Eliminate loopholes allowing shark finning. Due to a minority blockade, ICCAT has repeatedly failed to amend its flawed recommendation on finning. It is time for ICCAT to become the leading tuna RFMO in shark policy by adopting a strict prohibition on finning that requires sharks to be landed with their fins attached. Failing again is not an option.
- Porbeagle sharks: CPCs should reconsider the proposal for prohibiting the capture and retention of this highly vulnerable shark species.

<sup>1</sup> Report of the 2014 ICCAT Mediterranean Swordfish Stock Assessment Meeting (Heraklion, Greece, July 21 to 25, 2014).

<sup>2</sup> Report of the 2015 ICCAT Blue Shark Stock Assessment Session (Lisbon, Portugal, July 27 to 31, 2015).

### **The Pew Charitable Trusts (Pew)**

The Pew Charitable Trusts looks forward to working with ICCAT members to advance the following actions at the 24th Regular Meeting of ICCAT:

#### ***1. Adopt a framework for the development of harvest strategies to ensure long-term sustainability and market stability***

Pew encourages the Commission's transition towards implementation of harvest strategies, as they result in increased transparency and predictability of management, stability in fisheries, and can ensure more consistency in management across multiple species. The EU proposal put forth on harvest strategies will help to advance use of this management strategy within ICCAT. Pew urges the Commission to a) formalize a timeline for the development of harvest strategies for priority species, including northern albacore and Atlantic bluefin tuna, and b) agree on minimum criteria for management objectives and acceptable levels of risk. Additionally, Pew encourages the use of management strategy evaluation (MSE) as a mechanism for evaluating the effectiveness of these elements as part of comprehensive, stock-specific harvest strategies.

#### ***2. Ensure that the eBCD system is implemented by all Parties by March 2016 and that it electronically tracks all catch and major sources of trade***

The eBCD system has the potential to bolster the recovery of Atlantic bluefin, reducing loopholes for IUU fishing and helping to minimize the likelihood that science-based catch limits are exceeded. Pew applauds those Parties that are already using the eBCD and the work of the eBCD Working Group and Permanent Working Group over the last year to develop the new system and prepare for implementation. Now that the eBCD is finally operational, Pew strongly encourages the Commission to mandate full implementation of a robust eBCD system by all Parties by a March 2016 deadline. To avoid introducing new loopholes for illegal activity, the Commission should also ensure that eBCD reporting and validation requirements are at least as comprehensive as existing requirements under the paper BCD system.

#### ***3. Establish measures to effectively manage the increasing use of fish aggregating devices (FADs) in tropical tuna fisheries***

This year's stock assessment of Atlantic bigeye tuna indicates that the stock is overfished with overfishing occurring. We call attention to the SCRS advice to reduce the bigeye TAC to levels capable of recovering the stock with high probability in as short a period as possible. Pew therefore urges the Commission to reduce the TAC to 50,000 t, which would end overfishing within one year with greater than 60% likelihood and recover the stock by 2028 with 75% likelihood. As the SCRS has explicitly identified FAD-related juvenile mortality as a principal driver of overfishing, a new precautionary management measure for FAD fisheries should also be considered. Given the outcomes of the stock assessment, it is of critical importance to direct the FAD Working Group and the SCRS to investigate the impacts that the suite of proposed FAD management options – including FAD set limits and alterations to the Gulf of Guinea area/time closure, among others – would have on juvenile bigeye mortality and the recovery of this stock.

#### ***4. Implement precautionary management measures for sharks***

Immediate action is needed to ensure the proper management of sharks by ICCAT, due to the inherent vulnerability of sharks to overexploitation and the unsustainable numbers caught in ICCAT fisheries. For shortfin mako and the southern population of blue shark, there is clear scientific advice to establish a precautionary cap. Due to the inability of the SCRS to reach agreement on the management advice for the northern population of blue shark, we also call on CPCs to adopt a precautionary catch limit for this stock. We also urge the Commission to prohibit retention of common thresher and porbeagle sharks, as scientific advice indicates recovery of these stocks could benefit from a ban on retention.

#### ***5. Amend the ICCAT Convention text***

Despite significant progress made by Parties during this year's meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment, an additional session was deemed necessary to allow CPCs to reach an agreement on outstanding issues. We are hopeful that this year's meeting will agree to modernize the ICCAT Convention text and strengthen the Convention mandate. To accomplish these aims, Pew agrees with the Working Group's recommendations to incorporate sharks within the scope of the Convention, to include principles of ecosystem-based management and the precautionary approach, to amend the Convention text to improve alignment with relevant international agreements, as well as revise current voting and objection procedures.

**WWF**

WWF is pleased to participate in the 24th ICCAT Annual Meeting. ICCAT is the most influential forum for the conservation of Atlantic tunas and, as always, WWF welcomes the opportunity to attend this meeting. WWF would like to commend ICCAT for its steps towards sustainable management and associated compliance performance of Atlantic tuna and tuna-like fisheries and express its expectation that CPCs will act according to the spirit of the Convention.

***Bluefin tuna***

Our understanding of bluefin tuna ecology is growing. SCRS has reported on the improved understanding of regional mixing levels, size data from catches destined for farms and length-weight relationships. These sources show the complexity of bluefin tuna behaviour. The GBYP appears to have expedited this work and WWF appreciates those research efforts. The GBYP tagging programme gives significant insight into bluefin tuna mixing and migration patterns. WWF is proud to contribute to the electronic tagging programme and is committed to continuing such efforts.

The use of stereoscopic cameras in measuring bluefin tuna at the time of caging is proving to be a viable and reliable concept. These data could contribute to the accuracy of stock assessments, however, as CPCs are using different methodologies, WWF demands a standardised protocol for estimating fish size during 100% of the bluefin tuna caging operations.

It is essential to obtain fisheries-independent indices of abundance for bluefin tuna, since together with accurate catch reports, they should form the foundation of management advice. This is even more urgent, now CPUE series are being distorted by recent regulatory measures. WWF stresses the SCRS concern that the current vessel capacity could easily catch volumes well in excess of the rebuilding strategy, so the combat against IUU-fishing remains a high priority.

Recognising that the SCRS did not yet provide robust advice on an upper TAC bound, WWF urges CPCs to apply moderation when setting a TAC for bluefin tuna and live up to their commitment in continued support of research efforts for this purpose. This would imply that the TACs for 2016 should not be modified upwards from ICCAT Resolution 14-4, pending results from SCRS assessments that would support such advice.

***Blue shark***

Despite assessment models indicating that North and South Atlantic blue shark stocks are not overfished, the lack of certainty about the status of the blue shark is of serious concern. A sound basis for calculating the total removal of blue sharks is lacking altogether and the increasing trends of the CPUE series cannot be fitted with conventional modelling. This underlines the need for fisheries-independent surveys. The SCRS recommends that CPCs improve on data quality for blue sharks with great urgency. When in doubt, precaution should be taken, so CPCs should ensure steep reductions in shark bycatch. This may be enhanced by enforcing data collection for all shark catches, whether targeted or caught as bycatch. In order to ensure the long-term sustainability of blue shark stocks, WWF urges ICCAT to give high priority to the design and application of a long-term management plan for blue sharks and shortfin mako, including HCR, sound catch and capacity limits and risk analyses.

***Bigeye tuna***

WWF expresses concern about the status of Atlantic bigeye tuna. SCRS confirms that the stock is overexploited and overfishing likely occurred in 2014. This is counter to the spirit of ICCAT and needs to be resolved immediately. The 2015 assessment of bigeye tuna report shows a probability of recovery around 29% for bigeye stock with the current TAC (85,000 t) level by the end of the projected period (2028). The catch level (68,390 t) for 2014 was about 80% of that, but with a catch level of 65,000 maintained until 2028, the recovery probability would still be less than 50%. In line with SCRS, WWF cannot support such low probabilities and the BET-TAC should be reduced substantially to allow recovery with a higher probability and within a shorter timeframe, until a higher TAC can be substantiated with data and research evidence.

Longliners (48%) and purse seiner (37%) fleets account for 85% of the total bigeye tuna catches. Fishing on FADs is highly efficient for the purse seiners fleets, but this has led to a remarkable increase in fishing effort and large catches of juvenile bigeye, which was always of secondary importance to the purse seine fleets. FAD fishing is undeniably indiscriminate in this regard. The mean weight of bigeye catches in FAD fishing is 4 kg, while it is around 8 kg for free schools and 62 kg for longliners. The use of FADs by some of the largest purse seiners fleets has increased to 80-85% in the last few years. The fleet targets skipjack, but bigeye is caught as bycatch. SCRS has expressed concern that this increase may have added pressure to the bigeye stock. WWF urges CPCs to regulate/control the application of FADs, limiting FADs capacity and establishing effective measures to reduce FAD-related and other fishing mortality of small bigeye tunas.

In addition, it is urgent to adjust fishing capacity according to sustainable catch limits, ban longliners/all transshipments at sea, more consistent consideration in the TAC of those catches of national fleets with lower bigeye harvest levels and 100% observers coverage for all vessels over 24 meters targeting tropical tuna.

### ***Swordfish status in the Mediterranean***

Unfortunately, Mediterranean swordfish stock is still in a miserable state. Despite a variety of recent management measures, like time closures and minimum landing size, this swordfish stock is still well in the red block of the Kobe plot, implying that the stock is below the level that could support MSY and current fishing mortality exceeds  $F_{MSY}$ . According to the SCRS report, close monitoring of swordfish fishery is urgent, given the possibility of increased discard levels. The ICCAT list of the number of vessels authorized to catch swordfish is generally higher than the total of active vessels active in CPC waters. WWF calls on ICCAT to establish an ambitious recovery plan in accordance with ICCAT management objectives, in line with SCRS advice on catch limits, and investigate and avoid potential loopholes in ICCAT's active vessels list.

### ***Harvest control rules-HCRs / management procedure***

WWF embraces the precautionary management of tuna fisheries. It requires determining how well management measures achieve their objectives, i.e. managing the associated risks and probabilities. Any future tuna management needs to be robust against risks and use appropriate data to increase performance against the pre-set management objectives. New data collection could focus on reducing the accumulated risk of not meeting the management objectives. Higher quality data should lead to a better performance of the management regime. This automatically would lead to higher quotas, as long as the science is encountering a wide array of risks.

Harvest Control Rules (HCRs) form a crucial element of fisheries management, but more is needed. A draft management mechanism first needs to have long-term objectives. Subsequently, it could be tested for its robustness to uncertainties in possible HCRs, simulation studies, stock assessment methods and population models, uncertainties in abundance indices and catch reports, inclusion of oceanographic/ecosystem considerations, etc. Eventually, all such factors contribute to estimates of accumulated risk. An illustration is the SCRS management recommendation on North Atlantic swordfish, where SCRS seeks better guidance on probabilities for maintaining the stock in a rebuilt condition. Once this step is taken by ICCAT, stocks meeting such criteria could become eligible for MSC-certification, for which HCRs and other strict management measures are conditional. That would open up market opportunities for sustainable fisheries.

How much risk ICCAT will be prepared to take when redefining its long-term management conditions is a matter for ICCAT, it is not a scientific matter. WWF calls on ICCAT to recognise that setting management objectives is the responsibility of ICCAT.

WWF calls on the CPCs to start the identification of long-term management objectives, which could subsequently feed into SCRS work to test the validity of such objectives using simulation studies. An iterative exchange between the Commission and SCRS should eventually lead to a robust procedure, which increasingly improves its performance to the pre-set ICCAT objectives over time.

## REPORTS OF INTER-SESSIONAL MEETINGS

### **4.1 REPORT OF THE INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING OF PANEL 2 AND THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE (Madrid, Spain, 23-24 February 2015)**

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

The meeting was opened by the Chair of Panel 2, Mr. Haruo Tominaga (Japan).

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

The Agenda was adopted and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.1**. The Executive Secretary introduced the participants and observers (see List of Participants attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.1**).

#### **3. Appointment of the Rapporteur**

Mrs. Staci Rijal (United States) was designated as the Rapporteur.

#### **4. Consideration of fishing, inspection, and capacity management plans for 2015 presented by CPCs with E-BFT quota**

The fishing plans that were considered at the meeting are attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.1**.

Before individual plans were discussed, one CPC made a general point asking CPCs who did not outline the VMS transmission rate or their bycatch quota to clarify their intended actions on those topics.

##### *Albania*

Albania submitted their plan after required deadline and it was therefore not available for translation prior to the meeting. This late submission should be considered as a potential non-compliance by the Compliance Committee. Albania presented their plan in detail for the benefit of the non-English speakers and also highlighted some recent changes to the structure of the Ministries with responsibilities for ICCAT fisheries. CPCs sought clarification regarding observer coverage and Albania confirmed that a regional observer and national observer would be present. The Secretariat confirmed that unless a request was made in line with *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 13-07 by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 14-04] to have a native Albanian speaker then the regional observer would speak English.

##### *Algeria*

Algeria presented its plan, noting that it was similar to its 2014 plan, with improvements based, among others, on regional observer comments last year. They noted that their quota allocated for 2015 would be distributed amongst Algerian tuna vessels that will comply with the regulatory requirements. Algeria recalled that its fishing capacity was less than its historical quota. No questions or concerns on Algeria's plan were raised by the Group.

##### *China*

China presented their plan, noting that it was similar to its 2014 plan. Only one longline vessel will operate this year. They clarified that VMS would be transmitted every four hours. No questions or concerns on China's plan were raised by the Group. After their presentation, China asked whether a bluefin tuna vessel wanting to transship to a container vessel in port would count as a transshipment or a landing. Later the representative from China was informed that this was a question for the Commission rather than Panel 2. They also asked for some assistance on how to implement eBCD for this year. No answer was given to the eBCD question, as it is more appropriate to discuss at the Integrated Monitoring Measures Working Group meeting.

### ***Egypt***

Egypt presented its plan, noting that it was similar to its 2014 plan, but in line with [Rec. 14-04]. Several CPCs asked questions of Egypt, including their intent to use stereoscopic cameras, whether or not they were setting aside an artisanal or by-catch quota, and the size and capacity of the fishing vessels mentioned. Egypt clarified that they will use cameras jointly with other CPCs during JFOs and that no caging takes place in Egyptian waters. They also noted that they did not have an artisanal fishery nor have they had by-catch in previous years, so no quota was set aside for these categories of catch. Upon request from the Group, Egypt submitted the vessel size and capacity information for their two purse seiners to the Secretariat.

### ***European Union***

The European Union highlighted several aspects of its plan, emphasizing the importance of capacity management, generally, and the importance of the use of stereoscopic cameras to monitor caging operations. The EU received a question on farmed bluefin tuna with a high growth rate in Croatia. The EU welcomed further bilateral discussion on the fish in question and the Group agreed that the SCRS should evaluate the possible growth and if needed, the issue could be discussed again in the Compliance Committee. A question was also raised regarding the number of purse seiners and there was some debate regarding the applicability of Recommendation 14-04 paragraph 45, which the EU used as justification for additional purse seiner authorized by the EU. After discussion the Group agreed that the EU had correctly interpreted the paragraph. A final question was raised regarding a BCD of a fish from the trap fishery issued after the trap in question had closed. It was agreed that the issue would be discussed bilaterally and if needed at the Compliance Committee or Commission level because the issue could be regarding the definition of farming.

Having heard the EU highlight the use of stereoscopic cameras, one CPC reminded the Group of past data deficiencies regarding the use of stereoscopic cameras and requested all CPCs who farm to submit their data to the SCRS by 15 September 2015 so that further analysis can take place.

In response to a question from a CPC on the distribution of the fishing quota of the Member States of the European Union among their fishers, before the Panel 2/Compliance Committee intersessional meeting, the European Union confirmed that certain Member States had indeed already distributed their quotas among their fishers but that this distribution could be adjusted according to the outcome of this meeting.

### ***Iceland***

Iceland began their presentation noting that they have not had active capacity management in place for many years, but instead have chosen to focus on controlling catch and asked other CPCs to consider that experience and the overall goal of the Commission in ongoing discussions of capacity management. Iceland then outlined their plans for issuing a license. They also noted that given their data collection and notification methods, there may be situations where the fishery management plan may change in less than 48 hours before a modification comes into force, such as when an unexpected by-catch is landed. They also noted that their VMS transmission rate would be four hours. One CPC asked about the observer coverage level, as that CPC understood the Recommendation to be for 20% of the fleet rather than 20% of fishing time. Iceland responded that they had difficulties interpreting the measure but that the vessel required written permission to leave the port and they would have an observer for at least 20% of fishing days. Iceland also noted that they welcomed any additional information on the interpretation of the Recommendation and will change their implementation if needed.

### ***Japan***

Japan presented its 2014 plan, highlighting their legally binding individual quota system and their reduced capacity since 2008. One CPC asked for clarification on fishery capacity, since Japan's original report listed capacity in GRT. Japan agreed to submit changes to their table to align their table to the information in other CPC plans.

### ***Korea***

Korea presented its plan, noting that they would not be fishing in 2015. One CPC asked for clarification as to whether any by-catch would be deducted from its quota. Korea noted that it would, but that by-catch was not likely to occur because of the location and gear of their other fisheries. Another CPC asked Korea if the transfer of fishing quota from 2015 to 2016 was sufficient in sanctioning the vessel in question. Korea responded that it was not decided which Korean vessel would be allocated with the transferred quota.

***Libya***

Libya attended the last session of the meeting. The CPCs present reviewed Libya's plan submitted by the required deadline. A letter will be sent to Libya requesting further clarification on the vessels engaged in the fishery, as the report mentioned 14 purse seiners but the fishery capacity plan indicated 17 purse seiners and one long liner were also a part of the fishery. A response will be requested by [9 March 2015] so that the additional information can be presented to Parties for review to determine whether to endorse the plan prior to 31 March 2015, in accordance with paragraph 8 of Rec. 14-04.

***Morocco***

Morocco presented its plan, noting that it was similar to their 2014, but with the addition of on small long liner and a trap in accordance with Recommendation 14-04. One CPC sought confirmation that stereoscopic cameras would be used on all caging operations. Morocco confirmed it. A small correction was requested to the fishery capacity table where two numbers were inadvertently switched.

***Norway***

Norway presented its plan, noting their exploratory fishery and intent to increase that fishery from one vessel to two vessels (either one purse seiner and one long liner or two long liners). After questions were raised by some CPCs on this intent to raise the capacity, Norway elaborated further noting that they have effective control of all of their current fishery, they last had a bluefin tuna fishery in 1986, they have a large EEZ, and the exploratory fishery in 2014 indicated that it was difficult for one vessel to cover their area. Norway noted that they were waiting for approval of the fishing plan to open up applications to vessels and that once chosen, they would inform the Executive Secretary. One CPC asked about the observer coverage level for longliners, as that CPC understood the Recommendation to be for 20% of the fleet rather than 20% of fishing time. Norway responded that they had not been sure regarding this interpretation and they would have an observer for at least 20% of fishing days.

***Syria***

Syria was not present at the meeting, but submitted a plan by the required deadline. The CPCs present reviewed Syria's plan. A letter will be sent to Syria requesting a capacity table in the Secretariat-provided format. The letter will also note that ICCAT is not responsible for paying for regional observers. A response will be requested by [9 March 2015] so that the additional information can be presented to Parties for review to determine whether to endorse the plan prior to 31 March 2015, in accordance with paragraph 8 of Rec. 14-04.

A brief discussion was held regarding the unwillingness of the regional observer program to send an observer to Syria and possibility to use a national observer. While understanding the difficult situation and the timing, it was noted that this was not the purview of this meeting to grant an exemption and that a written intersessional commission-level consideration would be more appropriate to resolve the issue.

***Tunisia***

Tunisia presented its plan, highlighting its capacity plans, including that of its farms, and inspection plans. No questions or concerns on Tunisia's plan were raised by the Group.

***Turkey***

Discussion on Turkey's plan began with the Chair noting Turkey's objection and reminding the Panel that Turkey was not seeking endorsement of their alternative conservation and management plan, but rather than Turkey was presenting it for informational purposes and to answer any questions on the plan outside of their objection. Turkey then outlined their plan in the context of their objection, noting that what they presented to the Panel was prepared and submitted in accordance with Resolution 12-11 and stressed that outside of the autonomous allocation they planned to be in full compliance with Recommendation 14-04. In addition to what was written in their plan, they noted that they planned to have a VMS transmission of every two hours, a specific percentage of their autonomous allocation would be set aside for by-catch, and stereoscopic cameras would be used for all caging operations. During their initial presentation and subsequent interventions, Turkey expressed that in their view it was inappropriate for this Panel to prejudge and discuss trade actions regarding their legal objection.

Despite Turkey not seeking endorsement or discussion of their objection in this fora, discussion was robust on the implications of Turkey's objection for other CPCs and how resolution of these issues fit into the intersessional meeting mandate and future actions by the Commission. All CPCs in the discussion recognized Turkey's right to lodge an objection, but many expressed discontent at the decision to declare an autonomous allocation and the potential of Turkey's decision to undermine the recovery of the eastern bluefin tuna stock and the Commission as a whole. Some CPCs noted that although certain issues may be more appropriately addressed by the Commission, as a whole, resolution of the issue could not wait for nine months.

Several CPCs noted that although they weren't particularly happy with the outcome of the allocation, they did not formally object and declare an autonomous allocation because of their commitment to the Commission and expressed concern about the possibility of no repercussions for Turkey's actions.

The delegation of Morocco thanked the honourable delegation of Japan for clarifying the official position of its country regarding bluefin tuna trade based on autonomous quotas.

It stated that during the Commission meeting, in Genoa, each of the Parties had used all means necessary to reach a consensus so that the CPCs concerned accepted the fishing possibilities of eastern bluefin tuna. Undoubtedly, most of these CPCs were not satisfied but it was a compromise to guarantee sustainability, to ensure preservation of the stocks – and naturally ICCAT's credibility – and to avoid any risk in relation to CITES.

This is why the Kingdom of Morocco appeals to the wisdom of all CPCs to continue to use the path of dialogue in order to avoid jeopardising the efforts deployed by the Commission over more than a decade.

Pew made an intervention asking the Panel to concentrate on scientific advice in discussions, noting that any further increase in allocation would push the TAC beyond levels of maximum sustainable yield, which might threaten the recovery plan.

Several specific questions and legal and technical issues were raised, many of which could not be answered concretely during the meeting. Morocco asked the Panel for guidance regarding whether or not product resulting from JFOs with Turkey would be allowed as imports into markets, asking individual CPCs if they would allow such a product. Although not responding directly to the JFO issue, Japan noted that there could be consequences for imports from CPCs declaring autonomous allocations, like Turkey, especially if catch from that CPC exceeded the agreed allocation. The European Union shared the concern expressed by Japan and declared that it will not hesitate to examine the tools available to ensure that unsustainable fish do not enter the EU market. The European Union also expressed the view that product from Turkey could be subject to market measure provisions of Recommendation 14-04 paragraph 94, which provides for the prohibition of certain activities, including importing, exporting, and landing, of eastern bluefin tuna caught by fishing vessels "whose flag State either does not have a quota, catch limit or allocation of fishing effort for that species under the terms of ICCAT management and conservation measures", based on their interpretation that Turkey does not have a quota for eastern bluefin tuna because of its objection. Turkey expressed considerable concern over this interpretation and the interventions regarding potential impacts on imports of Turkish bluefin tuna products without further discussion on the legal status of their product considering the rights and obligations under international law. Another question raised was in regards to the implementation of eBCD and whether or not catch from Turkey, particularly catch above their original allocation would be allowed in the eBCD system.

There was considerable discussion regarding the need to gain both technical and legal advice on the various points raised by CPCs, which could not take place fully during the meeting. At the end of discussion, the Chair expressed the view that this is not a decision making body and that the Panel did not come to consensus on any advice to the Commission on these issues.

The European Union expressed the opinion that in light of Turkey's objection to Recommendation 14-04, Recommendation 13-07 would apply, meaning that Turkey needed a formally endorsed fishing and capacity management plan in order to avoid potential suspension of fishing. The European Union called for a Commission decision to be taken in line with paragraph 11 of Recommendation 13 07. This view was noted, but the Chair affirmed his opinion, and the Panel agreed that the Panel should follow precedence from the 2011 Compliance Committee meeting in Barcelona. Therefore, this meeting reviewed the plan but in accordance to past practice, did not take any action regarding endorsement of Turkey's plan respecting Turkey's right to formal objection and Turkey's assertion that they were not seeking endorsement.

Turkey's positions on these matters are attached in **Appendix 7 to ANNEX 4.1**.

### *Chinese Taipei*

Chinese Taipei was not present at the meeting, but submitted a plan by the required deadline. The CPCs present reviewed Chinese Taipei's plan. No questions or concerns on Chinese Taipei's plan were raised by the Group.

### *Statement by the ICCAT Chair*

The Executive Secretary made the following statement provided by the ICCAT Chair to the participants:

I invite all CPCs to act as responsible producers and responsible market states with a long term view and hence to respect joint decisions. If not, we risk to lose the confidence that has been built up in ICCAT painfully by all CPCs in recent years. Thank you for your cooperation.

### *Discussion of the document on Adjusted Quotas for 2015*

During each CPCs presentation, their adjusted quota from the Adjusted Quotas for 2015 was highlighted and is attached as **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.1**. During general discussion, the Secretariat noted they had included in that document a paragraph on the western stock, noting the different rules regarding reporting of the adjusted quota. The United States noted that this point was more appropriate for discussion at the Integrated Monitoring Measure Working Group meeting, as the eBCD Working Group was already talking about the issue and that the paragraph should not remain in this document. The Chair agreed to take the paragraph out.

## **5. Determination of actions to be taken with respect to the plans presented under item 4**

Fishing, capacity, and inspection plans for the following CPCs were endorsed: Albania, Algeria, China, Egypt, the European Union, Iceland, Japan, Korea, Morocco, Norway and Tunisia. Chinese Taipei's plan was also endorsed.

It was decided to send a letter seeking clarifications to Libya and Syria. Responses to these letters will be requested by 9 March 2015 and distributed to Parties for review and response via correspondence. If prior to 31 March a member finds serious fault with the plans as clarified by the additional information in any response received by 31 March 2015, then a mail vote may be triggered pursuant to paragraph 8 of Rec. 14-04 to decide on the suspension of bluefin tuna fishing in 2015 by that CPC. If on the other hand no member finds serious fault by 31 March, the plans will be deemed endorsed.

Although debated by the Group, past practice from the 2011 Compliance Committee meeting in Barcelona was followed regarding Turkey's plan and it was deemed that action by Panel 2 was "not applicable" in light of Turkey's legal objection.

## **6. Clarification of Regional Observer duties and requirements during the 2015 purse seine season**

The Group reviewed several requests for clarification of the provisions of Recommendation 14-04, including a list of potential non-compliance (PNC) issues as outlined in the List of Potential Non-Compliance [PNC] Events to be Reported by ROP-BFT Observers, attached as **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.1** and a list of questions from the consortium, as outlined in "MRAG: Request for Clarification on Rec. 14-04", attached as **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.1**.

Regarding the list of potential non-compliance issues, several minor changes were suggested, including that "transshipment in port" should read "transshipment in unauthorized port" and "landing in port" should be "landing in unauthorized port". There was also discussion on the item "fish below minimum size transferred" and a couple of CPCs noted this would be an issue in light of their discard ban. For now this item will be kept in the list, but it will be noted to the consortium that some CPCs have discard bans. It was also suggested that the Secretariat work with the Compliance Committee Chair to package the potential PNCs in a way that is easier for the Compliance Committee to analyze at the annual meeting.

To answer the questions of the consortium outlined in “MRAG: Request for Clarification on Rec. 14-04”, the Panel addressed all questions and the clarifications are contained in the revised document, attached as **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.1**.

The Group also reviewed the Requirements for implementing the ROP-BFT. The Secretariat noted that although the requirements could not be changed, any issues raised during the intersessional or sent to the Secretariat would be addressed with the consortium. Several CPCs, while acknowledging the importance of the ROP, shared concerns and recent problems they have had with the consortium, including late notification of PNCs, communication issues due to language differences, and unprofessional behavior of some observers. Morocco and Tunisia requested that the consortium send observers fluent in Arabic on board Moroccan vessels and Tunisian farms during the caging and harvesting operations of bluefin tuna. The Secretariat noted that difficulties will always be present in this kind of program, including issues with language, work visas, reporting standards and other difficulties faced in meeting all the requirements of the ROP, but agreed to share all concerns and requests with the consortium.

## **7. Other matters**

### ***Syria request for carryover***

It was determined that Syria’s request to carryover their quota from previous years should be discussed at the Commission level as the issue is outside of the purview of this Group.

### ***Turkey Pilot Bluefin Tuna Aquaculture Project***

Turkey briefly presented the project, noting that the issue on how to handle the potential trade of the product was raised at the last Integrated Monitoring Measures Working Group intersessional meeting and was not discussed at that meeting or the annual meeting due to schedule. Japan mentioned their own aquaculture situation for Pacific bluefin tuna and their interest in hearing a full report on the project before discussing how ICCAT should handle the issue. Iceland also raised a question regarding whether or not ICCAT’s original text gave the Commission any mandate to regulate such aquaculture product. The discussion was not resolved and it was agreed that Turkey would provide more details on the project and CPCs would have appropriate experts review the question on mandate.

### ***Catch by Gibraltar***

One CPC raised a media report indicating bluefin tuna catch from Gibraltar, asking if other CPCs or the Secretariat had more information. The Executive Secretary explained that there was a media report stating that Gibraltar had decided to allocate itself a quota for bluefin tuna. He pointed out that Gibraltar was not a Contracting Party to ICCAT and that this issue would require discussion at Commission level. The EU reaffirmed that they did not represent Gibraltar in any case.

### ***By-catch by Greenland and Faroe Islands***

Iceland had information on by-catches of bluefin tuna in 2014 by Greenland and the Faroe Islands. Bluefin tuna landed in Iceland by Greenland had been confiscated. Iceland noted that they reached out to Greenland and asked them to report the catches to ICCAT. The Secretariat confirmed that they received some information from Greenland, but have not yet heard back since requesting information in Task I format. The Secretariat also noted that the Faroe Islands used to report until 2004 and Iceland said they would follow up bilaterally with them.

## **8. Adoption of Report and adjournment**

The report of Panel 2 was adopted and the meeting was adjourned.

**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.1****Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda and meeting arrangements
3. Nomination of Rapporteur
4. Consideration of fishing, inspection and capacity management plans for 2015 presented by CPCs with E-BFT quota
5. Determination of actions to be taken with respect to the plans presented under item 4.
6. Clarification of Regional Observer duties and requirements during the 2015 purse seine season
7. Other matters
8. Adoption of Report and adjournment.

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### Bluefin Fishing, Inspection and Capacity Management Plans

#### ALBANIA

Based on the Recommendation 14-04 which amends the ICCAT Recommendation 13-07, the Atlantic bluefin tuna fishing quota, allocated to Albania for 2015 is 39.65 tons (paragraph 5 of the Recommendation).

The fishing vessel "ROZAF 15" owned by Gjergj LUCA, with NIPT number: K 48130547V, registered to Port Authority by No. P-446, with NFR: ALB22REG0649, supplied with Fishing License No. LC-4153-03-2014, of date 07.04.2014, with ICCAT No. AT000ALB00008, to perform the bluefin tuna fishery in the amount of 39.65 tons in sea area: GSA 18, the fishing form: pelagic, with fishing gears: purse seiners and landing the production on the Shëngjini fishing port, every day, about 18.00 o'clock.

#### *Vessel characteristics:*

Fishing Vessel: "ROZAF 15"  
 Gross tonnage: 160 t  
 Length: 34.8 m  
 Width: 6.4 m  
 Immersion: 3 m  
 Engine: 977.Hp  
 Crew: 5  
 IRCS: ZADP9

According to paragraph 10 of the Recommendation, each State must develop the fisheries annual plan of the allocated quota by authorized vessel in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, identifying quotes for each fishing form, fishing gears group, the method used for quota allocation and management, the measures taken to ensure compliance with the quota and by-catches.

#### *The obligations for the authorized vessel:*

Fishing vessel "ROZAF-15" will develop fishing with purse seiners of the amount of 39.65 tons, in the period from 26 May to 24 June, and is obliged:

- To fish only the amount for which it is quoted;
- To proceed immediately to Shengjini port once estimated that the quota is exhausted;
- Do not use aircrafts for bluefin tuna detecting at sea;
- Do not fish, keep on board, transship, transfer, landing, transport, store, sell or offer for sale the quantities of tuna that weighs less than 30 kg, or length up to bifurcation, under 115 cm, if not intended for cultivation;
- The captain of the fishing vessel should keep on board the electronic log book, to fill and communicate fishing data every day, even when the result is zero (Annex 2 of the Recommendation);
- 4 hours prior entry into port, to announce the port authorities the following information:
  - a) The estimated time to enter to the port;
  - b) The estimated amount of tuna retained on board;
  - c) Information on the geographical area where the catch was taken.
- If the fishing zone is nearly than 4 hours from the port, the announcement should be done immediately;
- After each trip and within 48 hours the master of fishing vessel should submit the landing declaration to the competent authorities of Shengjini fishing harbor and fishery inspectorate of the Port, with a tolerance of 48 hours from the landings;
- To not undertake the transshipment action of fished bluefin tunas;
- To keep active the VMS system communication which should start 15 days before the fishing season until 15 days after its completion, without interruption, even when in port. The VMS messages have to be transmitted at least every four hours;

- To provide, through direct communication with ICCAT of the presence of the regional ICCAT observers on board (observer/local fishery inspector, based on ICCAT Regional Program on observation).

### ***The obligations of Fishery Authority in Ministry***

- To take the appropriate measures to ensure the allocated fishing quotas;
- To require to the authorized fishing vessel to proceed immediately to the designed fishery port (Shēngjīn) when the allocated quota is exhausted;
- Do not allow the chartering actions of fished bluefin tuna;
- To transmit to the ICCAT Secretariat the data's on the authorization vessel for fishing of tuna quota allocated, at least 10 days before starting of fishing operations;
- To provide the ICCAT Secretariat with all the required forms according the list of Reporting Requirements from ICCAT;
- To not allow the authorized entities to use aircrafts for bluefin tuna detecting over the sea;
- To take action to avoid fishing, keeping on board, the transshipment, transferring, landing, transporting, storing, selling or offering for sale the quantities of tuna that weighs less than 30 kg, or length, up to bifurcation, under 115 cm, if not intended for cultivation; Only an amount up to 5% of the quantity may be allowed to be in the above parameters;
- Do not allow more than 5% by-catches of tuna fish from tuna's inactive vessels. However, the amount of tuna that comes from by-catches should be considered part of the annual bluefin tuna fishing quotas;
- To send to the ICCAT Secretariat, at least 15 days before starting the fishing season, the list of authorized vessels, according to ICCAT format;
- To inform by 1 April the ICCAT Secretariat on the tuna fisheries for the past year, information which should include:
  - a) The name and number of ICCAT for each fishing vessel;
  - b) The authorized period for each fishing vessel;
  - c) The catches in total to each fishing vessel including the zero results on entire authorized period;
  - d) The number of fishing days per authorized vessel and authorized period;
  - e) Catches in total as by-catch outside the authorized period of authorized fishing vessels;
  - f) The name, the number of national registry vessels that are not authorized to active fishing tuna but have catch blue-fin tuna as by-catch;
  - g) The catches in total as by-catch from unauthorized vessels.
- To ensure that active fishing bluefin tuna's vessels, that are authorized, are communicating every day, in electronic way or by other information, the log book data's regarding their fishing activity to the port authorities and Fisheries Inspectorate of Shēngjīn port;
- On the bases of the above information to take proper measures to transmit to the ICCAT Secretariat the weekly data for all vessels authorized;
- To report to the Secretariat of ICCAT the monthly data's on fisheries for bluefin tuna caught from active fishing vessels (authorized by it) and the by-catches by inactive fishing vessels for bluefin tunas;
- To report immediately to the ICCAT Secretariat of the closure of the bluefin tuna fishing when finds that the quotas is exhausted;
- To verify the VMS system functionality and its using by the authorized fishing vessel, especially 15 days before and 15 days after the tuna fishing season;
- To prohibit trading, marketing, landing, importation, exportation, placing in cages for farming, re-exports and transshipments of bluefin tuna species of eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean which are not accompanied by proper documentation, accurate, completed, validated, fished within the season and conform allocated quota by authorized and non-authorized fishing vessels, as required by ICCAT Recommendation 14-04;
- To report to the ICCAT Secretariat on the implementation of Recommendation 14-04, until 15 October of this year;
- To ensure the presence of 20% of the period of fishing season of the observers or fishing inspectors on board of the authorized fishing vessel;
- To prepare a program with measures to be applied by Fisheries Inspectorate of Shēngjīn port, the measures in case of violations and reporting as required by ICCAT Recommendation 14-04.

***Measures Programme to be Applied by Fishery Inspectorate of Shengjini***

*(Mr. Gjoke Deda)*

Based on:

ICCAT Convention and Recommendation 14-04;

Annual fishing plan of bluefin tuna's quota for 2015;

The Minister's Order and Minister's Authorization, No.98/1, dated 10.02.2015.

The Fishing Vessel "Rozafa 15" is authorized to fish the bluefin tuna's quotas, as allocated from ICCAT to Albania, the amount of 39.65 ton for 2015.

The fishing form: pelagic, by purse seiners.

The authorized period is 26 May to 24 June 2015.

The landings of bluefin tuna fished will be every day about 18 o'clock in the fishing port of Shengjini.

During this period, in addition to other duties that are listed in the Annual Fishing Plan and the Minister's Order, Fishery Inspector based on fishing port of Shengjini will priority to the implementation and make possible as follow:

- The authorized fishing vessel should land the fished bluefin tuna only in the designated place and in due time;
- The master of authorized fishing vessel notify the port authority (including fisheries inspector) four hours before entering the port, about the time when evaluates its entry into the port, the amount of tuna caught having on board, the geographical area where fished.

For this, fishery inspector takes measures to be present at the fishing port on arrival and landing time and provide from the master the landing declaration which reflect the above data already specified (by weighting them) and not at random way.

*This action should be daily for the authorized period*

- Fishery Inspector also keeps a record of all notifications made by fishing vessel authorized and communicated data's as above, of the landing declarations in the fishing harbor, as well as other details that sees the reasonable. These data, fishery inspector shall communicate to the Fishery Resources Division, within 48 hours from landing fish products by authorized fishing vessel.
- Ensure his assistance, through vessel boarding at least 20% of the authorized fishing vessel operations and fishing days.
- To prohibit the transshipment at sea of tuna products caught.
- To ensure that the master of fishing vessel fill correctly the logbooks and after each arrival (landing) to take delivery of them.
- To not allow the bluefin tuna fisheries under 30 kg or under 115 cm (measurement made from the mouth to the bifurcation of the tail). The inspector makes measurements of each fish tuna caught, just landed and verify the implementation of the foregoing obligation to weight/minimum size of fish caught.
- To check the functionality of the vessel into the VMS system and with non-stop signal, not interrupted even when in port. The VMS system signal should start 15 days before of starting the season, (according to authorization) and to terminate 15 days after its completion;
- To send to the fishery authorities in Ministry any document dealing with catches and transfers of tuna fish products.
- To observe and identify and monitor any quantity of blue-fin tuna caught by other fishing vessels (as by-catch), also from the authorized fishing vessel (out of authorized fishing season).

## **ALGERIA**

Pursuant to the provisions of Recommendation 14-04 amending the Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean [Rec. 13-07], Algeria hereby submits the following bluefin tuna fishing, inspection and capacity management plan for the 2015 fishing season.

In addition to the provisions of ICCAT Recommendation 14-04, Algeria's 2015 fishing plan is also based on provisions contained in the national regulation, in particular those of the ministerial order of 19 March 2013 which establishes bluefin fishing quotas for national flag vessels and sets out the methods for quota allocation and implementation.

Moreover, Algeria's bluefin fishing activities in 2015 will be carried out in accordance with the same provisions as those adopted for the previous campaigns while taking into account the fair comments made by ROP observers onboard Algerian tuna vessels in 2014, in particular in relation to the logbook format and the ISO code used by ICCAT for the bluefin tuna catch document (BCD).

### **1. Fishing plan**

#### ***1.1 Quotas and the method used to allocate and manage quotas***

Pursuant to the provisions of ICCAT Recommendation 14-04, Algeria's quota for 2015 is 369.81 t. This quota will be distributed among the tuna vessels selected to participate in the 2015 fishing campaign and the national coastal artisanal vessels.

Indeed, 2% of the overall quota will be reserved for the coastal artisanal vessels, i.e. a partial quota of 7.4 t, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Annex 1 to the ICCAT recommendation referred to above.

Individual quotas for each of the vessels authorised to take part in the campaign will be established in accordance with national distribution criteria and taking into consideration the catch rates recommended by the SCRS. The list of vessels and their individual quotas will be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat by the required deadline (15 days before the campaign).

Algeria does not have any bluefin tuna recreational and sport fisheries.

### **2. Measures aimed at ensuring compliance with quotas**

The 2015 bluefin tuna fishing plan will be implemented in compliance with all the management measures established in Recommendation 14-04.

#### ***2.1 Trade and joint fishing agreements***

No private trade agreement and/or quota transfer/catch limits with other CPCs are authorised.

Joint fishing operations (in groups) among Algerian vessels may be authorised. Information on these operations, in particular individual quotas and allocation keys adopted for the 2015 campaign, will be notified to the Commission by the required deadlines.

#### ***2.2 Fishing permits***

In accordance with the Algerian regulation in force, individual fishing permits will be granted to purse seine vessels authorised to participate in the 2015 fishing campaign by the Fisheries Administration.

#### ***2.3 Fishing period***

The fishing period for purse seine tuna vessels authorised to participate in the 2015 fishing campaign will be that established by ICCAT provisions and fixed by the provisions of the national regulation, i.e. from 26 May to 24 June 2015.

In addition, and in the case where the authorised quota is exhausted during the authorised period, Algeria's Fisheries Administration will announce the closure of the fishing season.

#### ***2.4 Minimum size***

The minimum size of bluefin tuna will be 30 kg, in accordance with the national regulation and the provisions of the ICCAT recommendations.

#### ***2.5 Incidental catches/by-catches***

A 5% tolerance of by-catches of individuals weighing less than 30 kg or measuring less than 115 cm will be allowed, in accordance with the relevant ICCAT provisions.

#### ***2.6 Use of aircrafts***

The use of aircrafts or helicopters for detecting bluefin tuna schools is prohibited.

#### ***2.7 Transshipment***

The transshipment of bluefin tuna is prohibited under national legislation, in particular Article 58 of Law 01-11 on fisheries and aquaculture.

#### ***2.8 Transfer operations***

Transfer operations will be carried out in accordance with the provisions of ICCAT Recommendation 14-04.

#### ***2.9 Trade measures***

Algeria participated in the work of the eBCD Working Group and the different international implementation tests, and this year will implement this system, while maintaining in parallel the use of the paper-based bluefin tuna catch document (BCD), which will be validated by authorised individuals, as per the decision taken at the last ICCAT annual meeting.

### **3. Inspection Plan**

#### ***3.1 National inspection***

A national inspection programme for all bluefin tuna fishing operations will be implemented for the 2015 campaign. This programme consists of carrying out in port inspections of tuna vessels authorised to take part in the 2015 campaign, before and after the campaign, and deploying two national controllers/observers onboard each vessel during the fishing season.

The task, among others, of these controllers is to monitor all fishing and transfer operations, and to verify the information and data related to the fishing campaign recorded in the onboard documents and furthermore to ensure compliance with ICCAT recommendations on bluefin tuna fishing. Each controller will be required to submit campaign report at the end of the campaign.

The controllers will remain in permanent contact with the Fisheries Administration and will transmit all the information related to fishing and transfer operations.

In addition, and in the context of continuity of the training programme implemented by Algeria for controllers in 2014, a training session is also scheduled this year prior to the campaign during which training will be given on the national regulation and ICCAT recommendations on bluefin tuna fishing.

##### ***3.1.1 Vessel Monitoring System***

The tuna vessels authorized to take part in the fishing campaign will be equipped with a beacon, which will be operational throughout the campaign. The transmission of VMS data is mandatory for all the tuna vessels and must commence 15 days before the authorisation period and continue 15 days after the fishing campaign. The reporting rate is every four hours in accordance with the latest relevant ICCAT recommendation.

A monitoring centre of vessel VMS signals will be implemented by the Fisheries Administration throughout the fishing season.

### *3.1.2 Landing ports*

The ports designated by the competent authorities for landing bluefin tuna where an inspection of the products to be landed and all onboard documents will be carried out by the relevant States institutions are the same as those of the previous two years, i.e. port of Algiers, port of Annaba, port of Béjaïa, port of Cherchell, port of Oran and port of Ténès.

### **3.2 Regional observers program**

The owners of the tuna purse seine vessels authorized to fish bluefin tuna in 2015 will be required to deploy an ICCAT observer on board, in accordance with the provisions of Commission recommendations.

In addition, and in the context of continuous improvement of the execution of bluefin fishing campaigns and as stated above, the observations made by ICCAT observers in 2014 will be taken into account in the 2015 campaign.

### **3.3 Joint international inspection plan**

As Algeria does not have more than 15 bluefin tuna fishing vessels, it does not envisage participating in the joint international inspection.

## **4. Fishing capacity management plan**

The fishing capacity, represented by a fleet of 15 tuna vessels, is adapted to Algeria's historical catch limit, i.e. 5.073% of the TAC, as represented in the table below. Accordingly, Algeria does not have overcapacity in the bluefin tuna fishery.

For 2015, the fishing capacity will be adapted to Algeria's allocated quota which is 369.81 t.

**Fishing capacity**

Vessel type		Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
			Fleet	Capacity	Fleet	Capacity	Fleet	Capacity	Fleet	Capacity	Fleet	Capacity	Fleet	Capacity	Fleet	Capacity	Fleet	Capacity
Purse seiners	> 40 m	70.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	[24-40m]	49.78	8	398.24	14	696.92	11	547.58	11	547.58	11	547.58	11	547.58	11	547.58	11	547.58
	<24 m	33.68	0	0	1	33.68	1	33.68	1	33.68	1	33.68	1	33.68	1	33.68	1	33.68
	<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>398.24</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>730.6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>581.26</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>581.26</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>581.26</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>581.26</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>581.26</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>581.26</b>
Longliners	> 40 m	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	[24-40m]	5.68	1	5.68	1	5.68	1	5.68	1	5.68	1	5.68	2	11.36	2	11.36	2	11.36
	<24 m	5	1	5	2	10	2	10	2	10	2	10	1	5	1	5	1	5
	<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>10.68</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15.68</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15.68</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15.68</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15.68</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16.36</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16.36</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16.36</b>
Others	Baitboat	19.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Handline	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Trawler	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Trap	130	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Other (specify)	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Total capacity of fishing fleet			<b>10</b>	<b>408.92</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>746.28</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>596.94</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>596.94</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>596.94</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>597.62</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>597.62</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>597.62</b>
TAC				28500		22000		13500		12900		12900		13400		13400		16142
Allocated quota				<b>1460.04</b>		<b>1117.42</b>		<b>684.9</b>		<b>138</b>		<b>138</b>		<b>243.83</b>		<b>243.83</b>		<b>369.81</b>
Historical quota (5.073%)										<b>654.03</b>		<b>654.03</b>		<b>679.38</b>		<b>679.38</b>		<b>818.39</b>
Difference (historical quota - capacity)				1051.12		371.14		87.96		57.09		57.09		81.76		81.76		220.77

## CHINA

### 1. BFT-1007 Fishing, Inspection and Capacity Management Plans for 2015

#### 1.1 Fishing plan

*Fishing vessel:* China will dispatch only one longline fishing vessel, namely Jin Feng No.1, to conduct bluefin tuna fishing activity seasonally in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea.

*Fishing period:* The vessel will shift to BFT fishing grounds to conduct fishing in the middle of August until the catch quota is exhausted, but before the end of December, and must land the catch in the designated port.

*Fishing quota:* China was allocated 45.09 metric tons of BFT for the 2015 fishing season.

*The method used to allocate and manage quotas:* Since only one fishing vessel will conduct bluefin tuna fishing activity in 2015, all the quotas China held will be allocated to this vessel.

*Measures to ensure the respect of the individual quotas and by-catch:* It is relatively simple to respect the quotas since all the quotas are allocated solely to Jin Feng No.1, and, through observer deployment, catch report, logbook, landing report, VMS and catch documentation, to ensure that the quotas are respected by this fishing vessel. Bluefin tuna by-catch is not allowed for any other fishing vessels.

#### 1.2 Enforcement Plan

*Observers:* 100% observer coverage will be implemented annually during the bluefin tuna fishing season; this coverage rate is higher than the ICCAT requirement for longline vessels. They will record the required data and discards, monitor catch, ensure compliance with ICCAT Recommendations, as well as carry out other scientific work.

*Data record and catch report:* The logbook will be filled in every day or before port arrival. Daily bluefin tuna catch (including zero catch report) is required to be recorded and reported, which has to contain the date, area of catch by latitude and longitude, fork length, number of catch, weight and tag numbers.

*VMS requirement:* Vessels will be equipped with a full-time operational vessel monitoring system onboard, and can be tracked and reported normally to the ICCAT Secretariat.

*Transshipment:* The bluefin tuna fishing vessel will only transship bluefin tuna catches in the designated ports. Mindelo of Cabo Verde and Las Palmas of Spain are the ports that BFT caught by the China-flagged vessel will enter to tranship.

*Cross checks and BCDs:* Cross checks of data from catch reports, VMS, requests for authorization of transshipment, transshipment declarations, and national observer as well as inspection reports will be made. In the case where the aforementioned records do not match the content of the BCD, the BCD shall be rejected by the government.

#### 1.3 Capacity Management Plan

Despite the increase of nearly 20% in BFT catch for 2015 compared to 2014, the base catch that China holds is very low, therefore the quota allocated to China is still very small. In order to make the allocated quota commensurate with the fishing capacity, the number of fishing vessel continues to be one in 2015.

### 2. BFT-1011 Bluefin tuna catches for 2014

Submitted to the Secretariat with the plan (form CP38).

### 3. BFT-1012 Bluefin tuna catching vessels for 2015

Submitted to the Secretariat with the plan (form CP01).

### 4. BFT-1020 Bluefin tuna transshipment ports for 2015

Submitted to the Secretariat with the plan (form CP24). For information only, China will authorize the China-flagged BFT vessel to tranship BFT catch in these designated ports. We will ask our fishing vessel owner to contact the competent authority of Port States to include these ports in the list of designated ports.

## EGYPT

### Allocation of BFT catch quota:

Fishing, activities for eastern bluefin tuna will be conducted in compliance with applicable ICCAT Recommendations. In accordance with the ICCAT Rec. 14-04 and in accordance to the bluefin tuna allocation scheme that adopted in the special meetings of ICAAT (Genoa, November 2014, Paragraph 5), the quota allocated for Egypt is 95.20, in addition to 60 (10+50) ton transferred to Egypt from Chinese Taipei and Korea respectively, i.e. the total amount of tuna that can be fished in 2015 fishing season as a total is (155.20 ton).

This total amount will be divided for the two authorized fishing vessels. These vessels are 'seven seas' which is listed on the ICCAT list (No. AT000EG00003) and vessel "*khaled*" that listed on the ICCAT list (No. AT000EG00005) according to the following scheme.

<i>Vessel</i>	<i>Allocated Quota (t)</i>
<i>Seven Seas</i>	80
<i>Khaled</i>	75.20

General authority for fish resources development (GAFRD) announce the above-mentioned decision to all sector stakeholders in accordance with the general authority for fish resources development resolutions regarding bluefin tuna.

### *Potential fishing grounds:*

The potential fishing ground for the E-BFT fishery will be off the fishing area along the Egyptian territorial and EEZ water, Mediterranean Sea (26-32E).

### *List of authorized BFT catching vessels:*

The general authority for fish resources development of Egypt (GAFRD) issued a special fishing permit to only two bluefin catching vessels for 2015. These vessels shall be equipped and monitored with a vessel monitoring system (VMS).

### *Licensing:*

A special fishing permit, which will be issued by the provincial directorates of GAFRD for the eligible purse seiners to conduct the bluefin tuna fishery, is mandatory for bluefin tuna catching vessels to operate for 2015 season. There are no towing licenses will be issued, as well as the transshipment operations are not allowed.

### *Coastal recreational, sport fisheries:*

There is no coastal recreational, sport fisheries will be allowed.

**Fishing capacity of Egypt**

<i>Type</i>	<i>Catch Rate (t)</i>	<i>Number of vessels</i>								<i>Fishing capacity (t)</i>							
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
PS >40m	70.7																
PS (24-40m)	49.78																
PS (<24m)	33.7	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	2	0	0	0	33.7	33.7	67.4	67.4	67.4
Total PS Vessel		0	0	0	1	1	2	2	2	0	0	0	33.7	33.7	67.4	67.4	67.4
LL >40m	25																
LL (24-40m)	5.68																
LL (<24m)	5																
Total LL Vessel																	
Total fleet					1	1	2	2	2	0	0	0	33.7	33.7	67.4	67.4	67.4
Quota										0	50.00	33.00	64.58	64.58	77.08	77.08	79.2
Under/overcapacity										0			-30.88	-30.88	-9.68	-9.68	-11.8

### ***Inspections***

For the national vessels, full inspection coverage shall be ensured during 2015 bluefin tuna fishing season by GAFRD inspectors.

According to the national law No. 124/1983 ,all the foreign fishing vessels is not allowed to enter any Egyptian fishing port except in emergency cases.

### **Regulations for 2015 bluefin tuna fishing season**

#### ***Fishing period:***

The authorized period for fishing is from 26 May to 24 June 2015. The bluefin tuna fishing activities prohibited along the period from 25 June to 25 May of the next years. Moreover, the closed season for bluefin tuna fisheries will be announced by Fisheries Agency once the allowed quota is caught even during the authorized fishing period.

#### ***Joint Fishing Operations***

A joint fishing operation will be allowed between these two Egyptian vessels, also joint fishing operations with other CPC vessels will be allowed if JFO requested by our fishing companies.

#### ***BFT landing/transshipment ports:***

Bluefin tuna fishing vessels shall only transship/land bluefin tuna catch in the ports designated for that purpose.

The following ports have been designated by the relevant Fisheries Authority for the purpose of bluefin tuna landing:

1. ElMeAdia fishing port for bluefin tuna landing during the fishing season only,
2. Alexandria commercial port for export and import tuna.

#### ***Vessel Monitoring System requirements***

The authorized fishing vessels requesting a bluefin fishing and transport permit for 2015 shall be equipped with a full-time operational satellite tracking device (vessel monitoring system, VMS) onboard, as required by GAFRD.

#### ***Recording and reporting***

Recording and reporting obligations laid down by relevant ICCAT Recommendations shall be fully implemented.

#### ***Towing operations***

No towing operations will be allowed for the Egyptian vessels. Live tuna transfer to other CPC towing vessel for the purpose of caging will be authorized. The prior transfer request shall be implemented.

#### ***Caging operations***

There is no caging operations in the Egyptian water.

#### ***Transfer operations***

In case of transfer of a live fish caught by the Egyptian authorized purse seiners to a towing cage for farming purposes in other CPCs, a percent of selected live fish caught randomly shall be killed at time of capture, sized and weighted for sampling as required in paragraph 8 of ICCAT Recommendation 10-4. The size of the sample that is intended to be killed for representative sampling will be the same as the percentage used by the CPCs in Mediterranean for better estimation and sampling programs at time of caging.

In case of JFO with other CPC this sampling process will be done jointly between Egyptian vessels and the other CPC vessels.

BCD Scheme requirements will be fully implemented, in 2015 eBCD will be used.

### ***Transshipment***

Transshipment at sea is completely prohibited as required in Recommendation 13-07.

### ***Cross check***

The relevant information recorded in the logbooks of the fishing vessel, in the transfer documents and in the catch documents shall be verified by GAFRD - using available inspection reports, regional and national observers reports and VMS data- onboard vessels and at ports.

GAFRD shall carry out cross checks on all landings, between the quantities by species recorded in the fishing vessel logbook or quantities by species recorded in the landing declaration, and any other relevant document, such as invoice and/or sales notes. As will document cross checking with the other CPCs be carried out by GAFRD in the case of transfer of live fish for farming purpose in this CPC.

### ***Enforcement***

Egypt has issued a number of resolutions, governmental decrees for the conservation of Bluefin tuna:

Decree Number (827) for the year 2011

Article (1) the prohibition of bluefin tuna fishing with any fishing craft during the period from 25 of June to 25 of May as from the next year. This resolution will be amended yearly according to the closed season adopted by ICCAT.

Article (2) the prohibition of the transfer of any bluefin tuna fishing at sea unless for the purposes of farming and development.

Decree Number (828) for the year 2011

Article (1) the prohibition of fishing of bluefin tuna that is less than 30 kilograms.

Article (2) all the fishing operations shall be documented through video documentaries for all fishing operations and transfer to cages and shall be delivered to observers of fishing operations without any restrictions.

Resolution Number (829) for the year 2011

Article (1) the prohibition of using any ports for landing or exportation of bluefin tuna except for the port of ELMeAdia for bluefin tuna landing and Alexandria commercial port for exportation.

Article (2) prohibition of vessels licensed to fish bluefin tuna to go fishing unless there are observers who are assigned by the GAFRD onboard.

In the case of noncompliance with the Egyptian resolutions or any of ICCAT Recommendations by the fishing vessel, the penal code will be applied, and the vessel will not be allowed to work in the bluefin tuna fishing for the next season, and in case of repetition of noncompliance, this vessel will be prohibited from bluefin tuna fisheries.

### ***Market measures***

Foreign and domestic trade, transport, landing, imports, exports, placing in cages for farming, re-exports and transshipments of eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna and its products as well as keeping them onboard without validated documentation from the relevant authority shall be prohibited.

### ***Observer requirements***

Two of national observers of fisheries specialists will inspect the fishing operations on board during the fishing operations for monitoring the catch, recording the required data and insuring the compliance of the fishing vessel with the ICCAT Recommendations and GAFRD resolutions.

The permanent observers in ports to follow up the landed catch and reviewing the on board observers reports.

Concerning the "ICCAT regional observers" Egypt will send a request to the ICCAT Secretariat to have an Arabic speaker observers for the two authorized vessels (100%).

***Use of aircraft***

- There is no aircraft.

***Minimum size***

- Provisions regulating minimum size laid down by relevant ICCAT Recommendations shall be implanted.

***Sampling requirements***

In the case of transfer of a live fish caught by the Egyptian authorized purse seiners to a towing cage for farming purpose in other CPCs, part of the live fish caught shall be killed for sampling as required in ICCAT Recommendation 10-04, where randomly selected samples of fish shall be killed, sized and weighted, the size of the sampling percentage that is intended to be killed at time of capture for representative sampling will be the same as the percentage used by the CPCs for better estimation and the sampling program at time of caging.

In case of JFO with other CPC this sampling process will be done jointly between Egyptian vessels and the other CPC vessels.

Owners/operators of the fishing vessels, managers /operators of farming facilities and exporters shall be responsible from the proper implementation of all provisions mentioned above, as well as other applicable rules and recommendations imposed by ICCAT.

**Summary: Framework of MCS for bluefin tuna fishery, transfer and trading**

***Catch***

- Individual Quota (IQ) allocation,
- BFT catching /two vessel to be registered in ICATT record,
- Legal fishing season,
- BFT joint Fishing Operation (JFO) will be allowed with other CPC. JFO can be allowed between the two authorized Egyptian vessels "In case of their request",
- BCD scheme requirements,
- Logbook requirements,
- 100% ICATT ROP-BFT coverage,
- Video footage,
- Cross-checks for verifications.

***Transfer***

- Prior Transfer Notification & Authorized,
- Video Footage,
- Cross - checks for verifications,
- 100% ICATT Regional Observer coverage (for all catching vessel),
- 100% National Observer Coverage (for all towing vessel),
- BCD Scheme requirements,
- ICATT Transfer Declaration (ITD) requirements.

***Export***

- 100% GAFRD with the Egyptian Veterinary Services organization,
- Representatives coverage,
- BCD Scheme, eBCD will be used.

***Inspections***

- Full inspection coverage shall be ensured during 2015 BFT fishing season by GAFRD inspectors.

## EUROPEAN UNION

## Capacity Management Plan

<i>Catch Rate</i>		<i>No. of Vessels and Traps</i>		<i>Capacity (t)</i>	
<i>Category</i>	<i>Catch Rate</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2015</i>
PS large (>40m)	70.7	38	31	2,685	2,190
PS med. (24-40m)	49.8	91	13	4,530	647
PS small ( $\leq$ 24m)	33.7	112	1	3,772	34
<i>PS total</i>		<i>241</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>10,987</i>	<i>2,871</i>
LL med. (24-40m)	5.7 t	7	5	40	28
LL small ( $\leq$ 24m)	5.0 t	329	136	1,645	680
<i>LL total</i>		<i>336</i>	<i>141</i>	<i>1,685</i>	<i>708</i>
Baitboat*	19.8 t	68	23	1,343	454
Handline*	5.0 t	101	42	505	210
Trawler	10.0 t	160	57	1,600	570
Other artisanal*	5.0 t	253	398	1,265	1,990
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,159</b>	<b>706</b>	<b>17,385</b>	<b>6,804</b>
Trap	130.0	15	14	1,950	1,820
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,174</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>19,335</b>	<b>8,624</b>

\* Within these categories and for the area delimited by 27°N to 29°N and 13°W to 18°W in the Eastern Atlantic, the fishing season shall start on 1 March 2015 and shall end on 30 June 2015.

## Fishing Plan

### Background

The European Union (EU) adopted Council Regulation (EC) No. 302/2009<sup>1</sup> on 6 April 2009 transposing into Community Law *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean* [Rec. 08-05]. Following Recommendation by ICCAT [Rec. 10-04] amending ICCAT Recommendation [Rec. 08-05] adopted at the 2010 ICCAT Annual meeting in Paris, the EU has amended Council Regulation (EC) 302/2009 transposing ICCAT Recommendation [Rec. 10-04] into EU law. In 2014, the EU transposed the amendments of the recovery plan which took place under ICCAT Recommendation [13-07]. These additional measures were transposed into EU Regulation 544/2014. Finally, the EU is currently in the process of transposing ICCAT Recommendation [Rec. 14-04] into EU law.

The EU is committed to follow the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 13-07 by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec.14-04] in 2015.

In accordance with the current Total Allowable Catch (TAC) provided under Recommendation [14-04], the quota for the EU in 2015 will be 9372,92 t.

### Details

- In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation [14-04] the EU has drawn up an annual fishing plan identifying catching vessels over 24 metres and their associated individual quotas. Individual quotas are still being allocated by EU Member States authorities and will be applicable to all purse-seiners irrespective of their length.
- All purse seine vessels over 24 metres will be allocated an individual vessel quota superior to the SRCS catch rates as adopted by the Commission for estimating fleet capacity.
- In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation [14-04] the EU has allocated quotas to the following sectors:

Purse seiners	[5204,64 t]
Longliners	[719,545 t]
Bait boats and trolling boats and line vessels	[1376,82 t]
Atlantic trawlers	[169 t]
Traps	[1266,4 t]
By-catches, sport and recreational, reserve	[221,38 t]

- The EU will authorise 'catching vessels' and 'other vessels' in accordance with paragraph 52 of ICCAT Recommendation [14-04],
- The EU submitted a complementary inspection plan covering all bluefin tuna fisheries capable of addressing the control requirements of the fishery.

The EU undertakes a real-time monitoring of the bluefin tuna fishery and is committed to take the necessary measures to ensure full respect of ICCAT Recommendation [14-04] and other Recommendations concerning the management of E-BFT fisheries including Recommendation [06-07], [11-20] and [11-21].

The EU will submit the lists of authorised vessels that will participate in the fishery in 2015 in accordance with the reporting deadlines laid down under paragraph 52 of Recommendation [14-04].

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 96,15.04.2009, p.1

## Inspection Plan

### 1. Introduction

The European Union actively fishes eastern bluefin tuna (E-BFT) with a range of fishing gears with the majority of the quotas being attributed to the purse seine and trap sectors.

The EU contains 8 Member States which actively fish bluefin tuna across a number of sectors. The authorities for control and inspection fall on different actors across Member States and in many cases involve a combination of various competent authorities.

ICCAT introduced a comprehensive set of conservation and management measures for E-BFT under the 2006 multi-annual recovery plan. Amendments in 2008, 2010 and more recently in 2012 and 2014 have significantly reinforced the recovery plan which operates in parallel with an extensive catch documentation programme introduced in 2007 and subsequently amended in 2009 and 2011. The full implementation of the new electronic BCD programme (eBCD) throughout 2015 will further strengthen this suite of management and conservation measures.

The European Commission coordinates with the Member States to ensure that the provisions laid down by ICCAT are reflected in EU and Member State law and fully enforced.

### 2. Overview of inspection measures adopted in 2015 by the EU

#### *Specific Control and Inspection Programme*

Working under the framework of the ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspection and building on experiences from recent years, the EU has currently in place a Specific Control and Inspection Programme (SCIP) covering the period 16 March 2014 to 15 March 2018 to monitor and enforce the implementation of the bluefin tuna recovery plan. This programme is a joint initiative bringing together the resources of the European Commission, the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) and the Member States involved in the fishery.

#### *Joint Deployment Plan (JDP) for bluefin tuna*

The resources of the European Commission are complemented by the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) who will adopt their 2015 Joint Deployment Plan for bluefin tuna (JDP-BFT) in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bringing the Specific Control and Inspection Programme into effect. It covers all stages of the market chain as well as controls at sea, on land and traps and farms and as in previous years the 2015 plan brings together the European Commission, Member States and the EFCA and draws on the resources of the eight EU Member States involved in the fishery.

Operationally the EU will coordinate joint inspection and control activities in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean involving a number of fishery patrol vessels and aircraft. Whilst the operational strategies and precise areas of operation remain confidential, the general areas covered by the 2015 JDP-BFT will be the Eastern Atlantic (ICES Areas VII, VIII, IX X and COPACE 34.1.1, 34.1.2 and 34.2.0) and the Mediterranean (Western, Central and Eastern). The anticipated number of days of patrols in 2015 is provided in table 1. These patrols particularly focus on, but are not restricted to, the fishing seasons for Purse Seiners. In 2015, the EU will conduct around 215 days of Sea patrols and additional 36 days of air surveillance in the context of the joint deployment plan.

**Table 1.** Numbers of days of sea patrol and air surveillance per area in 2015.

<i>Area</i>	<i>Days of Sea Patrols</i>	<i>Days of Air Surveillance</i>
Western Mediterranean	95	18
Centre Mediterranean	73	13
Eastern Mediterranean	23	5
Eastern Atlantic	24	

The Steering Group, composed by representatives of the EFCA, the European Commission and the European Member States, provides advice on the overall strategy of inspection activities and supervises the JDP implementation.

The joint control, inspection and surveillance activities carried out under the JDP are coordinated by the Technical Joint Deployment Group (TJDG) whose headquarters are based in the EFCA in Vigo, Spain. The TJDG is composed of national coordinators designated by the Member States and supported by the EFCA's own coordinators.

All cases of potential non-compliance will be forwarded to the flag state of the vessel / operator concerned and to the ICCAT Secretariat where required under Recommendation [14-04].

In order to enhance the monitoring and control strategy used in the JDP the EFCA is also cooperating with other EU agencies including EMSA (European Maritime Safety Agency) through the Marsurv-3 project. Marsurv-3 is an application that provides an integrated maritime picture based on the real-time fusion of VMS, AIS and other maritime related data, such as sightings. It is proving to be a useful tool that greatly contributes to the operational risk assessment.

### ***Control of caging operations***

The EU has been at the forefront of focusing towards controls of the caging stage and using modern technologies to implement these controls in an effective way. The specific measures recently adopted, including Annex 9 of Rec. 14-04, are to a large extent a reflection of the experience of EU control authorities in implementing the stereoscopic program in EU farms. In 2015, 100% of caging operations will be controlled using stereoscopic cameras.

### ***Member States National Control Action Programmes***

Under the Specific Control and Inspection Programme, EU Member States have each developed and submitted a National Control Action Program for 2015. These are extensive programmes containing the resources and inspection strategy they intend to implement within their jurisdiction. These programmes, as required under the Specific Control and Inspection Programme (Commission Decision No.17172014), include a series of inspection 'benchmarks', which include in particular:

- a) the full monitoring of caging operations taking place in EU waters;
- b) the full monitoring of transfer operations;
- c) the full monitoring of joint fishing operations;
- d) the control of all documents required by the legislation applicable to bluefin tuna, in particular verifying the reliability of the information recorded.

These Specific Control and Inspection Programmes and are in full accordance with the conservation and management measures adopted in Recommendation [14-04].

### ***European Commission inspections***

Under the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), the primary responsibility for control and enforcement lies with the Member State Authorities and specifically their fisheries inspectors. Whilst different in their powers and mandate, the European Commission also has its own permanent team of inspectors whose role is to monitor and evaluate Member States fulfillment of their duties and obligations, including those under the bluefin tuna recovery plan and associated ICCAT recommendations concerning bluefin tuna.

Although the inspection plan is still subject to change in response to the particularities of the 2015 fishing seasons, European Commission Inspectors will once again be very active in 2015.

### ***Vessel Monitoring System and operations team***

The team responsible within the European Commission for catch reporting and satellite Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) will monitor submissions on an hourly basis and undertake extensive cross-checks to avoid any potential quota overshoot.

All vessels will be continually monitored by VMS and any interruption in the transmission of VMS data will be immediately followed up with the Member State concerned.

### 3. Cooperation with other CPCs

As in previous years, in 2015 the EU will once again seek to establish and further promote cooperation and coordination with other Contracting Parties (CPCs) in the Mediterranean concerning the exchange of monitoring, control and surveillance methods and information, as illustrated by the organization by EFCA of a workshop on bluefin tuna controls, open to all CPCs.

#### ICELAND

There is no designated bluefin tuna fishing fleet in Iceland. The vessel cannot be regarded as a designated tuna vessel as it has a quota for other fish species in Icelandic waters and only engages in bluefin tuna fisheries part of the year.

The longliner fishing for bluefin tuna in 2014 participated in the fisheries for 4 weeks, after which the quota of Iceland was fully fished and the season closed.

In 2015 the Icelandic bluefin tuna quota will be allocated as follows:

- One longline vessel will be allocated 32 tonnes of bluefin tuna.
- 2 tonnes of bluefin tuna will be reserved for recreational fisheries.
- 2.57 tonnes of bluefin tuna will be reserved for incidental bycatches by the Icelandic fishing fleet.

The longliner will be allocated an individual, non-transferrable quota. In 2015 the Icelandic fisheries authorities will issue a fishing licence for directed bluefin tuna to one Icelandic longline fishing vessel.

All catches shall be landed in Icelandic designated ports, with an observer from the Directorate of Fisheries present. No transshipments will be allowed.

Inspectors from the Directorate of Fisheries in Iceland shall be present onboard for at least 20% of the fishing operations. The vessel needs written permission from the Directorate before leaving port without an inspector.

The Marine Research Institute in Iceland will advise the Directorate the on relevant training and sampling methods for the inspectors.

The longline fishing season starts 1 August and ends 31 December 2015. The fishing area is south of Iceland. The vessel is required to have a general fishing licence and a sufficient quota for other species within in the Icelandic EEZ to allow for incidental bycatches. When the vessel intends to utilize the bluefin tuna quota it shall notify the Directorate of Fisheries in Iceland and thereby undergo the management regime of ICCAT. As soon as the individual quota is fished the bluefin tuna fishing licence expires, else the licence expires 31 December 2015.

Recreational fisheries for EA-BFT will be allowed from 16 June to 14 October. Vessels participating in the recreational fisheries need to have a special EA-BFT licence from the Directorate of Fisheries. All landings by recreational fishers shall be notified to the Directorate of Fisheries before landing and shall be monitored by an inspector and registered into the central database of the Directorate. The vessels will be allocated a common pool quota of 2 tonnes.

All discards of dead commercial species are banned on the Icelandic fleet, all bycatches are to be landed and recorded. Should the bluefin tuna longline vessel catch shark species that are under special provisions by ICCAT, stipulating that retaining, storing, landing and selling are prohibited, these catches are to be submitted to the Icelandic Marine Research Institute for scientific research. The Marine Research Institute will then report relevant information to the ICCAT Scientific Committee.

In 2015 2.57 tonnes of bluefin tuna quota will be reserved to account for incidental bycatches.

#### JAPAN

##### 1. Fishing Plan

###### *a) Fishing Vessel Type*

All Japanese fishing vessels catching bluefin tuna (BFT) in the eastern Atlantic are large scale tuna longline fishing vessels (LSTLVs).

***b) Management period***

The Fisheries Agency of Japan (FAJ) will continue to manage its allocation based on the Japanese fishing season, which is, in the case of the 2015 allocated quota, from August 1st 2015 to July 31st 2016.

***c) Quota***

Japan's quota for the 2015 fishing season is 1390.44 t (including 45t transferred from Korea). The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, having been entrusted competence by the Fisheries Law, has amended the Ministerial Ordinance to introduce a legally binding individual quota system for 2015.

***d) Number of Authorized Fishing Vessels***

The Minister will license LSTLVs to catch bluefin tuna for 2015 fishing year as soon as those vessels are selected. FAJ will, upon Minister's licensing, inform the vessel names, amount of individual quotas and other necessary information to the ICCAT Secretariat at the latest 15 days before the Japanese fishing season begins (paragraph 52 of Rec.14-04).

***e) Catch report***

The Minister will continue to require fishing operators to report daily bluefin tuna catch (including zero catch report) by the end of next day of their catch in accordance with the Ordinance. Such report has to contain relevant information/data including the date, time, location (latitude and longitude), number of catch, individual bluefin tuna weight and tag numbers (Paragraph 66 of Rec. 14-04). FAJ has developed a database in order to monitor up-to-date status of catch against individual quota on a vessel by vessel basis based on their daily reports.

***f) Tagging Program***

The Minister will also continue to require fishing operators to affix valid plastic tag to each bluefin tuna brought on board a fishing vessel and retained. The tag must be identifiable by the particular fishing year, vessel's call sign, and a serial number in the order of catch throughout the fishing season.

***g) Transshipment***

The Minister will continue to prohibit from transshipping bluefin tuna at sea and allow transshipment only at ports registered to ICCAT by the Ordinance and as a condition on the licenses (Paragraph 58 of Rec. 14-04).

***h) Port landing***

The Minister will continue to prohibit from overseas landing of bluefin tuna, and allow landing only in eight domestic ports which the Minister has designated by the Ordinance for enforcement purpose. At the eight ports, landing bluefin tuna will be inspected 100% by government official inspectors who will check actual total weight, individual tuna's tag and count the number of bluefin tuna and compare with the previously reported data including daily report.

***i) Closed Fishing Season***

The Minister will continue to prohibit the operators from bluefin tuna fishing in the area delimited by West of 10°W and North of 42°N during the period from 1 February to 31 July, and in other areas during the period from 1 of June to 31 December by the Ordinance (Paragraph 18 of Rec. 14-04). FAJ will continue to ensure the compliance of these closed seasons by monitoring VMS data (Paragraph 87 of Rec. 14-04).

***j) Observers***

FAJ will ensure observers onboard at 20% or more of its LSTLVs which are allocated bluefin tuna quota (Paragraph 88 of Rec. 14-04).

## **2. Inspection Plan**

### ***a) National inspection***

FAJ, as the authorized government agency, will dispatch one inspection vessel to the Atlantic Ocean in 2015 (Paragraph 99 of Rec. 14-04). FAJ will also continue to have its enforcement officers inspect all bluefin tuna landings at the designated ports (Paragraph 63 of Rec. 14-04). In the case that violation is discovered, the Minister will impose a penalty on the fishing operator, which could include both port confinement and five year suspension to allocate bluefin tuna individual quota.

### ***b) Scheme of Joint International Inspection***

Japan, as a CPC having more than 15 bluefin tuna fishing vessels, will have its own inspection vessel in the Convention area when its bluefin tuna fishing vessels are operating in the Convention area.

## **3. Fishing Capacity Plan**

The Minister will allocate each LSTLV an individual quota more than the recommended catch amount (i.e. 25 t per one LSTLV over 40m) estimated by SCRS. Thus, Japan, having accomplished the obligation on capacity adjustment provided in Rec. 14-04, will ensure that its fishing capacity be commensurate with its allocated quota.

**Fishing capacity of Japan**

		<i>No. of Vessels</i>								<i>Fishing capacity</i>							
Type	Catch rates (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
PS (>40m)	70.7																
PS (24-40m)	49.78																
PS (<24m)	33.68																
<b>Total PS Vessel</b>																	
LL (>40m)	25	49	33	22	22	20	22	22		1,225	825	550	550	500	550	550	
LL (24 - 40m)	5.68																
LL (<24m)	5																
<b>Total LL Vessel</b>		49	33	22	22	20	22	22		1,225	825	550	550	500	550	550	
Baitboat	19.8																
Handline	5																
Trawler	10																
Trap	130																
Other	5																
<b>Total capacity</b>		49	33	22	22	20	22	22		1,225	825	550	550	500	550	550	
<b>Quota</b>		2430.54	1871.44	1148.05	1097.03	1097.03	1139.55	1139.55	1345.44	2430.54	1871.44	1148.05	1097.03	1097.03	1139.55	1139.55	1345.44
<b>Adjusted quota</b>		2430.54	1871.44	1148.05	1097.03	1097.03	1139.55	1139.55	1390.44	2430.54	1871.44	1148.05	1097.03	1097.03	1139.55	1139.55	1390.44

## REPUBLIC OF KOREA

### Fishing Plan and Allocation of BFT Catch Quota

In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation 14-04, the Republic of Korea submits its plans of fishing, inspection and capacity management to the ICCAT.

Korea has its bluefin tuna quota of 95.03 tons in 2015 adopted in the special meeting of ICCAT (Genova, November 2014). However, in accordance with the paragraph 5bis of the Recommendation, Korea transferred 50 t of its quota to Egypt in 2015, and Egypt will transfer 25 t and 25 t of its quotas to Korea in 2016 and 2017 respectively. Likewise, Korea transferred 45 t of its quota to Japan in 2015, and Japan will transfer 25 t and 20 t of its quotas to Korea in 2016 and 2017 respectively. Therefore, Korea is not allowed to fish bluefin tuna in 2015. Please refer to the following Korea's quota table in 2015, 2016 and 2017.

<i>Year</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>
<i>Original quota</i>	95.08 t	113.66 t	136.46 t
<i>Adjusted quota</i>	0 t	163.66 t (113.66 + 50)	181.46 t (136.46 + 45)

With regard to by-catch management, Korean fishing vessels should release bluefin tuna caught as by-catch. Any BCD made by the Korean fishing vessels should not be validated by the Korean authority. The amount of by-catch discarded indicating alive or dead status should be reported to our authority immediately, and these data will be reported to ICCAT.

### Inspection Plan

Korea has no scheme of Joint International Inspection plan.

### Fishing Capacity Plan

Since Korea has no fishing plan in 2015, fishing capacity plan is not applicable to Korea. However, Korea will submit its plan in 2016 when it resumes bluefin tuna fishing operation.

## LIBYA

Following ICCAT Rec. 14-04 amending ICCAT Rec. 13-07 adopted at 2014 ICCAT Annual meeting in Genoa, Libya adopted the Ministerial Decree No. 205/2013 amending the Decree No. 61/2010 transposing the latest adopted ICCAT Recommendations.

Although Rec. 14-04 will enter into force in June 2015, Libya presents its 2015 fishing plan according to both Rec. 13-07 & 14-04 and will also fully implement the new Recommendations in 2015.

### Fishing Fleet

The number of fishing vessels which will participate in E-BFT catching for the 2015 season in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea are 14 catching Vessels [14 purse seiners (PS), 20-40m and no long liners (LL)], no vessels less than 20m, no traps and sport/recreational fishing will participate in 2015 fishing season.

The total number of other vessels that will participate in the 2015, bluefin tuna fishing season are 8 (eight) vessels with no fishing gear on board, except transfer cage or services supplies.

Since the total allocated quota assigned to Libya in Rec.14-04 Para.5 is 1157.06 t, then the individual quota for Libyan vessels authorized to participate in season 2015 will distribute as:

14 Purse seiners over 20 m authorized to fish for bluefin tuna in 2015, have been allocated an individual vessel quota taking into consideration SCRS best catch rate, where (1,155 t) will be allocated between 14 PS (20- 40m) with 2.06 t to be kept as a reserve for any incidental or by catch that might occur in the artisanal fleet. The list of authorized vessels and their individual quota is indicated in **(Table 1)**, and any changes to this fishing possibilities allocation or vessels list will be transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat immediately and in accordance with recommendations adopted by ICCAT.

The authorized vessels expected to carry over fishing activities during 2015 season in working groups and the details of these groups and allocation key will be notified to the ICCAT Secretariat within the required time frame.

Respecting individual quota limit shall be monitored by fishery authorities and cross checking with ROP and national observers on board fishing vessels.

All vessels deemed that its individual quota has been exhausted, it shall be ordered into port immediately.

### ***Joint Fishing Operations***

No JFOs with other CPC/s were requested in season 2015.

### ***Farming (caging activities)***

Libya has no farming activity in 2015.

### **Enforcement of Fishing Plan**

#### ***Regulations***

Ministerial Decree (Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Marine Wealth) # 205/2013 amending the Decree No. 61/2010, transposing Recommendation 13-07 which amended by Rec. 14-04 to establish a Multiannual Recovery Plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic.

Law #14/1989 which organizes the Fishery and Aquaculture in Libya.

Other Acts organize and manage bluefin tuna licenses.

#### ***Licensing***

Individual fishing permit shall be issued by fishery authority based upon Decree, 205/2013 (Articles 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7) for each vessel authorized to fish bluefin tuna in 2015 specifying the following condition as required by Rec. 14-04, as soon as the individual vessel quota is used, it will be required to return to its home port and its fishing permit will be withdrawn.

\*Area of fishing (East Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea, Article 3/Decree #205/2013).

\*Individual Quota Acc. (Art. 11/Decree, #205/2013). \*

\*Log Book onboard Acc. (Art. 28/Decree, #205/2013).

#### ***Vessels Monitoring System (VMS)***

Following to the ICCAT Rec. 14-04 (Para. 87) and by Decree #205/2013/Art.18), all fishing vessels and other vessels active in bluefin tuna fishing shall not be authorized unless equipped with a full active VMS.

Fishery authority will regularly monitor the status of VMS transmission and any interruption of transmission will be followed immediately to investigate and solve the problem.

***Observers***

Regional and national observers shall be placed on board all PS and authorized to fish bluefin tuna in 2015 (Art. 14/Decree, #205/2013).

All authorized PS vessels have full deployment (100%) of ROP and National observers, also all tugs shall have a national observer's onboard.

***Reporting of catch***

The Catch vessel Master shall communicate by electronic or other means to competent authorities a daily and weekly catch reports, with information on location of catch, date, number of fish, total weight (Art. 20/Decree #205/2013).

Daily, weekly and monthly catch reports (including zero catch report) of all authorized Libyan vessels active in bluefin tuna catch shall be transmitted to ICCAT Secretariat in accordance with the format set for this purpose.

***Transfer***

The catch vessel master shall request from the competent authorities an authorization to transfer bluefin tuna catch by email or fax, specifying, date, area and position of catch, number of fish and estimated weight and expected date, time of transfer, towing vessel information, number of cages and their final destination conformed and signed by regional observer and national observer.

A numbered transfer authorization shall be sent to the catching vessels after checking that all requirements by Para. 72, 73, 74, 75, 76 and 77 of Rec. 14-04 is met.

In case there are indication of differences in estimated weight of fish including number died during transfer operation between ROP onboard the catching vessel and vessel master by more than 10%, or 5% in case of number of fish less than 30kgs an investigation will take place according to procedure stated by Para. 81 of Recommendation 14-04.

All bluefin tuna transfers to tugs shall be documented by video camera and copy shall be on board of tug boat and another copy shall be handed to ROP and vessel master (Art. 24/decree #205/2013).

Vessel master shall complete the transfer declaration and BCD forms and transmit these forms to fishery authority after confirming the data from ROP (Art. 25/Decree#205/2013).

Master of tug boat shall not leave transfer site before he received the original documents which proofs the legality of the catch (Transfer Declarations, BCDs and Catch vessels logbook (Art. 23/Decree#205/2013).

The master of fishing vessel or his representative shall inform the flag state competent authorities with the name, location and flag state of the farm to which the fish marketed (Art. 21/Decree #205/2013).

The master of catching vessel shall keep on board logbook of their operation and must complete by mid night every day all vessel activities information and shall declare the number and weight of dead fish retain on board and to be landed in ports (Art. 25/Decree #205/2013).

***Sampling requirements***

All catches transfers will be documented by video footages.

At the time of transfer of live fish to towing cages, certain percentages of fish transferred shall be randomly sampled and killed to improve the counting and weight.

Libya shall require all operators of PS to transfer their catches only to farming units that can guarantee the utilization of stereoscopic systems for assessments of live fish on arrival to of towing cages to their farms.

### ***Landing/transshipments ports***

Transshipment at sea is prohibited.

Bluefin tuna fishing vessels shall only land/transship bluefin tuna catches in ports designated by fishery authorities (Al-khums, Tripoli and Misurata) ports.

All vessels enter any of these ports for landing or transshipping shall seek a pre-entry permission from port authorities (Art. 22/Decree #205/2013).

All landings or transshipments shall be inspected by port and fishery authorities and inform the fishing vessel flag state with a report (as stated in Para. 71 of Rec. 14-04).

### ***Use of aircraft***

Use of Airplanes or helicopters to search for bluefin tuna is prohibited (Art. 10/Decree #205/2013).

### ***Minimum size***

Catching, retaining, landing, transshipping, transferring, selling, displaying for sale bluefin tuna weighing less than 30kg is prohibited (Art. 15/Decree 205/2013).

Catching vessels fishing actively for bluefin tuna, an incidental catch of Max. 5% weighing between 10-30 kg is permitted and shall be counted on Libyan quota

### ***Market measures***

Foreign and domestic trade, landing, imports, exports, placing in cages and transshipments of bluefin tuna and its products... which are not accompanied by accurate, complete and validated BCD is prohibited (Art. 21& 24/Decree 205/2013).

### ***Imposing of sanction***

Any non-compliance to the regulations regarding bluefin tuna fishing operations shall lead to penalties stated in Decree 205/2013/Art.17 (confiscation of fishing gear, releasing catches, suspending or withdrawal of license, decrease or withdrawal of quota).

### **Fishery Inspection Plan**

Controlling and Monitoring of Fisheries Activities in Libya are governed by Fisheries and Aquaculture Act, #14/1989, Decree #205/2013, transposing Rec. 14-04/Para. 97/Annex 7. The Coast Guard and Port Security Act, #229/2005 and considers the core legal documents which defines activities and actions which are to be infringements of fishery policy.

### ***Human resources***

Fishing Inspection will be implemented by fishing inspectors from the Fisheries Authority and Coast Guard personals and in coordination with Port Authority.

Coast Guard shall cooperate in surveillance and control at sea all activities linked with fisheries inspection planned and coordinated with consent of fishery Authority.

Central Control Room will be established during the 2015 bluefin tuna fishing season to supervise the monitoring of fishing activities.

Specific fisheries inspection tasks shall be planned including list relevant provisions of National and international regulations covering management of fishery resources also contains description of inspector tasks as per Rec. 14-04.

### Capacity Management Plan

Libya reduced its fishing capacity in accordance with ICCAT measures requirements till its fishing capacity commensurate with its allocated quota (**Table 2**). Considering the (Rec. 14-04 - Article 5) here the new TACs set as 16142t for 2015, 19296t for 2016 and 23155t for 2017. Allocation for Libya is 1107.06t, 1323.28t, and 1588.77t on seasons 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively, in addition Libya will carry over 50t of its 2011 unused quota in each year up to 2017. Therefore the total allocated quota for Libya in 2015 is 1157.06 t.

Also the capacity plan shows a planned reduction of fishing capacity in 2015 by 146% comparing to 2008 fishing capacity.

**Table. 1** Catching Vessel Actually Engaged in bluefin tuna fishing 2015 season.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Vessel name</i>	<i>ICCAT No.</i>	<i>Vessel type</i>	<i>Individual quota</i>
1	DEELA	AT000LBY00024	PS, 24-40m	82.520
2	OZU II	AT000LBY00009	PS, 24-40m	28.925
3	CYRENE	AT000LBY00010	PS, 24-40m	85.235
4	ALMADINA	AT000LBY00027	PS, 24-40m	85.235
5	MORINA	AT000LBY00028	PS, 24-40m	28.925
6	ELHADER 2	AT000LBY00037	PS, 24-40m	84.750
7	ALMAHARI I	AT000LBY00046	PS, 24-40m	79.300
8	ALSSAFA IV	AT000LBY00060	PS, 24-40m	160.350
9	AL HARES 2	AT000LBY00074	PS, 24-40m	113.427
10	TELEL	AT000LBY00076	PS, 24-40m	67.590
11	ALBAHR ELHADER	AT000LBY00077	PS, 24-40m	139.353
12	Tayma	AT000LBY00083	PS, 20-40m	28.925
13	KHANDEEL II	AT000LBY00038	PS, 24-40m	85.230
14	HANIBAL	AT000LBY00047	PS, 24-40m	85.235
<b>Total</b>				<b>1155</b>

**Table 2.** Fishing Capacity Management Plan for Libya – 2015.

<i>Tuna Vessel Fleet</i>		<i>Fleet (vessels)</i>								<i>Fishing capacity</i>							
<b>Type</b>	Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
		Purse seiner over 40m	71	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	71	0	0	0	0	0
PS(24-40)m	49.78	31	30	29	21	18	17	17	17	1543	1493	1444	1045	896	846	846	846
PS <24m	33.68	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	34	34	34	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total PS fleet</b>		<b>33</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1648</b>	<b>1527</b>	<b>1478</b>	<b>1045</b>	<b>896</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>646</b>
Longliner >40m	25	5	4	2	2	2	1	1	1	125	100	50	50	50	25	25	25
LL(24-40)m	5.68		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner <24m		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total LL fleet</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Total fleet capacity</b>		<b>38</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1898</b>	<b>1627</b>	<b>1527</b>	<b>1095</b>	<b>946</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>871</b>	<b>871</b>
<b>Quota</b>										1237	947	581	903	903	938	938	1107
<b>Adjusted quota</b>										1237	1092	726	903*	903	938	938	1157
Sport/recreation										0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Under/over capacity										536	535	801	192	43	-67	-67	-286
<b>Reduction</b>										<b>25%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>108%</b>	<b>108%</b>	<b>108%</b>	<b>108%</b>	<b>146%</b>

\* Libya did not use its quota of 2011.

## **KINGDOM OF MOROCCO**

### **Introduction**

In accordance with the provisions in force on the recovery of the bluefin tuna fishery in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, in particular Recommendation 14-04 amending Recommendation 13-07, the objective of this document is to submit to the Commission for its consideration the Kingdom of Morocco's bluefin tuna fishing, inspection and capacity management plans for the 2015 season.

In general terms, these plans are identical to the plans submitted and adopted by the Commission for the 2014 fishing campaign.

### **1. Quota allocation plan/operational sectors**

In accordance with the fishing allocations adopted by ICCAT at its last annual meeting held in Genoa in November 2014, the national quota for 2015 which is fixed at 1500.01 t will be distributed among the following operational sectors: a) traps, b) artisanal vessels and coastal vessels fishing bluefin tuna as by-catch and c) two offshore purse seiners.

The Administration will establish the relevant quota levels for each of the sectors, in accordance with ICCAT provisions on individual quotas and these will be notified by the strict deadlines set by the Commission.

### **2. Fishing conditions**

The fishing conditions will be established within the framework of the annual bluefin tuna fishery management plan updated to take account of the new provisions of the East bluefin tuna recovery plan adopted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

The Kingdom of Morocco undertakes to comply with all the provisions of Recommendation 14-04 amending Recommendation 13-07 during the 2015 fishing campaign, which will start in April for the trap sector.

### **3. Fishing capacity**

In accordance with the provisions of the national fishing capacity management plan, as established in Article 46 of ICCAT Recommendation 08-05, the maximum fishing capacity authorized to directly target bluefin tuna is distributed as follows:

- 11 traps
- 1 purse seine vessel LOA > 40 m and
- 1 purse seine vessels LOA between 24 and 40 m
- 1 longline vessel

Coastal fishing vessels and artisanal fishing vessels authorized by the Moroccan Administration catch bluefin tuna as by-catch during their migration period. These vessels are included in the ICCAT Record of Vessels and as in the past, their catches will be counted against the limit of the quota allocated to their segment.

Therefore, the national management/reduction of fishing capacity plan for the 2015 fishing season is as follows:

	<i>Potential catches SCRS</i>	<i>Vessels registered with ICCAT before 2010</i>	<i>Theoretical catches</i>	<i>Authorized vessels for 2015</i>	<i>Theoretical catches 2015</i>
PS large LOA > 40 m	70.7	2	141.4	1	70.7
PS med 24 < LOA < 40	49.8	3	149.9	1	49.8
PS small LOA < 24 *	33.7	1	33.7	0	0
LL large	25	0	25	1	25
LL med	5.7	1	5.7	0	0
LL small	5	63	315	0	0
Baitboat	19.8	0	0	0	0
Handliner	5	0	0	0	0
Trawler	10	1	10	0	0
Other artisanal	5	tbr*	tbr	tbr	109.19
Traps (Moroccan indicators)	112.3	18	2021.4	11	1235.3
Total		89	2691.6	14	1465
2015 quota					1500.01
Total theoretical catches			2691.6		1490
Theoretical rate of capacity/quota reduction					-0.66%

\* to be reported.

#### 4. Fishing periods and areas where fishing is prohibited

In accordance with the provisions of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the fishing periods authorized by the Commission for the different gear will be applied.

#### 5. Control and compliance

Fishery monitoring, control and observation procedures will be implemented in accordance with the national and international regulations in force, which form the basis of the 2015 method of operation whose objective is the following:

- Monitoring and control of fishing activities;
- Monitoring and control of transfer and caging operations;
- Reporting scheme and recording of fishing, transfer and caging information;
- VMS monitoring of fishing and support vessels (auxiliary vessels);
- Documentary procedures for trading bluefin tuna;
- Application of international provisions established within the framework of the recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the East Atlantic and Mediterranean;
- Compliance with international obligations by the Kingdom of Morocco in relation to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

## 6. Other information

The bluefin tuna farming facility “Blue Farm” which was authorised in 2014 and included in the ICCAT Record under identity number AT001MAR00002 will be operational following compliance with the reglementary procedures in force.

### NORWAY

Norway became member of ICCAT in 2004. In light of the stock situation for bluefin tuna, Norway adopted 3 May 2007 a prohibition for that year for Norwegian vessels to fish and land bluefin tuna in Norway’s territorial waters, in the Norwegian Economic Zone and in international waters. A new regulation adopted 19 December 2007 provides for the same prohibition. This regulation, which entered into force 1 January 2008, remained in force until 2014. In 2014 Norway permitted a limited exploratory fishery for bluefin tuna in the Norwegian Economic Zone from 25 June to 31 October.

Following ICCAT Recommendation [14-04] adopted at the 19th Special Meeting of the Commission, Norway will also in 2015 open up for an exploratory fishery for bluefin tuna. The Norwegian fishing and inspection plans are presented below. As Norway has not had any targeted fishery for bluefin tuna over the past years, and only a limited exploratory fishery conducted by one vessel in 2014, no capacity management plan is presented.

The exploratory fishery in 2014 indicated a change in the distribution of bluefin tuna in the Norwegian Economic Zone compared to the previous period when Norwegian vessels conducted targeted fisheries for this species. Bluefin tuna was observed simultaneously both in the south and far north off the Norwegian coast in July-September 2014. As the fishery was conducted by a single purse seiner, and the bluefin tuna migrate over large distances in a short period of time during the main feeding season, it proved challenging for this vessel to locate the bluefin tuna.

Hence, an important lesson drawn from the 2014 season is that more than one vessel is required to conduct exploratory fisheries for bluefin tuna in the Norwegian Economic Zone. As Norway has not conducted targeted fisheries for bluefin tuna since 1986, we need to acquire more knowledge about the changes in distribution and migration. At the same time, we need to find out which fishing methods would be the most convenient today. To facilitate and enhance a successful exploratory fishery, Norway plans to authorize two vessels during the 2015 exploratory fishery. One of these vessels will be a purse seiner and the other a longliner, or alternatively two longliners. By utilising two vessels a larger fishing area may be covered. This will contribute to increasing our knowledge about the distribution and feeding migration of bluefin tuna in the North East Atlantic.

The Norwegian fishery for bluefin tuna will be regulated through a Regulation on Fishery for Bluefin Tuna in 2015, which will be adopted when the Norwegian fishing plan has been approved by ICCAT. In addition to national requirements, this Regulation will cover the requirements specified in ICCAT Recommendation [14-04]. Furthermore, Bluefin Tuna Catch Documents will be issued in accordance with Recommendation 11-20 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program and other relevant recommendations.

### Annual Fishing Plan 2015

In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation [14-04] paragraph 5, the bluefin tuna quota allocated to Norway in 2015 is 36,57 tonnes.

Norway has established the following fishing plan for bluefin tuna in 2015:

- A targeted fishery for bluefin tuna will be permitted in the Norwegian Economic Zone from 25 June to 31 October for one purse seine vessel and from 1 August to 31 December for one longline vessel, or alternatively for two longliners from 1 August to 31 December.
- Each vessel will be given an individual vessel quota, and the total allocation for the two vessels will be 36 tons.
- 570 kilos of bluefin tuna will be set aside to cover incidental by-catch in fisheries not targeting bluefin tuna.

- All catches shall be landed. Vessels not targeting bluefin tuna shall release incidental by-catch of bluefin tuna if alive. Dead or dying bluefin tuna shall be landed.
- Transshipment of bluefin tuna will be prohibited.
- The vessels authorized to target bluefin tuna and vessels getting incidental by-catch of dead or dying bluefin tuna can be instructed to collect biological samples for the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research.
- The vessels authorized to fish bluefin tuna can be instructed to have observers from the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research on board.
- Recreational and sport fisheries for bluefin tuna will be prohibited.
- In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation [14-04] paragraph 25, searching for bluefin tuna with airplanes or helicopters will be prohibited.
- In accordance with [14-04] paragraph 89, the purse seine vessel authorized to fish for bluefin tuna must have an ICCAT regional observer onboard and all fees must be paid before the fishery starts. The longline vessel(s) authorized to fish for bluefin tuna must, in accordance with paragraph 88, have a national observer onboard during 20% of the time the vessel is targeting bluefin tuna.
- In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation [13-07] paragraph 14 no carry-over of any underharvest will be allowed.

### **Annual Inspection Plan 2015**

In accordance with ICCAT Recommendation [14-04] paragraph 52 Norway will submit information concerning the vessels authorized to conduct the exploratory fishery for bluefin tuna to the ICCAT Executive Secretary at the latest 15 days before the beginning of the fishing season.

Norway has established a system of real-time monitoring of all its fisheries and is committed to take the necessary measures to ensure full compliance with ICCAT Recommendation [14-04]. The Norwegian Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) will monitor also the bluefin tuna fishery closely.

The vessels authorized to target bluefin tuna will be required to send position reports (VMS) every hour and electronic logbook on a daily basis. Both position reports and electronic logbooks will be received by the FMC at the Directorate of Fisheries. The FMC is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and any interruption in the transmission of either VMS signals or electronic logbooks will immediately be followed up by the FMC.

The Norwegian Coastguard will have access to both VMS signals and electronic logbooks in real time.

VMS signals will be forwarded to the ICCAT Secretariat in accordance with Rec 03-14.

Landing notes and sales notes will be issued when the fish is landed. These notes will be forwarded to the Directorate of Fisheries in real time, and the reported catches will be deducted from the vessel's quota. Officers at the Directorate of Fisheries will also cross-check information obtained from VMS, electronic logbooks and landing/sales notes.

When the Norwegian quota of bluefin tuna is exhausted, the Directorate of Fisheries will stop the fishery.

## **SYRIA**

### **BFT Fishing Plan for the 2015 Season**

Notwithstanding the objection presented by Syria to the Recommendation 14-04 (Ref. No. 3002 dated 13/12/2014) adopted at the 19th Special meeting of the Commission in 2014, regarding our request of allowing Syria to carryover unused quotas of BFT (2012, 2013 and 2015). However, in accordance with the conclusions and recommendations of the 19th Special meeting of ICCAT, and until the Commission considers Syrian request, we have the honour to present a bluefin tuna fishing plan of the national quota for this season 2015.

## 1. BFT fishing vessel and operations

- According to the ICCAT quota allocation scheme for 2015, Syria has an annual quota of 39.65 tons of bluefin tuna from the Mediterranean Sea catch during the 2015 season. Syria adopted the following plan:
  - The quota of 39.65 tons will be caught by one fishing vessel (Syria will submit name and specification of licensed vessel as soon as the vessel is selected).
  - Special fishing license shall be issued by the fishery authority (General Commission for Fisheries Resources) for the vessel authorized to fish bluefin tuna in 2015.
  - The fishing gear that will be used is purse seine.
  - The authorized period for fishing is from May 26 to June 24, 2015 (if there is no other recommendation adopted by ICCAT).
  - No joint fishing operations will be allowed.
  - Use of airplanes or helicopters to search for BFT is prohibited.
  - No activities for recreational or sport fishery in Syria.
  - There is no facility for farming BFT in the Syrian water yet.

## 2. Control measures

### *Landing transshipments port*

- The fishing operations of the Syrian purse seiner shall be conducted in compliance with ICCAT recommendations.
- Bluefin tuna are not actively targeted by the national fleet.
- Transshipment at sea operations of bluefin tuna is prohibited
- BFT fishing vessel shall only land/transship BFT catches in port designated by fishery authorities (Lattakia fishing Port).
- All landing or transshipment shall be inspected by port and fishery authorities (General Commission for Fisheries Resources).

### *Minimum size and incidental catch / by-catch*

- Catching, retaining, landing, transshipping, transferring, selling, displaying for sale BFT weighing less than 30kg is prohibited.
- An incidental catch of Max. 5% weighing between 10-30 kg is permitted for the vessel fishing actively for BFT.

### *VMS*

- The vessel will be equipped with VMS and transmission of the VMS messages to the ICCAT Secretariat shall be provided as required in ICCAT recommendations.
- Fishery authority will monitor the status of VMS transmission and any interruption of transmission will be followed immediately to investigate and solve the problem.

### *National Observers Program*

- The fishing operations will be monitored throughout the fishing season by one controller observer (General Commission for Fisheries Resources) who will be embarked on board of tuna vessel.
- The controller observer will be in charge of monitoring the fishing operations and the collection of information and data on all the fishing operations and insuring the compliance of the fishing vessel with ICCAT recommendations.
- Two observers will be at the port to follow up the landed catch and reviewing the onboard observer reports (Syria will submit names of national observers as soon as possible).

### *Regional Observers Program*

- According to the recommendation concerning the regional observer programme for purse seine vessel, Syria is ready to receive regional observer appointed by ICCAT (expenses incurred in connection with regional observer shall be borne by ICCAT).
- It is kindly requested that the observer transmits his personal information and copy of his passport in appropriate time to be able to take the necessary arrangement with the relevant agencies.

### ***Reporting of catch***

- The catch vessel master shall by electronic or other means communicate to competent authorities a weekly catch report, with information on location of catch, date, number of fish, total weight).
- Weekly and monthly catch reports of vessel active in the bluefin tuna catch shall be transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat in accordance with the format set for this purpose.

### ***Imposing of sanction***

- Controlling and monitoring of fisheries activities in Syria are governed by General Commission for Fisheries Resources, and General Directorate of ports
- In case of non-compliance with this plan or any of ICCAT recommendations by the fishing vessel regarding bluefin tuna fishing operations shall lead to penalties (confiscation of fishing gear, confiscation of catches, suspending or withdrawal of license).

## **TUNISIA**

### **1. Fishing Capacity Management Plan**

In preparation for the 2015 bluefin tuna fishing campaign, Tunisia has adjusted its fishing capacity in accordance with the methodology adopted by ICCAT (paragraph 41, [Rec 14-04]).

On the basis of this methodology, Tunisia has established a fishing plan and has allocated individual quotas to 25 vessels to fish bluefin tuna, including the re-commissioning of 4 purse seiners which had been inactive since 2011 (**Table 1**).

### **2. Fishing Plan**

During the 2015 bluefin tuna fishing campaign (26 May - 24 June), the competent Tunisian authority envisages granting bluefin fishing permits for 25 purse seine vessels: 23 vessels with a length greater than 24 m, 1 vessel measuring 24 m and 1 vessel less than 24 m.

The management of fishing activity will be governed by the provisions of ICCAT Recommendation 14-04 and the national regulation (Law No. 94-13 of 31 January 1994 on fishing and its implementing texts in particular the Order of 21 May 2008 as amended by the Order of 10 June 2013 on the organisation of the bluefin tuna fishery).

Tunisia's TAC is fixed at 1247.97 t for 2015 and will be distributed among the 25 bluefin tuna catching vessels taking into account the methodology established by ICCAT (catch level and length ranges).

A list of catching vessels and the corresponding individual quotas are attached to this report (**Table 2**).

Within the context of their joint fishing operations, the purse seine vessels will share their common catches according to the allocation key pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 17 of [Rec. 14-04].

#### ***2.1 Data recording and reporting***

Prior to entry into any port, the vessel masters or their representatives will report to the relevant port authorities no later than four hours before the estimated time of arrival the following:

- Estimated time of arrival
- Estimated volume of bluefin tuna caught
- Information on the geographic position where the catch was taken

The daily information of the fishing logbooks including zero catch data which will be notified to the competent authority throughout the fishing period via the representatives of the fishing masters.

Nevertheless, real time monitoring of transfer operations of products that are performed and their destinations will be ensured by the U3C Terminal (Control and Communication Unit in conjunction with the Fishing Information Administration and Management Centre (CAGIP)).

## ***2.2 Vessel monitoring by VMS***

All bluefin tuna vessels with a length greater than 15 m will be equipped with VMS. Transmittal to ICCAT of VMS data by vessels authorised to participate in the 2015 bluefin fishing season will commence 15 days before the authorisation period and will continue 15 days after the end of the authorisation in accordance with the instructions contained in paragraph 87 of [Rec. 14-04].

## ***2.3 Implementation of observation programmes***

In 2015, the Administration will maintain implementation of the regional observers programmes (onboard catching vessels) and deployment of national observers (onboard towing vessels) in accordance with the provisions of [Rec. 14-04].

## **3. Inspection Plans**

### ***3.1 National inspection***

In compliance with the national regulation in force, at-sea inspection missions in fishing areas during the campaign will be ensured by permanent fisheries and coast surveillance officers. They are responsible for monitoring and assessing compliance with ICCAT management measures.

Authorisations for entry of foreign flag vessels to designated Tunisian ports are granted by the competent port authorities.

In-port inspections are ensured by certified officers of the fishery services responsible for control of bluefin tuna landings, fishing gears and onboard documents.

### ***3.2 Scheme of Joint International Inspection***

In compliance with the provisions of Annex 7 of [Rec. 14-04], the vessel AMILCAR MA 878 is expected to participate in the Scheme of Joint International Inspection. Three onboard inspectors will ensure the carrying out of the inspection and boarding activities for Tunisian and foreign vessels during the 2015 bluefin tuna fishing season.

Inspection activities will cover in particular:

- onboard documents
- catching activities and transfer activities to towing cages
- the video recordings of catch transfer operations
- possible infringements of management measures in [Rec. 14-04]

Detailed inspection programmes as well as measures to be taken in relation to vessels inspected will be decided jointly with the Fisheries Administration.

## **4. Farming Capacity Management Plan**

In accordance with paragraphs 46 and 47 of [Rec. 14-04], the farming capacity for 2015 will be maintained at 2,134 t, which is the same caging capacity as in 2014 (**Table 3**).

Six (6) companies plan to carry on their activities in 2015. If there is a change in the farming plan, it will be notified to ICCAT by the required deadlines.

**Table 1.** Adjustment of Tunisia's fishing capacity – 2015.

<i>Tuna vessel fleet</i>		<i>Fleet (vessels)</i>								<i>Fishing capacity</i>							
<i>Type</i>	<i>Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>
Purse seiner over 40 m	70.70	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	70.70	70.70	70.70	0	0	0	0	0
Purse seiner between 24 and 40 m	49.78	24	24	24	19	20	20	20	24	1194.72	1194.72	1194.72	945.82	995.6	995.6	995.6	1194.72
Purse seiners less than 24 m	33.68	16	16	16	4	1	1	1	1	538.88	538.88	538.88	134.72	33.68	33.68	33.68	33.68
<b>Total purse seine fleet</b>		<b>41</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1804.26</b>	<b>1804.26</b>	<b>1804.26</b>	<b>1080.54</b>	<b>1029.28</b>	<b>1029.28</b>	<b>1029.28</b>	<b>1228.4</b>
Longliner over 40 m	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner between 24 and 40 m	5.68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longliner less than 24 m	5	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	5	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total longline fleet</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Baitboat	19.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Handline	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trawler	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trap	130	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other (specify)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total capacity of fishing fleet</b>		<b>42</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1809.26</b>	<b>1809.26</b>	<b>1809.26</b>	<b>1080.54</b>	<b>1029.28</b>	<b>1029.28</b>	<b>1029.28</b>	<b>1228.4</b>
<b>Quota</b>		2254.48	1735.87	1064.89	1017.56	1017.56	1057	1057	1247.97	2254.48	1735.87	1064.89	1017.56	1017.56	1057	1057	1247.97
<b>Adjusted quota (if applicable)</b>		2364.48	1937.87	1109.51	860.180	1017.56	1057	1057	1247.97	2364.48	1937.87	1109.51	860.180	1017.56	1057	1057	1247.97
<b>Undercapacity</b>													76.78%	98.51%	103.68%	103.68%	103.48%

**Table 2.** List of tuna vessels and individual quotas - Tunisia (2015).

	<i>Vessel Name</i>	<i>ICCAT Registration</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Quota (t)</i>	<i>Vessel owner</i>
1	Futuro 1	AT000TUN00065	36.7	101.368	Socoplat
2	Ghedir El Gholla	AT000TUN00030	35.05	101.368	Socoplat
3	Mohamed Sadok	AT000TUN00051	37	57.48	Meridien Pêche
4	Hassen	AT000TUN00008	26.84	35.296	Meridien Pêche
5	Jaouhar	AT000TUN00046	32.3	35.296	Société Ben Hmida et Cnie
6	Tapsus	AT000TUN00024	29.25	57.48	Société Ben Hmida et fils
7	Tijani	AT000TUN00026	27.2	35.296	Société Ben Hmida et fils
8	Horchani	AT000TUN00009	32.65	101.848	Horchani Pêche
9	El Khalij	AT000TUN00014	25.4	35.296	Horchani Pêche
10	El Houssaine	AT000TUN00049	35	35.296	Jomaa Chaari
11	Hadj Mokhtar	AT000TUN00025	31.85	35.296	Jomaa Chaari
12	Haj hedi	AT000TUN00007	28	35.296	Sté Chaari et Fils
13	Hadj Ahmed	AT000TUN00070	34.9	57.48	SPAC Service
14	Mohamed Yassine	AT000TUN00045	28	35.296	Tahar Hajji - Cnie
15	Sallem	AT000TUN00023	38.13	35.296	Fish Tunisie
16	Ibn Rachiq	AT000TUN00037	34.39	35.296	Fish Tunisie
17	Imen	AT000TUN00010	29.10	68.092	Sami Neifer
18	Abderrahmen	AT000TUN00047	25.3	68.572	Mohamed Chiha
19	Abou Chamma	AT000TUN00002	25.42	46.388	Héritiers Kamel Moncer
20	Ghali	AT000TUN00036	21.94	24.684	Nejib Chiha
21	Denphir 1	AT000TUN00479	37.05	35.296	Sté Dauphin de Pêche
22	Essaida jannet	AT000TUN00050	37	79.664	Sté Méditerranée de pêche
23	Med adem	AT000TUN00036	24	24.684	Sté Radhouène de pêche
24	Jamel	AT000TUN00011	26.29	35.296	Héritiers Raouine
25	MABROUK	AT000TUN00015	25.40	35.296	Meridien pêche
<b>Total</b>				<b>1247.956 t</b>	

**Table 3.** Adjustment of farming capacity - Tunisia (2015).

<i>ICCAT No.</i>	<i>Facility Facility Owner</i>	<i>Maximum caging planned in 2015 (in t)</i>
AT001TUN00001	VMT Sahbi sallem	356
AT001TUN00002	TT Abdelwaheb Ben Ramdhane	444
AT001TUN00003	SMT Substitute facility	444
AT001TUN00004	TFT Ridha Sallem	356
AT001TUN00005	SNB Jaouher Ben Hmida et Sami Neifer	267
AT001TUN00006	THC Taher Hajji et Mohamed Chiha	267

## **TURKEY**

### **Turkey's Provisional Inspection Plan within the framework of ICCAT Joint Scheme of International Inspection 2015**

#### **Introduction**

Turkish Coast Guard Command (TCGC) plans to participate to the ICCAT Joint Scheme of International Inspection of 2015 with 57 Coast Guard Boats and 207 inspector staff.

Since the potential patrolling coverage of the TCGC inspection boats is relatively limited, participation of high seas inspection vessels from Turkish Naval Forces Command (TNFC) to the inspection scheme is deemed necessary in order to reach the possibility of conducting high-sea inspections at all regions of the Mediterranean.

To this end, Turkish Naval Forces Command plans to assign 143 inspector staff and 27 vessels for participation to the ICCAT's Joint Scheme of International Inspection of 2015.

Furthermore, an additional inspection vessel assigned by Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock (MoFAL)'s (ARAMA 1) will conduct ICCAT inspections in the region.

Due to logistical reasons, envisaged numbers of inspection boats and inspector staff may be subject to some changes subsequently.

Details of the planned at-sea inspection plan are given in the following sections.

#### **Planning of Inspection Activities**

Based on a risk analysis approach, the locations where the fishing vessels were mostly concentrated during previous seasons is planned to be focus on for the year 2015. It is estimated that the locations, where fishing and towing vessel Bluefin tuna fishing and transferring activities.

The records of the VMS signals will regularly be monitored at the premises of Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock and at Coast Guard Main Operation Center in Ankara, as well as, at regional operation centers of TCGC.

CGC shall take into account the probable position data of the fishing vessels which will be obtained from the VMS during the ICCAT inspections.

### **Inspection time and area by regions**

The inspections shall be conducted in territorial waters of Turkey, high seas of Mediterranean and high seas of the Aegean Sea. ICCAT inspections by the TCGC assets shall be carried out during the whole period of Bluefin Tuna (BFT) Fishing Season.

### **Means of at-sea inspections**

The means of at-sea inspections shall be deployed mainly at BFT fishing grounds which are determined based on 2014's risk assessment data.

As for TNFC, the inspections is being planned to be conducted during the whole period of fishing season with the NFC Flagged Frigates and Corvettes. However, in accordance with the planned missions, the inspections may be conducted in the other areas within the international waters by TNFC, as far as possible.

### **Planned number of ICCAT inspection assets to be deployed**

Number of Coastal Patrol Vessels: 57

Number of High Seas Patrol Vessels/Inspection Vessels: 27

Where needed or required, additional vessels and/or inspector staff shall be authorized. Within the bounds of possibility, aerial inspections are also planned to be performed by Maritime Patrol Aircrafts by NFC during the whole BFT fishing period for 2015.

Permanently 5 personnel will be working in shifts on 24 hour basis at Coast Guard Main Operational Center in Ankara. In addition to Main Operation Center in Ankara Headquarters, 3-4 personnel will be working in shifts at each operation centers of Turkish Coast Guard Regional Commands which are located in Izmir and Mersin and operation centers of Turkish Coast Guard Group Commands which are located in Iskenderun, Antalya, Marmaris and Çanakkale.

TNFC Operations Center shall maintain its communication with the inspector vessels during 24 hours. With a view of activities' coordination in Operations Center, 3 officers and 4 Petty Officers will be employed fulltime.

## **Alternative management and conservation measures for the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna**

Through the instrument of ICCAT Circular # 00649/15, Turkey has lodged a formal objection to *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 13-07 by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 14-04]. Correspondingly, this document, comprising of the alternative management and conservation measures set by Turkey for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, has been prepared and submitted in pursuant of paragraph 3 of *Resolution by ICCAT Regarding the Presentation of Objections in the Context of Promoting Effective Conservation and Management Measures adopted by ICCAT* [Res. 12-11].

### **1. Fishing Plan**

Through the Note Verbale dated 12 February 2015 (as announced by ICCAT Circular # 00649/15), Turkey has declared an “AUTONOMOUS QUOTA” of 7.73% of the TAC adopted by the Commission in its 19<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting.

In this context, Turkey will implement a total of 1.222.96 m.t. catch limit for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean for 2015.

Fishing, transferring and farming activities for eastern bluefin tuna (E-BFT) will be conducted by individual quota allocation system for each E-BFT catching vessel.

The Turkish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock (MoFAL) shall announce the above-mentioned decision to all sector stakeholders in accordance with the Ministerial Communiqué and Notifications regarding E-BFT fishing, farming and trading.

#### **1.1 Potential fishing grounds**

The potential fishing ground for E-BFT fishery will be off the western and southern coasts of Turkey and the Eastern Mediterranean region. Sparse fishing activities may occur in the southern parts of the Aegean Sea.

#### **1.2 List of Authorized E-BFT Fishing Vessels**

MoFAL shall issue fishing permits for all E-BFT fishing vessels to be authorized for 2015. All fishing vessels authorized by MoFAL shall be reported to ICCAT in a timely manner. All vessels shall be equipped and monitored with an operational Vessel Monitoring System.

#### **1.3 Licensing**

Fishing permits issued by MoFAL shall be mandatory for E-BFT fishing vessels to operate for the 2015 fishing season. Fishing permits shall be granted to 16 purse seine vessels by MoFAL.

A total of 55 BFT other vessels including towing, support and auxiliary vessels shall be authorized by MoFAL.

#### **1.4 Allocation of E-BFT catch quota**

In accordance with the formal objection lodged and the declaration made by Turkey on 12 February 2015, Turkey shall implement the catch limit for 2015 as 1.222.96 t. In this regard, a viable amount of quota shall be allocated to 16 E-BFT catching vessels acquiring valid fishing permits for the 2015 E-BFT fishing season.

#### **1.5 Methodology used for quota allocation**

MoFAL plans to allocate 90% of the total Turkish allocated quota for each vessel based on a national criteria based on activity and track records of the fishing vessels.

For the fishing vessels having allocated an individual quota but not intending to operate for the 2015 E-BFT fishing season, the right to transfer its individual quota to another fishing vessel shall be given. Should any E-BFT catching vessel may not exhaust its assigned individual quota (IQ) at the end of the fishing season, carryover shall not be allowed.

### **1.6 Coastal, recreational, sport fisheries**

A specific quota level shall be allocated for the purposes of coastal, recreational and sport fisheries, as well as incidental and by-catches, which is of 10% of the total. The marketing of bluefin tuna caught in recreational and sport fishing is prohibited.

### **1.7 Regulations for 2015 E-BFT fishing season**

#### *1.7.1 Fishing period and open season*

Open fishing season for E-BFT shall be from 26 May 2015 to 24 June 2015.

#### *1.7.2 Joint Fishing Operations*

No joint fishing operation (JFOs) with any other CPC is allowed unless the concerned CPC has less than 5 authorized (maximum 4) purse seiners.

A JFO for E-BFT shall only be authorized with the consent of MoFAL and of the other CPC authority concerned, if the vessels to be involved are equipped to fish bluefin tuna and has sufficient individual quotas.

Fishing vessels to conduct any JFO with the vessels of any other CPC shall present the required certificates and letter of consent to MoFAL at least 15 days before the start of the operation (departure from port) to be transmitted to the ICCAT Secretariat within the specified deadline.

#### *1.7.3 E-BFT landing/transshipment ports*

E-BFT fishing vessels shall only transship/land bluefin tuna catches in the ports designated for that purposes.

In case of dead bluefin tunas derived from fishing, the whole amount shall only be landed to the designated ports by catching or auxiliary vessels.

The following ports have been designated by MoFAL for the purpose of E-BFT landing/transshipment:

	<b><i>Province</i></b>	<b><i>Designated Landing/ Transshipment Port</i></b>
1	ADANA	Karataş fishing port
2	ANTALYA	Antalya fishing port Gazipaşa fishing port
3	MERSIN	Karaduvar fishing port
4	HATAY	Iskenderun fishing port
5	ÇANAKKALE	Kabatepe fishing port Gülpınar fishing port
6	ISTANBUL	Kumkapı fishing port Tuzla fishing port
7	IZMIR	Karaburun fishing port

#### *1.7.4 Vessel Monitoring System requirements*

Fishing vessels requesting any of the E-BFT fishing vessel permits for the 2015 fishing season shall be equipped with a full-time operational satellite based vessel monitoring system (VMS) onboard, as required by MoFAL. Position reporting every two hours will be required from the authorized fishing vessels.

#### *1.7.5 Recording and reporting*

Recording and reporting shall be made in parallel with ICCAT management and conservation measures.

#### *1.7.6 Transfer, towing and caging operations*

Transfer, Towing and Caging Operations shall be conducted in parallel with ICCAT management and conservation measures.

#### *1.7.7 Cross check*

As a part of measures to ensure the respect of the individual quotas and by-catch, the relevant information recorded in fishing logbooks / daily logs, transfer declaration, and in the catch documents shall be verified by MoFAL by using available inspection reports, observer reports and VMS data as well as through a National Fisheries Information System called SUBIS.

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

#### *1.7.8 Enforcement*

Any noncompliance to the regulations regarding E-BFT fishing and transfer shall lead to nullification of the fishing permit or the towing permit issued by MoFAL. Noncompliant fishing vessels shall not get any of the above mentioned permits for future operations.

#### *1.7.9 Market measures*

Foreign and domestic trade, transport, landing, imports, exports, placing in cages for farming, re-exports and transshipments of E-BFT products (with the exception of fish parts other than the meat i.e., heads, eyes, roes, guts and tails) as well as their keeping onboard, at storage or inside the towing cages attached to a catching/towing vessel which are not accompanied by accurate, complete, and validated documentation shall be prohibited.

#### *1.7.10 Observer requirements*

Presence of "ICCAT Regional Observers" on E-BFT Catching Vessels and at E-BFT Farming Facilities (at the time of caging and harvest operations); and presence of "CPC Observers" on E-BFT Towing Vessels and onboard of Auxiliary Vessels carrying dead E-BFT to designated ports shall be required during the whole E-BFT catching, transferring and caging operations at sea and at farm sites in 2015.

#### *1.7.11 Use of aerial means*

Any use of airplanes, helicopters or any types of unmanned aerial vehicles for searching for E-BFT shall be prohibited.

#### *1.7.12 Minimum size*

Catching, retaining on board, transshipping, transferring, landing, transporting, storing, selling, displaying or offering for sale E-BFT weighing less than 30 kg or with fork length less than 115cms shall be prohibited.

### *1.7.13 Sampling requirements*

E-BFT samplings shall be made in parallel with the procedures set by ICCAT management and conservation measures. In 2015, 100% of caging operations shall be covered by a programme using stereoscopic cameras systems in order to refine the number and weight of the fish. This program shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures set out by ICCAT. The results obtained will be reported to the ICCAT Secretariat, as required by the SCRS. On the other hand, sampling of dead E-BFT derived from fishing shall be treated in accordance with the Turkish National Sampling Program.

Owners/operators of the fishing vessels, managers /operators of farming facilities and exporters shall be responsible from the proper implementation of all provisions mentioned in this plan and in domestic legislation.

## **2. Inspection Plan**

### ***2.1 National Inspection***

In collaboration with Turkish Coast Guard Command (CGC), comprehensive at-sea inspection coverage shall be ensured by MoFAL during 2015 E-BFT fishing season. To that end, an autodyne research vessel - namely ARAMA 1- will be commissioned by MoFAL to carry out inspections at sea.

A continuous monitoring, control and inspection shall be ensured at potentially active landing ports through the assignment of MoFAL inspectors. Additionally, random inspections by MoFAL shall continue even before/after the fishing season at the landing ports to check and record any landing of dead E-BFT.

As for E-BFT caging operations, MoFAL inspectors shall control proper implementation of caging programmes at farming facilities on a regular basis. Modern Technologies will be utilized to implement the aforementioned controls in an effective way.

### ***2.2 Scheme of Joint International Inspections***

Turkish Coast Guard Command (TCGC) plans to participate to the ICCAT Joint Scheme of International Inspection of 2015 with 57 Coast Guard Boats and 207 inspector staff.

Since the potential patrolling coverage of the TCGC inspection boats is relatively limited, participation of high seas inspection vessels from Turkish Naval Forces Command (TNFC) to the inspection scheme is deemed necessary in order to reach the possibility of conducting high-sea inspections at all regions of the Mediterranean.

To this end, Turkish Naval Forces Command plans to assign 143 inspector staff and 27 vessels for participation to the ICCAT's Joint Scheme of International Inspection of 2015.

Furthermore, an additional inspection vessel - namely ARAMA 1- that has been assigned by Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock will also contribute to the activities under ICCAT Scheme of Joint International Inspections in the region.

The provisional list of inspection vessels has been communicated to the ICCAT Secretariat on 13 February 2015.

## 2.3 Framework of MCS

### 2.3.1 E-BFT Fishery, Transfer, Farming and Trading of Turkish Allocated Quota

#### Catch

- Individual Quota (IQ) allocation,
- E-BFT catching/other vessels to be registered in ICCAT record,
- Legal fishing season,
- E-BFT Joint Fishing Operation (JFO) rules,
- BCD Scheme requirements,
- Log Book requirements,
- 100% ICCAT ROP-BFT Coverage,
- Video Footage,
- Cross-checks for verification.



#### Transfer

- Prior Transfer Notification & Authorization,
- Video Footage,
- Cross-checks for verification,
- 100% ICCAT Regional Observer Coverage (for all catching vessels),
- 100% National Observer Coverage (for all towing vessels),
- BCD Scheme requirements,
- ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD) requirements.



#### Towing

- 100% National (CPC) Observer Coverage
- BCD Scheme requirements,
- ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD) requirements.



#### Import (for live E-BFT)

- 100 % MoFAL Representative coverage
- 100% ROP-BFT Coverage (at farm site/caging)



#### Caging

- 100% Video Footage,
- 100 % MOFAL Representative coverage,
- 100% ICCAT Observer Coverage (Farming),
- BCD Scheme requirements,
- Caging Declaration.



**Farming**

- Random MOFAL Inspections
- 100 % MOFAL Representative coverage,
- 100% Video Footage.

**Transport**

- 100% National (CPC) Observer Coverage
- 100% dead fish
- BCD Scheme requirements,
- ICCAT Transfer Declaration (ITD) and Transport Declaration requirements

**Landing Ports**

- Random MOFAL Inspections at 7 authorized landing fishing ports for dead E-BFT.
- Random MOFAL Inspections at landing fishing ports used for by-catch dead E-BFT

**Harvest**

- 100% ICCAT ROP-BFT Coverage,
- 100% MoFAL Representative Coverage,
- BCD Scheme requirements

**Export**

- 100 % MoFAL Representative Coverage
- BCD Scheme requirements

**Inspections**

- Full inspection coverage shall be ensured during 2015 E-BFT fishing season (by Turkish Navy, CGC, MOFAL),
- Random inspections by MOFAL shall continue even before/after the fishing season.

### 3. Fishing Capacity Plan

<i>Model Capacity form</i>																	
<i>Tuna Vessel Fleet</i>		<i>Fleet (vessels)</i>								<i>Fishing capacity</i>							
<i>Type</i>	<i>Best catch rates defined by the SCRS (t)</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2009</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>
Purse seiner over 40m	70,70	41	32	12	13	0	3	0	16	2898,70	2262,40	848,40	919,10	0,00	212,10	0,00	1131,20
Purse seiner between 24m and 40m	49,78	49	34	11	4	11	7	13	0	2439,22	1692,52	547,58	199,12	547,58	348,46	647,14	0,00
Purse seiner less than 24m	33,68	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	101,04	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
<b>Total Purse Seine Fleet</b>																	
longliner over 40m	25																
longliner between 24m and 40m	5,68																
longliner less than 24m	5																
<b>Total Longline Fleet</b>																	
Baitboat	19,8																
Handline	5																
Trawler	10																
Trap	130																
Other (please specify)	5																
<b>Total fleet / fishing capacity</b>										5438,96	3954,92	1395,98	1118,22	547,58	560,56	647,14	1131,20
<b>Quota</b>										887,19	683,11	419,18	535,89	535,89	556,66	556,66	1223,00
<b>Adjusted quota (if applicable)</b>																	
<b>Allowance for sport / recreational (if applicable)</b>										17,74	13,66	8,38	10,72	10,72	11,13	11,13	24,50
<b>Under / overcapacity</b>										4551,77	3271,81	976,80	582,33	11,69	3,90	90,48	-91,80

**CHINESE TAIPEI**

In accordance with ICCAT Rec.14-04, each CPC shall submit fishing, inspection and capacity management plans to the ICCAT Secretariat by 15 February each year. I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that we are continue to implement the temporary regulation established domestically to prohibit our fishing vessels from fishing bluefin tuna in the Atlantic Ocean in 2015. The aforementioned Atlantic Ocean means the ICCAT Convention area, including the Mediterranean Sea.

As for the by-catch of Bluefin tuna, it shall be released or discarded, recorded on the logbook or elogbook, and reported to this Agency in accordance with pertinent provisions of our domestic regulations. Up to date, there is no by-catch of bluefin tuna reported to this Agency.

We are sure that if we get any by-catch report of bluefin tuna in the future, we will report to ICCAT through formal channels and deducted from the Chinese Taipei quota.

Furthermore, with reference to the paragraph 5bis of the ICCAT Rec.14-04, I would like to confirm that Chinese Taipei transfers 10 tons of Atlantic bluefin tuna within its quota to Egypt in 2015.

## Adjusted Quotas for 2015

## Adjusted quotas for EBFT East

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Quota 2015 (t)</i>	<i>Additional allocation 2015</i>	<i>Reduction to allocation 2015</i>	<i>Adjusted quota 2015</i>
Albania	39.65			39.65
Algeria	169.81	200		369.81
China	45.09			45.09
Egypt	79.2	76		155.2
European Union	9372.92			9372.92
Iceland	36.57			36.57
Japan	1345.44	45		1390.44
Korea	95.08		95	0.08
Libya	1107.06	50		1157.06
Morocco	1500.01			1500.01
Norway	36.57			36.57
Syria	39.65			39.65
Tunisia	1247.97			1247.97
Turkey*	657.23	50		707.23
Chinese Taipei	48.76		10	38.76
Mauritania (research)	5			5

\* Turkey has lodged an objection to Rec. 14-04 and has set its own catch limit for 2015 as 1222.96 t.

## Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.1

## List of Potential Non-Compliance [PNC] events to be reported by ROP-BFT observers

<i>Deployment/ Operation</i>	<i>PNC Event</i>
Fishing	Observer access to communication facilities denied - (Fishing)
Fishing	Aerial support used during searching operations
Fishing	No BFT Catch document (BCD) - (Fishing)
Fishing	Fishing outside designated season
Fishing	Transfer declaration (ITD) not completed
Fishing	Landing in port - (Fishing)
Fishing	Dead tuna not adequately recorded in the vessel logbook
Fishing	Observer prevented from carrying out duties - (Fishing)
Fishing	Observer catch estimate >10% than vessel's
Fishing	Tuna transferred to a vessel(s) without an ICCAT number
Fishing	Transfer conducted before receiving Authorisation
Fishing	Pre-transfer notification not sent
Fishing	Transshipment in port - (Fishing)
Fishing	Transshipment at-sea
Fishing	Fish below minimum size transferred
Fishing	Vessel without an ICCAT number involved in fishing operations
Transfer	Video record of transfer did not show closing of door at the end of the transfer
Transfer	Video record of transfers did not show date continuously - (Transfer)
Transfer	Video record of transfers did not show time continuously - (Transfer)
Transfer	Video record did not show 100% of transfer
Transfer	Transfer not monitored by video
Transfer	Video record of transfer did not show opening of door at the start of transfer
Transfer	Video record of transfers did not show Transfer Authorisation number at beginning or end of each video
Transfer	Independent observer estimate of transfer amount was not possible due to video quality
Transfer	Video record of transfer not transmitted to the observer on the fishing vessel
Transfer	Video record of transfer not provided to the observer immediately after transfer
Release (PS)	Video record of release did not show closing of door
Release (PS)	Less than the correct amount of tuna released
Release (PS)	Video record did not show 100% of the release - (Release(PS))
Release (PS)	Release not monitored by video
Release (PS)	Video record of release did not show opening of door
Release (PS)	Tuna not released following a release order
Release (PS)	Video record of release did not show date continuously - (Release(PS))
Release (PS)	Video record of release did not show time continuously - (Release(PS))
Release (PS)	Video of released tuna not provided to the observer immediately after release
Caging	Observer access to communication facilities denied - (Caging)
Caging	No BFT Catch document (BCD) - (Caging)

Caging	A group BCD reference number was allocated to more than one farm cage
Caging	Video record of transfer did not show closing of door at the end of the transfer - (Caging)
Caging	Independent observer estimate of amount caged was not possible due to video quality
Caging	Video record of transfers did not show date continuously - (Caging)
Caging	BFT caged by a vessel(s) without an ICCAT authorisation number
Caging	Tuna caged before Authorisation
Caging	Tuna not released following a release order
Caging	Video record of transfers did not show time continuously - (Caging)
Caging	Video record did not provide 100% coverage of the transfer
Caging	Video record of transfer not provided to the observer immediately after transfer
Caging	A group BCD reference number was allocated to fish from more than one JFO
Caging	Caging after 15th August
Caging	Landing in port - (Caging)
Caging	Dead tuna not adequately recorded by the farm
Caging	Farm cage without identifiable and different reference number
Caging	Caging Declaration (ICD) not completed
Caging	Transfer declaration (ITD) not completed
Caging	Video record of transfer not transmitted to the observer on the farm
Caging	Video record of transfer not taken
Caging	Observer prevented from carrying out duties - (Caging)
Caging	A group BCD reference number was allocated to caging operation > 1 day
Caging	Video record of transfer did not show opening of door at the start of transfer - (Caging)
Caging	Observer estimate more than $\pm 10\%$ different than farm's
Caging	Dead tuna during the towing operation not recorded in the ITD
Caging	Fish not separated by JFO
Caging	Fish not separated by flag of the catching vessel
Caging	Fish not separated by year [of catching]
Caging	A group BCD reference number was allocated to fish from more than one vessel outside JFO
Caging	Video record of transfers did not show Transfer Authorisation number at beginning or end of each video
Caging	Transshipment in <b>unauthorised</b> port - (Caging)
Caging	Fish below minimum size caged
Caging	Less than the correct amount of tuna released
Release (Farms)	Video record of transfer did not show closing of door at the end of the transfer - (Release Farms)
Release (Farms)	Video record did not show 100% of the release - (Release (Farms))
Release (Farms)	Release not monitored by video
Release (Farms)	Video record of transfer did not show opening of door at the start of transfer - (Release(Farm))
Release (Farms)	Video of released tuna not provided to the observer immediately after release
Release (Farms)	Video record of release did not show date continuously - (Release(Farms))
Release (Farms)	Video record of release did not show time continuously - (Release(Farms))

Harvest	Observer access to communication facilities denied - (Harvest)
Harvest	No BFT Catch document (BCD) - (Harvest)
Harvest	Landing in <b>unauthorised</b> port - (Harvest)
Harvest	Observer estimate for harvested tuna 10% greater than farm's
Harvest	Observer prevented from taking size measurements or biological samples
Harvest	Observer prevented from carrying out duties - (Harvest)
Harvest	Transshipment in <b>unauthorised</b> port - (harvest)
Harvest	Undersize fish harvested
Harvest	Vessel without an ICCAT number involved in operations

**MRAG: Request for clarification on Rec. 14-04**

<i>Clause Reference</i>	<i>Point of Clarification</i>	<i>Clarification/Response</i>
2 i)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the event of a control transfer, how will this be recorded in the ITD?</li> <li>We would like to confirm that multiple control transfers are allowed? And similarly, the procedure for recording multiple transfers on the ITD</li> <li>We would also like to confirm who authorises the control transfer.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Record as “Further Transfer”</li> <li>Yes</li> <li>The flag state of the catching vessels</li> </ul>
2 n)	Is the situation where a dead fish is transferred using a towing vessel annex (rigid inflatable boat) to bring the fish to another auxiliary vessel not to be considered a transshipment?	Correct; not a transshipment
28	To confirm, that for each fishing operation a quantity of 5% in number of undersized fish is authorised.	No, this does not apply across the board; and is not applicable to certain specific minimum size regulations as specified in para 27 and Annex 1.
76 (last sentence)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If a new transfer occurs, is it designated as a control transfer or simply a new transfer?</li> <li>If a control transfer, again we would appreciate guidance on the procedure for recording this on the ITD.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New transfer, but little difference as the information from last transfer to be used</li> <li>In “Further Transfer”</li> </ul>
83	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is our interpretation correct that it is now an obligation for operators to only use stereoscopic camera systems at caging?</li> <li>Will the observer still be allowed to provide estimations from a regular video only?</li> <li>We would appreciate clarification on the process described for the communication of the results of the stereoscopic programme from the CPCs to the observer.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No; can use standard cameras to determine numbers.</li> <li>Yes as in some cases the observer won’t have access to the results of the stereoscopic cameras in time.</li> <li>This difficulty has been noted, CPCs should send results to the Secretariat and the Secretariat will relay to the consortium.</li> </ul>
90	We note that the ICD is not listed here, does this mean it will no longer be used and hence the observer will not be required to sign it.	Correct since there is a delay getting results from the cameras.
Annex 9	Will observers be required to review stereoscopic footage? If so, this would necessitate training of the observers in the use of the system.	Control authorities need to be trained, not regional observers.

**Appendix 7 to ANNEX 4.1****Intervention made by Turkey****Presentation of Alternative Conservation and Management Plan**

During the last Annual meeting in Genoa, it was observed with deep regret that long standing and rightful demand of Turkey, based on valid grounds, intended for an increase at Turkey's quota share was not fulfilled.

Under these circumstances, Turkey was left with no alternative but to object to ICCAT Recommendation 14-04 and to declare an autonomous quota at the catch levels on the basis of ICCAT Recommendations 94-11, 98-5 and 00-09.

Through the instrument of ICCAT Circular # 00649/15 dated 13 February 2015, Turkey has lodged a formal objection to Recommendation 14-04. Correspondingly, this document, comprising of the alternative management and conservation measures set by Turkey for the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin tuna, has been prepared and submitted in pursuant of paragraph 3 of the *Resolution by ICCAT Regarding the Presentation of Objections in the Context of Promoting Effective Conservation and Management Measures adopted by ICCAT* [Res.12-11].

In this regard, Turkey does not seek any endorsement to the alternative conservation and management plan.

Through the *Note Verbale*, dated 12 February 2015 (as announced by ICCAT Circular # 00649/15), Turkey has declared an "Autonomous quota" of 7.73% of the TAC adopted by the Commission in its 19th Special Meeting.

In this context, with extra-strengthened MCS measures, Turkey plans to implement all the technical measures and components of the objected ICCAT Recommendation 14-04 voluntarily.

Once again, we would also like to stress that in this context Turkey would comply with the original rule established by ICCAT intended for the first time catch quota allocations in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fisheries. Thereby, Turkey would not be violating the applicable conservation and management plan established by ICCAT.

With that, Turkey is still committed to continue fulfilling her obligations as it was before.

Relying on the necessity of ensuring sustainability of the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna stocks, Turkey will continue to effectively implement bluefin tuna conservation and management measures on a voluntary basis.

**Interventions made by Turkey on the CPC comments on Paragraph 94 of ICCAT Rec. 14-04**

Turkey stressed that it found the approach a nonsense and that it was unacceptable to already prejudge that bluefin tuna products would be in the scope of paragraph 94 of ICCAT Recommendation 14-04 in the absence of a thorough examination and appraisal of the issue by the related legal experts in terms of its technical and legal aspects. Emphasizing that having used its legal rights arising from Article VIII of the ICCAT Convention and having presented an alternative management and conservation plan timely and properly in line with other applicable ICCAT measures, Turkey objected to the comments made by some CPCs that Turkey would be deemed as not having a sufficient quota, catch limit or allocation of fishing effort under the terms of ICCAT management and conservation measures for the eastern Atlantic bluefin tuna in consequence of lodging formal objection to Recommendation 14-04. Turkey also indicated that considering the rights and obligations under international law the inter-sessional Panel 2 body, having no mandate to prejudge or to make a judgement on such issues, should avoid itself from making an inference on the legal status and destiny of Turkish bluefin tuna products in the consequence of lodging a formal objection to Recommendation 14-04 with declaration of an autonomous quota.

**Interventions made by Turkey on CPC views/requests for endorsement of Turkey's Alternative Conservation and Management Plan**

Turkey reacted to the comments made by some CPCs stressing that its formal objection to Recommendation 14-04 submitted timely through diplomatic channels and that the alternative conservation and management plan presented in accordance with ICCAT Resolution 12-11 in relation to "Presentation of Objections in the Context of Promoting Effective Conservation and Management Measures adopted by ICCAT" may not be subject to endorsement by Panel 2. As for the comments made by the European Union in relation to that paragraph 11 of ICCAT Rec.13-07 regarding submission and endorsement of fishing plans will still be applicable for Turkey's case. Turkey responded that there were no explicit provisions in the ICCAT Convention that regulates this issue as interpreted by the EU and indicated that a thorough examination of the legal aspects of the issue should be made with legal experts. Emphasizing that Panel 2 has no mandate to endorse Turkey's alternative conservation and management plan, Turkey objected protested this attempt trying to take Turkey's plan under a new evaluation process after conclusion of Agenda item 4, in the very last minute.

**Interventions made by Turkey on CPC views/questions on possibility/legality to conduct JFOs with Turkey in consequence of Turkey's objection to ICCAT**

Turkey stressed that the process of individual quota allocation to fishing vessels is still on-going domestically. Turkey continued that within the deadline specified in the objected ICCAT Recommendation, details of the authorized fishing vessels with individual quotas allocated to them will be communicated to ICCAT Secretariat to be posted on ICCAT Web site. Having declared to voluntarily implement all the technical measures and components of the objected ICCAT Recommendation 14-04, Turkey expressed its consideration that no legal impediments exist to conduct JFOs with other CPCs willing to make JFO with Turkey.

**Interventions made by Turkey on CPC remarks on effects of Turkey's decision on ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures**

Turkey stressed that the decision of objecting ICCAT Recommendation 14-04 and declaration of an autonomous quota is not an arbitrary one but based on valid justifications to properly implement the original rule established by ICCAT intended for the first time catch quota allocations in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fisheries as stipulated by ICCAT Recommendations 94-11, 98-5 and 00-09. Turkey continued that not only CPCs do have some particular obligations against ICCAT but also ICCAT has some obligations against the Contracting Parties in order not to treat them unjustly or discriminate them unreasonably, particularly in the process of allocation of fishing resources of economic importance.

## **4.2 REPORT OF THE 10th MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON INTEGRATED MONITORING MEASURES (Madrid, Spain – 25-27 February 2015)**

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

The Chair of the Working Group, Mr. Taoufik El Ktiri, opened the meeting and welcomed the delegates to the tenth meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM).

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

The Agenda was adopted and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.2**.

The Executive Secretary listed the Contracting Parties that attended the meeting: Algeria, Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, European Union, Guinea Equatorial, Iceland, Japan, Korea, Liberia, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Senegal, Tunisia, Turkey and the United States.

The Executive Secretary also introduced the following participants to the meeting: Chinese Taipei as Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity and the Union of the Comoros and Seychelles as observer countries.

The non-governmental organization Pew Charitable Trusts was admitted as an observer.

The List of Participants is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.2**.

### **3. Nomination of rapporteur**

The Secretariat was appointed as rapporteur.

### **4. Consideration of the role of observers deployed by national and regional programmes**

The Chair recalled that, as agreed at the PWG in November 2014, it was decided to consider the role and the tasks of observers under several ICCAT Recommendations. As a basis for discussion, the Secretariat had prepared the background document "ICCAT Recommendations relating to Observer Programmes and Duties of Observers".

The European Union (EU) stated that this document correctly illustrated the complexity of the problem listing 15 different ICCAT Recommendations containing provisions concerning the role of the observer. This delegation presented a "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Establishing an ICCAT Observer Programme of Fishing Activities within the ICCAT Convention Area" which is attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.2** and is based on the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Minimum Standards for Fishing Vessel Scientific Observer Programs* [Rec. 10-10] (concerning the role of the national observers) and Annex 4 of *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-Annual Conservation and Management Program for Tropical Tunas* [Rec. 14-01] (related to the TROP observer programme). The main point of the proposal is that the ICCAT observer would be mandated by its national authority to collect scientific information based on the scientific criteria established by the SCRS. To ensure the efficiency of the programme the EU proposal also refers to the selection of the observers, his-her mutual recognition by CPCs and the report of the observer data with due consideration to confidentiality.

Japan welcomed the proposal of the European Union as a good document to start the discussion on the role of the observers. This delegation also stated that the compliance tasks of the observer should be clearly defined and should be differentiated from scientific tasks. The importance of examining the confidentiality of the data collected by the observer was also raised as a point to be further discussed.

The United States also welcomed the document tabled noting the importance of this discussion given the need for high quality data to inform the scientific advice underpinning fisheries management decisions. The US shared some of the concerns expressed by Japan and considered that while there were some worthy ideas in the proposal there should be further discussion on using the existing framework of Recommendation 10-10, including the feedback of the SCRS on its implementation. The US encouraged CPCs to include in their 2015 Annual Reports information on their domestic observer programmes, including coverage levels by vessel type as required in Rec.10-10, to inform the SCRS's review.

Côte d'Ivoire considered that the EU proposal should better reflect the different roles of the scientist and the fisheries managers. This delegation also requested clarification about the funds available to support developing countries in the framework of the implementation of this proposal.

Morocco welcomed the proposal and indicated that resorting to control tasks by the observer involves applying or respecting procedures and criteria that come under control. Therefore, the qualification or the designation of observers must not depend exclusively on the scientific body, including on guidelines.

Algeria considered the EU proposal as interesting since the mandated observer should be responsible towards its Contracting Party and towards ICCAT. This delegation recalled that currently for the eastern bluefin tuna fisheries, the national observer has a double role: monitoring compliance and collecting data.

Canada considered that the EU proposal is important but expressed concern relative to the separation of the science and the compliance tasks. This delegation also noted that the title of the proposal covered a wider scope than the text itself that mainly covered the tasks of the TROP observers.

Tunisia informed that it would submit some technical questions to the EU before the Permanent Working Group meeting (PWG) in November 2015.

Namibia expressed its concern that such a proposal could entail the need for two observers on board: one to cover compliance issues and another to collect scientific data. Furthermore, Namibia wanted to know if ICCAT has a programme in place to assist developing CPCs to be able to comply with such a recommendation, if adopted.

Iceland expressed its support for implementing an observer programme in ICCAT in line with what is practiced in other RFMOs in the N-Atlantic. It also informed that in Iceland the Directorate of Fisheries and Marine Research Institute collaborated closely and there had never been problems in having the observers covering both compliance and scientific tasks. Norway informed that there is close cooperation between its Directorate of Fisheries and the Institute of Marine Research with regard to observers.

To reply to the concerns expressed, the EU delegate explained that the main role of the observer is to collect scientific data and not to inspect the fisheries. The observer, designated by a Contracting Party, and recognised by all CPCs would be in charge of collecting scientific data in line with the SCRS criteria. Compliance tasks that could be requested to the observer in addition to his-her scientific tasks would have to be determined on a case by case basis for the concerned fisheries. To respect the confidentiality of data, the scientific institutions would process the data and these data would anonymously be transmitted to the Contracting Party who shall send them to the ICCAT Secretariat for transmission to the SCRS. Concerning the support for developing countries, the EU delegate informed that the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration should explain the availability of funds for developing countries

The Chair concluded that the Working Group had agreed to annex the proposal of the EU to the report of the meeting, as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.2**, with a view to further discussing it at the forthcoming PWG meeting in November 2015. The Chair also invited Contracting Parties to work inter-sessionally on that proposal and to submit comments to the EU. This would allow the EU to collect the comments and to table an amended version of its proposal at the Commission meeting.

## **5. Consideration of a high seas boarding and inspection scheme**

The Chair introduced the working document of a draft resolution by ICCAT for a model joint international inspection scheme (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.2**) as a follow up of the discussion at the PWG in November 2014 on a joint high seas inspection and boarding. He then gave the floor to the delegate of the United States to present the proposal co-sponsored with the EU. The delegate expressed the view that it is important for ICCAT to adopt a modern scheme for joint international inspection. He explained that the proposal was substantially similar to that tabled by the US, Canada and the EU at the IMM in 2014 and again at the 19th Special meeting of the Commission, but that further to the concerns heard at the 19th Special meeting of the Commission, the proposal is currently tabled as a draft resolution instead of as a draft recommendation. He explained that the proposed scheme was for a model that could be adopted on a fishery by fishery or other basis, as agreed by the Commission.

A few delegations noted concerns with technical aspects and domestic jurisdiction aspects of the proposal and noted the importance of adopting a scheme that could be applied in areas of high risk for IUU activity.

Several delegations expressed their concern that the document should be submitted as a meeting document with enough time for CPCs to prepare for consideration of the proposal, but one delegation noted its willingness to work informally to improve the text. The US, Canada, and the EU noted that this issue has been considered by the IMM Working Group at its last several meetings and that the text, which has never been discussed in detail, is largely unchanged. He welcomed receiving any technical comments either on the margins of the meeting or before the 24th Regular meeting of the Commission.

The Chair concluded that the Working Group had agreed to annex the USA-EU proposal (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.2**) to the report of the meeting with a view to further discussing it at the forthcoming PWG meeting in November 2015. The Chair also invited Contracting Parties to work inter-sessionally on the proposal and to submit comments to the co-sponsors of the proposal.

## 6. Review of progress on eBCD and consideration of future actions

The Chair of the eBCD Working Group presented a Summary Report of the Meeting of the Technical eBCD Working Group (eBCD-TWG) held in the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) in Vigo (Spain), 21-22 January 2015 (**Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.2**). He also presented an outline of the three annexes of the meeting report containing pending technical and policy issues. He reminded the delegates that the consortium (TRAGSA and the ServerLabs) needed clear guidance to develop solutions for pending technical issues for the eBCD system to move forward. The Chair of the eBCD Working Group proposed to focus the discussion on the draft recommendation by ICCAT to clarify and amend aspects of ICCAT's bluefin tuna catch documentation program to facilitate the application of the eBCD system containing policy issues.

The Chair of the IMM invited delegates to express their general comments on the eBCD Report and to also take into consideration the draft recommendation by ICCAT supplementing the recommendation for an electronic bluefin tuna catch document (eBCD) System tabled by Japan (**Appendix 8 to ANNEX 4.2**). This proposal is an amendment to the *Recommendation by ICCAT Supplementing the Recommendation for an Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (eBCD) System* [Rec. 13-17].

The US delegate stated that it would be necessary to have the eBCD system implemented with a date to phase out the paper BCD. He also considered that the eBCD system should ensure reliable trade. This delegation also stated that requests made by the eBCD Working Group to the Consortium should be clear. He then requested information concerning the current contract with the Consortium as well as a possible extension of the contract after December 2015. Concerning this last issue, the Chair of the eBCD Working Group reminded the participants that back in 2011 three options to finance the eBCD system were tabled: self-financing with a certificate fee by BCD; an ongoing funding by the ICCAT Capital Fund or a distribution based on the bluefin tuna quota allocation.

The Executive Secretary informed that, at the request of the Commission, the contract with the consortium was extended until December 2015. Then, the Assistant Executive Secretary explained that the maintenance of the eBCD system is in the cloud including e-assistance to CPCs, and that this would entail an annual cost in the ICCAT budget. She also informed that the current contract with the Consortium includes training sessions.

Algeria expressed its willingness to have the eBCD system implemented as soon as possible, however keeping the option to return to the paper BCD in case of "*force majeure*".

Tunisia informed the participants that they are already working in the eBCD production system and that they would like to encourage all the CPCs to use the eBCD system as soon as possible.

At the request of certain CPCs and the Chairman, the Secretariat invited TRAGSA to attend the meeting. TRAGSA attended the 10th IMM meeting, on behalf of the Consortium. It was invited to respond to certain questions, in particular, of a technical nature, as well as to those already posed at the ICCAT Annual meeting (November 2014) or those raised following the last TWG eBCD meeting (January 2015).

The Chairman wished to know the reasons, in particular technical ones, as to why the eBCD system still does not appear to be 100% operational, given that the solution would depend on the Consortium. The IMM Group also wished to know the precise level of the state of development of the system and the problems which are hampering progress.

In response to these questions, TRAGSA reassured that the eBCD System is currently operational and that of the eBCDs which may need to be issued, 70-80% could currently be entered in the eBCD system. They recalled the BCD completion problems observed in 2014 which led to validation problems, as well as issues related to fish dead at the time of transfer. For this case, it was necessary to adapt the System so that it was homogeneous while respecting the recommendations governing it. At a certain stage, the development of the System experienced advances then setbacks.

In response to the observation of situations of overload of the System during testing, TRAGSA responded that in terms of security, the initial tests were not sized well because of the load of the information used compared to what had been initially envisaged.

The Consortium has however reassured the Working Group that the next test will be conducted in better conditions taking into account the flexible environment of the “cloud” system, as provided in the current contract.

In summary, the Consortium mainly insisted on the need that the Commission establish priorities in a clear and definite way to allow the full development and operability of the system, taking into account that if there are any new requests, its implementation could be delayed.

After this general discussion on the progress made on the eBCD since November 2014, Japan was requested by the Chair of the IMM to present its draft recommendation by ICCAT supplementing the recommendation for an electronic bluefin tuna catch document (eBCD) System (**Appendix 8 to ANNEX 4.2**) in which, even if encouraging the use of the eBCD, the use of paper BCD would still be allowed and in which it is proposed that all the provisions of Rec. 11-20 apply *mutatis mutandis* to the eBCD. Japan proposed to first discuss in depth the proposal contained in **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2** with a view to merging the two proposals.

The IMM Working Group then decided to focus its work on the draft recommendation since the proposal covered policy issues that needed to be resolved. A small Working Group was set up and proposed to the participants of the IMM an amended version which was adopted and is attached in **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2**. The EU reiterated that it could leave the reference to validation on the understanding that the TWG would instruct the consortium to undertake the necessary developments to include the options of validation or no validation for trade between member States of the EU, pending the final decision to be made at the Annual meeting. Japan expressed its intention to prepare a combined text with the Japanese proposal (**Appendix 8 to ANNEX 4.2**) and **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2** for consideration at future meetings.

The United States commented that the most important outcome of this intersessional meeting is clear direction for the TWG moving forward. It clarified that any adoption of a Recommendation resulting from this work will occur at the Annual meeting in Malta in November. The United States noted that CPCs may have additional text edits to the proposal, after a thorough legal review, primarily to ensure consistency throughout the document and consistency with other ICCAT Recommendations.

The report of the Meeting of the Technical eBCD Working Group was adopted by the IMM Working Group with the deletion of the second paragraph of the section “State of play of GEF/FAO support” as attached in **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.2**.

The IMM Working Group instructed the eBCD TWG to use **Appendix 7 to ANNEX 4.2** to give instructions to the consortium on issues pending in the development of the eBCD system.

## 7. Other matters

The Secretariat was invited by the Chair to present a Request for Clarification on Carrier Vessels and a Request for Clarification Regarding Vessel Length. Both documents are based on requests made by Contracting Parties for clarification.

Regarding the listing of carrier vessels, the Working Group generally agreed that only carrier vessels which were authorised to receive transshipments at sea should be included on the ICCAT Record of Carrier Vessels. Notwithstanding, it was agreed that carrier vessels authorised to receive transshipment in port could be included on the ICCAT Record of Vessels of 20 metres or greater if this was requested by a CPC. The Working Group recommended that the Commission consider whether amendments to Rec. 13-13 may help clarify the issue. The Working Group generally agreed that the Secretariat could operate on this understanding, pending any possible changes to relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures at the Commission in November 2015.

In the Request for Clarification Regarding Vessel Length, the Secretariat also requested an interpretation on behalf of a Contracting Party, on the meaning of “length between perpendiculars” as used in the context of the *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 03-14 by ICCAT Concerning Minimum Standards for the Establishment of a Vessel Monitoring System in the ICCAT Convention Area* [Rec. 14-09]. The Working Group generally agreed that the most relevant interpretation would be informed by definitions in the International Convention for the Safety of Fishing Vessels, i.e.:

5. "The length (L)" shall be taken as 96 per cent of the total length on a waterline at 85 per cent of the least depth measured from the keel line, or as the length from the foreside of the stern to the axis of the rudder stock on that waterline, if that be greater. In vessels designed with rake of keel the waterline on which this length is measured shall be parallel to the designed waterline.
6. "The forward and after perpendiculars" shall be taken at the forward and after ends of the length (L). The forward perpendiculars shall be coincident with the foreside of the stem on the waterline on which the length is measured.

## 8. Adoption of Report and Adjournment

The Report of the Tenth Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures was adopted.

### Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.2

#### Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda and meeting arrangements
3. Nomination of Rapporteur
4. Consideration of the role of observers deployed by national and regional programmes
5. Consideration of a high seas boarding and inspection scheme
6. Review of progress on eBCD and consideration of future actions
7. Other matters
8. Adoption of report and adjournment

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## Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.2

**Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Establishing an ICCAT Observer Programme of Fishing Activities within the ICCAT Convention Area**

*(Presented by the EU)*

*RECALLING* that Article IX of the Convention requires Contracting Parties to furnish, on the request of the Commission, any available statistical, biological and other scientific information needed for the purposes of the Convention;

*FURTHER RECALLING* the 2001 *Resolution by ICCAT on the Deadlines and Procedures for Data Submission* [Res. 01-16], in which the Commission established clear guidelines for the submission of Task I and Task II data;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* that poor quality data impacts the ability of the SCRS to complete robust stock assessments and provide management advice as well as the ability of the Commission to adopt effective conservation and management measures;

*DETERMINED* to ensure the collection of data accounting for all sources of mortality in ICCAT fisheries, for both target species and by-catch, to improve the certainty of future scientific advice while taking into account ecosystem considerations;

*RECOGNIZING* that, in relation with the protection of juveniles, a specific focus should be given to surface fishing of tropical tuna species in association with fish aggregating objects, including FADs, where area/time closures are implemented by ICCAT;

*REITERATING* the responsibilities of the flag CPC to ensure that their vessels conduct their fishing activities in a responsible manner, fully respecting the ICCAT Recommendations in force;

*RECOGNIZING* that observer programmes are used successfully at both the national and Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) level for the purposes of collecting scientific data;

*CONSIDERING* that regrouping the observer requirements from existing ICCAT Recommendations into a single ICCAT Observer Programme will favor clarity;

*RECOGNIZING* the international nature of the fishing activity on ICCAT species and the consequent need to embark well-trained and mandated observers to improve the collection of relevant data, in terms of continuity, coherence and quality;

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the needs of developing States with regard to capacity building;

*RECOGNIZING* the United Nations General Assembly Sustainable Fisheries Resolution 63/112, that encourages the development of observer programmes by Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and arrangements to improve data collection;

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

An ICCAT Observer Programme is established as follows:

**Definitions**

1. For the purpose of the ICCAT Observer Programme:

- a) "*ICCAT mandated observer*" means a person, hereafter referred to as the "*observer*", designated by the national authority of a flag CPC and recognized by ICCAT to collect scientific data in the ICCAT Convention area and observe compliance by fishing vessels with the provisions of the ICCAT Conservation and Management measures in force;

- b) "**Fishing activity**" means fishing and any other activity in preparation for, in support of, or related to fishing, including storage, processing, transporting, transshipment of fish or fish products and fishing for, or supported activities to fish for ICCAT species in association with objects that could affect fish aggregation, including Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs);
- c) "**Fishing vessel**" means any powered vessel, hereafter referred to as "**vessel**", used for, intended to be used for, or equipped for use for the purpose of commercial exploitation of fishery resources covered by the ICCAT Convention, including catching vessels, support vessels, fish processing vessels, vessels engaged in transshipment and transport of fishery resources, vessels equipped for the transportation of fishery products and auxiliary vessels, but does not include container vessels;
- d) "**Flag CPC**" means the CPC flagging the vessel subject to observation under the ICCAT Observer programme;
- e) "**National authority**" means the authority of a CPC that, directly or through an independent observer provider, appoints and mandates an observer to participate in the ICCAT Observer Programme;
- f) "**Scientific institute**" means the scientific body that defines the mission order of the observer and in charge of the validation of the scientific data collected by the observer;
- g) "**Field sampler**" means a person who collects information on land during the landing of fishing vessels;
- h) "**Observed data**" means the raw data collected by the observer during its assignment on the vessel observed;
- i) "**Observer report**" means the report summarizing the data collected by the observer;
- j) "**Programme**" means the ICCAT Observer Programme established by this Recommendation.

#### **Scope of the Programme**

2. The scope of this Programme is to collect scientific data related to fishing activities on ICCAT species in the ICCAT Convention area, including quantifying species and catch composition, by-catch, discards and the collection of tags, and to observe compliance in accordance with the observer tasks referred to in paragraph 14.

#### **ICCAT Observer Programme**

##### **General Provisions**

3. Notwithstanding additional observer programme requirements that may be in place or adopted by ICCAT for specific fishing activities, each CPC shall take the measures as may be necessary to ensure that fishing vessels entitled to fly its flag, their Masters and the observers it has assigned to the Programme fulfil their respective tasks and requirements under the Programme.
4. CPCs shall assign observers to the Programme in accordance with a selection criteria proposed by the SCRS and adopted by the Commission. Only observers designated according to this selection procedure shall be recognized as ICCAT mandated observers.

##### **List of ICCAT Mandated Observers**

5. Each CPC shall notify the Executive Secretary:
  - a) its national authority in charge of selecting, appointing and mandating the national observers, and receiving the observer reports, as well as the name and contact details for a point of contact within that authority (including telephone, fax numbers and e-mail address);
  - b) before the beginning of each calendar year, the list of observers it has assigned to the Programme for the following year, providing for each observer:
    - i. name, sex, date of birth, nationality and passport number;

- ii. the scientific institute or the national authority that will define and deliver the mission order to the observer;
  - iii. the date the qualification of scientific observer has been obtained, the training organization and the date of entry into the list of ICCAT mandated observers;
  - iv. the name of the scientific institute that will collect and validate the observed data;
- c) any changes to the information as soon as possible, but no more than 14 days after the effective date of the change.

#### ***Qualifications of ICCAT Mandated Observers***

6. Without prejudice to any training or technical qualifications recommended by the SCRS, CPCs shall ensure that their observers have the following qualifications to accomplish their tasks:
- a) sufficient knowledge and experience to identify species and fishing gear configurations, and be capable of performing the tasks set forth in paragraph 14;
  - b) satisfactory knowledge of the ICCAT conservation and management measures in force, assessed by a certificate provided by the CPCs and based on ICCAT training guidelines;
  - c) the ability to observe and record accurately the data to be collected under the Programme;
  - d) the ability to collect biological samples;
  - e) the ability to visualize images collected by the on board camera;
  - f) not be a crew member of the vessel being observed;
  - g) be independent of the vessel owner, the Master of the vessel and any crew member, or of an NGO;
  - h) for security reasons, a satisfactory knowledge of the language of the flag of the vessel observed; and
  - i) be trained in safety and sea survival.

#### ***Mutual Recognition of ICCAT Mandated Observers***

7. Observers active under this Programme shall automatically be recognized by all CPCs.
8. Such recognition shall allow the observer to continue the collection of data throughout the EEZ visited by the vessel observed, either in the context of this Programme, in the framework of a domestic observer programme or according to an observer programme organized jointly by several CPCs.
9. CPCs that do not accept that their national observer may collect data in the EEZ of another CPC, or that do not recognize as valid the data collected in their EEZ by an observer of another CPC, must inform the Executive Secretary, for immediate transmission to the SCRS and the Compliance Committee, of their refusal within three months after the entry into force of this Recommendation or their accession to ICCAT. By such refusal, the CPC concerned shall refrain to require the deployment of its national observer on vessels of another CPC.

#### ***Observer Coverage***

10. Each CPC shall ensure the following with respect to its domestic observer programs:
- a) A minimum of 5% observer coverage of fishing effort in each of the pelagic longline, purse seine, and, as defined in the ICCAT glossary, baitboat, traps and fixed gillnet fisheries, as measured:
    - a) for purse seine fisheries, in number of sets or trips;
    - b) for pelagic longline fisheries, in fishing days, number of sets, hooks or trips;
    - c) for baitboat and trap fisheries, in fishing days;
    - d) for fixed gillnet fisheries, in net length;

- b) A 100% observer coverage for all surface vessels fishing for tropical tuna species in association with fish aggregating objects, including FADs, where an area/time closure is in force;
- c) Notwithstanding paragraph 1a), for vessels less than 15 meters, where an extraordinary safety concern may exist that precludes deployment of an onboard observer, a CPC may employ an alternative scientific monitoring approach (sampling plan) that will collect data equivalent to that specified in this recommendation in a manner that ensures comparable coverage. In any such cases, the CPC wishing to avail itself of an alternative approach must present the details of the approach to the SCRS for evaluation. The SCRS will advise the Commission on the suitability of the alternative approach for carrying out the data collection obligations set forth in this Recommendation.

Alternative scientific monitoring approaches may consist in monitoring at the landing place by field samplers, providing these field samplers do collect information during the landing of the vessels concerned.

- d) Representative temporal and spatial coverage of the operation of the fleet to ensure the collection of adequate and appropriate data as required under this Recommendation and any additional domestic CPC observer programme requirements, taking into account characteristics of the fleets and fisheries;
  - e) Data collection on all aspects of the fishing operation, including catch and fishing effort.
11. Each flag CPC may deploy either national or non-national observers on vessels flying its flag.
  12. CPCs may conclude bilateral arrangements whereby one CPC places national observers on vessels flying the flag of another CPC, until the flag CPC provides a replacement, or the target coverage level is met.
  13. CPC shall endeavour to ensure that observers alternate vessels between their assignments.

***Tasks of the Observer***

14. CPCs shall require observers to:
  - a) record and report upon the fishing activity, which shall include at least the following:
    - i. data collection, that includes quantifying total target catch and by-catch (including sharks, sea turtles, marine mammals, and seabirds), size composition, disposition status (i.e., retained, discarded dead, released alive), the collection of biological samples for life history studies (e.g., gonads, otoliths, spines, scales), and the collection of tag markings;
    - ii. fishing operation information, including:
      - area of catch by latitude and longitude;
      - fishing effort information (e.g., number of sets, number of hooks, etc.);
      - date of each fishing operation, including, as appropriate, the start and stop times of the fishing activity;
      - use of and prohibited actions related to fish aggregation objects, including FADs, where an area/time closure is in force;
      - reasons for discarding, and general state of catch released animals;
    - iii. exercise any other scientific work as recommended by SCRS and agreed by the Commission;
  - b) observe and record the use of by-catch mitigation measures and other relevant information;
  - c) visualize images collected by the on board cameras, in support of the data collection referred to in (a) and (b) above;
  - d) monitor the catches of tropical tunas at landing, with the view to identify the catch composition.

However, this is not applicable:

- i. to flag CPCs that use a sampling scheme, as referred to in paragraph 10 (c), and
  - ii. to artisanal fisheries, providing that the port CPCs use field samplers at the landing places to estimate catch-at-size by type of vessel, gear and species.
- e) monitor compliance with the relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures for fishing vessels' fishing for tropical tuna species in association with fish aggregating objects, including FADs, where an area/time closure is in force. In particular the observers shall:
- i. verify entries made in the logbook;
  - ii. sight and record vessels which may be fishing in contravention to ICCAT conservation and management measures in force;
  - iii. verify the position of the vessel when engaged in catching activity;
- f) present to their CPC, as feasible and appropriate, any proposals the observer considers appropriate to improve the efficiency of conservation measures and scientific monitoring;
- g) report without delay, with due regard to the safety of the observer, any fishing activity by surface vessels fishing for tropical tuna species in association with fish aggregating objects, including FADs, where an area/time closure is in force.

#### ***Obligations of the Observer***

15. CPCs shall ensure that the observers:

- a) do not interfere with the electronic equipment of the vessel;
- b) be familiar with the emergency procedures aboard the vessel, including the location of life rafts, fire extinguishers and first aid kits;
- c) communicate regularly with the Master on relevant observer issues and tasks;
- d) do not hinder or interfere with the fishing activities and the normal operations of the vessel;
- e) minimize endangering situations for the observer or a discomfort for the Master and crew when performing their fishing activity;
- f) participate in a debriefing session with the Master, and possibly a delegate of the scientific institute or the national authority which appointed it;
- g) treat as confidential all the observed data and information with respect to the fishing activities of the vessel, and accept this requirement in writing as a condition of appointment as an observer;
- h) comply with requirements established in the laws and regulations of the flag CPC which exercises jurisdiction over the vessel to which the observer is assigned;
- i) respect the hierarchy and general rules of behaviour which apply to all vessel personnel, provided such rules do not interfere with the tasks of the observer under this Programme, and with the obligations of the Master set forth in paragraph 16;
- j) report without delay to its scientific institute, or to the national authority which appointed it, for immediate information of the vessel owner, any incident that may have occurred during the deployment.

#### ***Obligations of the Master***

16. CPCs shall ensure that the Master of the vessels to which the observer is assigned shall:

- a) permit appropriate access to the vessel and its operations;
- b) allow the observer to carry out its responsibilities in an effective way, by
  - i. having access to the vessel's crew and gears;
  - ii. authorize the observer on request, to have access to the following equipment, if present on the vessel on which the observer is assigned, and to facilitate the fulfilment of its duty:
    - Satellite navigation equipment;
    - Radar display screens during utilisation;
    - Electronic means of communication.
- c) Provide accommodation to observers, including lodging, food and adequate sanitary facilities, equal to those of officers;
- d) provide the observer adequate space on the bridge or pilot house to perform its tasks, as well as space on deck adequate for carrying out observers tasks;
- e) participate in a debriefing session with the observer, and possibly a delegate of the scientific institute or the national authority which appointed the observer.

### ***Observer Report***

17. CPC shall ensure that observers:

- a) establish observer reports, if possible in electronic format, using the template defined by the SCRS, compiling the information collected in accordance with this Programme, sign the observer report and offer the Master the opportunity to include therein any relevant observation; and
- b) within [10] days after the fishing trip, submit the observer report and the observed data to the scientific institute, the national authority which appointed the observer and to the Master.

### ***Duties of the CPCs***

18. Each CPC shall:

- a) require its vessels, when conducting fishing activities on ICCAT species in the ICCAT Convention area, to carry an observer in accordance with the provisions of this Programme. No vessel shall be required to carry more than one observer at any time;
- b) ensure that the selection of observers follows the SCRS guidelines endorsed by the Commission in accordance with paragraph 21;
- c) ensure that a signed mission order is provided to the observer by the scientific institute who employs it, or by the national authority;
- d) ensure that the observers meet the qualification standards referred to in paragraph 6;
- e) ensure that the timeframe for boarding and reporting procedures set out in Annex 1 are complied with;
- f) provide in its Annual report to the Commission:
  - i. the number of vessels monitored and the coverage achieved by gear type;
  - ii. information on how vessels are selected for coverage to achieve the target level of observer coverage;
  - iii. the coverage level achieved within their respective fisheries, and details on how coverage levels were calculated.

19. The CPC that appoints the observer shall meet the cost of the boarding, including the salary, the equipment and the insurance coverage of the observer, with the possibility to charge all or part of the costs to the vessel owners.

***Duties of the Executive Secretary***

20. The Executive Secretary shall:

- a) establish, maintain and post on the secure part of the ICCAT website a register of national authorities and ICCAT mandated observers as referred to in paragraph 5, in a manner consistent with the confidentiality requirements noted by CPCs;
- b) report to the SCRS and to the Compliance Committee the CPCs that do not accept their national observers to be deployed in foreign EEZ, as referred to in paragraph 9;
- c) with due consideration to the confidentiality requirements noted by CPCs, transmit immediately the observer reports and observed data referred to in Annex 1 to the SCRS, to the Compliance Committee and to the point of contact of the CPCs under whose jurisdiction the vessel fished;
- d) facilitate the required exchange of information between each CPC concerned and the SCRS and the implementation of any other aspects of this Programme as necessary and appropriate.

***Duties of the SCRS***

21. The SCRS shall:

- a) establish guidelines to be used for the selection of observers (minimum standards in terms of qualifications and skills), including, for the purpose of standardization, minimum technical content of training for observers and technical prerequisites for training institutions. These guidelines shall be endorsed by the Commission at its annual session in [2016];
- b) elaborate an observer working manual, including standardized data collection sheets and procedures, taking into account the experience acquired in ICCAT and in other tuna RFMOs;
- c) elaborate a template for reporting to be used by the observer;
- d) report to the Commission at the Annual meeting on the coverage level achieved by each CPC and by fishery;
- e) provide the Commission with a summary of the scientific data and information collected and reported pursuant to this Programme, and any relevant findings associated with that data and information;
- f) make recommendations as necessary and appropriate on how to improve the effectiveness of the Programme in order to meet the data needs of the Commission, including possible revisions to this Recommendation and/or with respect to implementation of these minimum standards by CPCs.

***Support to Developing States***

22. The Commission shall take due regard of the special requirements of developing States in the implementation of the provisions of this Recommendation.

23. The ICCAT funds available may be used to support the implementation of this Programme in developing States, notably the training of observers and of field samplers.

***Final provision***

24. Rec [10-10] and Annex 4 of Rec [14-01] are repealed and replaced by this Recommendation. Reference to Annex 4 of Rec [14-01] is equal to a reference to this Recommendation.

*Addendum 1 to Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.2***Timeframe for the boarding and reporting procedures related to the observer boarding**

<b><i>Timing</i></b>	<b><i>Action</i></b>
45 days in advance of the fishing trip	Request for the boarding of an ICCAT mandated observer addressed to the vessel owner by the scientific institute or the national authority
30 days in advance of the fishing trip	Validation of the boarding planning by the vessel owner and the national authority
Before the fishing trip	Support by the vessel owner of the transport of the observer to the boarding port
During the fishing trip	Collection of observed data
At the end of fishing trip	Debriefing between the observer, the Master and, if possible, the national authority
[10] days after the fishing trip	Transmission of the observer report, the observed data and the supporting material to the scientific institute. Delivery of the observer report to the Master
[30] days after the fishing trip	Validation of the observer report and the observed data made anonymous by the scientific institute (inclusion of daily totals of catch by species and EEZ). The validation may use the images recorded by the on board cameras
[45] days after the fishing trip	Transmission of the observer report and the observed data made anonymous by the scientific institute to the national authority
[60] days after the fishing trip	Transmission of the observer report and observed data made anonymous to the Executive Secretary, for immediate transmission to the SCRS, to the Compliance Committee and to the point of contact of the CPCs under whose jurisdiction the vessel has fished

**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.2****Draft Resolution by ICCAT for a Model Joint International Inspection Scheme**

*(Proposed by the European Union and the United States)*

*RECALLING* Recommendation 75-02 for a Scheme of Joint International Inspection and Annex 7 of Recommendation 14-04 establishing a joint international inspection scheme for the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna fishery;

*FURTHER RECALLING* Resolution 94-09 on Compliance with the ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures, Recommendation 97-11 on Transshipments and Vessel Sightings, and Recommendation 98-11 Concerning the Ban on Landings and Transshipments of Vessels from Non-Contracting Parties Identifies *sic* as Having Committed a Serious Infringement;

*RECALLING ALSO* the General Outline of Integrated Monitoring Measures adopted at the 13th Special Meeting of the Commission (Doc. 02-31);

*DESIRING* to collaborate in the adoption of a system of joint international enforcement as provided in paragraph 3 of Article IX of the ICCAT Convention;

*INTENDING* to strengthen ICCAT's monitoring, control, and surveillance regime to promote compliance with the ICCAT Convention and the Recommendations of the Commission;

*RECOGNIZING* the value of establishing a Model Scheme of Joint International Inspection that reflects current international standards and is available for activation in fisheries under the jurisdiction of ICCAT; and

*NOTING* that this Model Scheme is intended to replace Recommendation 75-02, which no longer reflects current international standards for joint international inspections.

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

Where a Scheme of Joint International Inspection is adopted in a fishery managed under the ICCAT Convention, such Scheme should be established based upon the following provisions, recognizing that additional elements may be needed to adapt the model scheme to a specific fishery:

**Section I: Definitions**

For the purpose of the Scheme of Joint International Inspection:

1. "Fishing" means the catching, taking, or harvesting of fishery resources under the competence of ICCAT; the attempted catching, taking, or harvesting of such resources; or any other activity which can reasonably be expected to result in the catching, taking, or harvesting of such resources;
2. "Fishing activities" means fishing and any other activity in preparation for, in support of, or related to fishing, including storage, processing, transporting, transferring fish to or from cages, and transshipment of fish or fish products;
3. "Fishing vessel" means any powered vessel used for, intended to be used for, or equipped for use for fishing activities including catching vessels, support vessels, fish processing vessels, towing vessels, transport vessels and any other vessel directly engaged in fishing activities;
4. "Inspection vessel" means any vessel authorized by a Contracting Party and assigned to the ICCAT register of inspection vessels under the Joint International Inspection Scheme;
5. "Inspector" means an official authorized by a Contracting Party and assigned to conduct boarding and inspections in the ICCAT Convention area under the Joint International Inspection Scheme;

6. “Scheme” means the Joint International Inspection Scheme established by this Recommendation.

**Section II: Purpose and area of application**

- 7. Boarding and inspection conducted pursuant to this Scheme is intended to monitor compliance with the ICCAT Convention and related Recommendations in force.
- 8. This Scheme applies in the ICCAT Convention area beyond areas under national jurisdiction.

**Section III: General provisions**

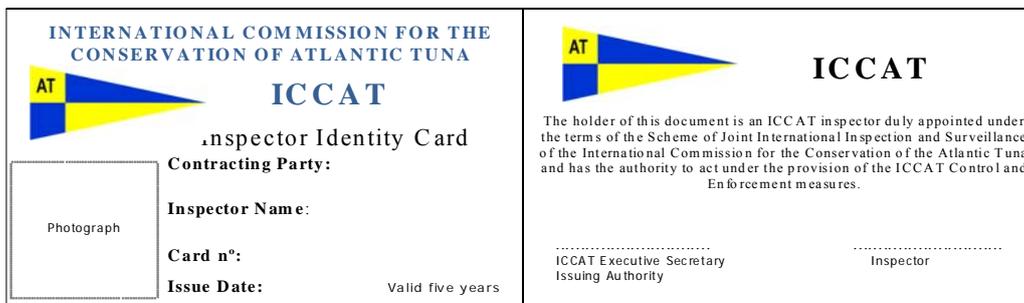
*Duties of the Contracting Parties*

- 9. Each Contracting Party shall take such measures as may be necessary to ensure that fishing vessels entitled to fly its flag, their Masters, its inspection vessels, and inspectors it has assigned to the Scheme, fulfil their respective duties and requirements under the Scheme.
- 10. Within 30 days of entry into force of this Scheme, each Contracting Party shall advise the Executive Secretary of a point of contact for the purposes of receiving notifications, inspection reports and immediate notification of infringements pursuant to this Scheme. It shall notify any changes to this information to the Executive Secretary as soon as possible, but no more than 14 days after the effective date of the change.
- 11. Boarding and inspections shall be carried out by inspectors and inspection vessels assigned to the Scheme by a Contracting Party.

*Notification requirements*

- 12. A Contracting Party that intends to conduct boarding and inspection under the Scheme, including by deploying inspectors on board the inspection vessel of another Contracting Party pursuant to an agreement under paragraph 13, shall:
  - a) so notify the Executive Secretary, no later than 30 days in advance of the inspection vessel or inspector’s deployment, providing the following particulars:
    - (i) its national authority responsible for at-sea inspection, as well as the name and contact details (including telephone and fax numbers and e-mail address) for a point of contact within that authority;
    - (ii) the names of the individual inspectors designated by the national authority referred to in subparagraph (i) above, where required by a Recommendation;
    - (iii) an example of the credentials issued to inspectors by the national authority referred to in subparagraph (i) above, except where a Recommendation requires the following ICCAT-approved credential:

*Dimensions: Width 10.4cm, Height 7cm*



and

- (iv) for each inspection vessel designated by a national authority referred to in subparagraph (i) above, its name, description, image, registration number, port of registry and, if different from the port of registry, the name of the port as marked on the hull, international radio call sign and particulars of any other communication capabilities.
- b) notify the Executive Secretary of any changes to the information it has provided pursuant to subparagraph (a) above as soon as possible and, in all cases, before a new inspection vessel, inspector or national authority participates in the Scheme;
- c) ensure that each inspection vessel it authorizes to participate in the Scheme is clearly marked and identifiable as being on government service, and displays the ICCAT inspection flag or pennant depicted in *Addendum 1 to Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.2*;
- d) ensure that the inspectors and crew of any inspection vessel authorized and assigned to participate in the Scheme are competent to conduct inspection at-sea consistent with generally accepted international standards and are conversant with and have access to the ICCAT Recommendations in force; and
- e) ensure that any inspector it authorizes to participate in the Scheme remains under its operational control, is fully familiar with the fishing activities being inspected and has been issued the credentials notified pursuant to this paragraph.

#### ***Exchange of Inspectors***

13. Contracting Parties are encouraged to enter into standing or *ad hoc* arrangements to allow for an inspector, authorized by a Contracting Party, to be deployed on inspection vessels of another Contracting Party to facilitate communication and coordination for the purpose of implementing the Scheme.
- a) Such arrangements should establish a process for the timely identification of the authorized inspection vessels involved and include provisions for the cooperative deployment of personnel and the use of vessels, aircraft or other equipment for fisheries surveillance and law enforcement purposes.
  - b) In addition to the notification requirements of paragraph 12, the Contracting Parties involved shall notify the Executive Secretary of any arrangement reached under this paragraph.
  - c) Contracting Parties deploying inspection vessels should, subject to having an agreement as outlined in this paragraph, embark authorized inspectors from another Contracting Party if available. Foreign inspectors may participate in all inspections conducted by the inspection vessel under this Scheme as agreed upon by the two Contracting Parties prior to deployment.

#### ***Duties of the Executive Secretary***

14. The Executive Secretary shall,
- a) establish, maintain and post to the secure part of the ICCAT website accessible to all Contracting Parties and Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities:
    - i) a register, including the information notified by the Contracting Parties under subparagraph 12.a; and
    - ii) information on the arrangements referred to in paragraph 13.
  - b) issue the ICCAT inspection flag or pennant depicted at *Addendum 1 to Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.2* to Contracting Parties deploying inspection vessels pursuant to the Scheme;
  - c) maintain and post to the secure part of the ICCAT website a standardized multi-language questionnaire developed by Contracting Parties for use in contacting fishing vessels and conducting boarding and inspection activities pursuant to the Scheme.

## **Section IV: Inspections**

### ***Transparency and equitable treatment***

15. Inspection shall be conducted in a transparent, non-discriminatory manner taking into account, *inter alia*, vessel fishing patterns and compliance records, the presence of observers, the frequency and results of prior inspections, and the full range of measures available to monitor compliance with ICCAT Recommendations.

### ***Priorities for inspections***

16. The inspecting Contracting Party should give priority to inspecting a fishing vessel:

- a) entitled to fly the flag of a Contracting Party that is eligible for inclusion in the ICCAT Record of Fishing Vessels, but is not included;
- b) where there are reasonable grounds to suspect the fishing vessel is, or has been, engaged in IUU fishing or in any activity in contravention of the ICCAT Convention or Recommendations;
- c) included in the list of vessels that have engaged in IUU fishing adopted by a regional or sub-regional fisheries management organization; or
- d) pursuant to a request by a Contracting Party or a regional or sub-regional fisheries management organization supported by evidence of IUU fishing by the vessel in question.

### ***Optimal use of inspection resources***

17. Contracting Parties shall direct their inspection vessels to seek to establish regular contact with other inspection vessels operating in the same area for the purpose of sharing information on sightings, inspections and other operational elements relevant to their activities under the Scheme.

### ***Non-Contracting Party Fishing Vessels and Vessels of Undetermined Flag***

18. Notwithstanding the notification requirements of *Recommendation by ICCAT on Transshipments and Vessel Sightings* [Rec. 97-11], an inspecting Contracting Party that sights a fishing vessel without nationality or of indeterminate flag, engaged in fishing activities in the Convention area, shall report the sighting to the Executive Secretary, who shall forward the reports to all Contracting Parties. Consistent with *Recommendation by ICCAT on Transshipments and Vessel Sightings* [Rec. 97-11], where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that such a fishing vessel is targeting ICCAT species and is stateless, the inspecting Contracting Party may take such action as may be appropriate in accordance with international law.
19. In accordance with paragraph 4 of *Recommendation by ICCAT on Transshipments and Vessel Sightings* [Rec. 97-11], an inspection vessel that sights a non-Contracting Party vessel that may be fishing contrary to ICCAT conservation and management measures shall immediately report such sighting to the authorities of the inspecting Contracting Party who shall notify the flag State of the fishing vessel and the Executive Secretary of such sighting. The Executive Secretary shall forward the reports to all Contracting Parties.
20. The inspection vessel shall, if possible, advise the Master of the sighted vessel that they are operating within the ICCAT Convention area and may be fishing contrary to conservation and management measures adopted by ICCAT. Where practicable, the inspecting Contracting Party shall request permission from the flag State of the fishing vessel to board and inspect the fishing vessel. A report of the encounter and of any ensuing inspection shall be transmitted to the flag State of the fishing vessel and to the Executive Secretary, who shall, in turn, forward the reports to all Contracting Parties.

### ***Duties of the Executive Secretary***

21. The Executive Secretary shall,
- a) upon receipt, immediately distribute to the Contracting Parties the reports received pursuant to paragraphs 18, 19, and 20; and

- b) compile, maintain, and post to the secure part of the ICCAT website a list of vessels reported pursuant to paragraph 18 and encounters and inspections reported pursuant to paragraph 20.

## **Section V: Boarding and inspection procedures**

### ***Conduct of inspections***

22. An inspection vessel that intends to undertake boarding and inspection of a fishing vessel entitled to fly the flag of a Contracting Party pursuant to the Scheme shall:
  - a) seek to establish contact with the fishing vessel by radio, using the appropriate International Code of Signals or other internationally accepted means of alerting the vessel;
  - b) identify itself as an inspection vessel by communicating its name, registration number, international radio call sign and frequency;
  - c) advise the vessel of its intention to board and inspect the vessel pursuant to the Scheme;
  - d) initiate notice through its authorities to the point of contact of the fishing vessel; and
  - e) display the ICCAT inspection flag or pennant depicted in Annex 1 in a clearly visible fashion.
23. The inspection vessel and the inspectors shall make best efforts to communicate with the Master of the fishing vessel in a language that the Master can understand using the standardized multi-language questionnaire referred to in paragraph 14.c.
24. The number of inspectors assigned to an inspection party by the inspecting Contracting 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 conduct an effective inspection safely and securely.
25. Boarding and inspection shall be conducted:
  - a) in accordance with generally accepted international standards, regulations, procedures and practices relating to the safety of the fishing vessel and its crew; and
  - b) to the extent possible, in a manner that avoids:
    - i) undue interference with the lawful activity of the fishing vessel;
    - ii) actions that would adversely affect the quality of the catch; and
    - iii) harassment of the fishing vessel, its officers or crew.
26. In conducting an inspection pursuant to this Scheme, the inspectors shall:
  - a) upon boarding, present their credentials to the Master;
  - b) avoid interfering with the Master's ability to communicate with the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel;
  - c) inspect and record such images of the fishing vessel's license, gear, equipment, facilities, fish and fish products on board, and logbooks, records and documents as may be necessary to verify compliance with, or establish any suspected infringements of, the ICCAT Convention or Recommendations;
  - d) collect, and clearly document in the inspection report, any evidence of an infringement of the ICCAT Convention or Recommendations;
  - e) record the inspection and any suspected infringement in the fishing vessel's logbook or, where the vessel's logbook is electronic, provide a written record of the inspection and any suspected infringement;
  - f) provide the Master with a copy of the inspection report;

- g) complete the inspection within four 4 hours unless evidence of a serious infringement is found, or where a longer time period is required to monitor ongoing fishing operations and obtain related documentation issued by the Master; and
  - h) except where they have reasonable grounds to believe that the fishing vessel has committed a serious infringement and other action is authorized pursuant to paragraph 41, promptly leave the vessel following completion of the inspection.
27. Where the inspectors have reasonable grounds to believe that the fishing vessel has committed an infringement of the ICCAT Convention or Recommendations, they shall seek to so advise, without delay, any inspection vessel of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel that may be present in the vicinity.

***Use of force***

28. The use of force shall be avoided except when and to the degree necessary to ensure the safety of the inspectors and where the inspectors are obstructed in the execution of their duties. The degree of force used shall not exceed that reasonably required in the circumstances.
29. The inspectors shall promptly report any incident involving the use of force to their national authorities responsible for at-sea inspection, who shall advise the contact point of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel, and to the Executive Secretary.

***Duties of the Master of the fishing vessel***

30. Each Contracting Party shall require that the Master of every fishing vessel entitled to fly its flag:
- a) when signaled to do so by an inspection vessel displaying the ICCAT flag or pennant, using the International Code of Signals, accepts and, to the extent compatible with good seamanship, facilitates boarding by the inspectors, unless the vessel is directly engaged in fishing activities, in which case the Master shall manoeuvre to safely facilitate boarding as soon as possible;
  - b) provides a standardized boarding ladder that meets the requirements of IMO Resolution A.889(21) and ensures safety measures are in place to prevent and respond as required to an accident during boarding;
  - c) cooperates with and assists in the inspection;
  - d) facilitates the inspection of such equipment, catch, gear and documents as the inspectors may consider necessary to verify compliance with the ICCAT Convention or Recommendations;
  - e) ensures that the crew avoids interfering with, or obstructing the inspectors in the performance of their duties;
  - f) makes available the use of the vessel's communication equipment and operator, to the extent required by the inspectors;
  - g) facilitates communication by the inspectors with the crew and the flag Contracting Party of the inspection vessel;
  - h) provides the inspectors with reasonable facilities, including, where appropriate, food and accommodation;
  - i) takes such action as may be necessary to preserve the integrity of any seal affixed by an inspector and of any evidence remaining on board;
  - j) where the inspectors have made an entry in the logbooks, provides the inspectors with a copy of each page where such entry appears and, at the request of the inspector, signs each page to confirm that it is a true copy;
  - k) refrains from resuming fishing activity until the inspectors have completed the inspection and, in the case of a serious infringement, secured the evidence; and

- l) facilitates the safe disembarkation of the inspectors.

### ***Refusal of boarding and inspection***

- 31. Where the Master of a fishing vessel refuses to allow boarding and inspection pursuant to this Scheme, the inspecting Contracting Party shall immediately so advise the point of contact of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel and the Executive Secretary.
- 32. Upon receiving notification under paragraph 31, the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel shall:
  - a) except where generally accepted international regulations, procedures or practices relating to safety at sea make it necessary to delay the inspection, direct the Master to accept the inspection forthwith; and
  - b) where the Master does not comply with such direction:
    - i) order the Master to justify the refusal;
    - ii) where appropriate, take action in accordance with subparagraphs 40.a. and b; and
    - iii) promptly notify the Executive Secretary and the inspecting Contracting Party of the action it has taken.

## **Section VI: Inspection report and follow-up**

### ***Inspection reports***

- 33. Each Contracting Party shall require that its inspectors:
  - a) upon completion of an inspection, complete an inspection report in the form set out in *Addendum 2 to Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.2*;
  - b) sign the inspection report in the presence of the Master, who shall be given the opportunity to add or have added to the report any observations;
  - c) request the Master to sign the report only as an acknowledgement of receipt; and
  - d) before disembarking, provide a copy of the report to the Master, duly noting any refusal by the Master to acknowledge receipt.

### ***Transmission and dissemination of inspection reports***

- 34. Upon completion of the inspection, the inspecting Contracting Party shall transmit the inspection report, if possible within 30 days, to the point of contact of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel and to the Executive Secretary.
- 35. Notwithstanding paragraph 34, where inspectors have noted an infringement in the inspection report, the inspecting Contracting Party shall transmit, within 10 days, a copy of the inspection report and all supporting documents, images or audio recordings, to the point of contact of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel and to the Executive Secretary.

### ***Duties of the Executive Secretary***

- 36. The Executive Secretary shall, without delay, post the inspection report to the secure part of the ICCAT website.

## **Section VII: Procedures relating to serious infringements**

### ***Serious infringements***

- 37. Each of the following constitutes a serious infringement:

- a) fishing without a valid license, permit or authorization;
- b) significant failure to maintain accurate records of catch or catch-related data in contravention of the ICCAT Convention or Recommendations, or significant misreporting of catch 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 ICCAT Recommendations;
- f) significantly exceeding applicable catch limits or quotas;
- g) using prohibited fishing gear;
- h) falsifying or intentionally concealing the markings, identity or registration of a fishing vessel or its gear, or failing to mark fishing gear;
- i) concealing, tampering with or disposing of evidence related to an inspection or investigation of an infringement, including the breaking or tampering of marks or seals, or accessing sealed areas;
- j) committing multiple infringements which, taken together, constitute a serious disregard of the ICCAT Convention or Recommendations;
- k) assaulting, resisting, intimidating, harassing, interfering with, obstructing or unduly delaying inspectors or observers in the performance of their duties;
- l) tampering with, disabling, or interfering with the vessel monitoring system (VMS) of the fishing vessel where VMS is required by ICCAT Recommendations;
- m) operating a fishing vessel without VMS in contravention of ICCAT Recommendations;
- n) presenting falsified documents or providing false information to an inspector so as to prevent a serious infringement from being detected;
- o) fishing with the assistance of spotter planes in contravention of ICCAT Recommendations;
- p) failure to submit to an inspection;
- q) transshipping at sea in contravention of ICCAT Recommendations;
- r) operating a fishing vessel without an observer in contravention of ICCAT Recommendations; and
- s) such other violations identified as a serious infringement in future ICCAT Recommendations.

***Duties of the Inspectors***

38. Each Contracting Party shall require that, where its inspectors have noted a serious infringement in the inspection report, they:
- a) immediately notify their national authority responsible for at-sea inspection of all relevant particulars;
  - b) take all such measures as may be required to ensure the security and continuity of the evidence, including, as appropriate, marking or sealing the vessel's hold or gear for further investigation; and
  - c) where feasible, advise any inspection vessel of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel they know to be in the vicinity of the serious infringement and of the action they have taken.

***Duties of the inspecting Contracting Party***

39. Where notified by its inspectors of a serious infringement, the inspecting Contracting Party shall immediately transmit written notification of the serious infringement and a description of the supporting evidence to the point of contact of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel and to the Executive Secretary.

***Duties of the Flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel***

40. Upon receiving notification pursuant to paragraph 39, the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel shall:

- a) acknowledge receipt of the notification without delay;
- b) require that the fishing vessel concerned:
  - i) ceases all fishing activity until it is satisfied that the infringement will not continue or be repeated and has so notified the Master;
  - ii) where appropriate to the conduct of a full and thorough investigation, to proceed immediately to a port or other location it designates for investigation under its authority; and
  - iii) report to the Executive Secretary the measures it has taken pursuant to its laws in relation to the infringement.

41. The flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel may authorize the inspecting Contracting Party to take such enforcement action as it may specify with respect to the vessel. It may also authorize an inspector from another Contracting Party to board or remain on board the vessel as it proceeds to port and to participate in the port inspection.

***Failure of the flag Contracting Party to respond***

42. Where the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel fails to take action as required pursuant to paragraph 40, the inspectors shall immediately so advise their national authority responsible for at-sea inspection and record the failure in the inspection report.

43. The inspecting Contracting Party shall notify the Executive Secretary of the flag Contracting Party's failure to respond.

44. The flag Contracting Party shall, without delay, provide to the Executive Secretary a written explanation of its failure to respond.

***Duties of the Executive Secretary***

45. The Executive Secretary shall,

- a) upon receipt, post any notifications received pursuant to paragraphs 39 or 42, and any explanation received pursuant to paragraph 44, to the secure part of the ICCAT website;
- b) transmit, upon receipt, the justification received pursuant to paragraph 44 to the inspecting Contracting Party; and
- c) maintain a record of actions reported by the flag Contracting Party pursuant to paragraph 40, post such record to the secure part of the ICCAT website, and refer the information to the Commission for its consideration.

## **Section VIII: Follow-up enforcement action**

### ***Cooperation***

46. Contracting Parties shall cooperate to facilitate judicial or other proceedings initiated as follow-up to a report submitted by an inspector pursuant to the Scheme.

### ***National treatment***

47. Each Contracting Party shall:

- a) without prejudice to their national legislation, treat interference by its fishing vessels, their Masters or crew with an inspector or an inspection vessel of another Contracting Party in the same manner as interference with its own inspectors within areas under its national jurisdiction; and
- b) accord treatment to reports of inspections conducted by inspectors of another Contracting Party consistent with that accorded to reports of their own inspectors.

### ***Duties of the flag Contracting Party of the fishing vessel***

48. A Contracting Party that has been notified of an infringement committed by a fishing vessel entitled to fly its flag shall:

- a) investigate immediately and fully, including as appropriate, by physically inspecting the fishing vessel at the earliest opportunity or, authorize the inspecting Contracting Party to take enforcement action as appropriate under the circumstances;
- b) cooperate with the inspecting Contracting Party to preserve the evidence in a form that will facilitate proceedings in accordance with its laws;
- c) if the evidence so warrants, take judicial or administrative action, as appropriate; and
- d) ensure that any sanctions applied are adequate in severity to be effective in securing compliance, deterring further infringements and, to the extent possible, depriving the offenders of the benefits accruing from the infringement, including, *inter alia*:
  - i) fines;
  - ii) seizure of the fishing vessel, illegal fishing gear and/or catches;
  - iii) suspension or withdrawal of authorization to fish; and
  - iv) reduction or cancellation of any fishing allocations.
- e) notify the Executive Secretary of the measures taken pursuant to this paragraph as soon as possible.

## **Section IX: Annual compliance report**

### ***Reports by the Contracting Parties***

49. Each Contracting Party shall for the period ending on September 30 of that year, include in its annual report to the Commission, a summary of:

- a) the boarding and inspection activities it has conducted pursuant to the Scheme;
- b) the action it has taken in response to reported infringements by its fishing vessels, including any enforcement procedures and the sanctions it may have applied; and
- c) an explanation regarding every reported infringement concerning which it has taken no action.

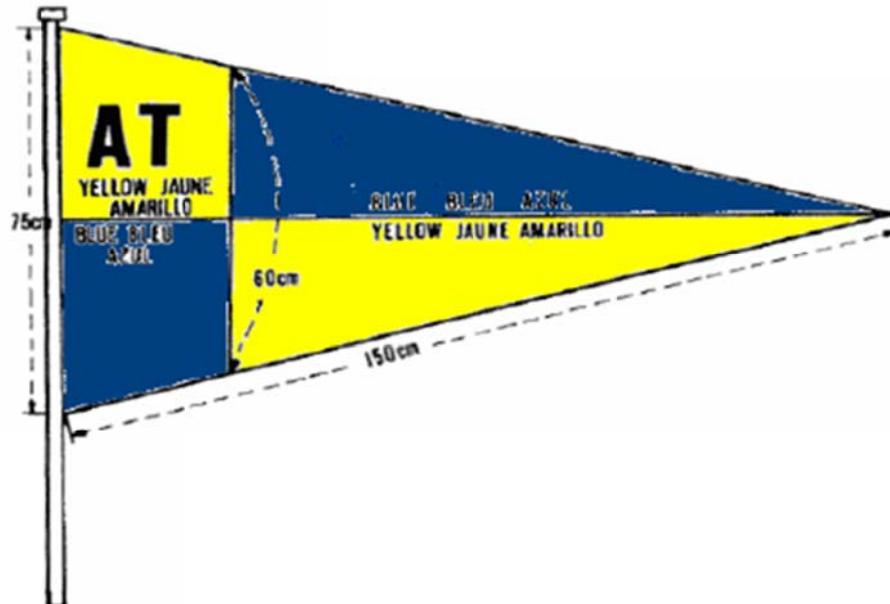
***Report of the Executive Secretary***

50. The Executive Secretary shall submit to the ICCAT Commission before each annual meeting a report setting out a description of:
- a) the boarding and inspection activities and follow-up actions taken, as reported by each Contracting Party, for the period ending September 30;
  - b) the instances where boarding and inspection was refused by a fishing vessel of a Contracting Party, and any follow-up action taken by that Contracting Party in respect of such fishing vessel; and
  - c) the cases where force was used including the reported circumstances thereof.

***Addendum 1 to Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.2***

**ICCAT Inspection Flag or Pennant**

**ICCAT Pennant**



**Inspection Report  
ICCAT Boarding and Inspection Report Form**

1. Inspection report No.		2. Inspection Vessel			
3. Inspecting authority					
4. Name of principal inspector		ID			
5. Location of inspection (as determined by inspecting vessel)	Lat.	Long.			
6. Location of inspection (as determined by fishing vessel)	Lat.	Long.			
7. Commencement of inspection	YYYY	MM	DD	HH	
8. Completion of inspection	YYYY	MM	DD	HH	
9. Last port and date of last port call			YYYY	MM	DD
10. Vessel name					
11. Flag State					
12. Type of vessel					
13. International Radio Call Sign					
14. Certificate of registry ID					
15. IMO ship ID, if available					
16. External ID, if available					
17. Port of registry					
18. Vessel owner(s) and address					
19. Vessel beneficial owner(s), (if known and different from vessel owner) and address					
20. Vessel operator(s), if different from vessel owner					
21. Vessel master name and nationality					
22. Fishing master name and nationality					
23. Vessel agent					
24. VMS	Type:				

25. Status in ICCAT and other RFMOs, including any IUU vessel listing					
Vessel identifier	RFMO	Flag State status	Vessel on authorized vessel list	Vessel on IUU vessel list	
26. Relevant fishing authorization(s)					
<i>Identifier</i>	<i>Issued by</i>	<i>Validity</i>	<i>Fishing area(s)</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Gear</i>
27. Catch retained onboard (quantity)					
<i>Species</i>	<i>Product form</i>	<i>Catch area(s)</i>	<i>Quantity declared</i>	<i>Quantity retained (based on inspection)</i>	
28. Examination of logbook(s) and other documentation			<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments</i>
29. Compliance with applicable catch documentation scheme(s)			<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments</i>
30. Compliance with applicable statistical document scheme(s)			<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments</i>
31. Type of gear used					
32. Gear examined	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Comments</i>		
33. Findings by inspector(s)					

34. Apparent infringement(s) noted including reference to relevant legal instrument(s)
35. Comments by the Master
36. Action taken
37. Master's signature*
38. Inspector's signature

\* The Master's signature serves only as acknowledgment of receipt of a copy of the inspection report.

**Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.2****Meeting of the Technical eBCD Working Group (eBCD-TWG)  
(EFCA, Vigo, Spain 21-22 January 2015)***Summary Report***Introduction**

This report serves as a summary of the above mentioned meeting and general report to the Commission on the overall status of eBCD system development and associated tasks and activities.

As in previous meetings, the majority of technical/policy items are presented in past reports, although a summary of new issues discussed in this meeting is included where appropriate.

This report is composed of a summary report and three annexes, as detailed:

- Summary report [this document];
- State of play of technical/policy issues, description and agreement (where applicable) (*Addendum A to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.2*);
- Draft recommendation (this draft recommendation was revised during the Tenth IMM meeting is not attached to the eBCD-TWG and the final version is attached as **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2**).
- Initial list of possible system reports (*Addendum B to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.2*).

The meeting was attended by representatives of Algeria, Canada, EU, Japan, Morocco, Tunisia, United States, the ICCAT Secretariat and TRAGSA.

**Overall system development**

As reported by the eBCD-TWG to the Commission in their 2014 Annual session, the system is operational; nonetheless, there are a number of issues, including the development and testing of certain core functionalities, still being addressed on different levels, by different actors including TRAGSA, and at different stages of implementation. As such the system's ability for it to be fully implemented depends on the CPC/user/fishing sector and the associated functionality required.

The recent contract extension with TRAGSA agreed by the Commission and signed in December 2014 has ensured the continuation of development, support and system infrastructure services. In general, outstanding development not pending a decision of the Commission is well on the way to being completed by TRAGSA although some further discussion/precision is required. Technical issues requiring additional clarification from the Technical Working Group will be addressed either through this report or forthcoming meetings of the Technical Working Group (tentatively scheduled a few weeks after the February Integrated Monitoring Measures Working Group meeting).

As previously noted, some system development also requires direct inputs from CPCs or indeed the Commission itself. In general, those related to the Commission are referred to as policy issues and considered by the Technical Working Group to be issues which imply a variable interpretation, clarification, and/or amendment to existing ICCAT measures. Some issues are relatively minor and administrative while others relate to more substantive management and conservation issues.

The Group noted that the majority of the policy issues referred to the Commission from their January 2014 meeting still require a decision of the Commission. Without guidance from the Commission the eBCD Technical Working Group is unable to discuss and translate these into technical specifications for TRAGSA. Hence, in order to move forward and avoid development and implementation delays, the Technical Working Group stressed the importance of the next steps and where possible to make progress on these issues intersessionally including at the Integrated Monitoring Measures Working Group meeting. Nonetheless, the Technical Working Group made some constructive progress on all points during the meeting and provided options where possible (*Addendum A to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.2*). In addition and in order to consolidate these issues and assist the discussions in the forthcoming Integrated Monitoring Measures Working Group a draft proposal from the Chair is annexed (later adopted and contained in **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2**).

## **State of play on technical/policy issues**

With the support of TRAGSA, the Technical Working Group performed a detailed examination of all pending issues reported by the TWG in previous meetings, with a view to updating the current status of each and, if not completed, establishing a framework and specifications for resolving it.

Priority was given to the core issue of 'E-BFT by-catch/W-BFT Trader' – a development item previously classified as urgent by the Technical Working Group in their September 2014 meeting.

This full list, together with the background, discussions and agreement (where applicable) is appended in **Addendum A to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.2**. In order to make the list as clear as possible it has not been separated into technical and policy issues like was done in previous reports, but rather kept in the order they were treated (points 1-36 from Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.4 of the Report for the Biennial Period, 2014-2015, Part I (2014)). New issues, such as those coming from the recent international test and/or raised by CPCs in the January 2015 Technical Working Group meeting are included at the end of the list (after point 36 in **Addendum A to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.2**). The state of play, including who is responsible for the next step and follow-up action (i.e. CPCs, TRAGSA, IMM/COM etc.), is included in the last column together with an indication from TRAGSA on whether they consider any of the actions listed to require new development work or not.

As mentioned, in an effort to facilitate the discussions/decisions of IMM and the Commission and package the issues more efficiently, policy issues marked 'Pending IMM/COM' have been included in a draft recommendation. The final version is attached as **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2**.

With reference to point 16 of **Addendum A to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.2**, CPCs were encouraged to include/exclude their requested data reports in **Addendum B to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.2** for onward transmission to the Technical Working Group and TRAGSA for discussion.

In addition, the Technical Working Group discussed the ability of the eBCD system to track quota consumption, and it was recognized that, to do this as accurately as possible, annual/seasonal quota limits for each CPC/vessels need to be entered into the system. It was noted that there can be adjustments to the quota limits established in ICCAT's allocation keys for some Parties and for various reasons (e.g., requirements to pay back over harvests; the possibility, in some instances, to carry over underharvests; the ability to transfer quota between Parties). In light of this, the Technical Working Group underscored the importance of having the latest information in the eBCD system. The Secretariat confirmed that the process of incorporating quota information was straightforward and could be undertaken at any time. The Technical Working Group noted that this matter could be considered further by the IMM Working Group.

## **Financial and contractual issues**

### ***State of play of contract extension with TRAGSA***

Following the approval of the extension by the Commission to retain TRAGSA and ensure the continuation of system development in accordance with Rec. 13-07, the Secretariat informed the Technical Working Group that due to a lack of response and timeline from FAO/GEF on the date of a possible agreement, the Secretariat decided to go ahead with the contract extension in mid-December 2014 in order to ensure the continuity of the system infrastructure, hosting and user support.

The Technical Working Group were reminded of the procedure in the contract extension that applies to all new development work, summarised as follows:

- Technical specifications approved by the Working Group are sent to the Secretariat.
- The Secretariat requests from the Consortium a time/cost.
- TRAGSA evaluates the cost of analysis and development (hours/profile) and sends to the Secretariat.
- The Executive Secretary, following the final approval of the Technical Working Group, approves the expenditure and requests the Consortium to implement.

### ***State of play of GEF/FAO support***

The Technical Working Group recalled the decision taken in their September 2014 meeting that support from the GEF/FAO initiative would continue to be sought but not at the expense of a fully functional eBCD system. The Secretariat informed the Technical Working Group that consultations with FAO were ongoing concerning the development of an amended agreement in light of the contract extension with TRAGSA, funding requirements of GEF and contractual procedures of FAO.

### **Proposal for ‘International testing’**

In light of the positive outcome of the last international test carried out in October 2014, it was agreed to plan another test. This shall be discussed and planned at the next meeting of the Technical Working Group for implementation in the 2nd quarter of 2015.

### **Training**

It was agreed that a training schedule for 2015 in accordance with the provisions included in the contract extension would be discussed in the next meeting of the Technical Working Group.

### **AOB – Next meeting**

It was agreed that another meeting(s) of the Working Group after the IMM meeting would be necessary in order to:

- transform decisions of the Commission into technical specifications under the ‘flexible component’ of the project extension with TRAGSA;
- plan another international test;
- organise the training programme, and,
- report on the overall implementation of the programme.

TRAGSA and the Secretariat were thanked for their active contribution and technical assistance.

*Addendum A to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.2*

<i>TWG Agenda</i>	<i>Id. IMM 004/i2014</i>	<i>ISSUE</i>	<i>DISCUSSION/CONCLUSIONS</i>	<i>STATUS</i>	<i>IMM or WG decisions imply new development?</i>
3	1	Interface with other domestic Electronic Reporting Systems	WG members will consult their national IT services and confirm if the Web Service already developed by TRAGSA meets their needs. It was agreed that members interested in using the Web service shall contact TRAGSA who will then liaise with their IT staff to define further needs. USA, EU, MAR, JPN and CAN already expressed their interest.	Pending TRAGSA/CPCs	Maybe
	2	Sport and recreational fisheries	Not discussed. Out of scope. Refer to <b>Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2</b> .	Out of scope but IMM/COM discussion needed	No; Out of scope
	3	Domestic trade	Following on from the September 2014 eBCD TWG meeting, the 2014 Commission Annual Session and IMM, the EU indicated that discussions on this issue were ongoing. Linked with item 3.10. Refer to <b>Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2</b> .	Pending IMM/COM	Maybe
	4	Tagging	As discussed in September 2014, a field to accommodate the 'range' of tag numbers for E-BFT was requested. Although developed, discussions by IMM/COM is needed to confirm if this is in accordance with tagging requirements for exemption from validation Rec. 11-20.	Closed but IMM/COM discussion needed	NO
	Further requirements may be needed following general discussions on ICCAT tagging programmes as referred to in the January and September 2014 eBCD TWG meetings. Refer to <b>Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2</b> . (Note: CPCs with commercial tagging programs agreed to provide relevant information on those programs to facilitate discussion of this issue at the 2015 IMM WG meeting.)		Pending IMM/COM	Maybe	

	5	Treatment of dead fish [in purse seine fisheries]	<p>As discussed in the 2014 eBCD TWG meetings, E-BFT which have died in the set operation and/or transfer operations need to be entered into the system in accordance with the provisions of Rec. 11-20. TRAGSA proposed three alternatives to accommodate this in the system although the first was discounted due to the requirement under Rec. 11-20 of 'one BCD per catch per flag'. It was therefore decided that, of the two remaining options, each CPC will choose their preferred option and train users accordingly, these being: * If the dead BFT is sold by the PS (retained on board until landing), then a trade is created directly from catch and these individuals need not be declared as dead tuna in the first transfer.* If the BFT is taken onboard auxiliary/support vessels and the dead BFT is included in the First Transfer section, all BFT caught must be live traded. The representative of the farm however may then trade BFT directly from the transfer section. Refer to <b>Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2.</b></p>	Pending IMM/COM	NO
	6	Joint Fisheries Operations	<p>This issue relates to the percentages used for the allocation key in JFOs, especially when the number of vessels is an odd number. It was decided that the CPCs will include in the key as many decimal places as necessary to achieve 100%. For BCDs already generated from previous operations for which there is a discrepancy in the totals (e.g. Croatia in 2014) it was agreed that TRAGSA will follow-up directly with the CPCs concerned and correct the errors. It was recalled that the JFO authorisation procedure is contained in the eastern plan (Annex 5 of Rec. 13-07/14-04) hence a confirmation of this approach and/or amendment to this provision may be required. The previous request of the Group to also allocate number of pieces (only weight is now allocated by the system) was not discussed although it is recalled that this would require an amendment to Rec. 11-20. Refer to <b>Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2.</b></p>	Pending TRAGSA/IMM/COM	*

			<p>With reference to W-BFT, the following improvements were requested/agreed:- Add a pop-up when the Catch is recorded and no tags are included. - To show in blue letters the text "Add tags" in the Catch section of WBFT, to indicate an interactive link- Modify the RS0030 requirement (Importer role functions WBFT) indicating that the role also can import BCDs of eastern catches.</p>	Pending development	*
	7	By-catch	<p>With reference to E-BFT, the following improvements were requested/agreed with reference to the 'Non-listed vessels Registry':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Remove the individual quota field</li> <li>- Remove the functionality of monitoring by-catch quota of CPCs</li> <li>- Include a statement indicating that fields in italics are mandatory</li> <li>- Correct the error detected by DZA when editing the vessel's start date created by default by the system.</li> </ul>	Pending development	*
			<p>Regarding the listing of vessels which catch BFT as by-catch as 'BFT-Other' vessels by MAR. Without prejudice to the decisions of IMM/COM and in order to facilitate system implementation by MAR, it was agreed that such vessels would not be authorised as 'BFT-Other' vessels in the future. In the meantime however the system shall facilitate catch entries by these vessels through a free text box and the generation of eBCDs. TRAGSA were requested to remove the current system block, however they did note that this was an important change in the requirements for the 'bycatch functionality' hence there will be a delay in this functionality (originally scheduled for January 26, 2015). Refer to <b>Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2.</b></p>	Pending development, IMM/COM	*
	8	Carry-over in farms	<p>It was decided that all BCDs generated on paper before full implementation of the EBCD system shall continue to be completed on paper. If however the catch is recorded in the eBCD system, all following steps must be completed in eBCD.</p>	Closed	NO

9	Inclusion of Pacific BFT and access by non-member CPCs	Although TRAGSA was made aware of some fields that may need to be incorporated into the eBCD system (as detailed in Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.4 of the Report for the Biennial Period, 2014-2015, Part I (2014), it was noted that a decision was needed from the Commission. TRAGSA were asked for the potential system implications. Although further analysis would be needed they informed the group that a new 'Stock' would be needed and also the creation of new users / entities. TRAGSA stated the development could likely be a significant undertaking. This issue was discussed in September 2014 and is linked to the final decision on access by non-members and ICCAT Cooperating non-members (link with item 16). The TWG agreed that eventually the Pacific module should be developed but that this was not the highest priority with regard to ongoing system development. Refer to <b>Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2</b> .	Pending IMM/COM	YES
10	Trade of <3/1 ton fish	The Group informed TRAGSA of the possible changes in light of Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.4 of the Report for the Biennial Period, 2014-2015, Part I (2014) and the potential use of paper for some catches for up to 7 days. There were discussions on the codes currently used to differentiate paper BCDs from eBCDs. It was recalled that currently only the ICCAT Secretariat is able to convert paper codes to eBCDs (at a later date). Hence, in addition to final specifications following a decision of IMM/COM, the creation of permissions to other users may be needed (e.g. CPC Administrators). Refer to <b>Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2</b> .	Pending IMM/COM	Maybe
11	Grouping, splitting and numbering	Not discussed.	Closed	Closed
12	Document annexing	Not discussed.	Closed	Closed
13	JFO 'multi-flag/trade' functionality	Not discussed.	Closed	Closed
14	Multi-live trade	Not discussed.	Closed	Closed
15	System capacity	TRAGSA informed the Group that they are working on improving server efficiency and the application itself and the results will be visible gradually.	Pending TRAGSA	*

16	Data extraction tool and general security/confidentiality requirements	<p>It was noted in the September 2014 meeting that such 'reports' have been developed but currently only following requests from the ICCAT Secretariat. It was therefore agreed that as the US had already created a draft list of their requested reports these would be distributed to the group in order that other CPCs may add their own requirements/requests (see <b>Addendum B to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.2</b>).</p>	Pending Request under flexibility allotment	YES
		<p>It was agreed that CPC Administrators shall be able to view the information of CPC Validators authorized in other CPCs (Validators Report).</p>	Pending development	*
		<p>Given the need to ensure security and confidentiality of some data, which is also related to the question of overall access by non-members and ICCAT Cooperating non-members, there was no decision on what kind or even whether CPCs should be able to generate reports relating to other CPCs (e.g. quota consumption). Currently the system does permit quota consumption reports to be generated. Link with point 9. Refer to <b>Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2</b>.</p>	Pending IMM/COM	Maybe
17	Importer/Buyer field in Trade Section	<p>It was agreed that the Trade section shall be validated prior to export, however not necessarily with the buyer information completed. There shall be no time limit in the system for the buyer information to be entered. The buyer information must however be entered before the fish covered by the BCD concerned can be re-exported. For this reason TRAGSA proposed the addition of a system alert when attempting to re-export a BCD for which the buyer information is empty. Refer to <b>Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2</b>.</p>	Pending development/ IMM/COM	*
18	User functionality	<p>It was noted that further work was needed to improve user functionality including the removal of unnecessary fields, poor Spanish to English translation in several areas, allowing CPC Admin to correct minor errors on behalf of user registrations, more user friendly searches within databases for vessels, dealers, etc. In general, members were encouraged to check the lists (ports, gears, species, areas) and notify these to the TWG so TRAGSA could be instructed to make the improvements/deletions.</p>	Pending TRAGSA/ CPCs	NO

	19	Requirement for additional/corrections to 'alert' functions	The alert when the 5% limit of minimum size (8 to 30 kg) is exceeded is only related to E-BFT, hence this shall be removed for W-BFT (RF0113.7). With reference to E-BFT it was recalled that this alert is not possible as the weight of each BFT to calculate the 5% is not a requirement. Furthermore, for tagged BFT, weight is not currently a mandatory field (only the tag code).	Pending development	*
			It was agreed that the system shall send a communication to the CPC / Flag Admin when a vessel exceeds its individual quota (but not a system block).	Pending Request under flexibility allotment	YES
	20	Conversion factors and biological parameters	It was noted that functionality related to this item is developed and hence any new conversion factors can be included in the system as and when agreed by the Commission. However, there were some basic logic checks that were identified with regard to total weight and product form in the catch section vs. total weight and product form in the export/re-export section. (See also item 32.)	Pending COM	Maybe
	21	Editing functionality	<p>As discussed in September 2014 the TWG requested a number of functionalities related to editing in case of rejection, system logging of changes, who has access to that log and the possibility to choose a different validation entity. TRAGSA recalled that following a specific request it would be possible to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Enable the system so that the user responsible for a section can edit it should it be rejected at validation. Following the amendment, 'send to validation' would be possible. Users can also select other validating entities to the one previously chosen. The changes made by these users will be reflected in the existing "Audit Changes" functionality (change log).</li> <li>2. Enable the validator to audit changes so they can check the changes made by Admin or other users.</li> </ol>	Pending Request under flexibility allotment	YES

22	Regional Observer Programme	It was requested in September 2014 for the automatic sending of an email to the Regional Observer deployed on the farm when farming or harvesting is recorded. Not discussed - pending.	Pending WG	*
23	Farm user view of trade section	Closed.	Closed	*
24	Format of eBCD printed version	As discussed in the September 2014 meeting, the possibility of include the option to "print one side" was requested, but not as a priority, also to reduce the number of pages by not requiring each section to be printed on separate pages, finally the 'optional' facility for printing annexes.	Pending Request under flexibility allotment	YES
25	Translation of eBCD system (comments ENG version)	The following requests/changes were agreed but may not be comprehensive:- Replace "novelties" for "new developments"- Replace "organisms" for "organizations"- Rewrite the "Notice" area to make it more clear- Replace "catch responsible" for "catch representative" - Replace "Accidental Vessels" for "Non-Listed Vessels" - Replace "Trade Responsible" with "Trade Representative" - Remove language on the CPC User welcome page that references "Such as: overcoming the CPC fee or a specific ship, revocation of permits, etc."	Pending development	*
26	Registry of trade agents	Closed.	Closed	*
27	Role of CPC administrator	Closed.	Closed	*
28	Other general improvement issues	Closed.	Closed	*
29	Transshipments	Closed.	Closed	*
30	General issues associated with traders and registrations	Closed.	Closed	*

31	Re-export certificate	It was noted that when 'batches' are generated from more than one BCD (without using all the BFT from each BCD) the system cannot create alerts to indicate when the quantities in the BCDs have been exceeded. It was noted that the problem could be solved if 'kgs' of BFT re-exported from each Trade is indicated. Also when the BFT in one BCD is used in more than one 'batch', the re-exporter can keep re-exporting the fish from the same BCD (if each time he uses a new batch). There was however no agreement/solution on this point given the existing requirements of Rec. 11-20. Pending.	Pending WG	YES
		The WG requested that the system permits the re-export of only one BCD without the need for a 'batch'.	Pending Request under flexibility allotment	YES
		The WG requested a free text field when the type of product re-exported is 'Other'.	Pending development	*
32	Issues specific to the W-BFT fishery/WG members	The WG requested in the September 2014 meeting to limit the trade of more fresh products than those indicated in the previous section. Pending: see also item 20.	Pending Request under flexibility allotment	YES
		The WG requested in the September 2014 meeting to only include the 'plausible' transformations of declared products between different sections. This also applies to the transshipment section in the E-BFT. (i.e. 'gutted and gilled' cannot be followed by 'whole'). Not discussed - pending.	Pending WG	Maybe
33	Non-traded BFT	Closed.	Closed	Closed
34	Trade before validation	The CPC concerned indicated that these situations will not be repeated and hence no system development is needed.	Closed	Closed
35	Trade companies of other country	Item included in Appendix 4 of the report of IMM May 2014. Refer to <b>Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2.</b>	Pending IMM/COM	Maybe

	36	Parallel transfers from a live trade	<p>It was discussed in the September 2014 meeting that following a single transfer, the user should be able to include more than one tug and ITD. To accommodate this practice two additional fields were proposed (kilos and number of kilos transferred) for each towing cage. It was noted however that this would impact on the current provisions of Rec. 11-20. Also this would potentially impact the systems ability to calculate the amount of BFT that may be caged after catch / live trade and the options to record and trade the dead BFT (see item 5 above). It was agreed that this functionality is needed, although following decisions of the Commission further specifications/analysis may be needed before it is developed. Refer to <b>Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2.</b></p>	Pending IMM/COM	YES
3.1	Use of Production environment in 2015		<p>Following a specific request from TRAGSA the following CPCs expressed their interest in using the production environment in May 2015: EU, TUN and JPN. Some others indicated an interest to begin using the production system at some point in 2015. TRAGSA reminded members that to do so they must receive an updated version of excels with users and entities. Following an issue of some test BCDs being found in the production version, the WG requested TRAGSA to investigate such cases and report to the Secretariat/WG. Members were also urged to check with TRAGSA to report/remove such BCDs.</p>	Pending TRAGSA and CPCs	*
3.2	BFT dead in caging		<p>In the caging section of the current version it is possible to enter the number and weight of dead BFT, however this cannot be traded. TUN reported this in the production version for an imported JPN eBCD in which dead tuna in caging was recorded. JPN noted that they would accept BCDs in which not all the BFT caged is traded, however there would be a possible issue concerning the inconsistency of numbers/weights between catching, caging and trading. TRAGSA proposed three potential solutions for this issue:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Include the dead BFT on the last transfer and trade them from that section.</li> <li>2. Create a harvesting and a trade after the caging. (This raised an issue about the need for an ROP observer to be present as they are required at harvest from cages.)</li> <li>3. Modify the system to allow adding a Trade section of dead fish just after the caging section. Refer to <b>Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2.</b></li> </ol>	Pending IMM/COM	Maybe

3.3	Requirements of 'Port Authority'	The WG agreed that the role of 'port authority' shall have permits to create new non-listed vessels in the system. This profile however does not need to have permits to create trades and transshipments. It was noted, this was only relevant for the E-BFT stock.	Pending development	*
3.4	Ports Registry- Use of ports in transshipment section	TRAGSA explained that the lists of ports currently in the system is the same for both E-BFT and W-BFT as published on the ICCAT website, although in principle this list only affects E-BFT. It was discussed how likely transshipments would occur of W-BFT in ports not included in the list. It was decided that for transshipments of W-BFT, a free text field for the port name shall be included.	Pending Request under flexibility allotment	YES
3.5	Access to BCDs by CPC Administrators of towing vessel's flags	TRAGSA recalled an issue raised by MAR following the international testing. MAR noted that a CPC Administrator of the CPC of a tug boat can access BCDs of other CPCs when a tug boat of his CPC is selected in transfer section. TRAGSA explained that this was possible as Rec. 11-20 states that the master of the transport vessel must have access to transfer section to add the dead fish during transfer. It was decided that access permits to towing vessels CPC Administrators are removed.	Pending development	*
3.6	Modifications for new users/roles profiles by the CPC Administrator	Following requests from US and CAN it was agreed that the system shall allow CPC Administrators to modify the data of a user/role application to correct possible errors.	Pending Request under flexibility allotment	YES
3.7	Correct problems with Internet Explorer	JPN indicated that their users have found various problems when using the system with some versions of IE. TRAGSA requested further details in order to investigate/correct.	Pending development	*
3.8	Joint validation of Catch, Live trade and Caging when vessels and farms belong to the same CPC.	EU requested the possibility to delay the requirement to validate the CA and LT sections until after the Caging in cases where the flag of the vessel and the farm is the same. Further requirements and consideration are needed. Refer to <b>Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2</b> .	Pending IMM/COM	YES

3.9	Joint validation of Harvesting and Trade	EU requested that the system allow the harvesting and trade sections to be entered/sent at the same time; thus, following the ROP signature at harvesting, the system sends both sections to validation. Further requirements and consideration are needed. Refer to <b>Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2.</b>	Pending IMM/COM	YES
3.10	Trade between Member States of a CPC	Following a request from EU, the TWG discussed the system implications on a 'control' (rather than 'validation') for trades of dead fish (i.e., excluding live trades events to and from farms) between member states of the EU. Further consideration and requirements are needed. Linked with item 3. Refer to <b>Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2.</b>	Pending IMM/COM	YES
3.11	Grouping BCDs in Trade section	MAR requested the development of a functionality that allows the 'grouping' of BCDs for small-scale fishery catches from the trade section (when traded together). Further requirements and consideration are needed, although TRAGSA did state that the functionality may be similar to that currently used in caging (once the original BCDs are grouped, new sections can only be added to the new grouped BCD). Still, TRAGSA indicated that this could be a substantial development. Refer to <b>Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2.</b>	Pending IMM/COM	YES
3.12	BFTRCs exempted of validation	Following a request from US, the TWG discussed the removal of the obligation to validate BFTRCs when the bluefin tuna is tagged and is to be re-exported in the same form (product type and weight). Further requirements and consideration are needed. Refer to <b>Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2.</b>	Pending IMM/COM	YES
3.13	Multi-trade following export	TUN requested guidance on who/how will have responsibility of system access and validation when there are further trade(s) which take place outside the CPC territory.	Pending IMM/COM	Maybe

*Addendum B to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.2***eBCD System Data Queries Suggested by USA**

It is suggested that capabilities be developed in the eBCD system that will allow CPCs to run at least the following queries of the eBCD system. These queries would be run by CPCs for information purposes and viewed only by the CPC making the query (those CPC(s) involved in the trade(s)/events concerned). Distribution of query results beyond the CPC in question should not be allowed unless specifically authorized by the CPC conducting the query. Note that a query is not a report. CPCs, however, could develop the results of queries into reports as considered necessary and appropriate by that CPC.

1. Date Range / Specific Importer(s) / Total kgs
2. Date Range / Specific Importer(s) / by Country of Harvest / Total kgs
3. Date Range / Imports / by Country of Harvest / Total kgs
4. Date Range / Specific Exporter(s) / Total kgs
5. Date Range / Specific Exporter(s) / by Country of Destination / Total kgs
6. Date Range / Exports / by Country of Destination / Total kgs
7. Date Range / Exports / by vessel (of the CPC running the query) / Total kgs
8. Date Range / Re-exports / Total kgs
9. Date Range / Re-exports / Country of Destination / Total kgs
10. Carryover of farmed fish
11. BFT farming report
12. eBCD annual report
13. Summary of caging information

**Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to clarify and amend aspects of ICCAT's Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation program to facilitate the application of the eBCD system**

*(Submitted by Chair of eBCD Technical Working Group)*

*RECALLING Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 09-11 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program [Rec. 11-20];*

*ALSO RECALLING Recommendation by ICCAT on an Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (eBCD) Programme [Rec. 10-11] and Recommendation by ICCAT Supplementing the Recommendation for an Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (eBCD) System [Rec.13-17];*

*RECOGNIZING* the need to clarify the scope of application and certain limited provisions of Recommendation 11-20 to ensure appropriate development and implementation of the eBCD system;

*CONSIDERING* the discussions of the eBCD Technical Working Group, Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures, and Permanent Working Group on these matters; and

*DESIRING* to enhance the effectiveness of the bluefin tuna catch documentation program overall, including through electronic application;

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE  
CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS RECOMMENDS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Following the catch and first trade, 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 and such transactions need not be recorded in the eBCD system. However, the trade between EU Member States must be recorded by the buyer [with validation by importing EU Member States] in the eBCD system [within [30] [15] days of the trade and before any subsequent trade with other Member States or exports from the European Union]. The trade of farmed bluefin tuna including all trade events to and from bluefin farms must be recorded and validated in the eBCD system.
2. Bluefin tunas harvested in sport and recreational fisheries for which sale is prohibited need not be recorded in the eBCD system.
3. The provisions of paragraph 13 of Rec. 11-20 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 meet the following criteria:
  - a) All bluefin tuna in the eBCD/BCD concerned are individually tagged;
  - b) Minimum information relating to 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 weight of the individually tagged bluefin tuna, [which may be done through the appending of an Annex for those fisheries concerned by the derogations to minimum size under the Multi annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean]]*
    - *[Overall weight and number of tagged fish in each eBCD/BCD]*
    - *Information on the exporter and importer (where applicable)*
    - *The point of export (where applicable)*
  - c) Information on tagged fish is compiled by the responsible CPC.

4. [Government validation requirements set forth in paragraph 13 of Recommendation 11-20 may be waived when a tagged bluefin tuna imported by a CPC is re-exported by that CPC in the same form (i.e. both product type and weight) in which it was imported. Change in form will be detected by the eBCD system.]
5. Bluefin tuna which die in purse seine fisheries may be traded by the purse seine vessel, auxiliary/support vessel(s) and/or farm representatives where applicable, only when accompanied by a valid eBCD/BCD.
6. Consistent with existing provisions, vessels which are not authorised to fish actively for bluefin tuna may trade bluefin tuna when the consignment concerned is accompanied by a valid eBCD/BCDs. 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. CPCs concerned are not required to submit a list of such vessels to the ICCAT Secretariat.
7. Paper BCDs shall continue to be used for traded Pacific bluefin tuna until such time as the functionality for such tracking is developed within the eBCD system. Such functionality will include the following data elements:

*Addendum 1 to Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2*

**ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Document**

***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***

8. The trade section of an eBCD/BCD shall be validated prior to export. The buyer information in the trade section must be entered into the eBCD system as soon as available. The information may be entered post export but must be entered prior to re-export.
9. [The ability to group BCDs at the time of first export for catches [less than 1 ton and or by vessels less than 15m LOA] shall apply to catching vessels, including vessels which may catch bluefin tuna as by-catch].
10. Access to the eBCD system shall be granted to ICCAT non-CPCs when trading bluefin tuna with ICCAT CPCs. However, at least initially, this shall be accomplished through completion by the non-CPC of paper BCD program documents and submission to the ICCAT Secretariat for entry into the eBCD system.
11. Without prejudice to existing reporting procedures in ICCAT conservation and management measures, following a request of the eBCD Working Group new data forms and submission procedures shall be developed by the Secretariat in order to enhance the optimal functioning of the eBCD system.
12. Following the full implementation of the eBCD system in accordance with the provisions of Rec.[13-17], annual reporting requirement on the implementation of the BCD program specified in paragraph 34 of Recommendation 11-20 shall be replaced by reports generated 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 program in their Annual Reports.
13. Paper BCDs may be used in the following cases;
  - a) Landings of quantities of fish less than one metric ton or three fish by an artisanal vessel. Notwithstanding this derogation, 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 referred to in Recommendation 13-17].
  - c) Where access to the eBCD system is not possible due to system failure [as confirmed by the ICCAT Secretariat and duly notified to CPCs].

The use of a paper BCD in such cases shall not be used 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 11-20.

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.

14. The Technical Working Group shall be mandated to instruct the developing consortium on all required developments and system adjustments including the above mentioned provisions, without delay.

## Appendix 7 to ANNEX 4.2

### Meeting of the Technical eBCD Working Group (eBCD-TWG)

*(Madrid, 26 February 2015)*

#### *Summary Report*

#### Introduction

The eBCD-TWG met on the margins of the Meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) to discuss the Chair's proposal. The final version is attached as **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2**

Discussions (by paragraph):

1. In light of their internal provisions and treaty for free trade the EU explained the importance of avoiding barriers for bluefin tuna traded between EU Member States. They recalled that existing domestic trade provisions were requested by the EU and introduced into the BCD programme at a time of increased control requirements from the live trade/farming sector; control requirements which no longer exist following the introduction of a number of provisions directed to this sector in the eastern bluefin tuna plan in recent years, in particular the use of stereoscopic cameras at the time of caging.

It was agreed that such a regime would not apply to farmed fish and hence the reference to farmed products should be removed.

There was a general consensus on the objectives being sought and members agreed to further discuss as well as identify and specify exactly what information would be required to be entered into the system and under what time delays.

The need to retain 'validation' in the eBCD system was considered necessary by some members although there could be flexibility on whether this would be required prior or post trade. The additional control benefit of this however in light of other control provisions and existing verification procedures was questioned.

2. No discussion

3. It was explained that some eastern bluefin tuna fleet sectors in particular baitboats, fish under the minimum size derogation of Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the *Recommendation 13-07 by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 14-04] and hence the requirement to enter individual weights and presentation for each tagged bluefin tuna was not practical, especially for larger catches. It was recalled that this was not an existing requirement of *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 09-11 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Program* [Rec. 11-20].

The original specifications for domestic tagging programmes introduced alongside the bluefin tuna statistical document programme were recalled. The importance of such standards was noted to ensure validation was derogated only when all such requirements were fully respected. It was agreed to further reflect and discuss on the overall objectives of tagging programmes and, if necessary, adapt these standards to the specificities of some fleets.

It was confirmed that such a regime would not apply to farmed fish and hence this reference should be removed.

4. There were concerns raised on the control obligations and associated difficulties this would bring to re-exporting CPC authorities when confirming if there has been changes in the product form/weight prior to re-export.
5. General agreement.
6. No substantive discussions, although the need to correctly refer to ‘non-authorised vessels’ as ‘vessels not fishing actively’.
7. Given the lower property associated to the inclusion of Pacific bluefin tuna into the eBCD system as previously agreed, it was proposed to simply refer to the ongoing use of paper BCDs for trades of Pacific BFT until such time as the functionality would be developed to fully accommodate Pacific BFT into the eBCD system.
8. No substantive discussions, although there was a preference to group all the paragraphs and situations that permit the ongoing use of paper BCDs, namely paragraphs 8, 12 and 14.

It was recalled that currently only the ICCAT Secretariat is able to convert paper BCDs into eBCD hence further user CPCs authority profile(s) may be needed to also carry out this task to avoid administrative burdens for the Secretariat.

9. No substantive discussions, although additional time was needed for reflection in light of the current provisions of Rec. [11-20].
10. Considered more appropriate to move to the recitals.
11. As previously discussed this provided the possibility to ‘group’ multiple catches of relatively small quantities by artisanal fisheries at the time of export. It did not derogate the need for validation of the catch section and would be similar in functionality to the current provisions provided for farming in paragraph 6 of Rec. [11-20]. Given that such catches could be undertaken by vessels fishing ‘actively’ and ‘non-actively’, some minor drafting would be needed.
12. No substantive discussions - linked with point 8.
13. No discussion.
14. No substantive discussions - linked with point 8 and 12.
15. No discussion.
16. It was considered necessary to accommodate the initial list provided under *Addendum B to Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.2* and existing confidentiality considerations of CPCs concerned and ICCAT.

**Appendix 8 to ANNEX 4.2****Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Supplementing the Recommendation  
for an Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (BCD) System***(Proposed by Japan)*

*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) programme;

*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 programme to strengthen the implementation of the bluefin tuna catch documentation programme;

*FOLLOWING* the work of the eBCD Technical Working Group from 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] which stated that “The eBCD programme shall be fully implemented as soon as feasible and no later than 1 March 2015”.

*RECOGNIZING* that the 19th Special meeting had determined that the full implementation of the eBCD would not be possible to be achieved by the 1 March 2015 deadline, and that it had therefore been decided that paper versions of the BCD could continue to be accepted until such time that all functionalities of the electronic system has been completed;

*FURTHER RECOGNIZING* the technical complexity of the system and the need for ongoing development and resolution of outstanding technical issues;

*COMMITTED* to the successful implementation of the eBCD system and desiring to complete the transition to the system as expeditiously as possible while ensuring trade is not disrupted;

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

1. Prior to [1 March 2016] both eBCDs and paper BCDs issued pursuant to Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Recommendation 09-11 on an ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Catch Documentation Programme [Rec. 11-20] shall continue to be accepted. Validated paper BCDs submitted to the Secretariat in accordance with paragraph 19 of Recommendation 11-20 shall be entered into the eBCD system by the Secretariat.
2. All CPCs concerned shall, as soon as possible for full eBCD system implementation referenced in paragraph 1, 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 the necessary data as defined by the ICCAT Secretariat and endorsed by the eBCD Technical Working Group.
3. CPCs shall communicate to the Secretariat and the Working Group their experiences on technical aspects of system implementation and report those experiences at the [2016] Annual meeting.
4. The eBCD programme shall be fully implemented as soon as feasible and no later than [1 March 2016], unless the Commission determines otherwise based on demonstration of significant problems with the design or functionality of the system. Even before the date, each CPC is encouraged to use eBCD system voluntarily if the system is functional enough for the CPC.

5. The substantive provisions of Recommendation 11-20 will be applied *mutatis mutandis* to the electronic BCDs.
6. This recommendation repeals and replaces Recommendation 13-17.

#### **4.3 REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON FADs (Madrid, Spain, 11-12 May 2015)**

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

The Meeting was held at the ICCAT Secretariat in Madrid from 11 to 12 May 2015. The Executive Secretary of ICCAT, Mr. Driss Meski, opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. Mr. Meski highlighted the importance of the tropical tuna fishery on FADs and summarized the work conducted by ICCAT in managing this fishery in order to reduce its impact in juveniles of bigeye and yellowfin. The Executive Secretary, after reminding the terms of reference elaborated by the Commission for this Working Group, encouraged the Group to face the challenge of accomplishing with its work in the limited time planned for this first meeting.

Mr. Helguilé Shep (Côte d'Ivoire) and Dr David Die (United States), meeting co-Chairpersons, welcomed meeting participants ("the Group").

The List of Participants is included as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.3**. The List of Documents presented at the meeting is attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.3**.

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

The Agenda was reviewed and adopted with minor changes (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.3**).

##### **3. Nomination of the rapporteur**

The following participants served as rapporteurs:

<i>Section</i>	<i>Rapporteur</i>
Items 1-4 and 13-14	D. Die
Item 5	M. Neves dos Santos
Item 6	S. Cass-Calay
Item 7	P. de Bruyn
Item 8	H. Murua
Item 9	L. Dagorn
Item 10	P. Bannerman
Item 11	P. Daniel
Item 12	J. Konan and D. Die

##### **4. Terms of reference of Working Group**

The Secretariat reminded the Terms of Reference for this Group as defined in the Rec. [14-03], par. 1:

- a) Assess the use of FADs in tropical tuna fisheries in ICCAT, notably by estimating the past and current number of different types of buoys and FADs operating in ICCAT tropical tuna fisheries, and evaluate ways to improve the use of information related to FADs in the process of stock assessments, in particular to quantify the effort associated to this type of fishery;
- b) In view of the identification of data gaps, review the information provided by CPCs pursuant to the FAD related provisions in the relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures;
- c) Assess the relative contribution of FADs to the overall fishing mortality in ICCAT tropical tuna fisheries;
- d) Assessing the developments in FAD-related technology, notably with regard to:
  - Technological improvement steps in relation with fishing mortality.
  - FAD and buoys marking and identification as a tool for monitoring, tracking and control of FADs.

- Reducing FADs ecological impact through improved design, such as non-entangling FADs and biodegradable material.
- e) Identify management options, including the regulation of deployment limits and characteristics of FADs, and evaluate their effect on ICCAT managed species and on pelagic ecosystems, based on scientific advice and the precautionary approach. This should take into consideration all the fishing mortality components, the methods by which FAD fishing has increased a vessel's ability to catch fish, as well as socio-economic elements with the view to provide effective recommendations to the Commission for FAD management in tropical tuna fisheries.

## 5. Current stock status of tropical tunas and management arrangements in the ICCAT area

### 5.1 Current stock status

The Chairman of the SCRS, Dr David Die, reviewed the SCRS advice related to tropical tuna fisheries provided to the Commission in 2014 by the previous SCRS Chair. He recalled that the three main species caught in the East Atlantic, i.e. skipjack (SKJ), bigeye (BET) and yellowfin (YFT), represent 9% of world catches of tropical tunas with an average yearly volume of 380,000 t over the period 2008-2012.

These fisheries are multi-gear and multi-species. Eighty three percent of catches are taken by surface gears. The use of fish aggregating devices (FADs) affects the species composition and the average size of harvest schools and has consequences for exploitation of these resources.

Recent changes took place in the purse seine fishery: the fleet which shifted towards the West and Central Atlantic in the 1990s have recently also shifted towards the area of Mauritania in the North and to an area off Angola. The percentage of catches under FADs by purse seiners has continued to increase, amounting to more than 90% of the aggregated catches of yellowfin, bigeye and skipjack tuna.

In 2013, fishing of these three species reached a volume of 392,600 t. The 2013 catches of bigeye (64,302 t) and yellowfin (87,140 t) tunas were below the annual averages for the ten-year period 2004-2013 (averages amounted to 76,238 t and 106,485 t, respectively). In contrast, skipjack catches in 2013 (231,158 t) were much higher than the average annual catches of 188,986 t from the period 2004-2013, a period when catches of this species have continued to rise.

The number of tuna purse seiners decreased steadily from the mid-1990s to 2006, then increased sharply following the shift of vessels from the Indian Ocean (impact of the piracy off the Somalian coasts). Indeed, the vessels that shifted from the Indian Ocean are the best equipped in terms of technical equipment and fish storage capacity.

The SCRS Chair drew attention to the fact that significant catches of bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack as well as other species are landed in West Africa and sold on the local market as *faux poisson*. The estimate of these catches is uncertain and the SCRS is concerned about whether *faux poisson* landings are under reported. The SCRS estimates on average that for the period 2005-2013 the *faux poisson* landed amount to 10,500 t/year.

There are also uncertainties regarding biological parameters: natural mortality, growth, stock structure and movements. The Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP) will contribute to addressing these uncertainties by providing comparative biological results, indications of movements and a possible stock structure, as well as an analysis of interactions between fleets, data on the effects of FADs on the tuna resources, an assessment of the management measures (for example: impact of the closures). Tagging programmes, when successful, provide useful data for answering important questions on the status of stocks. The SCRS Chair encouraged CPCs to contribute to the AOTTP. The SCRS Chair highlighted the fact that a contract with the European Union (EU) is to be signed before the end of May 2015, with the Programme activities starting immediately after. This contract includes an EU contribution amounting to €13.5M.

The skipjack stock was assessed in 2014. The Atlantic accounts for 7% of world skipjack production (average over the period 2008-2012). These catches are mainly taken by purse seiners and baitboats. Catches for 2012 were very high: 258,300 t. In 2013, catches reached 231,158 t, of which 212,484 t were taken in the East Atlantic and 18,574 t in the West Atlantic.

There was no specific recommendation in place for skipjack. The SCRS considers that the catches should not exceed the MSY. The Commission should be aware that the increase in removals and fishing effort for skipjack may have consequences for other species caught in association.

For bigeye tuna (Anon., 2011) (last assessment was carried out in 2010 and currently the SCRS is undergoing a new assessment), 18% of the world production is from the Atlantic. A historical peak of 133,000 t was reached in 1994, then the catches declined following the reduction in size of the fishing fleet (longliners) and the decrease in fishing effort (longliners and baitboats), the number of purse seiners and the establishments of TACs. The catches, carried out by purse seiners, baitboats and longliners, amounted to 63,556 t in 2013, which are below the TAC (85,000 t).

There is considerable uncertainty concerning stock status and the forecasts for bigeye tuna. Fifty-two percent (52%) of the results from modelling indicate that the stock status of bigeye tuna is consistent with the Convention objectives.

It should be noted that if the main countries caught the catch limits established in Rec. 11-01 and the other countries maintained recent catch levels, the total catch could exceed 100,000 t, which is significantly higher than the current TAC of 85,000 t. In addition, the future changes in selectivity may give rise to an increase in relative mortality of small fish which will modify these forecasts and add to their uncertainties.

Concern about the catches of small bigeye tuna has resulted in the establishment of area closures in the Gulf of Guinea. The SCRS does not have sufficient information at this time to determine the efficacy of the current closure in reducing the mortality of juvenile bigeye tuna.

The SCRS recommended maintaining the TAC level for 2015 at 85,000 t or less in order to keep the stock in line with Convention objectives.

Regarding yellowfin, a stock assessment was performed in 2011. The Kobe matrix showed considerable uncertainty in the assessment of the status of the yellowfin tuna stock and its productivity. Twenty six percent of results were consistent with the objectives of the Convention.

The reported catches of yellowfin in the Atlantic, which account for 9% of world production, amounted to 97,140 t in 2013 and are below the TAC of 110,000 t. The selectivity of juveniles has a significant impact on stock productivity and recovery. The assessment showed that the yellowfin tuna stock was overfished in 2010. The area/time closure fixed by Recommendation 11-01 should also benefit yellowfin stocks.

The SCRS recommended maintaining the TAC at 110,000 t which would enable attainment of a biomass above  $B_{MSY}$  towards 2016 with a probability of 60%. The SCRS also recommended reducing fishing under objects (FADs) for this species (high juvenile mortality).

Finally the SCRS Chair provided some additional information on the work developed by the Group of Tropical Tunas during the recent Bigeye Tuna Data Preparatory meeting.

During the following discussions a number of participants raised concerns on the impact of changes on gear selectivity on the results of recent stock assessments of tropical tuna species. The SCRS Chair clarified that the models used in the past (e.g. production models) do not take into account the effects of changes on selectivity (do not incorporate size data) on the assessment of the status of the stocks of bigeye tuna, or skipjack but it did so for yellowfin tuna. Moreover, he highlighted the fact that such changes in selectivity may have significant impact on the estimations of MSY, which is the major reference point for the provision of the advice.

## **5.2 Current management**

The Group pointed out that in the context of managing fisheries, all sources of fishing mortality need to be monitored and managed. The use of FADs contributes to fishing mortality, but is not the only source (e.g., for Atlantic bigeye, floating object sets represent less than one-third of the total catch in weight).

Document SCRS/2015/081 discusses FAD management in the context of overall management of tropical tuna purse seine fisheries. The paper also presents recommendations for arriving at science-based management solutions and for enabling more complete monitoring of purse seine fisheries. In addition, Appendix 2 in the document provides a list of references related to by-catch in purse seine fisheries.

The Group noted that one of the short-comings of Rec. 14-01 and other recommendations on data collection, is that the fishery operational data is made available only to National scientists. However, it is essential that operational data is merged for regional analysis covering all components of the same fishery, aiming the provision by the SCRS of sound science-based advice. This could be carried out under ICCAT confidentiality rules ([http://iccat.int/Data/REP\\_EN\\_10-11\\_I\\_1\\_Annex\\_6\\_Confidentiality.pdf](http://iccat.int/Data/REP_EN_10-11_I_1_Annex_6_Confidentiality.pdf)).

Document SCRS/2015/100 presented the information reported by CPCs in accomplishing with the recommendations adopted by the Commission in order to obtain more detailed information on FADs in the Atlantic Ocean. The submission of both FAD management plans as well as information regarding the type and number of FADs deployed have become mandatory as prescribed in Rec. [14-01].

It was noted that the information required under Rec. [11-01] and Rec. [13-01] may not be sufficient to fully assess the impact of FADs on tropical tuna populations. The information requested appears to lack certain important details, such as the association of number of objects to the number of vessels deploying them. It was thus suggested that the SCRS review what additional data is required to adequately assess the impact of FADs on tuna populations and provide an updated list of data requirements to the Commission. In addition, it was discussed, that ideally, data provided on FADs should be harmonized across tuna RFMOs to decrease the burden on fishers to complete and submit information in different formats for the different RFMOs as well as to allow joint analysis across tRFMOs.

Regarding the FAD management plans, it was suggested that these should also be standardized within tRFMOs as currently it is difficult to compare the different plans. It was also noted that most CPCs are already collecting more information than is outlined in the plans that could be used for scientific analysis. These data could be provided in SCRS documents, as has occurred in recent years.

## **6. Historical experiences of FAD management in the ICCAT area: FAD seasonal and temporal closures**

The Chair directed the Group to the archive containing ICCAT Recommendations as well as SCRS reports and numerous documents SCRS scientists have prepared to examine the effects of the various spatial closures to surface fishing gears in the Gulf of Guinea established in the ICCAT Recs. 98-01, 99-01, 04-01, 08-01, 11-01. The Group was encouraged to look to the original documents for details of the analyses and conclusions considered by the SCRS, and used to develop advice for the Commission.

Three spatial closures have been implemented by ICCAT (**Figure 1**). The first and largest closure began with a voluntary moratorium on FAD fishing in 1998, negotiated by EU-Spain and EU-France purse-seine fisheries organizations to protect juvenile bigeye tuna in the Gulf of Guinea, before the first ICCAT Recommendation on this issue [Rec. 98-01] was adopted. The SCRS used a variety of methods to examine the effect of this closure, including catch trend, yield-per-recruit and spawner-per-recruit analyses and concluded that while some beneficial effects could be demonstrated, the benefits would have been larger had the closure been fully implemented by all fleets. A meeting participant also noted that closure did have one major effect, which was to reduce the catches of skipjack by up to 30% for some purse seine fleets.

After a number of years, ICCAT reviewed the moratorium area and the Commission recommended [Rec. 04-01 and 08-01] to prohibit surface fisheries in a smaller area for a shorter time. Using the results from a number of analyses, the SCRS concluded that while the small closure may have had a modest beneficial effect, a larger/longer closure would have been more beneficial.

The effect of the most recent closure [Rec. 11-01] was analyzed in 2014 with inconclusive results. The SCRS Chair clarified that the effect of this closure could not be fully assessed until additional data becomes available. The SCRS will continue this work in 2015.

The Group discussed the frequency of changes to the spatial closures and the scientific basis for these decisions. The SCRS Chair pointed out that fisheries for tropical tunas have evolved throughout the period of spatial closures. For example, it is now clear that FAD fishing for skipjack has recently expanded off of Mauritania. Similarly, the Group noted that there are spatial areas that are appropriate to protect certain species, but that a given closure might not benefit all three tropical species simultaneously. Therefore, to help ensure effective conservation and management, it would be important to explore the efficacy of spatial closures as fisheries develop and change, or particular species requiring additional controls in fishing mortality.

The Group also considered whether the analyses available to date could be improved to better inform the placement and timing of spatial closures. It was noted that in the past, the definition of such closures was not based on scientific advice from the SCRS, nor did the SCRS recommend this particular type of regulation, although the SCRS has expressed concern about the impact of growth overfishing in the Gulf of Guinea FAD fishery on tropical tuna stocks for a number of years. It was pointed out that EU scientists did provide information to the EU purse seine fleet to help them design the first closure. Some members expressed concern that ICCAT manages FAD measures and closures in an arbitrary manner, and that scientists have not demonstrated the efficacy or need for these measures conclusively. These participants also noted that these regulations are costly for the industry and deserve a proper evaluation before additional fishery mortality controls (*i.e.* closures) are recommended. To improve the expected efficacy of future regulations, the Group recommended that the Commission consider both scientific advice, and compliance related attributes.

## **7. Review of FAD management in other tuna RFMOs**

Document SCRS/2015/014 provided a summary of FAD management across all the tuna RFMOs (not including CCSBT to whom this is not applicable). It was noted that only the IATTC does not require FAD management plans, although the marking of the FADs is less prominent amongst the RFMOs. Regarding conservation measures, no RFMOs prescribe biodegradable FADs. Although ICCAT implements time-areas closures and non-entangling FADs, it has no requirements regarding (i) capacity limits and or number of FADs per vessel, (ii) regulations on the number of FAD sets or (iii) bans on discards. It was noted that no tuna RFMO implements all the previously mentioned conservation measures. In general, data collection/reporting/control regarding FADs is fairly comprehensive amongst the tuna RFMOs although increased VMS polling rate during time and area closures was generally not conducted except in the Western Central Pacific. The paper concluded that there is scope to improve and strengthen FAD management measures in ICCAT and to develop a comprehensive approach to FAD management based on science. To this end, operators should provide information to scientists on FAD design and technological developments. There is also scope to develop and apply best practices across tuna RFMOs and to establish a joint meeting of FAD working groups of tuna RFMOs in 2016.

The Group discussed the need to view these issues on a global scale and thus information should be shared between tuna RFMOs. Some participants suggested that the focus should not only be on FADs but on all fleet sectors that impact the resource and to address additional issues such as fleet capacity. In addition it was mentioned that it is important to investigate compliance with existing measures. Additional management options are directly reliant on the levels of compliance across all fleets that access the tropical tuna stocks. It was clarified that although it is extremely important in the context of the fishery to not focus only on individual issues such as FAD management, and that no management measure is particularly useful in isolation, the objective of the Working Group is to address issues related to FAD fishing and it is still necessary to know the impact of FADs on fish mortality.

The Group also discussed issues related to the marking of FADs. It was generally agreed that a common standard of marking the objects is required. ICCAT requires that such objects be marked, but does not specify how, and it was suggested that this Working Group could provide advice as to a standard method for doing so. What was less clear is whether both FADs and beacons should be marked and if so, how this should be done. It was suggested that the marking of the object is of greater importance, as the most important issue regarding the FADs is the history of the ecological impact of the FAD. The beacons attached to each object may change (e.g., due to changes in ownership) but the history of the object remains relevant. However, marking the objects in conjunction with other information collected through FADs Management Plans, observers and logbooks, could potentially allow tracking the objects. For estimating the fishing effort related to FAD fisheries, marking the beacon followed by purse-seine would be necessary. Potentially marking both beacons and objects using a common format may be the best way to ensure all dynamics are captured. This common format could be agreed between tuna RFMOs.

## **8. Description of FAD operations and FAD technology**

### ***8.1 Drifting FADs***

Document SCRS/2015/087 investigated tuna species discrimination of echosounders of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) used by purse seine targeting tropical tuna. Many of FAD buoys are now equipped with echosounders in order to provide remote information on the aggregated biomass. Nowadays these biomass estimates

are not accurate enough to provide information on species composition. Species discrimination at FADs to provide in situ and remote species composition, by using 3 echo-sounders operating simultaneously at three different frequencies (38 kHz, 120 kHz and 200 kHz), was investigated. Target strength for bigeye and skipjack tunas were obtained for the different frequencies used and a frequency response mask created to discriminate between species. This work confirmed the potential of using multiple frequencies to discriminate between fish with swim-bladder (yellowfin and bigeye tunas) from fish without swim-bladder (skipjack).

The Group noted the importance of the study because the knowledge of species specific acoustic signals could contribute to a more selective fishery. Moreover, the Group noted that information of biomass estimation of the school from the acoustic sounder of the drifting FAD (dFAD) buoy could help to develop a biomass index semi-independent of the fishery. However, it was mentioned that a better knowledge of the species composition based on the acoustic signals of the buoy can also result in an increase of fishing efficiency as well as changes in fishing strategy. Although the results of the study can allow an increase in efficiency and hence in catchability; the Group noted that these results, in combination with complementary management measures, could make a more selective fishery. For example, in cases where bigeye is a concern, the identification by acoustic signals of bigeye schools under the dFAD could allow to mitigate the unintentional capture of bigeye.

As there is also a need to mitigate the capture of non-target species by-catch, the Group requested if this could also be applied to by-catch species. The authors of the work explained that although the results of by-catch were not presented, the acoustic signal of the by-catch can also be identified and, hence, be used to mitigate their capture.

Document SCRS/2015/086 combines the information provided by some French fishing companies on GPS buoy track, the number of buoy purchase and French and Spanish observer programs to understand the strategies of fishers regarding dFAD deployment, dFAD fishing strategies, and effects on the ecosystem. The work identifies four different seasons of GPS buoy deployment. The total number of dFADs and GPS buoys used by all purse seine fleets was estimated over 2007-2013 on a daily basis, showing a strong increase in the number of dFADs from 2007 to 2013. The impacts of dFAD use on the level of tuna habitat modification and catches of juveniles were examined, showing that the Atlantic Ocean was a relative dFAD zone over 2007-2013 and possible mitigation of catches of juveniles of bigeye and yellowfin were studied.

The Group welcomed the collaborative work between industry, providing very detailed data, and scientist to improve the knowledge around dFADs activity such as deployment periods, density, etc. The Group also noted the importance of the data analyzed such as VMS, buoys trajectories and observers to increase the knowledge about dFAD activities and their effect in the increase in fishing effort and effect on the ecosystem. However, the Group noted partial use and low coverage of the sampling which could affect the results and conclusions of the work. In this sense, although the Group acknowledged the increase of the number of dFADs in recent years, some participants questioned the level of increase described in the work which can be considered very large compared with previous estimates. This discrepancy could result of the partial and low coverage of the sampling used in the study and the Group noted that it would be worth to expand this type of work to a more representative sampling covering all PS fleets using dFADs; which will allow a better understanding of dFADs fishing activities. Thus, the Group recommends to attempt historical data mining from fishing companies on dFADs activities as well as to expand this type of work to other fisheries which can allow collaborative work to analyse detailed information from different fleets under agreed ICCAT confidentiality rules (Annex 6 of the Report for biennial period, 2010-2011 Part I (2010)). The authors also noted the difficulty to compare the results of the work with previous studies as there is a lack of standardized terminology used when describing the trends on the use of dFADs. For example, it is not clear whether some authors are dealing with number of daily active FADs, total number per year and/or other metrics. Thus, the Group recommends that a standardized terminology of dFAD activities, is developed and agreed.

Presentation SCRS/P/2015/015 related to a recently published paper (López *et al.*, 2014) investigated the practical use, fishing strategy and state of echo-sounder buoy technology applications using personal interviews over three consecutive years (2010–2012) with approximately half of the Spanish tropical tuna purse seine fishing masters and licensed captains operating in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans. The results suggested that echo-sounder buoys have significantly impacted dFAD fishing strategies since their introduction into the fishery in the last decade, favouring the expansion of dFAD fishing grounds. In addition, fishers' echo-sounder buoy seeding and visiting strategy is not random anymore, which increases the fleet efficiency. Additionally, the number of echo-sounder buoys used by each vessel has increased, which demonstrates its utility for fishermen. Various aspects of these devices' use, consequences for fishing strategy, search time, nominal effort and potential future applications were discussed.

The Group requested if it would be possible, based on the information presented, to assess quantitatively the time (effort) associated to different activities of the PS (fishing, searching, transit, etc.) in order to improve the unit of effort of the PS and, hence, assess the increase in fishing efficiency of the fleet. The authors responded that the objective of the work was not focused on the estimation of the effort but to assess the use of different buoys by fishermen for acoustic selectivity discrimination studies. They also noted that the work investigated qualitatively the changes in fishing technology but not quantitatively, for which other metrics as fishing set per day and fishing information should be used. The Group noted that this type of studies would be valuable to investigate the increase in fishing efficiency of the purse seiner to be used in stock assessment models of tuna RFMOs.

A short reminder from Fonteneau *et al.*, 2015 estimated an increase of number of dFADs used by the EU PS fleet in recent years and described the associated increase on bigeye catches on dFADs. The author also reminds that the paper review different possibilities and management tools for a sustainable use of dFADs in purse seiner fishery. The Group noted that the increase of number of dFADs in recent years could be due to the increase of price of skipjack, but noted that the price of skipjack has decreased in the last two years. The Group also noted that more accurate number of dFADs can be obtained from the current reported FAD Management Plans agreed in ICCAT and reported since 2012; however, the historic information is not always available. Thus, the Group recommends a data mining exercise to recover the use and number of dFADs for the historic period. The Group also noted that there are some inconsistencies in the presentation as the bigeye catch on dFADs is stable since 1995 which would not be expected with a large increase of the number of dFADs in recent years, provided that dFADs are major component of bigeye catch of PS. It was noted that this could be due to the decrease of total number of PS since 1995. This underlines the importance to consider all components of the PS fishery affecting the fishing mortality, as well as other fleets, as the number of dFADs should be considered in conjunction with the overall fishing capacity (No. of vessels). This is a global issue for all tuna RFMOs and the Group considers that overall fishing capacity for a sustainable management of resources should be addressed as soon as possible in tuna RFMOs.

### **8.2 Baitboat/Purse-seine associations**

No papers were presented under this item. However, the Group was informed that the association of baitboats and purse seiners has started in the mid-1990s and the catches have increased around 40% since then. The Group noted the importance of considering this new type of fishery from two angles: (i) how this information is incorporated into the stock assessment (*i.e.* fishery characteristics) and (ii) how this capture enters the market as can be marketed as baitboat FAD free catch despite being a FAD associated catch. The Group was informed that the bigeye data preparatory meeting agreed to consider this association of BB-PS as fishing with PS with regard to species and size composition for the assessment. The Group was also informed on the use of pole and line (bait) during the first 5-6 days of the trip followed by an association with PS thereafter. The Group also noted information about BB at sea without pole and lines, which indicates that the association occurs for the whole trip. The Group also noted the effort to separate the fish caught using pole and line (BB) from the catch by BB-PS association in order to market this catch as pole and line catch. However, the Group noted that this should be addressed as matter of priority in order to assure the traceability of the fish caught by BB. In that sense, it would be worth to define a BB FAD free capture for this fleet as well as the development of criteria to define a BB/PS association. The Group also noted that the association fishery between BB/PS will increase the level of non-target species by-catch in comparison to a traditional BB fishery which makes the monitoring of this new component necessary.

### **8.3 Anchored FADs**

No papers were presented under this item. However, the Group noted that there are several reports of marlin and small tuna catches in anchored FADs in Antilles and Caribbean Sea as well as of bluefin tuna in Malta, although it was pointed out that the impact of these catches are difficult to evaluated because, in some cases, these catches are not consistently reported. The Group noted that this should also be addressed and studied in this Working Group and that that CPCs with these type of fisheries should report their data to ICCAT. Currently there is a lack of information available on the use of anchored FADs.

## 9. Ecological communities around FADs

### 9.1 Drifting FADs

Document SCRS/2015/104 presented the European Research project “Catch, effort, and ecosystem impacts of FAD-fishing” (CECOFAD) ([www.cecofad.eu](http://www.cecofad.eu)), regarding ecosystem impacts of FAD fishing. The project was developed due to the continuous implementation of dFADs by tropical tuna fishermen in the early 1990s, which has impacted the species and size composition of the tuna catch, as well as some components of the epipelagic ecosystem (e.g., sharks, turtles, etc.). In addition, the development of this fishing mode introduced a new uncertainty in stock assessment models, as abundance indices derived from FAD-fishing cannot be calculated easily since the conventional unit of fishing effort (*i.e.*, the searching time) traditionally used for free school fishing cannot be applied. The objective of the project is to improve the understanding of the use of fish-aggregating devices (FAD) in tropical purse seine tuna fisheries and to provide reliable estimates of abundance indices and accurate indicators on the impact of FAD-fishing on juveniles of bigeye and yellowfin tunas and on by-catch species.

The project addresses different questions:

- Apply the Gerodette *et al.* (2012) approach to quantify the total biomass of all removals, characterise these removals by diversity indices, trophic levels and replacement rates, in order to compare FAD and free-swimming school fishing.
- Assess the effects of soaking time and trajectory on fauna associated with FADs.
- Estimate the consequences of the reallocation of the fishing effort due to a moratorium on the associated megafauna.
- Estimate the potential stranding of lost FADs on coral reef areas.

The project also investigates the transition from traditional to non-entangling FADs (NE FADs). It was reported that since 2012, EU purse-seiners have progressively replaced traditional FADs by NE FADs, and that ICCAT Recommendation 14-01 indicates that CPCs shall replace by 2016 existing FADs with NE FADs.

ISSF informed the Group that a new version of the guide for NE FADs produced in 2012, will be released in 2015. The new version proposes a ranking of FADs according to the risk of entanglement associated with each design.

It was recommended that estimates of the mortality due to entanglements in FADs in the Atlantic Ocean be developed. In general, statistics of all sources of mortality for all species from all fishing gears should be collected and analyzed, in order to compare the ecosystem impacts of different fishing gears.

The EU-Spain fleet has set a project with third parties (IEO, AZTI) to evaluate the implementation of good practices onboard their vessels, including the use of NE FADs (see section 11).

It was mentioned that a study (SCRS/2014/124)<sup>1</sup> on the survival of triggerfish released by purse-seiners was presented to last year to the SCRS, and that a model on the ecosystem impacts of FAD fishing in a restricted area of the equatorial Atlantic will be presented at the next SCRS meeting.

### 9.2 Anchored FADs

No information on anchored FADs was submitted to the Group.

## 10. Comparison of bycatch in FAD/Free schools

SCRS/P/2015/016 presented a comparative analysis of by-catch caught off FAD fishing by Ghana. The effect of different types of FAD designs on the catchability of fish species were noted and typically the transitional “sausage” type of netting from trials appears to reduce by-catch incidences (e.g. sharks and turtles) due to less likely entanglement than the normal type of FAD, with larger meshes used over the past decades entangles more by-catch species including sharks and turtles.

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<sup>1</sup> Document not published.

It was also presented during the meeting that, as part of the CECOFAD (catch, effort and ecosystem impacts of FAD fishing) project being carried out by the IRD/IEO/AZTI in collaboration with the industry, potential impacts of FAD fishing on other marine organisms including sharks are in progress.

Earlier discussions noted that a lot of information collated from the purse seine fleet and observer reports have been presented by SCRS scientists on the mortality of by-catch species caught off FADS and free swimming schools under the Sub-Committee on Ecosystems.

## **11. Stakeholder initiatives to manage FADs**

Five contributions were submitted to the Working Group: document SCRS/2015/089 explained the progresses made through collaborative approaches held between scientists and vessel masters; presentation SCRS/P/2015/017 and document SCRS/2015/099 described initiatives taken by tuna Producer Organizations to tackle possible issues relating to the use of dFADs in tropical tuna fisheries; while the documents SCRS/2015/061 and SCRS/2015/088 introduced the role played by scientific institutes, either to audit some actions or to support experiments already carried out by vessel owners, skippers and crews.

Participants involved in the activities related to the abovementioned documents provided the Group with information on the historical development of the use of ancillaries in tropical tuna fisheries. The use of dFADs in tropical tuna fisheries has been an increasingly important component of the effort since the mid-1990s, with different technological leaps observed till this date. Some initial concerns on the possible impact of such ancillaries on the environment were firstly raised by end of the 1990s. However, estimations on the number of dFADs deployed seem to indicate that their use increased substantially at the turn of 2010, which explain the current concern on the topic.

Participants sought then to identify possible positive and negative impacts of the use of dFADs. They indicated that for several years now (since 2010 for the first attempts) fishermen have taken initiatives to address and to tackle possible negative impacts, like environmental damages and in particular those related to incidental by-catch of sensitive species. They also pointed out that EU vessel owners were proactive since the beginning of the 2010s by adopting specific measures on a voluntary basis to better monitor the use of dFADs and by improving dFADs' design. Measures such as dFAD logbooks and dFAD management plans, have been adopted in order to better monitor dFADs fisheries and at reducing and mitigating possible negative impacts, particularly allowing fishermen to tackle questions directly related to incidental catches.

Producer Organizations representatives presented a number of experiments that have been developed by fishermen to improve dFADs design, in order to reduce entanglements observed on rafts or in the immerge structures. They pointed the need for a deep involvement of vessel masters and crew members when carrying out these experiments to favour an efficient approach and a better diffusion of possible design improvements. They also noted that any of these improvements, to be well accepted and properly implemented by fishermen, should also avoid any dramatic change neither on catch yield, nor on dFADs building costs.

In addition to design improvements, ISSF and EU tuna Producer Organization representatives also mentioned the adoption, publication and diffusion of sets of guidelines describing how to properly handle and to correctly manipulate vulnerable species incidentally entangled on dFADs or caught during a set. Where properly implemented, advice and good practices, detailed in these guidelines, aim at contributing both to ensure crew safety while releasing these individuals and to reduce catch and post-release mortality of such specimens.

Document SCRS/2015/089 mentioned the organization of a series of workshops all around the world, with representatives of all main fleets using floating objects in tuna fisheries. The authors indicated that it had contributed to a cross fertilization in terms of exchange of information between skippers operating in different Oceans. Workshops in the Atlantic Ocean involved scientists and skippers from EU-France and EU-Spain and Ghanaian purse seine fleets in order to improve FAD management and reduce by-catch. Some participants clearly pointed the added-value of supporting a common, collaborative and iterative approach between scientists and fishermen. This cooperative way of working would favor the provision of relevant data and information to scientists, particularly on technological changes and leaps, allowing them to better assess the impact of the use of dFADs on fishing mortality rates and on the ecosystem. They also highlighted the importance of implementing independent frameworks auditing how measures adopted by fishermen are really implemented. Such audit frameworks have already been adopted and implemented by the EU tuna Producer Organizations present. In that view, document SCRS/2015/061 presented a method to verify the implementation of the abovementioned good practices by the Spanish fleet in the three Oceans under tuna RFMOs based on information collected through a

100% coverage observer program for the EU-Spain fleet. Training workshops were organized aiming to enhance good practices. A hand book of instructions for observers has also been implemented. Forms are currently being filled by the observers, which includes information on animal releases (including the disposition of the released animal) and on the material of the dFAD.

EU tuna Producer Organization representatives reminded the willingness of the EU vessel owners to progress towards full non-entangling and biodegradable dFADs. However, the next steps appear to be far more complex than those already made. Participants indicated that at sea trials had already been carried out, testing different types of material (e.g. coco fibre or ropes made of other natural materials), rigging and designs of the different parts of dFADs. First results seem, however, rather inconclusive and further developments will be necessary. Document SCRS/2015/088 introduced to the Working Group information on such additional experiments implemented in collaboration with some ship-owners and material suppliers. A project on bio-degradable material which will be tested in a controlled experiment by placing them in depths from 0 to 50 m and monitoring their state with regard to different depths and time of immersion. In this study eight different types of material will be tested and four different configurations used.

EU tuna Producer Organization representatives reminded that programmes and measures implemented by fishermen to improve dFADs' design and to reduce their environmental footprint have been adopted on a voluntary basis, anticipating policy frameworks adopted by t-RFMOs. They also pointed that some negative aspects highlighted and denounced by other stakeholders as a result of the increased use of dFADs in tuna fisheries were either insufficiently documented or even supported by no clear evidences. In particular, OPAGAC mentioned that unwanted and incidental catches of vulnerable species – such as sea turtles, sea mammals or oceanic sharks – appear as being far below levels reported for other tuna fisheries. In the same vein, the presentation indicated that the proportion of juveniles: adults for bigeye and skipjack in the purse-seine FAD fishery are similar to those observed in the overall catch (all gears combined) in the Atlantic Ocean. It was also pointed out that possible changes in fishing patterns, in relation with management measures to be likely adopted in dFAD fisheries, in the light of new developments and assumptions on the concept of harvest balance, should be taken into account better.

EU tuna Producer Organization representatives reminded the Working Group that they would continue to be proactive on these issues by implementing more ambitious measures than those already adopted by ICCAT. In particular, they mentioned the implementation of observer programmes and investments in Close Circuit Tele Vision (CCTV) allowing for a full coverage of fishing activities on board purse seine vessels operating in Atlantic tropical tuna fisheries. Therefore, they underlined that EU vessel owners were supporting additional operational costs directly linked to these additional and voluntary measures. They also pointed that, when adopting possible constraining measures aiming at reducing the environmental impact of dFADs and at managing the contribution of dFAD fisheries to the fishing mortality of tropical tunas and associated species, ICCAT should carry out cost/benefit analysis and assess in particular the possible efficiency of such measures, their likelihood of compliance and the additional operational costs.

In addition unexpected and unwanted impacts of possible measures were pointed out, such as those related to an inappropriate definition of FAD free fisheries (supported by some environmental NGOs and promoted on some markets) and FAD associated fisheries, which might lead to misreporting and induce some substantial loss of reliability on the reported catch and effort data.

During presentation SCRS/P/2015/017 the need for a typology of dFADs was mentioned, based on type of material used, partially non-biodegradable or fully biodegradable materials, the type of positioning and the associated communication equipment – VHS, GPS, echo-sounder, etc. Such a typology should be considered in relation with management objectives and management measures and should be deeply discussed and assessed, prior to possible adoption by ICCAT. In particular, the authors clearly pointed that measures aiming either at managing the contribution of dFADs to fishing mortality rates or at mitigating environmental impacts of the use of dFADs might be different in nature. For instance, on the one hand, measures aiming at managing the contribution of dFADs to fishing mortality rates should be based on a limitation of the number of activated beacons per vessel at any time, as part of a set of complementary measures limiting the whole fishing capacity deployed in tropical tuna fisheries. On the other hand, measures aiming at mitigating environmental impacts of dFADs might lead to a limit of the total number of dFADs deployed per year. As an example and highlighting that these decisions were made on a voluntary basis by EU-France vessel owners, it was suggested that no more than 200 beacons should be bought per year and per vessel and only 150 should be activated by the vessel master at any time.

During the following discussions, participants highlighted that:

- Spanish and French purse seine vessel owners, and more particularly the EU tuna Producer Organizations, are conscious of questions related with impacts of the use of dFADs
  - both on catch structure or composition and on fishing mortality rates applied to tropical tunas and associated species, and
  - on offshore and inshore marine ecosystems;
- A collaborative, iterative and inclusive approach, where scientists have a key role to play, is considered the best way to progress towards better dFADs designs and towards a better management framework of dFADs tuna fisheries;
- Science needs sufficient and reliable information of both qualitative and quantitative nature, more particularly on the history of dFAD fisheries development, on technological leaps, on fishing strategies with regards dFAD positions or trajectories and data reported by the activated beacons;
- A segment of the fishing fleet already took initiative on a voluntary basis and anticipating possible modification of the policy framework;
- Any measures to be implemented on dFAD fisheries should be
  - considered as part of a set of measures aiming at managing all components of the fishing capacity within a broader framework better, addressing all sources of fishing mortality and environmental impacts;
  - assessed, through possible cost/benefit analysis based on criteria such as efficiency, acceptability, feasibility and controllability;
- Next steps towards full non-entangling dFADs and biodegradable dFADs might be more complex and would need more support from fishing technology science.

## 12. Consideration of future work

### 12.1 Future work for the *ad hoc* Working Group on FADs

This first meeting of the *ad hoc* Working Group has been very productive. It has been a test of the importance of having diverse views from all stakeholders as regards to issues related to FADs. The Working Group, however, has not reached all its objectives yet and therefore should:

- Continue supporting and encouraging collaboration between scientists and the industry in the collection of data on FAD operations;
- Participate in the work of the tropical tuna Working Group, in particular the upcoming assessments of bigeye and yellowfin, to support analysis that can evaluate the contribution of the FAD fishery to total fishing mortality and changes in selectivity patterns for these stocks that can be attributed to the FAD fishery;
- Participate in the meetings of the Sub-committee on Ecosystems to help in the evaluation of impacts of FADs on ecosystem;
- Hold a meeting as a Working Group in 2016 after the yellowfin assessment to prepare the final response to the Commission under recommendation 14-03;
- To collaborate with other tuna RFMO FAD Working Groups to harmonize progress in addressing FAD issues that are common to all tuna RFMOs;
- Provide a response to the Commission at the 24th Regular meeting in November 2016.

### 12.2 Recommendations

*To the Commission or to the Commission and the SCRS:*

- Review FAD management plan requirements with the aim of harmonizing these requirements with those of other tuna RFMOs;
- Promote the harmonization of FAD nomenclature, and data reporting as to facilitate data sharing across Oceans;
- Recommends that the Commission evaluate the capacity of all CPCs to have to comply with current measures related to FAD management, and if necessary provide mechanisms and resources to enhance such compliance;
- Recommend the Commission that the design of measures related to FAD management should be supported by scientific studies conducted by the SCRS and by studies of the likelihood of compliance, made by the Permanent Working Group;

- Recommend that the SCRS and the Commission review its measures of fishing capacity for purse seiners in light of all increases in fishing power related to technology improvements, number of vessels, etc.;
- Recommend the Commission to clearly define what “association” means in baitboat/purse seine association fisheries;
- The Group noted that some purse seine fleets are already achieving 100% observer coverage and recommends that the Commission should require that all purse seine fleet aim at achieving such coverage;
- Recommend that all fleets provide detailed information on FAD operations so as to be able to estimate the overall impact of FADs.

*To the SCRS:*

- Request the SCRS to review the current template including the detailed information to be collected. The review should use the CECOFAD project template as a starting point to select the most important variables to be collected;
- Quantify the contribution that all gears have the overall by-catch of vulnerable species in the Atlantic in order to truly evaluate the relative importance of by-catch from purse seiners;
- Recommend research on the evaluation of balanced harvest strategy;
- Recommend considering development of a framework in order to develop fishery independent indices of abundance from data from acoustic sensors found in FADs;
- Recommend SCRS scientists assess, through management strategy evaluation, the potential use of limits on FAD fishing effort, for example:
  - the number of active beacons
  - the number of FADs seeded
- Recommend the SCRS to clearly define what “FAD set” and “FAD fishing” are;
- Note that the evolution for the biodegradables may be much harder than the evolution to non-entangling FADs, thus recommend further studies on appropriate materials and designs.

**12.3 Other future scientific work**

Document SCRS/2015/090 presented a methodology to use the biomass information provided by the acoustic records derived from echo-sounder buoys as a complementary relative abundance index in the stock assessment of tropical tuna stocks. Around the mid-2000s the tropical tuna purse seine fleet started to regularly use satellite linked echo-sounder buoys in their drifting FADs. This technological development is causing rapid changes in the fishing strategy and fleet behavior due to the possibility of informing remotely and in near real-time about the accurate geo-location of the FAD and the presence and size of tuna aggregations underneath them. Apart from its unquestionable utility as a fishery tool, echo-sounder buoys have also the potential of being a privileged observation platform to evaluate relative abundances of FAD-associated fish using catch-independent data. Some of the features of the information available from satellite tracking echo-sounder buoys used and provided by the Spanish TT PS and associated fleet to work on the development of a “fishery semi-independent” abundance index were reviewed.

The Group noted the importance of the study because an abundance relative index independent of the fishery would be very valuable to increase the precision of the stock assessment of tropical tunas. The Group acknowledged the presentation of this collaborative initiative between industry and scientists and recommended the authors to continue working on this line in order to get a more representative echo-sounder acoustic record sample which will allow building the index. Moreover, the Group noted that previous work on acoustic selectivity will contribute to discriminate the acoustic signal by species to estimate species specific abundance indices. However, the Group also noted some difficulties in the interpretation of the acoustic signal as some characteristics can affect the assumption that the acoustic records are proportional to tropical tuna abundance (e.g. timing of the signal, position of the buoy in relation to the tuna school, etc.). Although there are many questions to be considered both in data exclusion criteria as well as in the development of the model, the Group agreed on the huge potential of these buoys to actively sample vast extensions in a cost-effective manner and on the usefulness of these buoys to be used in estimation of abundance index.

**13. Other matters**

No other matters were discussed.

#### **14. Adoption of Report and adjournment**

Due to the limited time, only item 12 was reviewed and adopted by the Group during the meeting. The rest of the report was adopted by correspondence.

The co-Chairs thanked the participants and the Secretariat for their work as well as the interpreters for their patient and excellent work.

The co-Chairs adjourned the meeting.

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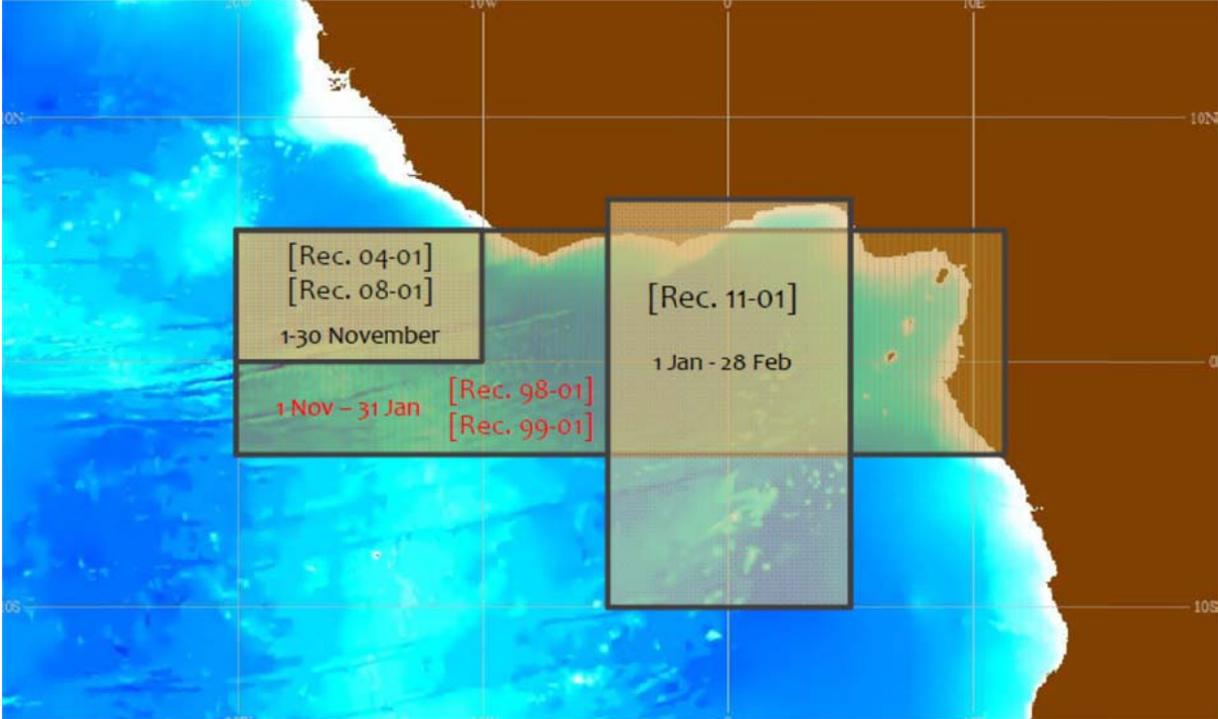


Figure 1. Spatial closures implemented by ICCAT in the Gulf of Guinea since 1998.

**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.3****Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of Agenda and meeting arrangements
3. Nomination of Rapporteur
4. Terms of reference of Working Group
5. Current stock status of tropical tunas and management arrangements in the ICCAT area
  - 5.1 Current stock status
  - 5.2 Current management
6. Historical experiences of FAD management in the ICCAT area: FAD seasonal and temporal closures
7. Review of FAD management in other tuna RFMOs
8. Description of FAD operations and FAD technology
  - 8.1. Drifting FADs
  - 8.2. Baitboat-Purse seine associations
  - 8.3. Anchored FADs
9. Ecological communities around FADs
  - 9.1. Drifting FADs
  - 9.2. Anchored FADs
10. Comparison of bycatch in FAD/Free schools
11. Stakeholder initiatives to manage FADs
12. Consideration of future work
  - 12.1. Future work for the Ad hoc WG on FADs
  - 12.2. Recommendations
  - 12.3. Other future scientific work
13. Other matters
14. Adoption of the report and closure

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**List of documents**

- SCRS/2015/061 System of verification of the code of good practices on board ANABAC and OPAGAC tuna purse seiners and preliminary results for the Atlantic Ocean. Goñi N., Ruiz J., Murua H., Santiago J., Krug I., Sotillo de Olano B., Gonzalez de Zarate A., Moreno G., Murua J.
- SCRS/2015/081 Options for managing FAD impacts. Restrepo V., Scott G. and Koehler H.
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- SCRS/2015/090 Towards a Tropical Tuna Buoy-derived Abundance Index (TT-BAI). Santiago J., H. Murua, G. Moreno, M. Soto and I. Quincoces
- SCRS/2015/099 Industry initiatives for FAD management. Morón J. and Herrera M.
- SCRS/2015/100 Summary of Information available on FADs submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat. de Bruyn P.
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- SCRS/P/2015/015 Evolution and current state of the technology of echo-sounder buoys used by Spanish tropical tuna purse seiners in the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans. J. Lopez, G. Moreno, I. Sancristobal and J. Murua
- SCRS/P/2015/016 Comparison between Korean Standard and Transition FAD Designs. Iriarte F.
- SCRS/P/2015/017 The use and regulation of FADs - the French FAD management plan. Goujom M.

#### **4.4 REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CONVENTION AMENDMENT** (*Miami, United States – 18-22 May 2015*)

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

The Chair of the Working Group, Ms. Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA), opened the meeting and welcomed the delegations to the Third Meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment (Working Group).

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

The EU proposed arranging agenda item 4, “Review of proposed texts to amend the Convention” to reflect the grouping of issues set out in Annex I and Annex II of the Terms of Reference of this Working Group. The revised meeting agenda is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.4**.

The Executive Secretary introduced the following Contracting Parties that attended the meeting: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Brazil, Canada, Cabo Verde, China, Côte d’Ivoire, Egypt, El Salvador, European Union, Gabon, Ghana, Iceland, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Liberia, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Norway, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, Turkey and United States of America.

The Executive Secretary also introduced Chinese Taipei and Suriname that attended the meeting as Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities.

The intergovernmental organization COMHAFAT was also introduced by the Executive Secretary.

The following non-governmental organizations were admitted as observers: ISSF and Pew Charitable Trusts.

The list of participants is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.4**.

##### **3. Nomination of rapporteur**

Mr. James Addison (EU) was appointed as rapporteur.

##### **4. Review of proposed texts to amend the Convention**

The Chair reviewed the process set out in the Working Group Terms of Reference, emphasizing that, according to the timetable in the Terms of Reference, the Working Group is to present proposed recommendations for the Convention Amendment text to the Commission at this year’s Annual Meeting in November. She urged Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties, Entities, and Fishing Entities (CPCs) to work to resolve the remaining issues to be able to meet this timeline.

###### **4.1 Annex I issues**

The Working Group worked to further refine draft amendments to Articles IV and VIII, related to the scope of the Convention and decision-making processes, developed at the second meeting of the Working Group. The revised text is attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.4**.

The Working Group agreed that Article IV should include a general description of the species under the mandate of the Convention, rather than a specific taxonomic reference or list of species that may change over time. At the same time, the Working Group agreed that a list of specific species understood to fall under the terms “tuna and tuna-like species” and “elasmobranchs that are oceanic, pelagic, and highly migratory” should be elaborated in an instrument separate from the Convention. This would allow the list to be adjusted in light of any future taxonomic changes. The Chair developed a draft recommendation to this effect that would be adopted at the time the recommendations for Convention amendment are adopted. The Working Group requested the SCRS to review the draft recommendation, attached as **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.4**, and ensure the list of species is correct, including identifying the common names of the listed elasmobranch species in the three official languages of the Commission.

CPCs reiterated that ICCAT decisions should be taken by consensus as a general rule. In the event of consensus not being reached, the Working Group considered different standards for making decisions through a vote, including a simple, two-thirds, or three-quarters majority. The Working Group agreed that the appropriate standard would be a two-thirds majority of Contracting Parties casting affirmative or negative votes. The Working Group did not recommend altering the current rule for quorum, namely two-thirds of the Contracting Parties.

The Working Group worked to refine proposals to simplify the current ICCAT objection procedure. However, the issue of the grounds for an objection remains unresolved. In general, CPCs agreed that inconsistency with international law or discrimination in form or in fact against a Contracting Party could form the basis of an objection. However, there was no consensus on the inclusion of an additional ground related to issues preventing a Contracting Party from effectively complying with or implementing a measure, or how such an element should be drafted. Resolution of this issue will affect whether the list of grounds for objection set out in the Convention would be considered exhaustive or illustrative.

The Working Group continued to review proposals regarding dispute settlement. Two proposals remain under consideration, attached at **Appendices 5 and 6 to ANNEX 4.4**. The Working Group could not reach consensus on a single text. The Chair noted a strong willingness to work inter-sessionally to develop a common approach on this issue ahead of the Annual Meeting, and encouraged CPCs to do this in an inclusive manner.

#### ***4.2 Annex II issues***

The Working Group generally agreed on the introduction of a new Convention Article on General Principles, though several delegations noted that final resolution of this issue was linked to the resolution of the issues contained on Annex I of the Terms of Reference. The Working Group worked to revise the proposal originally submitted by Brazil, Ghana, Norway, and the United States, attached as **Appendix 7 to ANNEX 4.4**. Two issues in the text remain unresolved.

One delegation noted that the revisions to the scope of the Convention anticipated in Articles IV and VIII sufficiently addressed ICCAT's role in regard to associated and dependent species and impacts on the broader ecosystem, so there was no need to include consideration of broader ecosystem considerations as one of the general principles. Other CPCs noted that inclusion of these issues among the general principles reinforced the operative amendments clarifying ICCAT's scope and was essential to reflect modern international fisheries governance.

Delegations generally agreed on including a principle related to fairness and transparency in decision-making processes, but there were differences of view as to whether there should be a specific reference to the application of allocation criteria, or a general reference to the allocation of fishing possibilities. While some delegations emphasized the importance of mentioning criteria in the text, others preferred a reference to allocations more broadly, noting that "decision-making processes" should be understood to include the application of criteria.

The Chair encouraged CPCs to continue to work together to find a common way forward on these remaining issues.

#### ***4.3 Other issues***

The Working Group tentatively agreed, subject to legal scrutiny, to a proposal to revise Article II to state that the Convention is to be interpreted in accordance with international law and without prejudice to the rights, jurisdiction and duties of States (**Appendix 8 to ANNEX 4.4**).

### **5. Review of issues pending receipt of written proposals**

Delegations worked informally to identify possible ways forward on the issue of non-party participation, but the Working Group was not able to take up any concrete proposals. The Chair encouraged CPCs to continue to actively consult amongst each other and develop a common approach before the ICCAT Annual Meeting.

The Working Group noted that implementing an approach on this issue comparable to that developed by other RFMOs would require an ICCAT Contracting Party to take on the role of Depositary, which is currently fulfilled by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. The European Union proposed its service to act as a Depositary to the protocol resulting from the Convention Amendment process, with the FAO retaining the role of Depositary for the original Convention. However, such partial Depositary was not considered sufficient by some Contracting Parties. Furthermore, in light of the lack of precedent of a partial Depositary, the EU announced its intention to explore whether or not it would be in position to offer its services as Depositary for the entire Convention, including future amendments, and would advise other CPCs of this in advance of this year's Annual Meeting.

## **6. Procedures for the implementation of agreed Convention amendments**

The Working Group reviewed some of the procedural considerations for Commission approval and subsequent entry into force of the Working Group's recommendations for Convention amendment. CPCs generally agreed that all Working Group recommendations should be taken together in a single proposal. However, delegations noted that any change of Depositary would require a proposal to amend Articles XII through XVI of the Convention. The process and timing of the adoption and ratification of those changes would need to be carefully sequenced with the adoption and ratification of the other amendments recommended by the Working Group. The Working Group agreed that the Chair should conduct a technical review of the proposed amendments and circulate a combined text in advance of the Annual Meeting.

## **7. Other matters**

The Working Group discussed a proposal from Korea and Turkey to amend the ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities [Ref. 01-25], attached as **Appendix 9 to ANNEX 4.4**. Some CPCs supported such a proposal, however others noted the lengthy process of establishing the criteria and the significant challenges and were reluctant to engage in a difficult and potentially unfruitful process.

The Working Group also discussed two proposed recommendations on the precautionary approach (**Appendix 10 to ANNEX 4.4**) and ecosystem approach (**Appendix 11 to ANNEX 4.4**), submitted by Canada and the EU. CPCs were generally sympathetic to these proposals, though some delegations stated that agreement on these recommendations was linked to agreement on inclusion of text relating to General Principles in the Convention.

The Executive Secretary informed the Working Group that a letter was received from Uruguay near the end of the meeting, attached as **Appendix 12 to ANNEX 4.4**, regarding a review of the role of the Council established in Article V of the Convention. As the letter was received too late to be taken up by this session of the Working Group, it will be circulated to all CPCs via ICCAT Circular for later discussion.

## **8. Adoption of the Report and adjournment**

The Working Group agreed on the need for additional time to resolve the remaining issues. The Chair agreed to work with the Executive Secretary and the Chair of the Commission to convene a final session during the opening day of the 2015 Annual Meeting. The Chair thanked Contracting Parties for their efforts and encouraged all Contracting Parties to work productively ahead of the meeting in Malta.

Pew Charitable Trusts requested that a statement be added to the report of this meeting (**Appendix 13 to ANNEX 4.4**).

It was agreed that the report would be adopted by correspondence.

## Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda and meeting arrangements
3. Nomination of Rapporteur
4. Review of proposed texts to amend the Convention
  - 4.1 Annex I issues
    - Scope of the Convention (Shark conservation and management)
    - Decision-making process and procedures
    - Objection procedures
    - Dispute settlement
  - 4.2 Annex II issues
    - General principles including precautionary approach, ecosystem considerations, transparency etc.
  - 4.3 Other issues
    - Rights, duties and jurisdiction of States
5. Review of issues pending receipt of written proposals
  - Capacity building and assistance to developing countries
  - Allocation of fishing possibilities
  - Non-party participation
6. Procedures for the implementation of agreed Convention amendments
  - Adoption and entry into force
  - Interim arrangements, as appropriate
7. Other matters
8. Adoption of Report and adjournment

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## Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.4

**Scope and decision making**  
**Proposed Changes to Articles IV, III & VIII**

**Scope****Article IV**

1. In order to carry out the objectives of this Convention the Commission shall be responsible for the study of the populations of tuna and tuna-like fishes; ~~[(the Scombriformes [Scombroidei] with the exception of the families Trichiuridae and Gempylidae and the genus *Scomber*, elasmobranchs that are oceanic, pelagic and highly migratory (hereinafter ICCAT species)];~~; and such other species of fishes exploited caught in fishing for ICCAT species in the Convention area, ~~as are not under investigation by another taking into account the work of other relevant international fishery-related organizations and arrangements.~~ Such study shall include research on those species; the abundance, biometry and ecology of the fishes the oceanography of their environment; and the effects of natural and human factors upon their abundance. The Commission may also study species belonging to the same ecosystem or dependent on or associated with the ICCAT species. The Commission, in carrying out these responsibilities shall, insofar as feasible, utilise the technical and scientific services of, and information from, official agencies of the Contracting Parties and their political sub-divisions and may, when desirable, [in accordance with criteria to be developed by the Commission], utilise the available services and [verifiable] information of any [public or private] [officially recognized] institution [recognized by the Contracting Party] organization or individual, and may undertake within the limits of its budget [with the cooperation of concerned Contracting Parties,] independent research to supplement the research work being done by governments, national institutions or other international organizations. [The Commission shall ensure that any information received from such institution, organisation or individual is consistent with established scientific standards regarding quality and objectivity. [adopted by the Commission]]

**Decision making****Article III**

3. ~~Except as may otherwise be provided in this Convention~~ Decisions of the Commission shall be taken by consensus as a general rule. Except as may otherwise be provided in this Convention, if consensus cannot be achieved, decisions shall be made by a [three-fourths] [two-thirds] [simple] majority of the Contracting Parties present and casting affirmative or negative votes, each Contracting Party having one vote. Two-thirds of the Contracting Parties shall constitute a quorum [except for intersessional vote by correspondence or electronic means].

**Article VIII**

1. (a) The Commission may, on the basis of scientific evidence, make recommendations designed to:
- (i) ensure in the Convention area the long-term conservation and sustainable use of ICCAT species by [ensuring that the biomass does not fall below] [maintaining or restoring the abundance of stocks of those species at or above the levels capable of producing] that supports maximum sustainable yield; and
  - (ii) promote, where necessary, the conservation of other species that are dependent on or associated with ICCAT species, with a view to maintaining or restoring populations of such species above levels at which their reproduction may become seriously threatened.

These recommendations shall be applicable to the Contracting Parties under the conditions laid down in paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article.

- (b) The recommendations referred to above shall be made:
- (i) at the initiative of the Commission if an appropriate Panel has not been established; or

- (i bis) at the initiative of the Commission with the approval of at least two-thirds of all the Contracting Parties} if an appropriate Panel has been established but a proposal has not been approved;
- (ii) on a proposal that has been approved by an appropriate Panel if such a Panel has been established;
- (iii) on a proposal that has been approved by the appropriate Panels if the recommendation in question relates to more than one geographic area, species or group of species.
2. Each recommendation made under paragraph 1 of this Article shall become effective for all Contracting Parties ~~six~~ four months after the date of the notification from the Commission transmitting the recommendation to the Contracting Parties, unless otherwise agreed upon by the Commission at the time a recommendation is adopted and except as provided in paragraph 3 of this Article. However, under no circumstances shall a recommendation become effective in less than three months.
- 3 a) If any Contracting Party in the case of a recommendation made under paragraph 1(b)(i) above, or any Contracting Party member of a Panel concerned in the case of a recommendation made under paragraph 1(b) (ii) or (iii) above, presents to the Commission an objection to such recommendation within the ~~six months~~ period established pursuant to [or such other period as decided by the Commission] provided for in paragraph 2 above, the recommendation shall not become effective for ~~an additional sixty days~~ the Contracting Parties concerned.
- ~~(b) Thereupon any other Contracting Party may present an objection prior to the expiration of the additional sixty days period, or within forty five days of the date of the notification of an objection made by another Contracting Party within such additional sixty days, whichever date shall be the later.~~
- ~~(c) The recommendation shall become effective at the end of the extended period or periods for objection, except for those Contracting Parties that have presented an objection.~~
- ~~(d) However, if a recommendation has met with an objection presented by only one or less than one fourth of the Contracting Parties, in accordance with sub paragraphs (a) and (b) above, the Commission shall immediately notify the Contracting Party or Parties having presented such objection that it is to be considered as having no effect.~~
- ~~(e) In the case referred to in sub paragraph (d) above the Contracting Party or Parties concerned shall have an additional period of sixty days from the date of said notification in which to reaffirm their objection. On the expiry of this period the recommendation shall become effective, except with respect to any Contracting Party having presented an objection and reaffirmed it within the delay provided for.~~
- ~~(f) If a recommendation has met with objection from more than one fourth but less than the majority of the Contracting Parties, in accordance with sub paragraphs (a) and (b) above, the recommendation shall become effective for the Contracting Parties that have not presented an objection thereto.~~
- g) If objections have been presented by a majority of the Contracting Parties within the [six months] period established pursuant to ~~or such other period as decided by the Commission provided for in~~ paragraph 2 above, the recommendation shall not become effective for any Contracting Party.
- ~~[g) In the case of a recommendation adopted pursuant to a vote, if the number of Contracting Parties presenting an objection within the timeframe established pursuant to paragraph 2 above exceeds the number of Contracting Parties approving the recommendation at the time of its adoption, the recommendation shall not become effective for any Contracting Party.]~~
- [h) A Contracting Party presenting an objection in accordance with sub-paragraph (a) above shall provide to the Commission in writing, at the time of presenting its objection, an explanation of the reason for its objection, which shall be based [on the inter alia] [only on one or more of] the following grounds:
- (i) The recommendation is inconsistent with this Convention or another ICCAT recommendation still in effect, or other relevant provisions of international law including those reflected in UNCLOS and the UN Fish Stocks Agreement.;
- (ii) The recommendation unjustifiably discriminates in form or in fact against the objecting Contracting Party.

~~[(iii) [The objecting Contracting Party has in place a domestic measure] [The recommendation is inconsistent with a domestic measure] that pursues compatible conservation and management objectives and that is at least as effective as the recommendation.]~~

~~[(iii) The Contracting Party cannot practicably comply with the measure]~~

~~[(iii) The Contracting Party cannot practicably comply with the measure because it has adopted a different approach to conservation and sustainable management that is at least as effective as that contained in the Recommendation. ]~~

~~[(iii) Other [~~exceptional~~] constraints] [special circumstances] of a legal, [~~political~~] or technical nature as a result of which the objecting Contracting Party is not in a position to implement or comply with the measure.]]~~

~~i) Each Contracting Party that presents an objection pursuant to this article shall also, provide to the Commission, to the extent practicable, a description of any alternative management and conservation measures which shall, be at least equally effective as the measure to which it is objecting.~~

~~[(i) Each Contracting Party that presents an objection pursuant to this Article shall, at the same time, to the extent [possible] [applicable] [practicable], specify to the Commission its alternative management and conservation measures which shall be consistent with the objectives of the Convention.]~~

~~(j) The Executive Secretary shall promptly circulate to all Contracting Parties details of any objection and explanation received in accordance with this article.~~

**Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on species considered to be tuna  
and tuna like species or oceanic, pelagic, and highly migratory elasmobranchs**

*(Proposed by the Chair of the Working Group)*

*RECALLING* the work of the Working Group on Convention Amendment to develop recommendations to clarify the scope of the Convention;

*FURTHER RECALLING* that the recommendations developed by the Working Group on Convention Amendment included defining “ICCAT species” to include tuna and tuna-like species and elasmobranchs that are oceanic, pelagic, and highly migratory;

*NOTING* the work of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) to determine which modern taxonomic groupings correspond to the definition of tuna and tuna-like fishes in Article IV of the Convention, and which elasmobranch species would be considered “oceanic, pelagic, and highly migratory”;

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

1. Upon the entry into force of the amendments to the Convention as developed by the Working Group on Convention Amendment, the term “tuna and tuna-like species” shall be understood to include the species of the family Scombridae, with the exception of the genus *Scomber*, and the sub-order Xiphoidei as follows:

**Scombridae**

*Acanthocybium solandri* (Cuvier 1832) – Wahoo

*Auxis rochei rochei* (Risso 1810) – Bullet Tuna

*Auxis thazard thazard* (Lacepède 1800) – Frigate Tuna

*Euthynnus alletteratus* (Rafinesque 1810) – Little Tunny

*Katsuwonus pelamis* (Linnaeus 1858) – Skipjack Tuna

*Orcynopsis unicolor* (Geoffrey St. Hilaire 1817) – Plain Bonito

*Sarda sarda* (Bloch 1793) – Atlantic Bonito

*Scomberomorus maculatus* (Mitchill 1815) – Spanish Mackerel

*Scomberomorus regalis* (Bloch 1793) – Cero

*Scomberomorus tritor* (Cuvier in Cuvier & Valenciennes 1832) – West African Spanish Mackerel

*Gasterochisma melampus* (Richardson 1845) – Butterfly Kingfish

*Allothunnus fallai* (Serventy 1948) – Slender Tuna

*Thunnus alalunga* (Bonnaterre 1788) – Albacore

*Thunnus albacares* (Bonnaterre 1788) – Yellowfin Tuna

*Thunnus atlanticus* (Lesson 1831) – Blackfin Tuna

*Thunnus obesus* (Lowe 1839) – Bigeye Tuna

*Thunnus thynnus* (Linnaeus 1758) – Atlantic Bluefin Tuna

*Thunnus maccoyii* (Castelnau 1872) – Southern Bluefin Tuna

**Istiophoridae**

*Istiompax indica* (Cuvier 1832) – Black Marlin

*Istiophorus platypterus* (Shaw 1792) – Sailfish

*Kajikia albida* (Poey 1860) – White Marlin (currently known as *Tetrapturus albidus* in FAO and other CPCs species list that use FAO species names as reference)

*Makaira nigricans* (Lacepède 1802) – Blue Marlin

*Tetrapturus belone* (Rafinesque 1810) – Mediterranean Spearfish

*Tetrapturus georgii* (Lowe 1841) – Roundscale Spearfish

*Tetrapturus pfluegeri* (Robins & de Sylva 1963) – Longbill Spearfish

**Xiphiidae**

*Xiphias gladius* (Linnaeus 1758) – Swordfish

2. Upon the entry into force of the amendments to the Convention as developed by the Working Group on Convention Amendment, the term “elasmobranchs that are oceanic, pelagic, and highly migratory” shall be understood to include the species as follows:

<i>Order</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Genus</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Species authorship</i>
[...] Orectolobiformes	[...] Rhincodontidae	<i>Rhincodon</i>	<i>typus</i>	Smith 1828
[...] Lamniformes	[...] Pseudocarchariidae	<i>Pseudocarcharias</i>	<i>kamoharai</i>	Matsubara 1936
[...] Lamniformes	[...] Lamnidae	<i>Carcharodon</i>	<i>carcharias</i>	Linnaeus 1758
[...] Lamniformes	[...] Lamnidae	[...] <i>Isurus</i>	[...] <i>oxyrinchus</i>	[...] Rafinesque 1810
[...] Lamniformes	[...] Lamnidae	<i>Isurus</i>	<i>paucus</i>	Guitart Manday 1966
[...] Lamniformes	[...] Lamnidae	<i>Lamna</i>	<i>nasus</i>	Bonnaterre 1788
[...] Lamniformes	[...] Cetorhinidae	<i>Cetorhinus</i>	<i>maximus</i>	Gunnerus 1765
[...] Lamniformes	[...] Alopiidae	[...] <i>Alopias</i>	[...] <i>superciliosus</i>	[...] Lowe 1841
[...] Lamniformes	[...] Alopiidae	<i>Alopias</i>	<i>vulpinus</i>	Bonnaterre 1788
[...] [...]	[...] [...]	[...] [...]	[...] [...]	

Carcharhiniformes	Carcharhinidae	<i>Carcharhinus</i>	<i>falciformis</i>	Müller & Henle 1839
Carcharhiniformes	Carcharhinidae	<i>Carcharhinus</i>	<i>galapagensis</i>	Snodgrass & Heller 1905
Carcharhiniformes	Carcharhinidae	<i>Carcharhinus</i>	<i>longimanus</i>	Poey 1861
Carcharhiniformes	Carcharhinidae	<i>Prionace</i>	<i>glauca</i>	Linnaeus 1758
[...]	[...]	[...]	[...]	
[...]	[...]	[...]	[...]	
Carcharhiniformes	Sphyrnidae	<i>Sphyrna</i>	<i>lewini</i>	Griffith & Smith 1834
Carcharhiniformes	Sphyrnidae	<i>Sphyrna</i>	<i>mokarran</i>	Rüppell 1837
Carcharhiniformes	Sphyrnidae	<i>Sphyrna</i>	<i>zygaena</i>	Linnaeus 1758
[...]	[...]	[...]	[...]	
Myliobatiformes	Dasyatidae	<i>Pteroplatytrygon</i>	<i>violacea</i>	Bonaparte 1832
[...]	[...]	[...]	[...]	
[...]	[...]	[...]	[...]	
Myliobatiformes	Mobulidae	<i>Manta</i>	<i>alfredi</i>	Kreff 1868
Myliobatiformes	Mobulidae	<i>Manta</i>	<i>birostris</i>	Walbaum 1792
[...]	[...]	[...]	[...]	
Myliobatiformes	Mobulidae	<i>Mobula</i>	<i>hypostoma</i>	Bancroft 1831
Myliobatiformes	Mobulidae	<i>Mobula</i>	<i>japanica</i>	Müller & Henle 1841
Myliobatiformes	Mobulidae	<i>Mobula</i>	<i>mobular</i>	Bonnaterre 1788
Myliobatiformes	Mobulidae	<i>Mobula</i>	<i>rochebrunei</i>	Vaillant 1879
Myliobatiformes	Mobulidae	<i>Mobula</i>	<i>tarapacana</i>	Philippi 1892
Myliobatiformes	Mobulidae	<i>Mobula</i>	<i>thurstoni</i>	Lloyd 1908

**Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.4**

**Peaceful settlement of disputes**

*(Proposal of Canada, Brazil, European Union, Norway, United States)*

1. Members of the Commission shall cooperate in order to prevent disputes and shall consult among themselves in order to settle disputes by amicable means.
2. In any case where a dispute is not resolved through the means set out in paragraph 1, the provisions relating to the settlement of disputes set out in Part VIII of the 1995 Agreement shall apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to any dispute between the members of the Commission, whether or not they are also Parties to the 1995 Agreement. *[Source: SPRFMO, WCPFC]*
3. Paragraph 2 shall not affect the status of any member of the Commission in relation to the 1995 Agreement or the 1982 Convention. *[Source: SPRFMO]*

**Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.4**

**Settlement of disputes**

*(Proposed by Turkey)*

1. The members of the Commission shall cooperate in order to prevent disputes. Any member may consult with one or more members about any dispute related to the interpretation or application of the provisions of this Convention to reach a solution satisfactory to all as quickly as possible.
2. If a dispute is not settled through such consultation within a reasonable period, the members in question shall consult among themselves as soon as possible in order to settle the dispute through any peaceful means they may agree upon, in accordance with international law.
3. In cases when two or more members of the Commission agree that they have a dispute of a technical nature, and they are unable to resolve the dispute among themselves, they may refer the dispute, by mutual consent, to a non-binding *ad hoc* expert panel constituted within the framework of the Commission in accordance with the procedures adopted for this purpose by the Commission. The panel shall confer with the members concerned and shall endeavour to resolve the dispute expeditiously without recourse to binding procedures for the settlement of disputes.

*[Source: Antigua Convention of the IATTC]*

**Appendix 7 to ANNEX 4.4**

**Text of possible new Convention article on general principles**

Draft text for possible inclusion in a new Convention Article on general principles.

The Commission and its Members, in conducting work under the Convention, shall act to:

- a) apply the precautionary approach in accordance with relevant internationally agreed standards and as appropriate, recommended practices and procedures;
- b) use the best scientific evidence available;
- c) protect biodiversity in the marine environment;
- d) [consider the impacts of fishing, other relevant human activities, and environmental factors on target stocks, non-target species, and species belonging to the same ecosystem or dependent upon or associated with the target stocks within the Convention area;]
- e) promote fairness and transparency in decision making processes [, including with respect to the allocation of fishing possibilities.] and other activities [, including the application of criteria, to the extent practicable, for the allocation of fishing possibilities] ~~[the criteria on fishing possibilities] [the application, of criteria for] [in] the allocation of fishing possibilities~~; and
- f) give full recognition to the special requirements of developing Members of the Commission, including the need for their capacity building, in accordance with international law, to implement their obligations under this Convention and to develop their fisheries.

**Appendix 8 to ANNEX 4.4**

**Revision to Article II  
ICCAT Convention negotiations**

*(Proposal from Ghana and the United States)*

**Article II**

Nothing in this Convention shall prejudice the rights, jurisdiction and duties of States under international law. This Convention shall be interpreted and applied in a manner consistent with international law.

**Appendix 9 to ANNEX 4.4****Proposal for amendment of the ICCAT criteria for the allocation of fishing possibilities [Ref. 01-25]***(Proposed by Korea and Turkey)*

It is proposed that paragraph 19 of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* [Ref. 01-25] be amended as follows:

“19. The allocation criteria should be applied in a fair, equitable and transparent manner with the goal of ensuring opportunities for all qualifying participants. The allocation of fishing possibilities shall take into account the criteria listed under Title III of this reference. For that purpose, Panels shall endeavour to develop and use indicators that quantify each of the allocation criteria on a stock by stock basis.”

**Appendix 10 to ANNEX 4.4****Proposal for consideration at the 23rd regular meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)***(Proposed by Canada)*

One of the main attributes of the precautionary approach to fisheries management and conservation is the necessity for caution to be exercised in the face of scientific uncertainty. Not using the absence of adequate scientific information as a reason to postpone or fail to take action is another key element of this approach. The precautionary approach has been incorporated into international instruments, and a body of relevant standards, practices and procedures exist at the national, regional and international level to implement this approach.

Portions of the ICCAT Convention reflect certain aspects of the precautionary approach, such as the reliance on scientific information as set out in Article VIII of the Convention which authorizes the Commission to make recommendations, on the basis of scientific advice, for the maintenance of tuna and tuna-like fishes in the Convention area at levels which will permit the maximum sustainable catch. Article 4.1 charges the Commission with undertaking research on the abundance, biometry and ecology of the fishes exploited in tuna fishing in the Convention area.

The Commission has applied certain aspects of a precautionary approach, as reflected in ICCAT Resolution [11-17] on the use of best available scientific advice and Recommendation [11-13] on the principles of decision-making. Canada sees merit in the Commission continuing to do so. In order to support the Commission's efforts in this regard, and taking into consideration the benefits to the Commission of setting out more distinctly certain elements of a precautionary approach, Canada proposes the following draft recommendation.

**Draft Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the use of a precautionary approach in implementing ICCAT conservation and management measures**

*NOTING* that the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement has set out elements of a precautionary approach to the conservation and management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks in order to protect the living marine resources and preserve the marine environment;

*FURTHER NOTING* the general principles and Article 6.5 of the 1995 FAO International Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, which urges States and subregional and regional fisheries management organizations to apply a precautionary approach to conservation, management and exploitation of living aquatic resources in order to protect them and preserve the aquatic environment;

*RECALLING* that the ICCAT Convention does not prevent the Commission from applying a precautionary approach when making management and conservation decisions;

*FURTHER RECALLING* that ICCAT has taken decisions, such as ICCAT Resolutions 09-12, 11-14, and 11-17 as well as Recommendations 11-09, 11-13, 11-15 and 12-05 that apply elements of a precautionary approach;

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the discussions taking place within the Convention Amendment Working Group on the incorporation of a precautionary approach in the proposed amendments to the ICCAT Convention; and

*NOTING* that this recommendation is without prejudice to any discussions or decisions made by the Working Group in this regard;

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

1. When making recommendations pursuant to Article VIII of the Convention, the Commission shall apply a precautionary approach, in accordance with relevant international standards.
2. In applying a precautionary approach, the Commission shall *inter alia*:
  - a) use the best available scientific advice;
  - b) exercise caution when scientific information is uncertain, unreliable or inadequate;
  - c) determine, on the basis of the best scientific information available, stock specific reference points, in particular limit reference points, and the action to be taken if exceeded; and
  - d) not use the absence of adequate scientific information as a reason to postpone or not to take conservation and management action in relation to the species under its mandate.
3. In applying a precautionary approach, the Commission shall take measures to ensure that when limit reference points are approached, they will not be exceeded. In the event that they are exceeded, the Commission shall without delay take action to restore the stocks to levels above the identified reference points.

**Appendix 11 to ANNEX 4.4****Proposal for consideration at the 23rd regular meeting of the  
International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)***(Proposed by Canada)*

An ecosystem approach to fisheries management requires that management decisions consider the impact of the fishery not only on the target species, but also on non-target species, seafloor habitats, and the ecosystems of which these species are a part. This approach requires that management decisions take into account changes in the ecosystem which may affect the species being fished. This includes the effects of weather and climate, and the interactions of target fish stocks with predators, competitors, and prey species.

Article 119 of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) obliges member states to implement certain aspects of the ecosystem based approach when establishing measures to conserve marine living resources in the high seas. Article 5 of the 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement also details certain features of the ecosystem approach, including the need to preserve marine biodiversity and to maintain the integrity of marine ecosystems.

The UN General Assembly has called upon States, directly and through regional fisheries management organizations, to apply, in accordance with international law, an ecosystem approach to the conservation, management and exploitation of fish stocks, and in adopting and implementing conservation and management measures in relation to by-catch, pollution, overfishing, and protecting certain habitats [A/RES/67/79 at paragraph 8].

While the ecosystem approach is not explicitly referenced in the ICCAT Convention, there is nothing in the Convention which prevents the Commission from applying this approach. Indeed, ICCAT has implemented certain aspects of an ecosystem approach, for example, in relation to species caught in association with ICCAT fisheries - see Recommendation [10-09] on sea turtles and Recommendation [10-06] on sharks. The establishment of the Subcommittee on Ecosystems of the SCRS is another example of the Commission's efforts to better implement this approach. Canada believes the Commission must continue to build on these efforts. In order to support the Commission's actions in this regard, Canada proposes the following draft recommendation.

**Draft Recommendation by ICCAT concerning  
the application of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management**

*NOTING* that provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement reflect certain elements of an ecosystem approach to the conservation and management of marine living resources;

*RECALLING* that certain aspects of the ICCAT Convention reflect components of an ecosystem approach, particularly with regard to the research activities of ICCAT;

*FURTHER RECALLING* that ICCAT has taken decisions, such as Rec. [10-06] and Rec. [10-09] that take ecosystem considerations into account;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* the ongoing work of the Subcommittee on Ecosystems which provides valuable information and advice concerning ecosystem related issues and questions facing the Commission;

*DESIRING* to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of ICCAT species and in so doing safeguarding the marine ecosystems in which the resources occur;

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the discussions taking place within the Convention Amendment Working Group on the incorporation of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management in the proposed amendments to the ICCAT Convention; and

*NOTING* that this recommendation is without prejudice to any discussions or decisions made by the Working Group in this regard;

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

1. When making recommendations pursuant to Article VIII of the Convention, the Commission shall apply an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management,
2. In implementing an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management, the Commission shall, *inter alia*:
  - a) consider the interdependence of stocks and species belonging to the same ecosystem or associated with or dependent upon target stocks;
  - b) consider the impacts of fishing, other relevant human activities, and environmental factors on target stocks, non-target species and species belonging to the same ecosystem or associated with or dependent upon target stocks in the Convention area; and
  - c) minimize negative impacts of fishing activities on the marine ecosystem.

**Appendix 12 to ANNEX 4.4****Communication by the Eastern Republic of Uruguay regarding review of the role of the Council**

In accordance with the commitment assumed during the 19th Special Meeting of the Commission held in Genoa, Italy, from 10 to 17 November 2014, the delegation of Uruguay wishes to share with the other delegations its interpretation on the constitution of the Council as a body of the Commission, as provided for in the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (Annex 1 – Basic Texts).

We understand that there has been some uncertainty regarding the implementation of this body throughout the history of the Commission. However, as we expressed during the meeting we consider that its constitution is a mandate of the Convention and as such a duty of the Commission. Furthermore, we understand that the establishment of the Council would favour the functioning of the Commission.

For such purposes, a study has been carried out of the Convention and the regulations (Rules of Procedure and Financial Regulations), in order, identifying those articles that refer to the Council, which are cited and reviewed below:

**A) CONVENTION****1. Article III**

4. The Commission shall hold a regular meeting once every two years. **A special meeting may be called at any time** at the request of a majority of the Contracting Parties **or by decision of the Council as constituted in Article V.**

**2. Article V**

1. There is established within the Commission a **Council** which shall consist of the Chairman and the Vice Chairmen of the Commission together with the representatives of not less than four and not more than eight Contracting Parties. The Contracting Parties represented on the Council shall be elected at each regular meeting of the Commission. However, if at any time the number of the Contracting Parties exceeds forty, the Commission may elect an additional two Contracting Parties to be represented on the Council. The Contracting Parties of which the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen are nationals shall not be elected to the Council. In elections to the Council the Commission shall give due consideration to the geographic, tuna fishing and tuna processing interests as well as to the equal right of the Contracting Parties to be represented on the Council.

This subparagraph, which reads “there is established”, sets up the Council. In other words, according to the Convention, it is incorporated and with the (minimum) functions mentioned; unlike for instance the panels whose establishment is a power of the Commission, given the wording of Article VI: “To carry out the objectives of this Convention the Commission may establish Panels on the basis of species, group of species, or of geographic areas.” The establishment of panels shall be decided by the Commission (art. 12.1 of the Rules of Procedure).

2. The Council shall perform such **functions** as are assigned to it by this Convention or are designated by the Commission, and shall meet at least once in the interim between regular meetings of the Commission. Between meetings of the Commission the Council shall make necessary decisions on the duties to be carried out by the staff and shall issue necessary instructions to the Executive Secretary. Decisions of the Council shall be made in accordance with rules to be established by the Commission.

**3. Article X**

3. **The Council shall review the second half of the biennial budget** at its regular meeting between Commission meetings and, on the basis of current and anticipated developments, may authorise reapportionment of amounts in the Commission budget for the second year within the total budget approved by the Commission.

10. The Commission shall arrange an annual independent audit of the Commission's accounts. **The reports of such audits shall be reviewed and approved by the Commission or by the Council in years when there is no regular Commission meeting.**

## **B) RULES OF PROCEDURE**

### **Rule 3 – Special Meetings of the Commission**

1. A special meeting of the Commission may be called at any time at the request of a majority of the member countries of the Commission or by decision of the Council. The date and place of a special meeting shall be determined by the Council or by the Chairman of the Commission.

**Rule 7:** In reference to the functions of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairmen of the Commission, there is mention to: “To declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the Commission and the Council” (literal a); To rule on points of order, “subject to the right of any Delegate to request that any ruling by the Chairman shall be submitted to the Commission or the Council for decision” (literal d); “To sign on behalf of the Commission or the Council a report of the proceedings of each meeting of the Commission or the Council, for transmission to members of the Commission” (literal f); “Generally to perform any function assigned to him by the Commission or by the Council, or in the Convention” (literal g).

Further, Rule 14 related to the functions of the Executive Secretary establishes that “The Executive Secretary shall, under the general supervision of the Commission, exercise all the functions assigned to him under the Convention and these Rules and such other functions as may be assigned to him from time to time by the Commission or the Council.”

### **Rule 11 – Council**

1. **The Council shall consist** of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Commission together with the representatives of not less than four and not more than eight member countries of the Commission. Representatives of two further member countries of the Commission may be elected to the Council if the membership of the Commission exceeds forty. The member countries of which the Chairman and ViceChairmen are nationals shall not be elected to the Council. The Chairman of the Commission shall preside at the Council meetings.
2. At each regular meeting, the Commission shall elect the member countries of the Commission to be represented on the Council in accordance with Article V, paragraph 1, of the Convention.
3. The Council shall meet at least once in the interim between regular meetings of the Commission and shall hold such further meetings as may be decided by the Commission.
4. The Council shall perform such functions as are assigned to it by the Convention, and other functions as may be designated by the Commission.
5. The Rules of Procedure applicable to the conduct of the business of the Commission shall apply mutatis mutandis to the Council, but they may be supplemented by additional rules adopted by the Council subject to confirmation by the Commission.

### **Rule 14. Executive Secretary and Staff**

2. The Executive Secretary shall, under the general supervision of the Commission, exercise all the functions assigned to him under the Convention and these Rules and such other functions as may be assigned to him from time to time by the Commission or the Council.

**Rule 15.3** – The Council, Panels and other subsidiary bodies shall, at the end of each meeting, adopt a report which shall be submitted to the parent body concerned.

This article places on equal footing the council and the panels, describing them as “subsidiary bodies”.

## C) FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

### Regulation 3 – Appropriations

Transfers within the same chapter of the budget may be effected by the Executive Secretary, who shall report thereon to the Commission or the Council.

In cases where special necessity arises, transfers from one chapter of the budget to another may be effected by the Executive Secretary after having obtained the approval of the Chairman of the Commission and shall be reported to the Commission or the Council.

### Regulation 8 – Trust Funds

The Executive Secretary may accept on behalf of the Commission voluntary contributions whether or not in cash from members of the Commission or from other sources, provided that the purposes for which such voluntary contributions have been made are consistent with the policies, aims and activities of the Commission. The Executive Secretary shall establish trust funds to cover such voluntary contributions and shall report thereon to the Commission or the Council.

### Regulation 10

The Executive Secretary shall designate the bank or banks in which the funds of the Commission shall be kept and report all such depositories to the Council.

### Regulation 11 – Investment of funds

1. The Executive Secretary may make short-term investments of monies not needed for immediate requirements. He may make long-term investments of monies standing to the credit of trust funds in such manner as may be authorized by the Commission or the Council. Interests on the investments of monies standing to the credit of trust funds shall accrue to such trust funds.
2. The Executive Secretary shall report periodically to the Commission or the Council on short-term and longterm investments.

On the basis of a consistent interpretation of all the cited provisions, the following flows:

1. The Council is a body and has been established by the Convention.
2. In the light of the foregoing this mandate is not being fulfilled.
3. The use of the conjunction “or” between the term “Commission” and the term “Council” is indicative of their equivalence i.e. both bodies are on an equal footing, with shared powers in several cases.

## CONCLUSIONS

On the basis of analysis of the foregoing, this delegation considers that there are several positive aspects to the constitution of the Council.

First, the Council as a body mandated by the Convention would provide a broader representation of the Contracting Parties but of which the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen cannot be nationals. Further, the geographical interests would be taken into account as well as the equal participation of the Contracting Parties in the Council.

Second, the constitution of the Council may contribute to greater transparency in all areas of functioning owing to the decision-making powers granted by the Convention and those which may be granted subsequently by the Commission. The transparency would also encompass the financial aspect due to the involvement afforded to this body in the budgetary area of the Commission.

Third, it could collaborate on activities carried out by the Chairman, reducing the workload and supporting the activities of the Secretariat.

**Statement by Pew Charitable Trusts**

As this is the first time that Pew is taking the floor, we would like to thank the United States for hosting and the Secretariat for organizing this important meeting and for last night's very enjoyable and convivial reception.

The convention amendment Working Group process that you are all gathered here to finalize this week is a tremendously important endeavor. Given that this process began over six years ago, a longer time period than some RFMOs have taken to negotiate their entire conventions, it is imperative that these amendments be finalized by the deadline later this year and enter into force without delay.

We welcome many of the statements made yesterday which indicate meaningful progress on key amendment issues.

With regards to this article on general principles, put forward by Brazil, Ghana, Norway and the United States, we are pleased to see this proposal as it outlines guidance on widely-recognized components of modern fisheries management, including using the best science available, applying the precautionary approach, considering ecosystem-based management, promoting transparency, among others. But we wish to underscore that this proposal is the bare minimum at which the Convention can begin to align itself with international law, such as the UN Fish Stocks Agreement and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. Other RFMOs already have such concepts codified in their conventions in greater detail, which is our preference.

Yesterday, we also heard some countries question the need for this kind of amendment on the basis that precautionary or ecosystem-based actions are already taken by the Commission. If that is the case, we don't see the added burden of codifying such principles in the Convention.

We look forward to the discussions ahead and hope the Commission will acknowledge the importance of this amendment proposal by codifying these essential fisheries management principles that would bring this Convention into the 21st century.

#### **4.5 REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE STANDING WORKING GROUP TO ENHANCE DIALOGUE BETWEEN FISHERIES SCIENTISTS AND MANAGERS (Bilbao, Spain, 22-24 June 2015)**

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

The Chair of the Standing Working Group (SWGSM), Dr Martin Tsamenyi (Ghana), opened the meeting, welcomed all participants, and introduced the Commission Chairman, Mr. Stefaan Depypere (EU). The Commission Chairman encouraged the Standing Working Group to make concrete progress that will facilitate the work of the Commission. It is critical to maintain an open atmosphere, so as to encourage debate and discussion. He noted that a greater degree of participation from the CPCs would enrich the discussions of the Standing Working Group and suggested that this should be a goal for the future.

The Executive Secretary introduced the following CPCs to the meeting: 15 CPCs, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, European Union, Ghana, Guinea, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Senegal, South Africa, Tunisia, United States, Uruguay and Vanuatu.

The following intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations also attended the meeting: FAO, Ecology Action Center (EAC), International Seafood Sustainability Foundation (ISSF), Pew Charitable Trusts and the Ocean Foundation.

The List of Participants is appended as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.5**.

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

The Chair explained that an initial draft of the agenda was circulated to all CPCs in January 2015 with a request for input. Several CPCs had offered comments that are reflected in the revised draft agenda. The Chair explained further that he had developed the draft annotated agenda to guide discussions based on the revised terms of reference for the Standing Working Group, which were established in Rec. 14-13. He noted some concern that, as was the case last year, the slate of presenters and facilitators is lacking individual experts from developing States. Although the Chair had initiated a transparent process through a circular requesting that all CPCs provide input on possible presenters or facilitators, only four CPCs responded to this request. The Chair had then reached out to many different CPCs to seek a diverse range of experts but many individuals were unable to accept, as they had other obligations and commitments. It was noted that this meeting afforded an opportunity for every CPCs to participate actively in the discussions and offer their expertise in this way, and that indeed, active participation in the dialogue by all CPCs is very important to the process.

Balanced participation by scientists and managers is critical to the success of this Working Group. Everyone recognized the advantages of the dialogue taking the form of an informal exchange as a means of achieving broader engagement from individual experts. Participants noted the potential value of this approach for future meetings consistent with Rec. 14-13, which provides for discussions to take place in an open forum.

The Agenda was adopted without change and is appended as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.5**.

##### **3. Nomination of the rapporteur**

Ms. Rachel O'Malley (United States) served as rapporteur for the meeting.

##### **4. Review of the objectives of SWGSM [Rec. 14-13] and expected meeting outcomes**

The Chair emphasized that the Working Group's overall objective is to enhance communication and foster mutual understanding between fisheries managers and scientists. These efforts will support the further development and implementation of science-based management strategies. Participants agreed that tangible outcomes from this meeting would be an important way to advance the Working Group's discussions. These could include a work plan for implementing Rec. 11-13 through case studies or "pilot stocks". Without prejudging the discussions to take place under subsequent items of the Agenda, the Chair suggested that any

agreed outcomes could be captured in the form of a recommendation to be referred back to the Commission. The Chair emphasized that the Working Group has a mandate in Rec. 14-13 that lays out expectations; we must determine how best to accomplish this charge. Whatever conclusions are reached, it will be critical to define the next steps.

## **5. Recap of the basic components of precautionary management (from SWGSM 1), including necessary trade-offs between short-term and long-term management objectives**

Dr Santiago recalled that discussions on this topic have deep roots, stretching back to the first SCRS Methods Working Group meeting in 1999. He suggested that reaching agreement on formal definitions of key terms could help to provide clarity (e.g., target vs limit vs threshold). He highlighted several issues from the first Standing Working Group meeting, including the importance of establishing management objectives for individual stocks and clarifying the roles and relationship between the SCRS and the Commission. Building on the principles of decision making that were agreed in Rec. 11-13, managers need to provide more specific guidance to the SCRS on their expectations in terms of probabilities and timelines. Several existing recommendations provide examples of timelines and probabilities (both implicit and explicit) that have been adopted by ICCAT in the past. He noted that even without the establishment of formal reference points, the implicit target area is the green zone of the Kobe plot ( $F < F_{MSY}$  and  $B > B_{MSY}$ ).

Dr Josu Santiago reminded participants that uncertainty is inherent to the fisheries management process. One job of the SCRS is to quantify and characterize uncertainty. It was suggested that further discussion is needed concerning how to incorporate uncertainties when making management decisions. Dr Santiago explained that MSE is a tool that can be used to evaluate the main sources of uncertainty surrounding a management goal. MSE can also be useful for considering socioeconomics in our decision making. Greater uncertainty indicates a need for greater precaution. One CPC suggested that when determining specific management objectives to be balanced through the MSE process, other factors to consider could include monitoring, control and surveillance measures and the nature of the fisheries for that particular stock.

## **6. Consideration of how Harvest Control Rules for ICCAT fisheries might be designed, in the light of specific biological, environmental and socio-economic considerations**

### *6.1 Basic elements of Harvest Control Rules*

Dr Gerald Scott gave a presentation highlighting the basic elements of Harvest Control Rules (HCRs) (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.5**). HCRs are a set of pre-agreed rules that will be applied to ensure that management seeks to achieve identified targets and avoid limits. Dr Scott explained that HCRs are one of many elements in a harvest strategy, including data collection, setting targets and limits and associated probabilities, and estimating stock status relative to the reference points. He pointed out that similar discussions have been occurring in other tuna RFMOs, and their work may provide some useful examples.

Dr Scott noted that Recommendation 11-13 provides a framework for establishing harvest control rules, but that more work is needed to operationalize this recommendation. What is needed from the management side - building on Rec. 11-13 - is specific input on desired probabilities of being in the 'green' zone and of avoiding limits, as well as input on how long should it take to accomplish these outcomes. Scientists will continue work toward full characterization of uncertainty in stock status evaluations to improve advice concerning the odds of achieving the specified management objectives. While there are a number of methods employed to characterize and quantify uncertainties, a range of unquantified uncertainties can be reasonably captured in the Management Strategy Evaluation process.

To facilitate a more interactive engagement on these issues, Dr Scott circulated a spreadsheet developed at IOTC that enables participants to select control parameters for a fishery loosely based on north Atlantic albacore and see the resulting simulation of management outcomes. In addition, he circulated a questionnaire to be answered anonymously to evaluate the views of the meeting participants on the basic elements of harvest control rules, control mechanisms, management objectives, risks and probabilities.

**6.2 Conservation considerations: How  $F_{MSY}$  and  $B_{MSY}$  should be considered (e.g. are they target or limit reference points? Which probability and timeframe should be associated to these reference points in each case? Should we define reference points based on the precautionary approach?)**

Dr Victor Restrepo opened his presentation (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.5**) by explaining the apparent contradiction between the UNFSA Annex II Guidelines and the objectives contained in RFMO Conventions such as ICCAT's, which has caused some confusion as to whether  $F_{MSY}$  should be a limit or a target. At the time UNFSA was negotiated, it was common for stock assessment methods to assume perfect knowledge in many parameters and to ignore important sources of uncertainty. In situations like these, it is reasonable to view the estimate of  $F_{MSY}$  with caution and to consider a target  $F$  that is less than  $F_{MSY}$  so as to provide the precautionary buffer envisioned in the UNFSA Guidelines. In common practice today,  $F_{MSY}$  is estimated taking a more realistic account of data and biological uncertainties, variability in productivity, stock status and fishery selectivity. Whether or not such an estimate of  $F_{MSY}$  is a reasonable target in a particular situation is a question that could be studied through Management Strategy Evaluation.

Dr Restrepo noted that a safe option is to view MSY as a threshold that triggers management action. This is consistent with Recommendation 11-13. He described the  $B_{threshold}$  as a “soft limit” that triggers some management action before the biomass declines to a level below  $B_{lim}$ ; if a harvest control rule establishes only a  $B_{lim}$ , more drastic management action will be needed to reduce fishing mortality when that limit is breached.

It should be noted that, if  $F_{MSY}$  is set as a target and  $F$  is maintained at that level, stock biomass will fluctuate above and below  $B_{MSY}$  due to recruitment variation and other factors. These fluctuations can be considerable for some stocks. Dr Restrepo suggested that for most ICCAT stocks there are proxies for MSY that could be used instead (e.g.,  $F_{0.1}$ , which requires less data and performs well under many circumstances).

It was noted that if  $B_{MSY}$  or  $F_{MSY}$  is selected as the target, then on average the stock will be in the green zone of the Kobe plot (no overfishing occurring; stock not overfished) but sometimes it will be outside of the green zone. To be consistent with the principles established in Rec. 11-13, the aim should be to fluctuate within the green quadrant.

As a first step, the managers need to define objectives. For example, it may be possible to get a higher long term average yield with a lower  $F$  level. Several participants expressed a desire to seek stability in yield. There was openness to considering various kinds of reference points, including targets, limits and thresholds (or intermediate limits), and a range of probabilities associated with crossing these points. This should be done for individual stocks, taking into account stock status, uncertainty, life history and other factors. It was suggested that a range of target biomass could be considered. The identification of pilot stocks may be helpful to demonstrate how these concepts work. The SCRS Chair suggested that the easiest way forward is to build on related efforts that are already underway at the SCRS (e.g., determination of interim reference points for several stocks).

The Chair confirmed that he would return to a discussion of objectives later in the Agenda. It was also generally agreed that the quality of the data is of critical importance, and ICCAT must continue its efforts to improve data quality and data reporting.

**6.3 Ecosystem considerations (e.g., by-catch, impact on other stocks): What are the most appropriate ecosystem indicators that have impact on tuna fisheries?**

The Chair informed Working Group participants that relevant discussions on this topic by the SCRS took place two weeks prior at the meeting of the SCRS Sub-committee on Ecosystems. He asked the Chairman of the SCRS to provide a brief presentation on some of the SCRS discussions at that meeting (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.5**). Dr Die (SCRS Chairman) explained that related work has been ongoing at the SCRS over the last several years. The development of an Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) framework requires input from all ICCAT stakeholders; he suggested that the SWGSM is the ideal forum for these discussions.

Dr Die introduced the basic components of an EBFM framework: ecological (biodiversity, productivity of target stocks), economic (resilience and value of the fisheries), social/cultural (community structure and behavior) and institutional. He explained that a conceptual management objective must be developed for each element that is part of the components of the framework. These objectives should relate to sustainability and very generally describe the desired state (e.g., conserve biodiversity and habitat within the Convention Area). The conceptual objectives are then linked to specific operational objectives; this helps to identify gaps and establish clear priorities. After objectives are agreed, then the SCRS will select a series of indicators that are measurable and tied to specific reference points. At this stage, the SCRS proposes to focus on the four elements of the ecological dimension of the framework: habitats, bycatch, trophic relationships and target species.

Dr Patrick Daniel (EU) gave a presentation on ecosystem consideration: “*The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management: What Indicators for What Objectives? The Case of the European Union*” (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.5**). Dr Daniel explained that the EU marine environment strategy has a general objective covering the ecological focus of the ecosystem approach. Eleven criteria and descriptors cover the fields relating to the different components of the marine ecosystems, biotic and abiotic, including their productive capacity, sustainability and the impact of human activities on these ecosystems. For each criterion and descriptor, a series of indicators has been fixed. The way of taking account of these indicators and any associated reference points, is linked not only to the dynamics of the different fishery populations but also their interactions within food webs and the broader marine ecosystems. Dr Daniel concluded that all objectives and indicators should be assessed in light of their sensitivity to changes in the marine environment, so as to eventually be able to measure and anticipate the impact of changes in marine ecosystems on the evolution of fishing activities.

The facilitator, Dr Guillermo Diaz (USA), opened discussion of both presentations. The importance of certain environmental factors was emphasized by some Working Group participants, including climate change and ocean acidification, as well as human activities such as aquaculture. Dr Die confirmed that the SCRS is looking not just at how fishing activities affect the environment, but also working to understand how other components of the ecosystem (e.g., climate change) impact the target species. One of the benefits of taking a broader range of ecological data into account is that it can improve the quality of the scientific advice the SCRS provides for the target species. The SCRS Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods is developing simulations to evaluate which environmental indicators are most important to the stock assessment process.

One participant suggested that a risk analysis could help to identify which ecosystem effects are important for specific fisheries, as this will vary. The SCRS Chair responded that the SCRS has not yet undertaken a risk analysis of this sort. Another suggested that implementing an ecosystem based approach to fisheries management will be especially challenging because of different national legislation; in particular there are sometimes data confidentiality concerns that prevent progress. There was concern expressed by one participant that incorporating ecosystem considerations into the stock assessment process will require a significant increase in the amount of data needed, and the SCRS will need to look at mechanisms or develop data collecting programmes for filling those gaps, as needed.

In response to a question about related initiatives in other tuna RFMOs, the observer from FAO replied that EBFM has not yet been operationalized in other tRFMOs. The ABNJ Tuna Project is prepared to support ICCAT’s work in this area by inviting representatives of the other tRFMOs and technical experts to meet in a global forum to discuss their ideas. The same observer indicated that ICCAT seems to be ahead of other tRFMOs in the development of an EBFM framework. One participant pointed out that non-tuna RFMOs are also working in the development and implementation of EBFM. For instance, NAFO has established a Committee to look at the impact of other maritime activities, multispecies interactions and minimizing by-catch, and this may provide some inspiration to the work of the tRFMOs.

Dr Santiago reminded participants that EBFM is addressed in the SCRS Science Strategic Plan for 2015-20, including through specific goals, objectives and measurable targets. There was general agreement within the Working Group that ICCAT should maintain its momentum in the area of EBFM. Given the complexity of the issue, a stepwise approach will be required. Dr Guillermo Diaz asked participants to focus their discussion on potential objectives for the four ecological elements: habitats, by-catch, trophic relationships and target species. He clarified that the Commission does not need to tackle all four elements at once; initially, the Commission can focus on identifying objectives for certain elements only. The work of the SCRS is most advanced in the areas of target species and by-catch, so these elements may be a logical place to begin defining objectives. Participants concluded that with a better understanding of the SCRS’s work in this area, the Commission is now well-positioned to develop clear objectives that will allow the SCRS to move forward in their work.

#### **6.4 Socio-economic considerations: What socio-economic indicators should be associated to the different fisheries affective a same stock?**

Mr. Antonio Cervantes (EU) gave a presentation on *Current EU Provisions for the Collection of Socio-Economic Data and Their Use in the Context of the EU Fisheries Management Framework and Management Strategy Evaluations* (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.5**). Ms. Faith Scattolon (Canada), facilitated this Agenda item, and she invited participants to engage in discussions. Several noted that social and economic factors are very important considerations for managers, but that they are often difficult to quantify. Relevant data are not readily available for many ICCAT fisheries. It was also recognized that CPCs generally do not send economists to SCRS or Commission meetings, and this lack of expertise would need to be addressed if the Commission were interested in advancing work in this area. Dr Die concurred that the SCRS, as currently constituted, has limited capacity to advise the Commission on this issue or even engage in a productive dialogue on the topic.

Regarding the question of which economic indicators should be considered, it was noted that many indicators *could* be considered, but economic expertise would be needed to determine which indicators *should* be considered. The Working Group was not ready to make this determination and agreed that the identification of specific objectives would help determine what socio-economic data might need to be collected. Initially, this question might be informed by looking at a case study. It was suggested that one use of social and economic information can be to evaluate the relative economic impacts as well as net benefits associated with alternative management options in order to assist managers in selecting a management approach.

One participant suggested that the central issue related to the question of socio-economics is one of profitability (i.e., revenue minus variable costs and labor). Others agreed that profitability is an important, but perhaps not the only relevant socio-economic concept, and also questioned whether the SCRS could or should play a central role in trying to evaluate profitability. The issue of profitability is complex: lower catches may yield higher prices (due to increased demand in the marketplace), but lower catches may coincide with increased costs (increased variable costs if catches are low), thus lowering overall profitability. Different management strategies that affect catchability will also impact harvesting costs.

Several participants noted the potential difficulty in reaching consensus on economic objectives at the Commission level given the diversity of the various ICCAT fisheries and the varying needs of CPCs. It may be more appropriate for CPCs to determine their economic objectives on a national basis and take these objectives into consideration when implementing ICCAT recommendations through the management of their own domestic fisheries.

The Working Group recognized that, while not ideal, there are ways to consider economic objectives through the MSE process with existing information through the use of proxies (e.g., long-term average catch, stability in total allowable catch levels). The performance of various harvest control rules could be evaluated in terms of their success in meeting various objectives, including any economic objectives identified by the Commission. One participant suggested that the Maximum Economic Yield (MEY) should be considered as a management goal.

The Working Group participants all agreed that this is a complex issue that would require the engagement of specialized expertise from the CPCs in order to make progress. There was general agreement on the need to explore ways to more formally consider economic data as a means of informing management decisions. A crucial step initially will be to reach agreement on basic terminology. It was noted that economic information can be helpful in evaluating the impacts of various harvest strategies and can also be used to inform decisions about how quickly to end overfishing and how to determine time horizons for rebuilding.

### ***6.5 Possible needs for social and economic data and research projects***

Dr Craig Brown (USA), facilitator of this Agenda item, opened the discussion by remarking that it is difficult to plan for possible research needs at this stage given that the SCRS is lacking expertise in this field. The Working Group took note of this and also that such data collection and analysis would significantly increase the SCRS workload, which is already very substantial. One participant noted that a better picture of fishing effort is needed to conduct any analyses, as the price of fuel, labor costs, subsidies, etc., varies substantially by fleet. Another participant noted that market information is very important and the impact of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing activities would also be an important factor to consider.

Several participants noted, from a practical perspective, the need to consider the kinds of economic information that are already collected by CPCs or available through secondary sources. Price data are available in some areas, for example, but accessing this information will pose a challenge in other areas. Augmenting these data sources through new data collection programmes would be an expensive endeavor in many cases. Several CPCs expressed interest in working together intersessionally to develop a basic questionnaire to determine what types of economic data are currently collected by individual CPCs. These results of this questionnaire could be used to identify data gaps.

One participant noted that developing coastal States have some unique challenges associated with the collection of data to support the evaluation of social and economic considerations. For example, there is a need to develop indicators that could assess the economic activity associated with artisanal fisheries. Several other participants suggested that an initial step is to improve our understanding of these fisheries.

## 7. Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) and examples in managed fisheries

Dr Per Sandberg (Norway) gave a presentation that described how MSE was used to establish a harvest control rule for Norwegian spring spawning herring (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.5**). This Northeast Atlantic fish stock is utilized by 5 states/parties. The fishery collapsed in the late 1960s, and it took nearly 20 years for the stock to recover. In the late 1990s, managers saw the need to establish a harvest rule for this stock that could determine the annual level of Total Allowable Catch (TAC). This was done by first identifying possible management strategies and thereafter asking their scientific advisor (ICES) to calculate the consequences of the various management strategies. A small Working Group of scientists and managers evaluated the consequences of various management strategies, and advised the managers from the five parties which to choose. With this as a background, the managers chose a harvest rule for the stock, which has now been in operation for 16 years. Dr Sandberg's presentation explained how the work was organised, and which elements were seen as important, to establish the harvest control rule.

Dr Sandberg was asked how the initial Group was selected. He explained that as this was a straddling stock, five parties needed to agree to the harvest control rule. It was important to have a good balance of managers and scientists as part of the group. One lesson learned was to involve stakeholders in the process at an early stage. This may be accomplished at the national level through the CPCs or there must be an organizational change to involve stakeholders directly (e.g., through a workshop). Either or both may be appropriate, and this may be considered on a case by case basis.

Ms. Faith Scattolon (Canada) presented a case study on the application of MSE in the Canadian pollock fishery. She described the ways in which MSE can offer particular advantages over the traditional approach to fisheries management. For example, the application of pre-determined inputs enables a focus on long-term research to address uncertainties. In the case of Canadian pollock, the process began with a workshop involving external and internal MSE experts, scientists, fisheries managers and industry stakeholders to scope out key issues and to ensure these participants had a common understanding of the process and expected outcomes. Three management objectives were established, and the management procedure (i.e., formula used to set the TAC) was tested for robustness through a series of simulations including several plausible scenarios for areas of uncertainty. Ms. Scattolon concluded that the choice of management objectives inevitably requires trade-offs, and the MSE approach provides a disciplined approach to their consideration.

Discussion was facilitated by Dr Joseph Powers. Dr Powers noted that individual CPCs have very different objectives for their fisheries and asked participants to consider how the SCRS can provide information that will be helpful in determining management strategies.

One participant observed that MSE is a tool that could be used to assess different reference points and determine which ones would best help to achieve management objectives. Alternative harvest control rules can then be tested to examine trade-offs and determine which ones maximize the ability to achieve the identified objectives. The MSE process relies on an active dialogue among managers, scientists and stakeholders. Participants considered which indicators might be appropriate in the ICCAT context. Dr Powers suggested that three of the main indicators typically relate to sustainability, maximizing catch, and keeping interannual variability of catches low. It was noted that the indicators developed by IOTC may provide a useful example for consideration.

One participant noted the importance of defining stock collapse as related to the HCR framework. As part of the EBFT management recommendation adopted by the Commission, the fishery shall be suspended if signs of recruitment failure are identified by SCRS. This could be interpreted as an implicit reference point (i.e.,  $B_{lim}$ ).

## 8. Detailed examination of case studies already proposed in 2014

Dr Die referred the participants to the presentation given by Dr Santiago at the 2014 Annual meeting and provided an update on the most recent HCR/MSE work underway within the SCRS (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.5**). He noted that among the case studies, there were some common steps but also some substantial differences in the approaches used.

### **8.1 N-ALB**

Dr Die explained that the work of the SCRS was most advanced for northern albacore and this would be the topic of a separate presentation. Dr Gorka Merino presented a preliminary assessment of HCR for North Atlantic albacore (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.5**). Dr Merino explained how an MSE framework based on the last albacore stock assessment was used to evaluate how three candidate HCRs perform in achieving the management objectives of maintaining the highest long-term average catch and a high probability of staying in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot.

### **8.2 N-SWO**

On North Atlantic swordfish, Dr Die reminded the participants that, relative to other stocks, this is a data rich stock and the last assessment showed a greater than 90% probability that the stock is in the green zone of the Kobe plot (i.e., the stock is not overfished and not subject to overfishing). North Atlantic swordfish is the only stock for which the Commission has adopted an interim reference point; a  $B_{lim}$  of  $0.4B_{msy}$  is specified in Rec [13-02]. Development of MSE for North Atlantic swordfish is at a preliminary stage and not ready for providing management advice. Involved scientists must determine which sources of uncertainty are to be considered and which will not be incorporated. Dr Die suggested that this could be a future topic for discussion at the SWGSM. He noted that it is essential for managers weigh in on the selection of performance measures. The SCRS has developed a number of different alternative estimation models and reference points. Sample HCR and interim reference points were selected for the initial analysis; consideration of all hypotheses allows the evaluation of the performance of the harvest strategies (combination of data, assessment method, HCR and management action). Overall achievement of the different management goals by each harvest strategy can be visualized using a 'spider-web' graph. Using this type of graph, the quantitative objectives associated with the performance indicators can be examined relative to one another.

### **8.3 Skipjack**

Dr Die explained that there is a high degree of uncertainty surrounding the biological parameters needed to conduct accurate stock assessments for eastern Atlantic and western Atlantic skipjack. Fully quantitative stock assessments for skipjack tuna are difficult to conduct and therefore, alternative methods of investigating current stock status are required. Following discussion at the first SWGSM meeting in 2014, the SCRS explored the use of catch-at-size information (e.g., proportion of skipjack caught: 1) above their maturity size; 2) above the size that produces the highest yields, and 3) above the size that contributes the most to the reproductive output of the stock) as a possible way to develop applicable quantitative length-based HCR. Due to the nature of the tropical tuna fishery, the SCRS has recommended that any further work to develop a skipjack HCR should take into account yellowfin and bigeye tunas through a multispecies approach.

### **8.4 Bluefin tuna**

Regarding bluefin tuna, Dr Die explained that MSE work has been coordinated by the GBYP modeling group. The SCRS conducted some related work at the 2015 bluefin tuna data preparatory meeting, but this work has not yet been presented to the full SCRS yet. The objectives of this work are: 1) to test and improve stock assessment methods; 2) to identify important sources of uncertainties in status and productivity of the two bluefin tuna stocks; 3) to evaluate quantitative objectives for the eastern and western Atlantic stocks rebuilding plans; 4) to determine what constitutes a threat of stock collapse; and 5) to consider potential utility of time-area closures. The SCRS has developed a modular approach that can be easily adapted for other stocks.

Dr Die called the Working Group's attention to the use of 'spider-web' graphs and Pareto plots, noting that it is challenging to display and communicate the full range of MSE results; the SCRS is still exploring the best way to accomplish this. He invited the SWGSM participants to consider useful ways of representing results and to share their views on this matter.

Dr Die concluded by emphasizing that communication between scientists and managers is essential, that effective dialogue requires consistent use of terminology, and that progress on MSE will depend on the development of clear statements of management objectives. He advised that the SWGSM must be realistic and proceed in small steps; many decisions need to be made, but these efforts are most likely to be successful if we do not try to make progress on all fronts at once. The SCRS Chair was asked to advise the SWGSM about the schedule of the SCRS and opportunities to advance this work.

Dr Santiago, facilitator of this Agenda item, invited participants to discuss. The Working Group members recognized that work related to the northern albacore stock was more advanced than for other stocks and that this could serve as a useful test case. However, there was general agreement that this should not prevent the SCRS from continuing with related work for other stocks. One participant expressed reluctance to proceed with work on North Atlantic swordfish until any IUU fishing is better quantified. Dr Santiago explained that MSE could help to cope with this situation, as it provides a framework that can incorporate the impact of deficiencies in implementing the management process. Another participant suggested that IUU fishing and related uncertainties should be built into the MSE exercise for swordfish.

Several participants felt that the application of MSE for bluefin tuna is an attractive idea, but there was also concern about this due to data deficiencies for some of the bluefin fisheries. It was suggested that initial work should focus on a stock that is more data-rich. There were also some questions about how related work on bluefin tuna could proceed given the timing of the next assessment in 2016 and the advance work needed to prepare for that assessment. Dr Santiago agreed that this is an important consideration and noted that SCRS has mapped out a schedule of related activities through 2018. Dr Powers added that the meetings of the SWGSM are important opportunities to inform this planning process. While acknowledging the complexity of this endeavor, there was general support among Working Group participants for the SCRS to continue its work on this front.

Dr Die was asked how CPCs can effectively participate in the MSE process. He responded that the newly formed FADs Working Group could serve as a model; a similar format could be used for engaging scientists, managers, and stakeholders in the MSE process. Dr Powers noted that in the case of bluefin tuna, work has not yet progressed to that stage. The SCRS is still working to develop a better understanding of the Commission's expectations. Another participant suggested that the SWGSM could be used as a general forum, or umbrella, with subgroups established as needed.

Regarding skipjack, participants noted that while possible to develop a single MSE for tropical tunas, this would add another layer of complexity, as the SCRS would need to define the interactions that exist between the fisheries and the productivity of the various stocks involved. Newly developing data streams may offer support to this effort (e.g., acoustic data from FAD buoys, which could be used as an indicator of productivity, and the sizable investment in a tropical tunas tagging programme). MSE would allow the SCRS and the Commission to make use of all this new information. While it was clear that these initiatives offer some promise for the future, the Working Group participants did not identify MSE for tropical tunas as an immediate priority.

Several participants voiced the importance of establishing a roadmap to guide the development of further MSE work on specific stocks, with associated timeframes. Dr Die agreed that the development of such a roadmap through the SWGSM process would be a useful outcome from the perspective of the SCRS.

One participant suggested that the Commission's panels could provide a forum for discussing specific management objectives and providing necessary input to the SCRS, while a more general discussion of objectives should continue within the SWGSM. This idea was welcomed and it was agreed that the SWGSM should develop a recommendation to outline future steps. It was also noted that ample time would be needed on the agenda of the Annual meeting to allow the SWGSM to report back to the Commission on its discussions and conclusions.

## **9. Possible proposals on how to further develop the current provisions of Rec. [11-13]**

### ***9.1 Lessons learnt from fisheries other than ICCAT***

Ms. Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA) gave a presentation on *Lessons Learnt for Fisheries Other than ICCAT*. Ms. Warner-Kramer outlined the progress to date in developing harvest control rules and MSE in the other tuna RFMOs, and noted in particular the recent work in the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission to identify management objectives and associated performance indicators. The presentation highlighted the lessons learnt in the experiences of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT) in establishing a management procedure and MSE, and the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) in developing its precautionary approach framework. In NAFO, the long, gradual development of reference points and harvest control rules benefitted from early work to clearly define the respective roles and tasks of scientists and managers in the process. NAFO also worked early on to identify a few candidate stocks that were representative of the range of NAFO stocks and fisheries, which formed the models for later work. In CCSBT, the relatively rapid process of establishing a robust management procedure and MSE was possible because of work at the beginning to agree to a schedule and methods, as well as extensive and transparent communication between scientists, managers, and stakeholders as measures were being refined.

Dr Scott was invited to present the results of his questionnaire. He noted that responses were provided by individual participants and these responses were not necessarily reflective of the CPCs' official views. A high proportion of attendees had completed the questionnaire. When asked to describe their understanding of HCR, the dominant view expressed by participants was "a vision for where the fishery should be and how to get there considering uncertainty". A majority considered 75% to be a "high probability" of achieving a target, and the most popular response to the question of how long they considered to be "as soon as possible" was 3-5 years, although a high proportion indicated that it depended on the life history characteristics and status of the stock in question. It was also noted that time frames for managing fishing mortality can be much shorter than that required to rebuild biomass to the 'green' zone. The survey results are provided in **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.5**. Dr Scott suggested that the results could be used to inform the dialogue regarding management issues and potential policy choices.

The SWGSM discussed ways in which Rec. [11-13] can be made operational for individual ICCAT stocks, taking into account lessons learned from other fisheries, with a view to making relevant recommendations to the Commission. Part of the charge of the SWGSM is to translate general principles into overarching management objectives.

Ms. Warner-Kramer reviewed the basic provisions of Rec. [11-13] and noted that while this recommendation outlines the basic principles of decision making within ICCAT, the SCRS has posed specific questions to the Commission to assist with operationalizing this recommendation. One participant noted that there are two basic approaches: either to discuss questions of appropriate probabilities and timeframes generally (i.e., to be applied across species) or examine these questions for individual stocks. It was clarified that the question of timeframes can address two factors, depending on the circumstances: one is the time horizon for rebuilding and the other is the time within which overfishing is ended.

Recalling in particular the lessons learned from NAFO, one participant suggested that a stock-by-stock approach makes more sense. Others agreed that the determination of appropriate values should be stock-specific. One participant explained that we have the ability to define the concept of "high probability" across stocks. Where there are differences (e.g., uncertainty, life history), these differences can be accommodated by shifting reference points.

There was a suggestion that even with a stock-by-stock approach, managers could establish maximum levels of risk or maximum timeframes. Several others supported further exploration of this approach. The SCRS Chair proposed a related approach: that the SWGSM select default values (for time frames for stopping overfishing, minimum levels of probabilities and maximum rebuilding times) that could be adjusted as needed for individual stocks. These could be adapted in the panels.

Concerning the role of the panels, there was general agreement that the SWGSM is the appropriate forum for addressing the general question of priorities, work plans, and where to set any generic "floors or ceilings" (i.e., maximum levels of risk or maximum time frames) or default values. The development of specific feedback to be provided to SCRS for individual stocks (e.g., management objectives) is more appropriately addressed through the panels.

Ms. Warner-Kramer encouraged the participants to discuss general management objectives, noting that she had already seen convergence around the objectives of catch levels and stability.

Dr Scott referred to the management objectives developed by IOTC:

- Status (maximize probability of maintaining stock in the Kobe green zone)
- Safety (maximize probability of the stock remaining above the biomass limit)
- Yield (maximize catch across regions and gears)
- Abundance (maximize catch rates to enhance fishery profitability)
- Stability maximize stability in catches to reduce commercial uncertainty

One participant mentioned that the concept of EBFM is missing from the list of objectives developed by IOTC. Dr Die remarked that the SCRS is in a good position to provide information on most of the management objectives mentioned at the meeting, perhaps with the exception of ecosystem considerations, where the SCRS has only recently started providing some information. Achievability was also mentioned by one participant as an important factor to consider when establishing management objectives, both on the management side and also for the SCRS.

The EU introduced a “Draft recommendation by ICCAT on the development of Harvest Control Rules and of Management Strategy Evaluation on species under the purview of ICCAT”. This proposal is intended to build upon Rec. [11-13] with respect to the definition of reference points. Specific elements were drawn from the 2010 meeting of SCRS Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods. The EU explained that their proposal is designed to provide a road map to facilitate the planning of further work in coordination with the SCRS.

While agreeing with the general intentions behind this proposal, some participants felt that it needed substantial revision in order to reflect the discussions of the SWGSM over the past several days. In particular, it would be good to reflect specific next steps to be taken by the Commission, as well as the SCRS. There was general support for defining key terms. Several participants suggested that they would like to see the Panels’ role elaborated, including the need for further dialogue concerning specific management objectives.

Further discussion of the draft recommendation was deferred to Agenda item 11. The Chair noted that a related proposal from the United States “Draft Workplan by ICCAT for Establishing Harvest Strategies” would be reviewed and discussed under 11.

### **10. Management input/feedback to the SCRS on the programme of work**

Participants were reminded that the SWGSM had reviewed the SCRS Strategic Plan for 2015-2020 (Appendix 10, *Report for biennial period, 2014-15 Part I (2014), Vol. 2*) at its intersessional meeting last year and that the Strategic Plan was adopted at the 2014 Annual meeting. Providing feedback to the SCRS on its programme of work is part of the mandate of the SWGSM, as specified in Rec. [14-13]. Similarly, dialogue and communication is identified as a priority goal in the SCRS Strategic Plan.

Dr Die highlighted several elements of the Strategic Plan, in particular, that relate to the SCRS’s ongoing work on HCR/MSE. Regarding stock assessments and advice, he reiterated the request of the SCRS that the Commission reach agreement on stock-specific or general management objectives. Probabilities and timeframes must also be selected by the Commission in order to make further progress in developing HCRs (either by establishing default values or setting these values on a stock-specific basis).

Regarding data collection, Dr Die explained that the identification of additional data collection needs in this area is dependent on the Commission defining conceptual and operational objectives for EBFM. Following up on earlier discussions under item 6.3, Dr Die asked the Chair and the Working Group participants to consider what process should be used to develop objectives for EBFM with input from the Commission.

One participant suggested that trade data may enable the SCRS to better estimate production and catch, and proposed that interested CPCs should work together to analyze these data in preparation for the bluefin tuna stock assessment.

In general, the workload of the SCRS has increased substantially in recent years, and many of these activities come at a cost in terms of associated time commitments by the CPCs’ national scientists. Dr Die suggested that the SCRS and the Commission should consider external sources to support the expanded workload, where appropriate. Several participants expressed interest on receiving an update on the activities of the ABNJ/GEF project, and it was reported that an update on this work will be provided to the Commission at the 2015 Annual meeting.

One participant raised a general question about the development of stable funding mechanisms for research priorities, noting that much depends on voluntary contributions. The general budget might be reexamined as part of considering a more systematic approach to research funding. This idea was supported by several other Working Group participants.

Finally, Dr Die highlighted several areas of collaboration with other tRFMOs, including MSE development. He mentioned that few CPC scientists have the expertise to work on MSEs, so there is a need to limit the number of case studies undertaken by the SCRS. Models developed through these case studies can then be adapted for other stocks.

Dr Laurie Kell gave a presentation on the activities of the tRFMOs’ MSE Working Group, which stemmed from the Kobe process. Dr Kell discussed the Group’s efforts to explore issues related to the quantification and presentation of risk. MSE has been used to evaluate 26 management procedures used worldwide. Most t-RFMOs are using albacore as a case study for MSE; a more formal comparative study could help in identifying operating model scenarios and also offer the benefit of improved methods. To support this effort, the Group is developing combined code repositories.

Dr Scott, as facilitator of this Agenda item, suggested that it would be helpful for the SWGSM to identify any next steps for SCRS that result from deliberations at this meeting; this could be accomplished under Agenda item 11.

## **11. Identification of matters for the consideration by the Commission, including any recommendations as well as proposed next steps for SWGSM**

### ***11.1 Discussion on the ICCAT Atlantic-wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (GBYP) and the Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Programme (AOTTP)***

It was recalled that an update on these programmes had been provided to the Commission at the 2014 Annual meeting. Since that time, the work plan for bluefin tuna has been slightly modified by the GBYP Steering Committee. Recent progress includes calls for tender on aerial surveys, tagging, and the collection of biological samples. This biological information, as well as the collation of historical data, will eventually go to the bluefin tuna modeling group and be used to support the 2016 stock assessment.

The Executive Secretary expressed appreciation to the EU, which finances the majority of costs for these programmes. It was noted that funding for the AOTTP had been discussed on the margins of the Convention Amendment Working Group in May 2015, and that as a result, ICCAT agreed to make a pre-payment, counting on the future voluntary contributions of the CPCs. Related activities that will soon be underway include the launching of the AOTTP, which will begin by recruiting the first subset of staff required to implement the programme.

### ***11.2 Others***

The United States presented a draft workplan to facilitate development of harvest strategies that would help ensure the effective conservation of ICCAT stocks and management of ICCAT fisheries. The proposed workplan suggests that a harvest strategy for northern albacore be developed as a pilot project, and requests that SCRS evaluate example harvest control rules to achieve example management objectives for the stock to inform that process. The workplan includes a provision for Panel 2 to review and, as appropriate, revise the example elements for northern albacore at the 2015 Commission meeting, and, more generally, requests the Panels to begin discussions to identify management inputs for their respective stocks, with priority focus on North Atlantic swordfish, western and eastern Atlantic/Mediterranean bluefin tuna, and tropical tunas. This information would be further considered by the SWGSM at its third meeting. In addition, the SCRS was requested to develop appropriate MSE methods.

The Working Group noted that the European Union and United States proposals provided two different approaches for developing harvest control rules. It was agreed that both proposals were helpful to the discussions and should be appended to the meeting report as reference documents to assist the Commission in considering the issues further during the 2015 Annual meeting (**Appendix 5 and 6 to ANNEX 4.5**, respectively).

Participants were in agreement that key terms should be defined and there was some discussion of the process that should be used to confirm a common understanding of these definitions. It was noted that preliminary definitions of the reference points (target, limit and threshold) had already been established in the ICCAT Glossary.

The SWGSM agreed that these definitions (as contained in **Appendix 7 to ANNEX 4.5**) should be the basis for future discussions regarding reference points.

Some CPCs supported the idea of a particular focus on northern albacore, given that the MSE work of SCRS is more advanced than that for other ICCAT stocks and that MSE for albacore is the primary focus of the tRFMOs' MSE Working Group. However, there was some concern that designating a single priority stock could slow progress in the development of HCR/MSE for other stocks. One CPC expressed a desire for the Working Group to establish a general framework for appropriate levels of probability and time horizons rather than designating a particular stock as a priority. Another CPC noted that an approach could be taken to identify management objectives as a first step as this will result in analyses by SCRS that can inform decisions related to probabilities and timeframes. Some participants noted that there were likely many ways to approach the issue of establishing HCRs and that there could be utility in trying to illustrate the process by moving from the theoretical to the concrete; identifying example harvest control rule scenarios for a stock or stocks offers one possible approach. It was agreed that these discussions would continue and, as suggested by the SCRS Chair, one approach could be to designate defaults and then modify these default levels as appropriate for specific stocks. Working Group participants expressed support for continuing work by the SCRS on all stocks.

The Working Group agreed that the Commission must provide input to the SCRS as soon as possible on the following questions, in order to operationalize Rec. [11-13] and make progress in the development of harvest control rules: (1) what constitutes a high probability and an appropriate timeframe to stop overfishing, and if a stock is overfished, for rebuilding; (2) what constitutes a high probability for maintaining a stock in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot; and (3) what management objectives apply to each stock and fishery. This work will be referred to the relevant Panels at the 2015 Commission meeting. SWGSM participants discussed the importance of getting SCRS input when establishing time horizons for rebuilding as this may vary by stock. One CPC suggested that Panel 4 and PWG should work together to consider improvements to ICCAT's statistical document programme for swordfish to help address concerns of IUU fishing, although it was acknowledged that this issue did not fall within the mandate of the SWGSM.

The Working Group agreed that the process of developing HCR/MSE must involve stakeholders and it was noted that one way stakeholders can and should provide input is through their CPC. There was no agreement by the participants on whether to recommend extending the dialogue process to stakeholders beyond the level of their current involvement as accredited observers to SWGSM meetings. It was noted that there could be several ways to involve stakeholders more directly in the process, such as through informal, open format sessions of the SWGSM and/or specialized workshops.

There was some discussion of appropriate sequencing of future actions as the report of the SWGSM meeting must be referred to both the SCRS and the Commission for consideration. It was recognized that while discussions will continue within the SWGSM, the Working Group has no binding decision making authority to establish harvest control rules: this must occur through action by the Commission (i.e., as part of a recommendation). There was general recognition that few CPCs were represented at this meeting of the SWGSM and that, if the Working Group is to meet intersessionally in the future, it will be essential to have the full participation of scientists and managers from many more CPCs. An alternative approach for increasing participation could be to hold a special session of the SWGSM at future annual meetings of the Commission.

It was agreed that adequate time should be set aside at the 2015 Commission meeting in Malta, to explain the issues under discussion by the SWGSM to help ensure a common understanding among all CPCs of the main concepts of harvest control rules, the state of play of the SWGSM's discussions, and to try to reach agreement on a process and timeline for establishing harvest control rules. Several CPCs expressed interest in continuing work intersessionally to develop a document that clearly outlines next steps in the process to establish harvest control rules and develop and implement management strategy evaluation, ideally with a joint proposal to be presented to the Commission for consideration. In this respect, the Working Group encouraged EU and United States to endeavor to consolidate their respective draft proposals into a single one for consideration by the Commission at its next Annual meeting.

The Working Group Chair and the SCRS Chair jointly developed and circulated a proposed summary of outcomes: *SWGSM Recommendations to the Commission and the SCRS*. The SWGSM discussed and revised this document, and recommended to the Commission that:

1. The development of Harvest Control Rules (HCR) and Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for stocks under the purview of ICCAT be considered a high priority.
2. The dialogue be maintained among CPCs, scientists and managers, and be extended to stakeholders if considered appropriate.
3. To support the development of HCRs and associated reference point, starting at the 2015 Commission meeting, the Panels commence discussion to identify management objectives, as well as, relevant parameters for HCR and performance indicators on a stock by stock basis, with priority focus on north Atlantic albacore, bluefin tuna, north Atlantic swordfish and tropical tunas;
4. To examine ways to further define the management framework building on Rec. [11-13], in particular in relation to reference points, associated probabilities and timeframes;
5. SCRS be tasked to continue work on development of appropriate MSE methods to allow testing the performance and robustness of different management procedures.
6. A session be allocated at the beginning of the next Commission meeting in Malta to finalise discussion on outstanding issues from the second meeting of the Working Group.

**12. Other Matters**

No other matters were discussed.

**13. Adoption of Report and adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned. The report was adopted by correspondence.

**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.5****Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements
3. Nomination of Rapporteur
4. Review of the objectives of SWGSM (Rec. 14-13) and expected meeting outcomes
5. Recap of the basic components of precautionary management (from SWGSM-1), including necessary trade-offs between short-term and long term management objectives
6. Consideration of how Harvest Control Rules for ICCAT fisheries might be designed, in the light of specific biological, environmental and socio-economic considerations
  - 6.1 Basic elements of Harvest Control Rules
  - 6.2 Conservation considerations: How  $F_{MSY}$  and  $B_{MSY}$  should be considered (e.g. are they target of limit reference points? which probability and timeframe should be associated to these reference points in each case? should we define reference points based on the precautionary approach?)
  - 6.3 Ecosystem considerations (e.g. by-catch, impact on other stocks): what are the most appropriate ecosystem indicators that have impact on of from tuna fisheries?
  - 6.4 Socio-economic considerations: What socio-economic indicators should be associated to the different fisheries affecting a same stock, given the diversity of metiers
  - 6.5 Possible needs for social and economic data and research projects
7. Management Strategy Evaluations (MSE) and examples in managed fisheries
8. Detailed examination of case studies already proposed in 2014 in relation to the objectives already established for the management of these stocks and a critical assessment on how appropriate these reference points (including the associated probabilities and levels of risks) have shown to be so far
  - 8.1 N-ALB,
  - 8.2 N-SWO
  - 8.3 SKJ
  - 8.4 BFT
9. Possible proposals on how to further develop the current provisions under Rec. [11-13]
  - 9.1 Lessons learnt from fisheries other than ICCAT
  - 9.2 Possibility of establishing in ICCAT non-arbitrary measures that are proportional to the deviations from the original objectives (for example a reduction/increase in  $F$  within fixed maximum limits)
10. Management input/ feedback to the SCRS on program of work
  - 10.1 Possible updates to the SCRS Strategic Plan on Science adopted during the 2014 SCRS Meeting, in the light of SWGSM meeting results
11. Identification of matters for the consideration by the Commission, including any recommendations as well as proposed next steps for SWGSM
  - 11.1 Discussion on the ICCAT Grande Bluefin Tuna Year Program (GBYP) and the new Tropical Tuna Tagging Program
12. Other matters
13. Adoption of Report and adjournment

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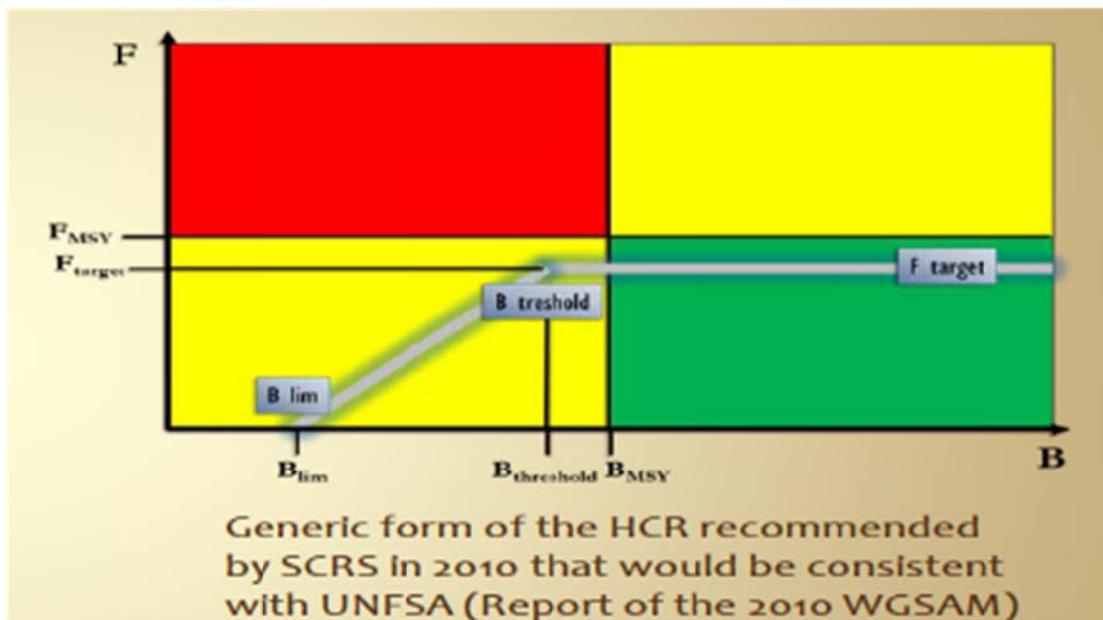
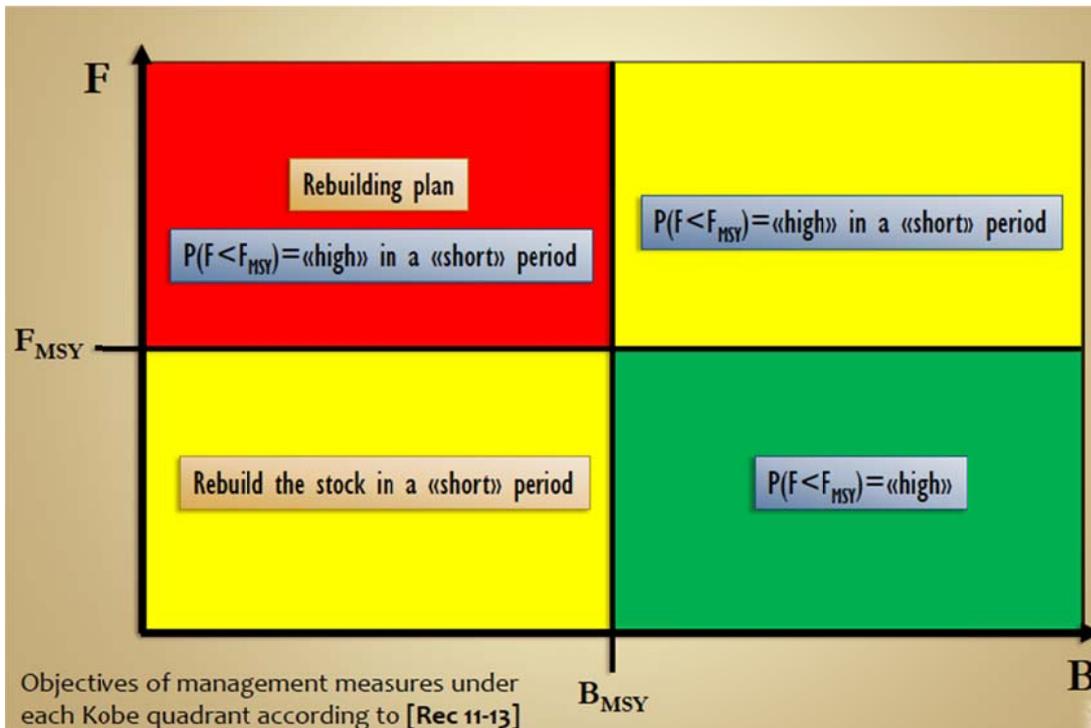
Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.5

Summaries of the presentation given under items 6 to 10

6. Consideration of how Harvest Control Rules for ICCAT fisheries might be designed, in the light of specific biological, environmental and socio-economic considerations

6.1 Basic elements of Harvest Control Rules (Gerald Scott)

ICCAT's HCR Framework



## An Anonymous Survey to be Completed by Participants at the end of Day 1

### 1. Harvest Control Rules

1.1 Which one of these definitions better explains to you what a Harvest Control Rule is?

- a) An automatic rule to control the fishery
- b) A set of rules for CPCs to decide what to do
- c) A fixed catch ceiling that does not change every year
- d) A vision for where the fishery should be and how to get there considering uncertainty.

### 2. Control Mechanisms

2.1 What kind of management control would you prefer?

- a) Output (*i.e.* catch quotas)
- b) Input (effort limitations, time-area closures)
- c) A combination of the two

2.2 Any particular reasons for that choice?

### 3. Management Objectives

3.1 Please list one or more management objectives that matter the most to you

- a) Maximize long-term catch
- b) Maximize long-term employment
- c) Maximize long-term profit
- d) Maximize social happiness
- e) Maximize economic health
- f) Minimize the impacts of fishing on the ecosystem
- g) Minimize risk of spawning stock size going below the target Biomass level that achieves MSY
- h) Minimize chance of the stock size going below the level at which successful recruitment is compromised (*i.e.* a limit reference point, LRP).
- i) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

3.2 Do you expect any conflicts among them? Please tell us

3.3 Can you rank them in order of importance?

1: \_\_\_ 2: \_\_\_ 3: \_\_\_ 4: \_\_\_

### 4. Risks and probabilities

Key sections of Rec. 11-13 which need clarity:

1. For stocks that are not overfished and not subject to overfishing (*i.e.*, stocks in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot), management measures shall be designed to result in a high probability of maintaining the stock within this quadrant.
2. For stocks that are not overfished, but are subject to overfishing, (*i.e.*, stocks in the upper right yellow 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.
3. 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.
4. For stocks that are overfished and not subject to overfishing (*i.e.* stocks in the lower left yellow quadrant of the Kobe plot), the Commission shall adopt management measures designed to rebuild these stocks in as short a period as possible, taking into account, *inter alia*, the biology of the stock and SCRS advice.

4.1 What would you consider to be a 'high probability' of achieving a target?

- a) 25%
- b) 50%
- c) 75%
- d) 90%

4.2 What do you think should be 'as short a period as possible' for recovery?

- a) 1 year
- b) 2 years
- c) 3-5 years
- d) 5-10 years
- e) 10-20 years

## 5. Overfishing

5.1 Do you think it is clear what 'overfishing' and 'being overfished' means?

## 6. Any other comments

*Please feel free to give us any other comments or feedback on the dialogue process, or on the development of Management Procedures which incorporate Harvest Control Rules for ICCAT.*

### **6.2 Conservation considerations: How should $F_{MSY}$ and $B_{MSY}$ should be considered (are they target or limit reference points)? (Victor Restrepo)**

The apparent contradiction between the UNFSA Annex II Guidelines and the RFMO Conventions such as ICCAT's has caused considerable confusion as to whether  $F_{MSY}$  should be a limit or a target.

At the time UNFSA was negotiated, it was common for stock assessment methods to assume perfect knowledge in many parameters and to ignore important sources of uncertainty. In situations like these, it is reasonable to view the estimate of  $F_{MSY}$  with caution and to consider a target  $F$  that is less than  $F_{MSY}$  so as to provide the precautionary buffer envisaged by the UNFSA Guidelines (Anon., 2015<sup>1</sup>). In common practice today,  $F_{MSY}$  is estimated taking a more realistic account of data and biological uncertainties, variability in productivity, stock status and fishery selectivity. Whether or not such an estimate of  $F_{MSY}$  is a reasonable target in a particular situation could be studied by simulation (Management Strategy Evaluation), as recommended by the ICCAT ad hoc Working Group on the Precautionary Approach (ICCAT, 2000<sup>2</sup>). Both the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission have set an interim target of  $F_{MSY}$  (and  $B_{MSY}$ ) for several of their stocks, but they have not conducted simulation tests to-date.

It should be noted that, if  $F_{MSY}$  is set as a target and  $F$  is maintained at that level, stock biomass will fluctuate above and below  $B_{MSY}$  due to recruitment variation and other factors. These fluctuations can be considerable for some stocks (Restrepo, 2009<sup>3</sup>). Therefore, the limit reference point should not be set at  $B_{MSY}$ , or very close to it, because it would trigger management actions unnecessarily.

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<sup>1</sup> Anonymous. 2015. Report of the 2015 ISSF Stock Assessment Workshop: Characterizing uncertainty in stock assessment and management advice. ISSF Technical Report 2015-06. International Seafood Sustainability Foundation, Washington, D.C., USA.

<sup>2</sup> ICCAT. 2000. Report of the meeting of the ICCAT ad hoc Working Group on the Precautionary Approach. Col. Vol. Sci. Pap. ICCAT, 51: 1941-2056.

<sup>3</sup> Restrepo. 2009. Red, green and yellow: Thoughts on stock status and the ICCAT Convention objectives. Col. Vol. Sci. Pap. ICCAT, 64: 2663-2673.

**6.3 Ecosystem considerations (e.g. by-catch, impact on other stocks): What are the most appropriate ecosystem indicators that have impact on tuna fisheries?**

***Managing ICCAT fisheries within an EBFM framework (SCRS Sub-Committee of Ecosystems)***

Ecosystem based fisheries management (EBFM) has been promoted as the tool of the future and ICCAT recognizes this and tasked the SCRS Sub-committee on Ecosystems with developing a framework tailored to ICCAT's mandate. Development of this framework requires input from all ICCAT stakeholders and the SWGSM is ideally suited for this role. In the presentation we introduce possible components of an EBFM framework: Ecological, Economic, Social/Cultural and Institutional. Each of these components and subcomponents needs a conceptual management objective, and these have to be linked to specific operational objectives. These operational objectives require development of measurable indicators of state, reference points and should also define possible actions required to achieve each objective. Examples are provided for the ecological components of the framework to promote discussion. The Sub-committee proposes that the structure of this framework is adopted by the SWGSM and that participants develop a preliminary list of conceptual management objectives for the ecological components of the framework, as means to illustrate how the overall framework would be developed within ICCAT.

***The ecosystem approach to fisheries management: What indicators for what objectives? The case of the European Union (Patrick Daniel)***

The need to take into account the dynamics of marine ecosystems and implement an ecosystem approach to fisheries management has been referred to since 1995 in the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries<sup>4</sup>. It was reiterated in 2001 in the Reykjavik Declaration on Responsible Fisheries<sup>5</sup>. Finally, in 2002, during the World Summit on Sustainable Development, it was suggested to maintain 2010 as the objective for the operative development of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management<sup>6</sup>.

In 2003, FAO<sup>7</sup> defined the ecosystem approach to fisheries management as a process aimed at a good environmental status and human wellbeing and should take into account the different components of marine ecosystems and their interactions. FAO also stressed the importance to favour an integrated approach, implying the need to carry out arbitrations and to obtain the necessary consensus taking into account objectives which are sometimes contradictory related to the access to marine ecosystems and their utilization.

In 1983, when the first regulation establishing the European Union's Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) was adopted<sup>8</sup>, no specific mention was made in the legislation to possible ecosystem considerations. These considerations were taken into account progressively and clearly emerged in the 1992 reform of the CFP<sup>9</sup>, before being strengthened in the text of the 2002 reform<sup>10</sup> and establishing a clear link between fisheries policy and EU environmental policy of the 2012 reform<sup>11</sup>. The CFP from there on would respond to the main objective established by the EU Strategy for the marine environment in 2008<sup>12</sup>, namely creating and maintaining a good ecological state of the marine environment no later than 2020.

<sup>4</sup> FAO, 1995; *FAO Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries*. Rome, FAO, 46 p.

<sup>5</sup> FAO, 2002; *Report of the Reykjavik Conference on Responsible Fisheries in the Marine Ecosystem*. Reykjavik, Iceland, Spain, 1-4 October 2001. FAO Fisheries Report No. 658. Rome, FAO. 128p.

<sup>6</sup> UN, 2002; *World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg (South Africa), 26 August-4 September 2002*. New York, UN. 189 p.

<sup>7</sup> FAO Fisheries Department, 2003; *Fisheries Management. 2. Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries*. FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries. No. 4, Suppl. 2. Rome, FAO. 120 p.

<sup>8</sup> Council Regulation (EEC) No. 170/83, dated 25 January 1983 establishing a community system of conservation and management of fishery resources. JO L 24, 27.1.1983, p. 1-13.

<sup>9</sup> Council Regulation (EEC) No. 3760/92, dated 20 December 1992 establishing a community system for fisheries and aquaculture. JO L 389, 31.12.1992, p. 1-14.

<sup>10</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No. 2371/92, dated 20 December 2002 regarding the conservation and sustainable exploitation of fishery resources within the framework of the Common Fisheries Policy. JO L 358, dated 31.12.2002, p. 59-80.

<sup>11</sup> Regulation (EU) No. 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, dated 11 December 2013 regarding the Common Fisheries Policy, amending regulations (EC) No. 1954/2003 and repealing the regulations (EC) No. 2371/2002 and (EC) No. 639/2004 of the Council and the 2004/585/EC Council decision. JO L 354, dated 28.12.2013, p. 22-61.

<sup>12</sup> Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, dated 17 June 2008 establishing a community action framework for the marine environment (Marine Strategy Framework Directive). JO L 164, dated 25.6.2008, p. 19-40.

The increased account being taken of the dynamics of marine ecosystems in fisheries management and the implementation by the EU of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management were made possible as the framework of data collection implemented by the EU in 2008<sup>13</sup> had already integrated the fields linked both to the state of the components of the marine ecosystem which support the fishing activity and the results of the fishing activity. Accordingly, 9 indicators were defined within the framework of the data collection<sup>14</sup> to reflect the status of the fish stocks exploited, to describe the activities and characterise the fishing strategies, to measure the impact on certain habitats or the level of unwanted catches or even the energy efficiency of the fishing activities.

Within the framework of the EU environmental policy, the EU marine environment strategy therefore establishes a general objective based on a series of 11 criteria transcribed in an equivalent number of qualitative descriptors, essentially covering the ecological focus of the ecosystem approach. These criteria and descriptors cover the fields relating to the different components of the marine ecosystems, biotic and abiotic, to their productive capacity and to their sustainability and to the impact of human activities on these ecosystems. For each criterion and descriptor, a series of indicators has been fixed, the CFP mainly contributing to addressing the issues of criterion 3, which aims to ensure that the fishery populations exploited for commercial purposes are within safe biological limits, while presenting a population distribution by age and size which attests to the good health of the stocks. The main indicators associated with descriptor 3 do not differ essentially from those usually employed in fisheries management, in particular fishing mortality  $F$  or biomass  $B$ . The same applies to the reference points utilised,  $F_{MSY}$  or  $B_{MSY}$ . They are further completed by indicators describing the structure of fishery populations and catches (average size, maximum size, size at first sexual maturity). However, the way of taking account of these indicators, in particular the reference points associated to them, is not only linked to the dynamics of the different fishery populations, but also their position and their interactions in the food webs and in the marine ecosystems. Therefore, the EU marine environment strategy clearly states that in mixed fisheries and where interactions between ecosystems are significant, long-term management plans can ensure that exploitation of certain stocks is below the  $F_{MSY}$  levels so as not to undermine exploitation at  $F_{MSY}$  level of other species. The CFP also contributes to fulfilling the objectives set out in the EU marine environment strategy under criteria 1 (maintain biological diversity), 4 (ensure the long-term abundance of species and full maintenance of their reproductive capacity by ensuring abundant presence and normal diversity of all the components of the marine food web) or 6 (ensure the preservation of the structure and functions of the marine ecosystems without undermining the integrity of the seabeds). It should be noted that all the indicators proposed in the EU marine environment strategy, including those linked to descriptor 3, are not systematically associated to reference points and that some continue to evolve as a result of the assessments and recommendations provided by scientists.

Regarding the implementation of an ecosystem approach applied to fisheries management, ICCAT's Scientific Committee has already launched a reflection process<sup>15</sup>. However, the operational implementation of such an approach would necessarily require the Commission to meet several challenges in particular relating to:

- Adoption or clarification of the main and specific management objectives pursued, biological, ecological, even economic and social ones, as well as the deadlines to be met;
- Definition of the scope of the marine ecosystems taken into account;
- Adoption of possible indicators associated with specific objectives – monitoring indicators or indicators utilised to aid decision-making and therefore associated with reference points yet to be fixed; and
- Definition of the possible rules of exploitation.

Finally, all these objectives and indicators should also be assessed in light of their sensitivity to changes in the marine environment, so as to eventually be able to measure and anticipate the impact of changes in marine ecosystems on the evolution of fishing activities.

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<sup>13</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No. 199/2008, dated 25 February 2008 concerning the establishment of a community framework for the collection, management and utilisation of data in the fisheries sector and the support to scientific advice on Common Fisheries Policy. JO L 60, dated 5.3.2008, p. 1-12.

<sup>14</sup> Decision of the Commission of 18 December 2009 adopting a community multi-annual programme for collection, management and utilisation of data in the fisheries sector for the period 2011-2013. JO L 41, dated 16.2.2010, p. 8-71.

<sup>15</sup> SCRS, 2014. *2014 Inter-sessional meeting of the Sub-Committee on Ecosystems, Olhão, Portugal, 1-5 September 2014*. ICCAT, Madrid. 25 p.

#### **6.4 Socio-economic considerations: What socio-economic indicators should be associated to the different fisheries affecting a same stock?**

##### ***Current EU provisions for the collection of socio-economic data and their use in the context of the EU fisheries management framework and in management strategy evaluations (Antonio Cervantes)***

Fisheries management is a complex matter requiring information on the different aspects affecting the fishery (biological, environmental, social and economic). Managers need objective arguments to support their decisions and the availability of appropriate socio-economic indicators are an important part of these objective arguments. To this end, the collection of appropriate and reliable socio-economic data is crucial to estimate the economic performance of the fleets such as profits, gross value added or employment. In summary these indicators are essential to measure the industry's economic sustainability in the provision of advice to managers. However the access to socio-economic information is often difficult and requires appropriate methodology.

In the context of the EU Data Collection Framework, socio-economic data related to the fishing industry are being systematically collected since the early 2000's. Previously a number of studies and concerted actions aiming at identifying relevant socio-economic data were undertaken. The current framework covers more than 90% of the EU fleets and the information collected supports most of the decisions regularly taken in the implementation of the EU Common Fisheries Policy.

On the basis of solid socio-economic data, Management Strategies Evaluations should include socio-economic targets agreed by managers. This would provide managers with a clearer picture of the socio-economic consequences of a given resource evolution and, at the same time, increase stakeholders involvement and ownership of the management measures.

### **7. Management Strategy Evaluations (MSE) and examples in managed fisheries**

#### ***Management strategy evaluations for Norwegian spring spawning herring (Per Sandberg)***

This is a presentation of how Management strategy evaluations were used to establish the Harvest rule (also called Harvest Control Rule) for the stock of Norwegian spring spawning herring. The fish stock has its distribution in the Northeast Atlantic and is utilised by 5 states/parties. The fishery collapsed in the late 1960s, and it took nearly 20 years for the stock to recover. In the late 1990s the managers saw the need to establish a harvest rule for this stock that could determine the annual level of Total Allowable Catch (TAC). This was done by first identifying possible management strategies and thereafter asking their scientific advisor (ICES) to calculate the consequences of the various management strategies. A small working group of scientists and managers evaluated the consequences of various management strategies, and advised the managers from the five parties which to choose. With this as a background, the managers chose a harvest rule for the stock, which has now been in operation for 16 years.

The presentation starts with some background information about the stock and the fishery. It then shows how work was organised, and which elements were seen as important, to establish the harvest rule.

### **8. Detailed examination of case studies already proposed in 2014**

#### ***ICCAT case studies related to HCR and MSE (David Die)***

We present a summary of the work conducted by the SCRS on HCR and MSE for three case study stocks: northern swordfish, skipjack and bluefin tuna. The northern swordfish work highlights the importance to acknowledge that MSE that can only be considered a subset of all the uncertainties of the system. Furthermore, it demonstrates the challenges of communicating the results of MSE in the face of multiple performance indicators. Skipjack research shows how, for data-poor stocks, harvest control rules can be developed on the basis of indicators of stock status that are less data hungry - based on average length of fish in the catch. The work on bluefin tuna is being coordinated through the modelling group of the GBYP. This research is guided by specific Commission needs regarding the 2016 Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment. The work of this Group has now delivered some generic tools for implementing MSEs for ICCAT stocks and these tools are being currently tested by the Group by applying them to the bluefin tuna stocks.

***Preliminary assessment of harvest control rules for north Atlantic albacore (Gorka Merino)***

In this work we use an MSE framework based on the Albacore Working Group stock assessment to evaluate how three candidate HCRs (applied in combination with the current ICCAT assessment based on a biomass dynamic SA model) perform in achieving the management objective of maintaining the highest long-term average catch with a high probability of being in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot and a low probability of being outside biological limits.

We assess the performance of HCRs in relation to the Pareto frontiers, which are a set of choices (or levels of  $F$ ) in which it is impossible to improve the performance of one variable without worsening the other. If we had absolute control and knowledge of the system, we could not achieve better probability of being in the green zone for a given level of catch than that determined by this trajectory. We believe that this figure can facilitate managers and stakeholders' guidance on terms such as acceptable probability levels for management targets and limits.

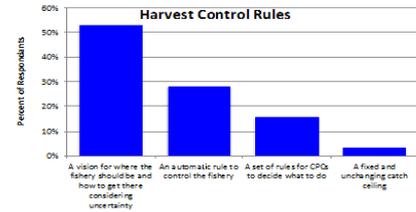
In relation to the HCR tested, we find that a precautionary  $F_{\text{target}}$  of  $0.7 F_{\text{MSY}}$  in combination with a  $B_{\text{threshold}}$  of  $0.8 B_{\text{MSY}}$  and a  $B_{\text{lim}}$  of  $0.4 B_{\text{MSY}}$ , allows achieving high long term catches, maintains the stock in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot with a probability of 86%, and within safe limits with a probability of 100% during the 30 years of the simulation. Among the three HCR, this also produces the most stable catches and levels of fishing effort.

Summary results from the questionnaire distributed to participants at SWGSM 2

Our Survey

- 35 Respondents – a high proportion of attendees and a very positive outcome of the meeting.
- Can be used to guide/refine dialogue regarding management issues and potential policy choices

What are HCRs?



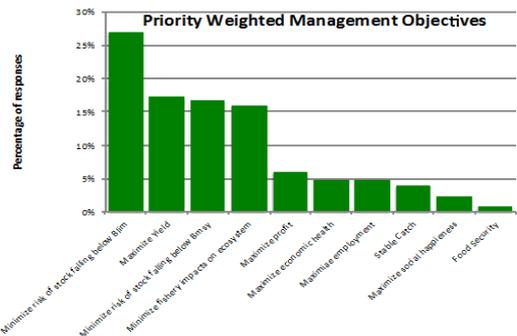
- The dominant view by Participants is of HCRs as a vision for where the fishery should be and how to get there considering uncertainty

What is High Probability of Achieving a Target



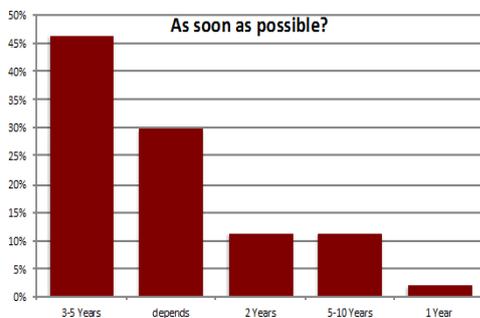
In keeping with other organizations, the majority view by participants is that ~75% (or 3 chances out of 4) is a high probability for achieving a target.

Management Objectives



- Considering priority given to the management objectives noted by Participants, those related to 'Safety', 'Yield', and P(green) aka 'Sustainability' ranked highest followed by minimizing ecosystem impacts.

Time Frames?



- Most participants view a time frame of 3-5 years in this context, although a high proportion of respondents indicated it depends on the stock of concern. Others indicated that time frames for managing fishing intensity should be different from rebuilding biomass to desired levels.

**Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.5****Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on the development of harvest control rules and of management strategy evaluation on species under the purview of ICCAT***(Proposal by the European Union)*

*RECALLING* Recommendation by ICCAT on the Principles of Decision Making for ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures [Rec. 11-13] to support the achievement of the ICCAT Convention objective;

*NOTING* that the ICCAT Working Group for Stock Assessment Methods held in April 2010 in Madrid (Spain) endorsed the definitions on reference points presented during the 1999 *ad hoc* Meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on Precautionary Approach held in Dublin (Ireland) in May;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* that the First Meeting of the ICCAT Working Group to Enhance the Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers suggested that a dialogue of a general nature should continue on issues such as acceptable levels of risk, targets, limits and time horizons based on Rec. [11-13] and that a strong dialogue should take place between scientists and managers on the use of Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) to assess Harvest Control Rules (HCR).

*FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING* that one of the main goals of the SCRS Science Strategic Plan 2015-2020 is to evaluate precautionary management reference points and robust HCR through MSE;

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

1. In the context of ICCAT, the following definitions for target, limit and threshold reference points should apply:
  - a) A target is a management objective based on a level of biomass ( $B_{tar}$ ) or a fishing mortality rate ( $F_{tar}$ ) that should be achieved with a determined probability, on average. This generally means that the probability of being above  $B_{tar}$  and below  $F_{tar}$  should be at least 50%. Targets should be set sufficiently far away from limits so that there is low probability that the limits will be exceeded.
  - b) A limit is a conservation reference point based on a level of biomass ( $B_{lim}$ ) or a fishing mortality rate ( $F_{lim}$ ) that should be avoided with high probability because it is believed that the sustainability of the stock may be in danger.
  - c) A threshold is a level of biomass ( $B_{thresh}$ ) or a fishing mortality rate ( $F_{thresh}$ ) between the limit and target reference points that should trigger particular management actions designed to reduce fishing mortality.
2. By 20[XX], the SCRS shall provide options of HCR with, where possible, the associated limit, target and threshold reference points for species under purview of ICCAT, in particular for albacore, bluefin tuna, swordfish, bigeye, yellowfin tuna and skipjack. In doing so, the SCRS shall also perform population projections using those HCR to provide the probability of being in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot and the relevant timeframes.
3. SCRS is also requested to develop appropriate MSE methods to allow testing the robustness of different management procedures, including options of HCR to achieve management objectives and to estimate the associated probabilities and timeframes.

**Draft workplan by ICCAT for establishing harvest strategies**

*(Presented by United States)*

To facilitate development of harvest strategies that help ensure the effective conservation of ICCAT stocks and management of ICCAT fisheries, the SWGSM proposes the following work plan to the Commission for endorsement:

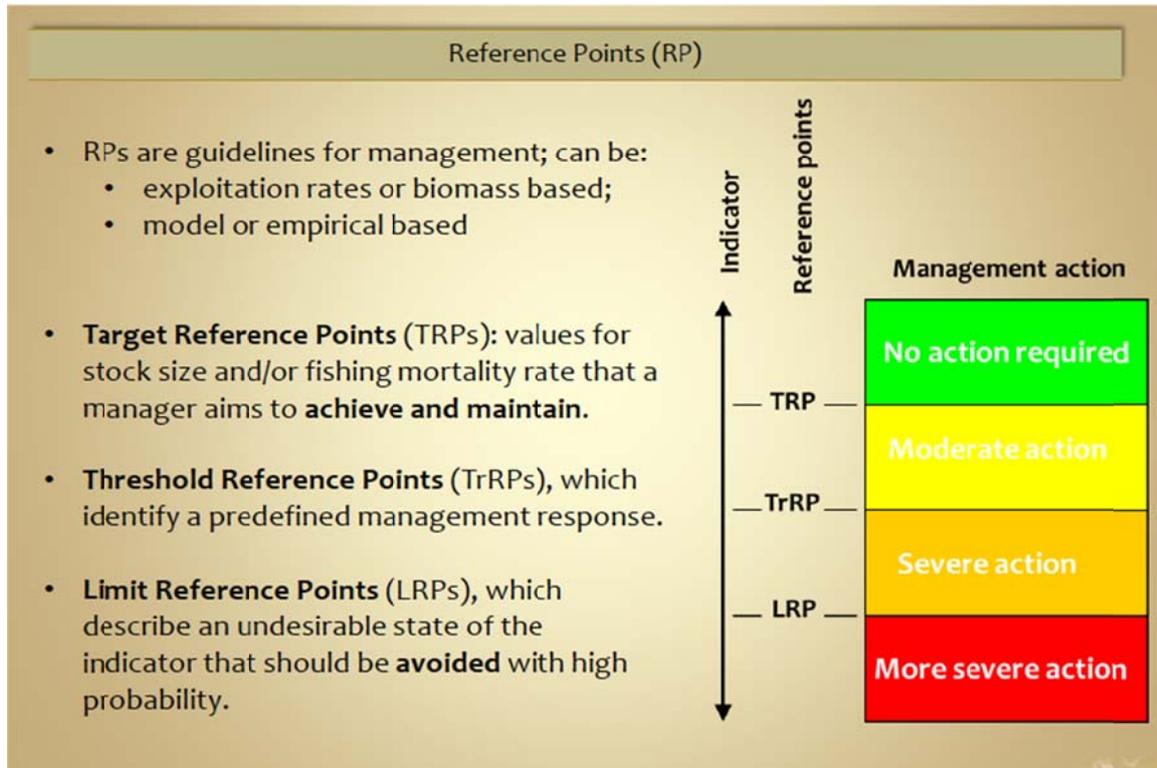
1. SCRS shall complete the process of revising the ICCAT glossary to include, *inter alia*, definitions of the following:
  - a) Reference points (target, threshold, and limit)
  - b) Harvest control rules
  - c) Management strategy evaluation
  
2. Given the relatively data rich nature of the northern albacore stock and the work that has already been completed by the SCRS to develop reference points and harvest control rules, a harvest strategy for this stock should be developed as a pilot project. To support this work, SCRS will, no later than [2016], evaluate alternative harvest control rules, incorporating as appropriate various combinations of reference points, with respect to the achievement of the following management objectives as working scenarios for northern albacore:
  - a) rebuild the stock by 2020;
  - b) when the stock in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot (*i.e.*, is no longer overfished, nor subject to overfishing), maintain the stock within this quadrant with at least: 1) 70%, 2) 80%, and 3) 90% probabilities (as examples);
  - c) maintain stock levels above the biomass limit reference point ( $B_{lim}$ ) with at least [90%] probability;
  - d) maximize average catch;
  - e) minimize inter-annual fluctuations in TAC levels.
  
3. The SCRS will report the outcomes of the work carried out under paragraph 2 for discussion at a third meeting of the SWGSM to inform on the process of establishing harvest strategies for northern albacore.
  
4. To support development of reference points and harvest control rules, starting at the 2015 Commission meeting, the Panels will, for their respective stocks, begin discussions to identify the following management inputs on a stock-by-stock basis, with priority focus on North Atlantic swordfish, western and eastern Atlantic/Mediterranean bluefin tuna stocks and tropical tunas:
  - a) Management objectives;
  - b) Acceptable level(s) of probability of achieving target reference points and avoiding limit reference points;
  - c) Pre-agreed management actions that are triggered if reference limits are breached, including the timeframes for halting overfishing on a stock and/or to rebuild an overfished stock so that it; returns to the green zone of the Kobe plot in as short a time as possible. In the case where a stock falls below the biomass limit reference point ( $B_{lim}$ ), the pre-agreed management action will be to suspend the fishery and institute scientific monitoring

In addition, Panel 2 should review the working scenario regarding northern albacore specified in paragraph 2 at the 2015 Commission meeting and may revise it, as appropriate.

5. The Panels will report the progress of these deliberations to the SWGSM in advance of its third meeting. Based on this input as well as its experience with the pilot stock, the SWGSM will develop work plans and timeframes for developing harvest strategies for other ICCAT stocks and fisheries for consideration by the Commission. The SWGSM will present the results of this work for consideration at the [2017] Commission meeting.
  
6. In addition, SCRS is requested to develop appropriate MSE methods to allow testing the robustness of different management procedures, including options of HCR, to achieve management objectives and to estimate the associated probabilities and timeframes.

Appendix 7 to ANNEX 4.5

Definitions of references points



**4.6 REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP OF FISHERIES MANAGERS AND SCIENTISTS IN SUPPORT OF THE WESTERN BLUEFIN TUNA STOCK ASSESSMENT (Bilbao, Spain, 25-26 June 2015)**

**1. Opening of the meeting**

The Chair of Panel 2, Mr. Masanori Miyahara (Japan) opened the meeting and welcomed all participants.

The Executive Secretary introduced the following CPCs to the meeting: Canada, European Union, Ghana, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Senegal, United States and Uruguay.

In addition, the following observers were present: Ecology Action Center (EAC), Pew Charitable Trusts and the Ocean Foundation.

The List of Participants is appended as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.6**.

**2. Election of Chair**

The United States nominated Mr. Masanori Miyahara (Japan) as the Chair of the Working Group.

**3. Adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements**

The Agenda was adopted without change and is appended as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.6**.

**4. Nomination of Rapporteur**

Ms. Carolyn Doherty (United States) served as rapporteur for the meeting.

**5. Review of the results of the Second Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists in Support of the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment**

The Chair recalled the report of the Second Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists in Support of the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment and reviewed the three recommendations agreed by the CPCs at that meeting, held in Prince Edward Island, Canada from 10 to 12 July 2014:

- 1) In the intersessional period, national scientists of the CPCs fishing for western bluefin tuna will work jointly to explore areas for collaboration, identify costs and develop their prioritization for the novel research proposals discussed at this meeting. The results of this work and the novel proposals will be presented to the SCRS in September 2014 for review and evaluation. At the same time, it was acknowledged that CPCs will proceed with work already underway (e.g., the expansion of existing surveys) and new projects for which funding has been secured.
- 2) The CPCs will collaborate in analyzing non-aggregated catch and effort data with the goal of improving the current stock abundance indices and developing a single index of abundance incorporating the data from various CPCs. Access to the data will be shared in a manner that does not violate data confidentiality concerns.
- 3) The CPCs will continue efforts to improve the quality and quantity of data collection and reporting, consistent with the recommendations of the SCRS. In particular, CPCs are encouraged to provide information about changes in fishing patterns and other variables that may influence the catch rate so that these factors can be incorporated into the standardization models.

Canada, Japan, and the United States provided updates on ongoing research activities relevant to these three recommendations.

Dr Gary D. Melvin (Canada) provided an overview of ongoing efforts in Canada entitled, “In situ acoustic observations of Atlantic bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) with high resolution multi-beam sonar” (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 4.6**). His presentation described recent field studies to investigate the ability and adaptability of using high frequency multi-beam sonar to document, monitor, and quantify bluefin tuna. As Dr Melvin described, the preliminary results of this study clearly illustrate that bluefin tuna can be detected and tracked within the swath of the multi-beam sonar. The results of this study indicate that there is good potential for the utilization of multi-beam sonar to monitor and quantify bluefin tuna in a broad scale fishery independent survey.

Dr Melvin continued his discussion of ongoing efforts in Canada with a presentation entitled, “Bluefin tuna Bay Chaleur acoustic index of abundance” (**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 4.6**). His discussion described the use of an ongoing acoustic survey for Atlantic herring in the Bay Chaleur area of the Gulf of St Lawrence to estimate abundance of bluefin tuna. Canada is re-analyzing these datasets for bluefin tuna going back to 1991 and has completed the analysis from 2007 to 2013. Preliminary analyses are positive and work will continue on these data and a fishery independent index of abundance for as many years as possible. This work will be presented to the data preparatory meeting in early 2016, following the protocols required for the introduction of a new index of abundance.

Dr Melvin finished his discussion of ongoing efforts in Canada with a presentation entitled, “DFO bluefin tuna science projects for 2015” (**Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.6**). Dr Melvin described that five industry-funded projects have been developed for 2015. Each of these projects will commence in August 2015 and will address specific issues identified to improve data input for the 2016 assessment. All data analysis will be completed in time to be present at the data preparatory meeting.

Mr. Haruo Tominaga (Japan) explained that without a Western Atlantic bluefin tuna quota set aside for research, no research efforts proposed last year have been conducted by Japan, nor can be completed for the next year.

Dr Craig Brown (United States) provided a “Progress report on selected USA research activities to improve the stock assessment of western Atlantic bluefin tuna” (**Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.6**). He described a pilot study to evaluate the feasibility of developing a WBFT young of the year (YOY) abundance index. In order to determine availability, distribution and potential sampling methods, a network of volunteer recreational fishermen and charter boat captains is being developed along the coast of the Florida Straits. Attempts to collect YOY bluefin tuna specimens will begin later this summer 2015.

Dr Brown continued his discussion with an overview of a pilot study designed to investigate the feasibility of conducting a close-kin analysis that could lead to direct estimates of WBFT spawning and stock biomass has also begun. Work has been initiated on three areas of research that may improve the existing WBFT larval index or lead to the development of new indices, including: (1) Incorporating age and mortality estimates for larvae collected in different regions within the Gulf of Mexico, which should improve the standardization of the current WBFT indices; (2) Development of a new index of larval prey, feeding success and growth, which could improve the standardization, for which work has been initiated on archived historical samples; and (3) Extending exploratory sampling efforts in the Caribbean Sea and western North Atlantic to determine the significance of alternative spawning grounds, for which sampling was conducted off Cuba and Mexico this year.

## **6. Review of the progress towards combining raw catch/effort data for individual fleets into a new index (or indices) of abundance for western Atlantic bluefin tuna**

The Chair convened a discussion on the progress of combining raw catch/effort data for individual fleets into a new index of WBFT abundance. The discussion began with an overview of the collaboration between Canada and the United States to combine data to generate a CPUE index that includes information from all longline fleets and protects data confidentiality as discussed in Laretta *et al.* 2015 (*in press*). The United States and Canada are reviewing possible ways to blend their respective non-aggregated catch/effort data in order to create a combined index. This work will continue at a working meeting to be held in Canada this summer to which the United States, Japan and Mexico are invited to participate. It was agreed that this work will be advanced at a meeting of the parties on the margins of the upcoming SCRS species meeting in September 2015 with the goal of developing a single index of abundance incorporating the data from the CPCs prior to the 2016 data preparatory meeting.

There is also ongoing collaboration between the United States and Canada to generate the combined index for the rod and reel fishery.

Following on the previous exchange of information at the prior two meetings of the Working Group, there was additional discussion of data collection processes for the U.S. recreational rod and reel fishery. In response to Japan's query, the United States briefly explained its process for ensuring accurate catch and effort information from this fishery, including a requirement for direct reporting augmented by a scientifically valid statistical survey, and offered to provide more information to interested parties.

Japan and the United States will continue dialogue on this point and report back the results to Panel 2.

## **7. Consideration of future work**

The Chair recalled that at the last meeting of this Working Group, all participants recognized the value in discussing this particular stock together. The Chair reaffirmed the importance of this work and asked the CPCs to consider the next steps of the WBFT Working Group.

The CPCs agreed that this Working Group has been very constructive in advancing the collaborative research activities between the CPCs and that the efforts of this Group have been extremely positive. Noting this, all Parties agreed that a meeting of this Working Group would not be necessary for 2016 given the pending stock assessment and other ongoing work, though continuing the work of the group intersessionally was encouraged. In addition, all Parties agreed that the opportunity for the Working Group to reconvene at a later date should remain open. The Working Group, therefore, recommends that no intersessional meeting be held in 2016 and that Panel 2 would review the progress of research efforts at its 2015 meeting and consider holding the next Working Group meeting in 2017, if necessary.

The Parties also discussed the update of the AIC analysis performed by the SCRS in 2014 to investigate the high and low recruitment scenarios fit to the estimates of spawning stock biomass and recruitment. Canada suggested this work could be looked at further by the SCRS. The SCRS Chair confirmed that this should be possible at the September 2015 species group meeting.

## **8. Other matters**

No other matters were discussed.

## **9. Adoption of Report and adjournment**

The report was adopted and the Third Meeting of the Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists in support of the Western Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment was adjourned.

## **References**

Lauretta M.V., Walter J.F., Hanke A., Brown C., Andrushchenko I. and Kimoto A. *In press*. SCRS/2015/032. A method for combining indices of abundance across fleets that allows for precision in the assignment of environmental covariates while maintaining confidentiality of spatial and temporal information provided by CPCs. 10 p.

**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.6**

**Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of Chair
3. Adoption of agenda and meeting arrangements
4. Nomination of Rapporteur
5. Review of the results of 2nd Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists in Support of the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock
6. Review of the progress towards combining raw catch/effort data for individual fleets into a new index (or indices) of abundance for Western Atlantic bluefin tuna
7. Consideration of future work
8. Other matters
9. Adoption of Report and adjournment

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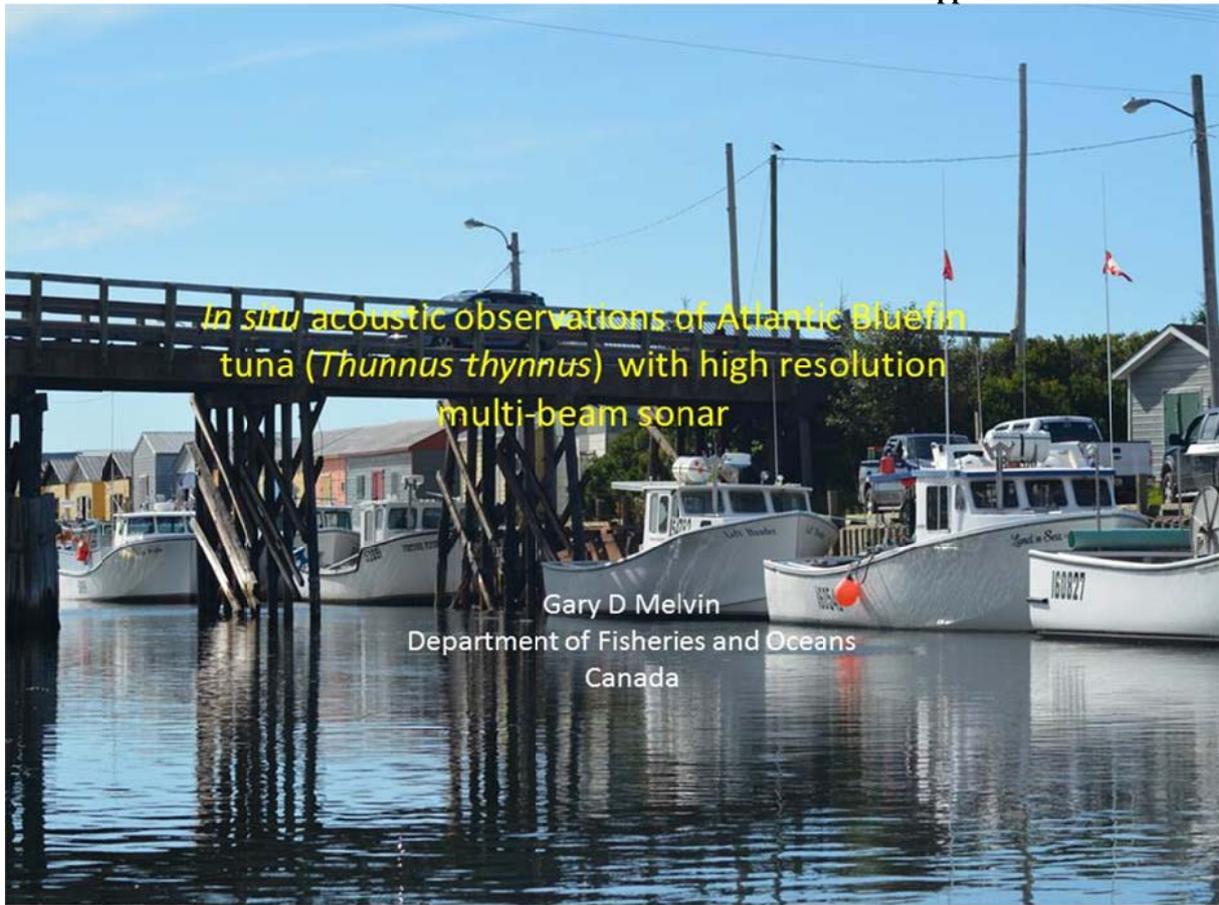
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**Tedjini Roemmele, Claire**



## Background

- Most ICCAT Analytical Assessments are tuned with CPUE indices – bias and changing fishing patterns
- Recent concern about the representativeness of some CPUE indices of abundance for both eastern and western BFT stocks.
- Recommendation by SCRS for the development of Fishery Independent Indices.
- WG of Fisheries Managers and Scientists (July 2014) identified several proposals for new indices, and improvement of existing indices, by Canada, Japan, and the USA.
- One of Canada's 2 Proposals involved a full scale acoustic- trolling survey in the Gulf of St Lawrence.

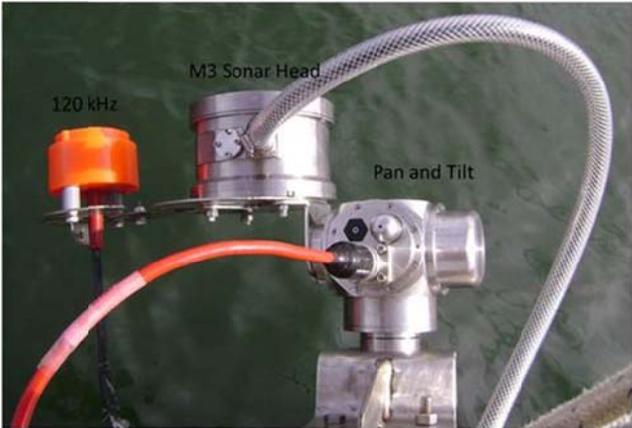
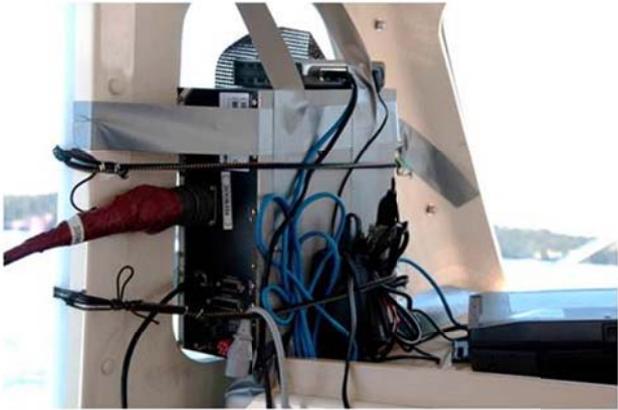
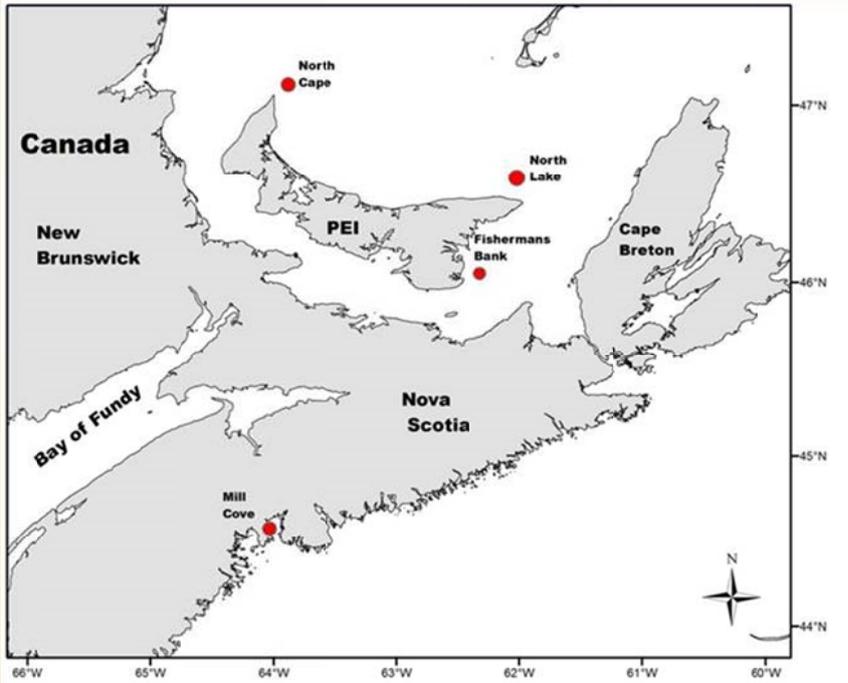
## Field Study Objectives

- Proof of Concept:
  - To evaluate the ability of acoustic technology to detect, observe, and quantify Bluefin tuna on the fishing grounds.
  - To investigate appropriate system configurations under different environmental and sea states (Tilt angle, vertical beam width, etc).
  - To investigate the operational limitations of the technology and approach to be considered in the final survey design.

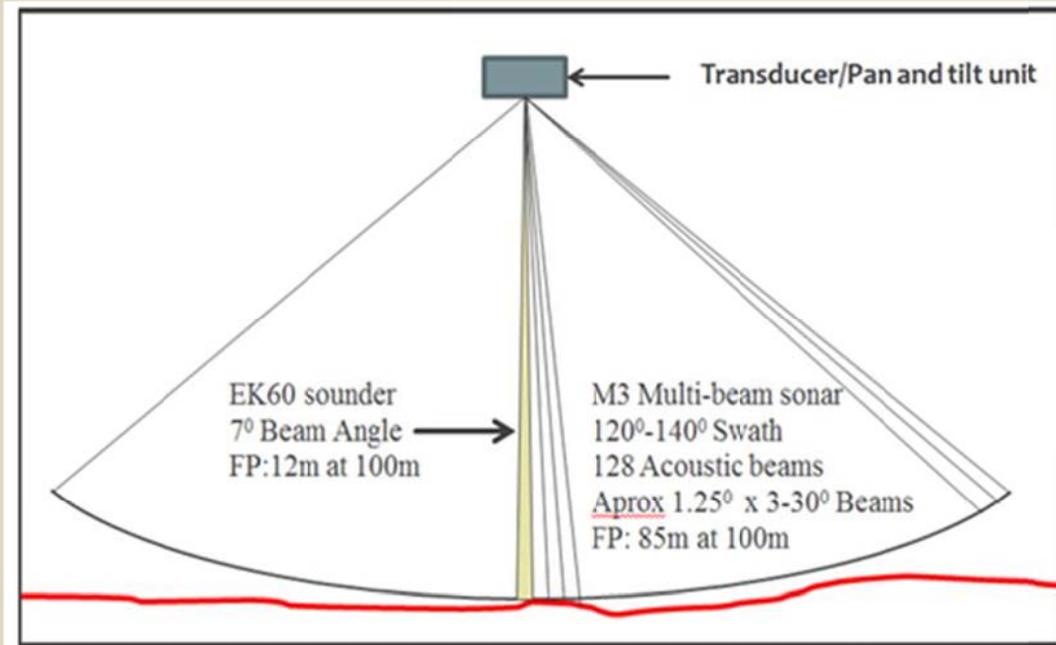
## Study area and Equipment

- Acoustic Recording undertaken at:
  - North Cape PEI - local and among herring fleet
  - East Point, PEI - local and among Rec fishing vessels.
  - Fishermans Bank, PEI, - local and among Rec fishing vessels.
  - A BFT Pen in St Margaret's Bay, Nova Scotia
- Equipment:
  - 24' Rossborough boat
  - Simrad EK 60 split beam (200kHz) scientific echosounder
    - 1 ping/sec
  - Simrad EK 60 split beam (120kHz) scientific echosounder
    - 1 ping/sec
  - Mesotech M3 multi-beam sonar (500kHz) 120° swath
    - ~ 5 pings/sec at 50m setting
- Survey Design
  - Ad hoc searches with a few transect in some areas.

# Location of Acoustic sampling sites in Eastern Canada

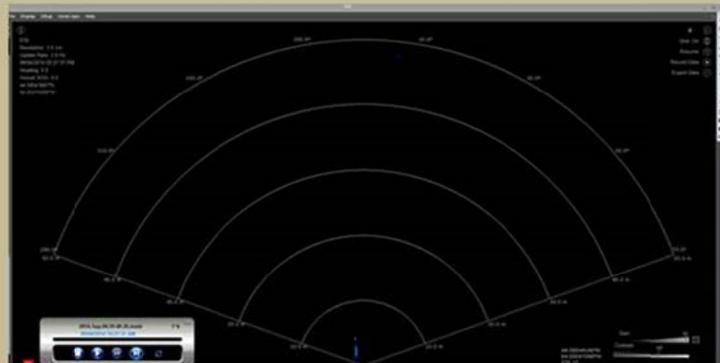


# Comparison of EK60 echosounder and M3 multibeam sonar beam patterns

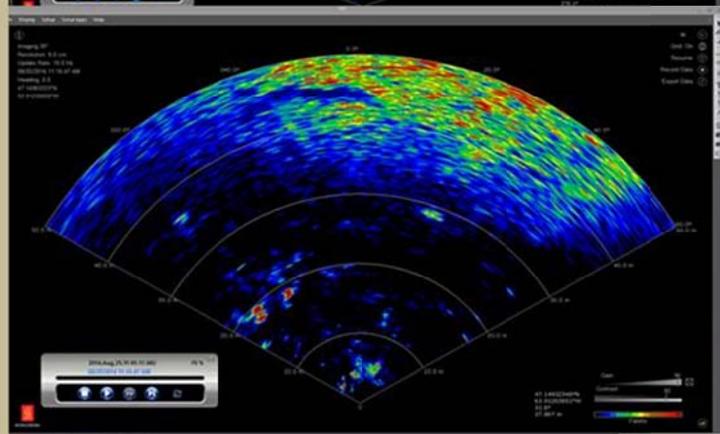


Observations in Shallow (<50) verse deeper water and rough and calm seas

M3 – Single ping  
>60m depth, and  
no wind/no swell

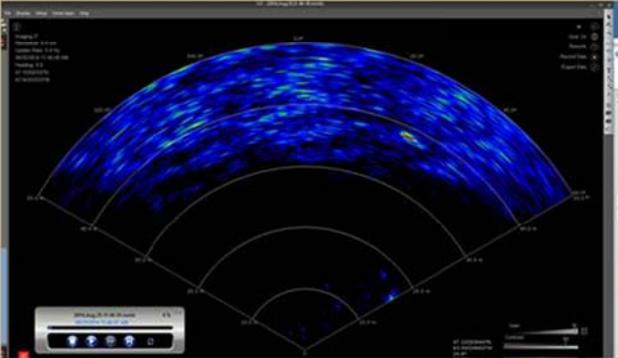


M3 – Single Ping, 20-25m depth, and 20 knot winds

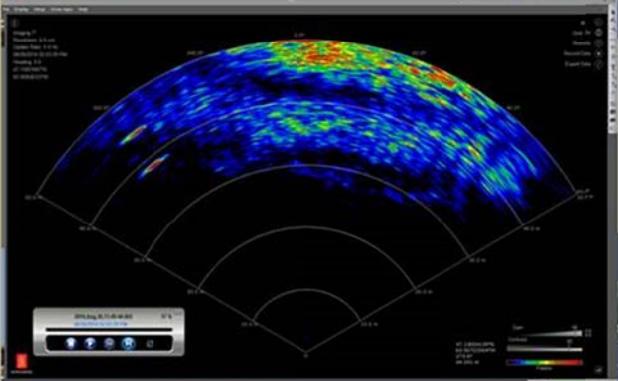


### Observations of 1 and 2 BFT

M3 – Single Ping,  
- Range 50m  
- Shallow water,  
- One BFT

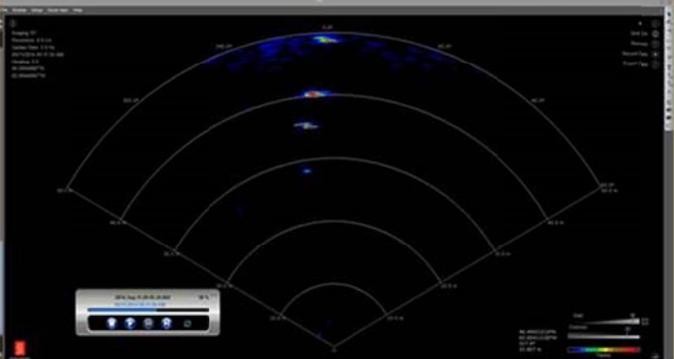


M3 – Single Ping,  
- Range 50m  
- Shallow water,  
- Two BFT

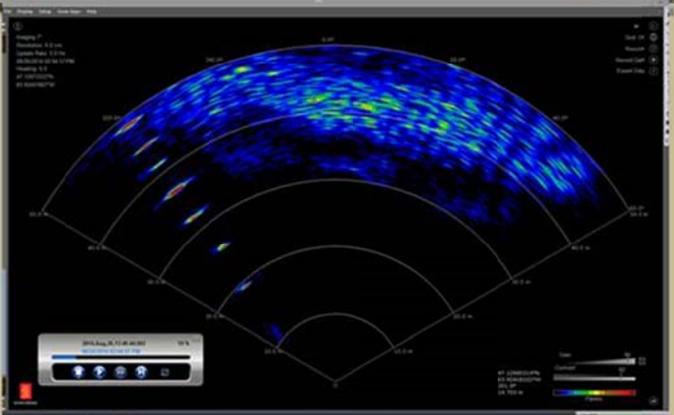


### Observations of Multiple BFT

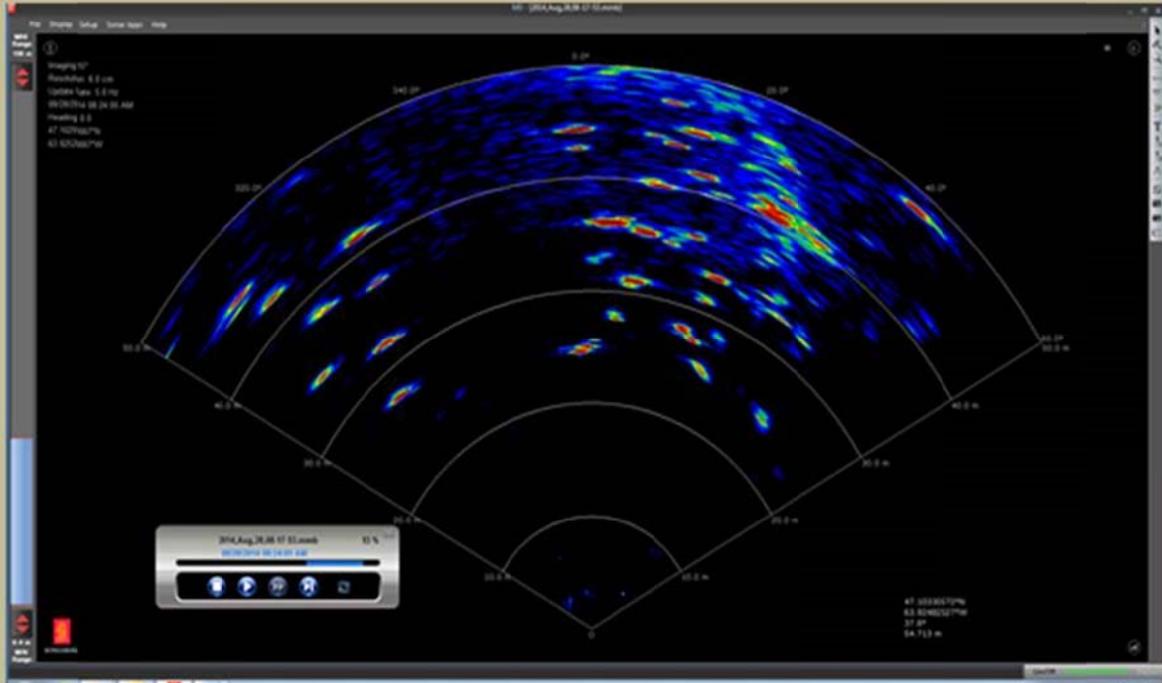
M3 – Single Ping,  
- Range 50m  
- Shallow water,  
- 4 of 16 BFT



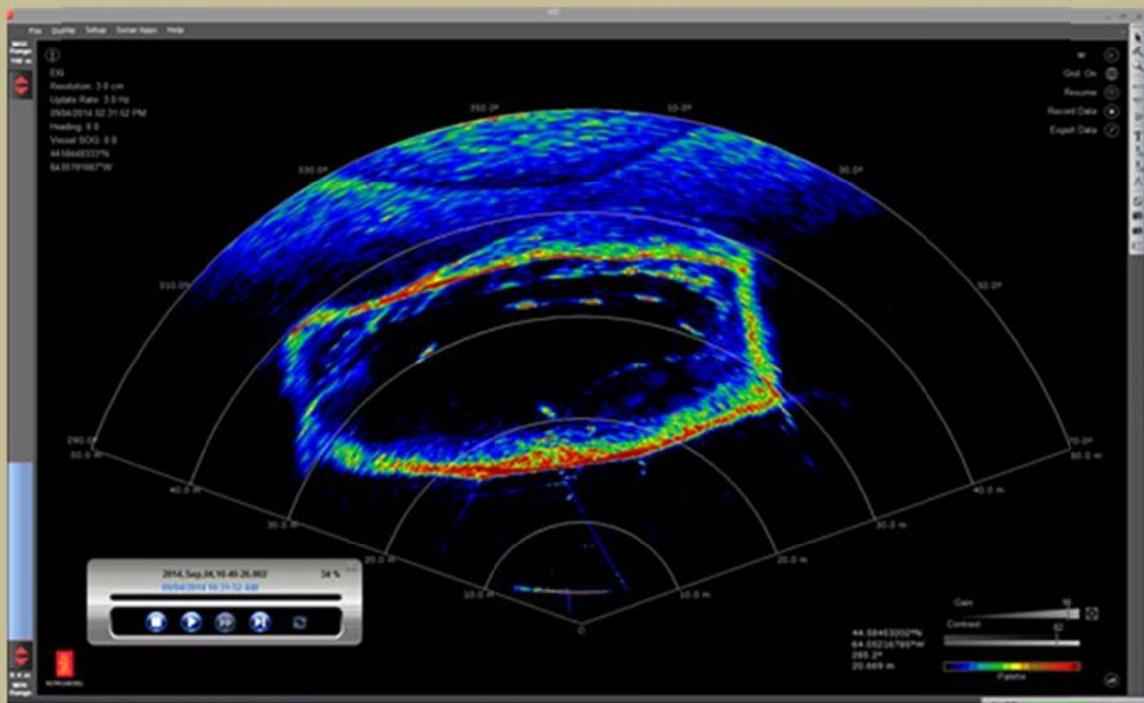
M3 – Single Ping,  
- Range 50m  
- Shallow water,  
- 8 of 21 BFT



## Aggregation of bluefin tuna near a commercial herring gillnetter



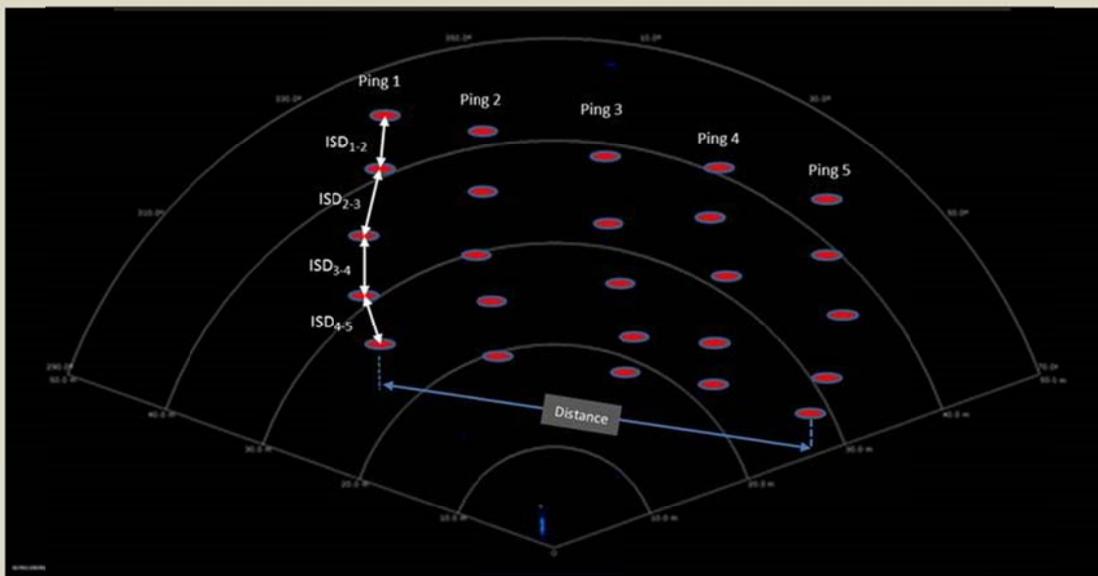
## Image of bluefin tuna in the Mill Cove pen in St Margarets Bay, Nova Scotia, September 4, 2014.



# Data Collection

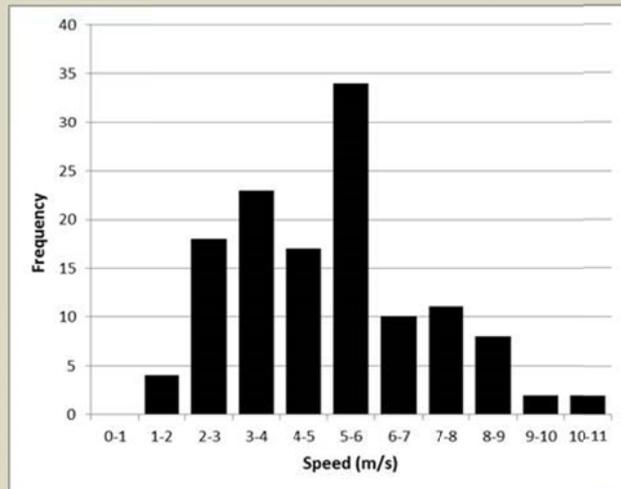
- Data Extractable for individual targets
  - Date, time, and vessel position
  - Position of individual targets in multi-beam swath.
    - Latitude and longitude
    - Angle and Range from sonar head
- Estimated Variables
  - Swimming speed within the sonar swath
  - Inter-spatial distance between adjacent BFT
  - Size of each target

Schematic of 5 ping overlay on a swath image illustrating the inter-spatial and swimming distance.



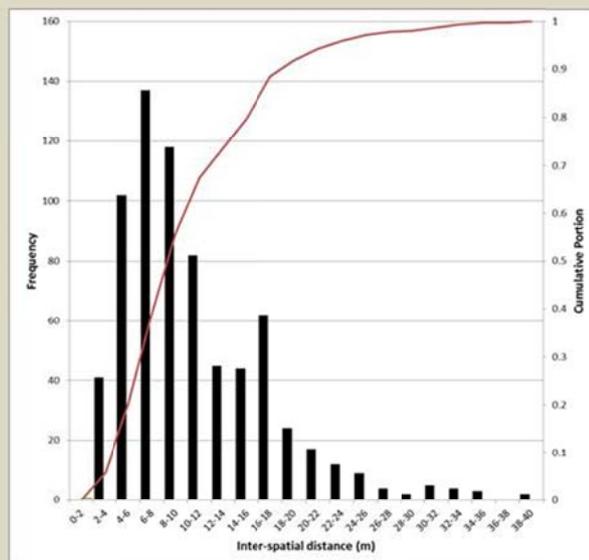
## Swimming Speed

	Individuals	Groups
Number	26	104
Mean (m/s)	3.65	4.14
Std Dev	2.22	2.07
Min	0.86	0.54
Max	8.87	10.98



## Inter-spatial Distance

Groups of Tuna	24
Observations	713
Mean (m)	8.94
Std	6.20
CV %	69.28
min	0.56
max	38.27

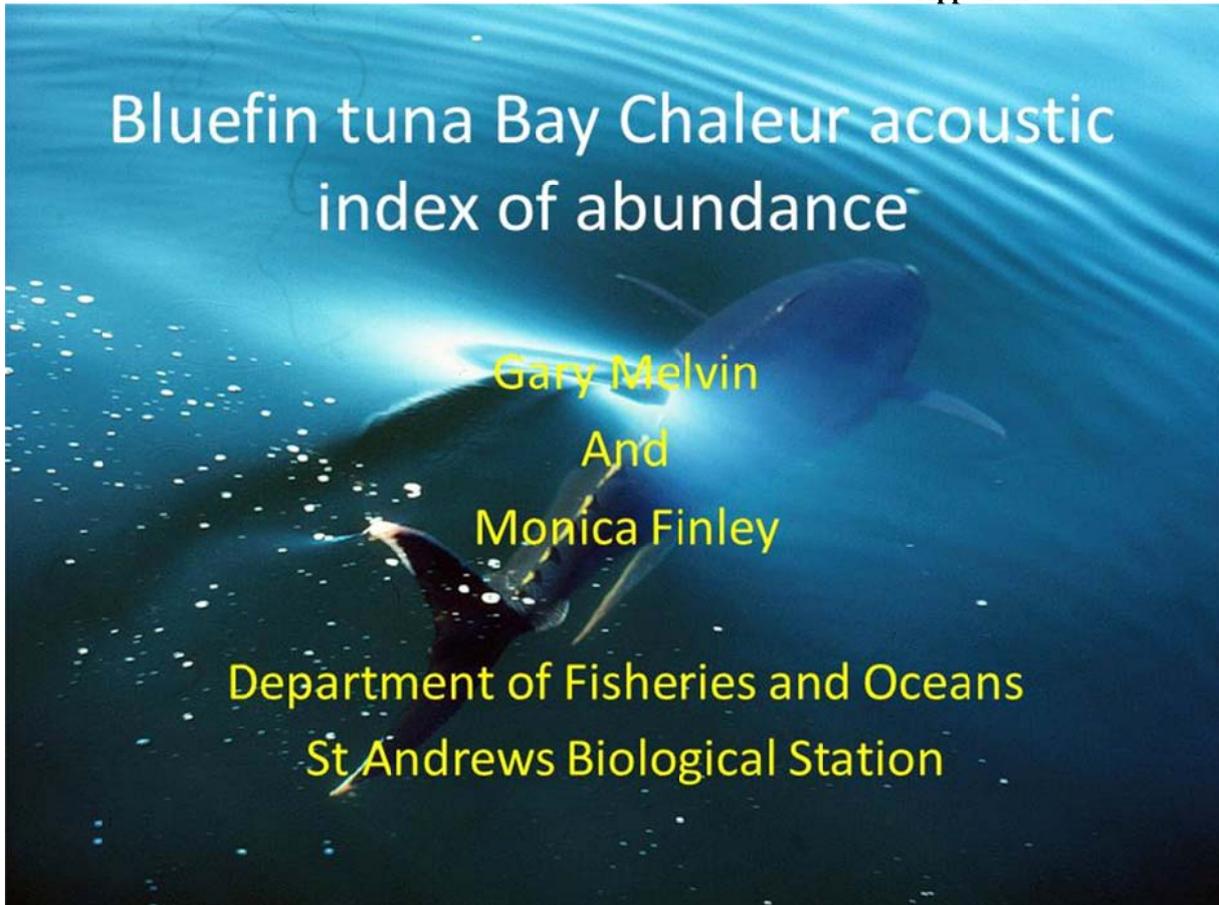


## Other Acoustic Observations

- Horizontal EK60 (200kHz) TS
- Vertical EK60 (120 kHz) TS (-34 to -14dB)
- Acoustic observations of:
  - Pilot Whales
  - Minke Whales
  - Sunfish (Mola mola)
  - Seals
  - Diving Birds
  - Gillnets with fish.
- BFT appear different from the above.

## Summary

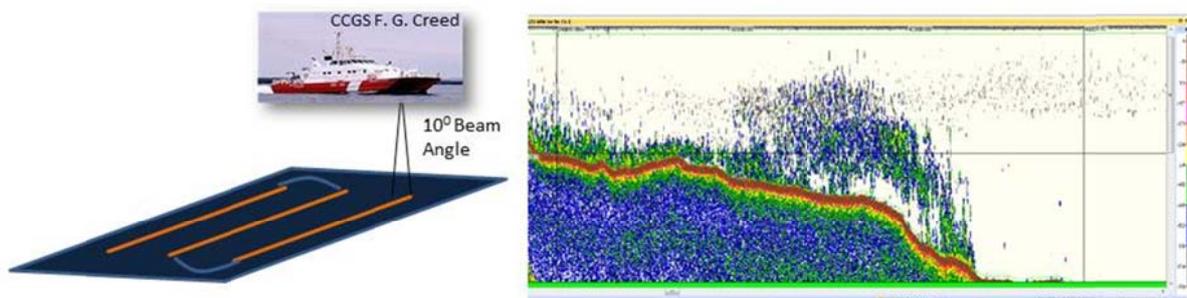
- The M3 Sonar can detect, monitor, enumerate, and track BFT in open water, thus a candidate tool for development of a new fishery independent BFT index of abundance.
- Functional Range of M3 is dependent upon water depth and surface sea conditions.
  - Shallow water (20-30m) limited to 35-45 m.
  - Deep water >50m full operational range (>100m).
- During calm seas tilt angle of 0 can be attained, but must be increased with increasing sea state (max 20knots).
- 7 degree appears to good general tilt angle. Pan and tilt to finesse during surveying
- Vertical beam with of 7 and 15 degrees optimal in this study.
- Stability of transducer is vessel size dependent. A larger boat would improve acoustic detection.



## Gulf Region Bluefin Tuna Abundance Index

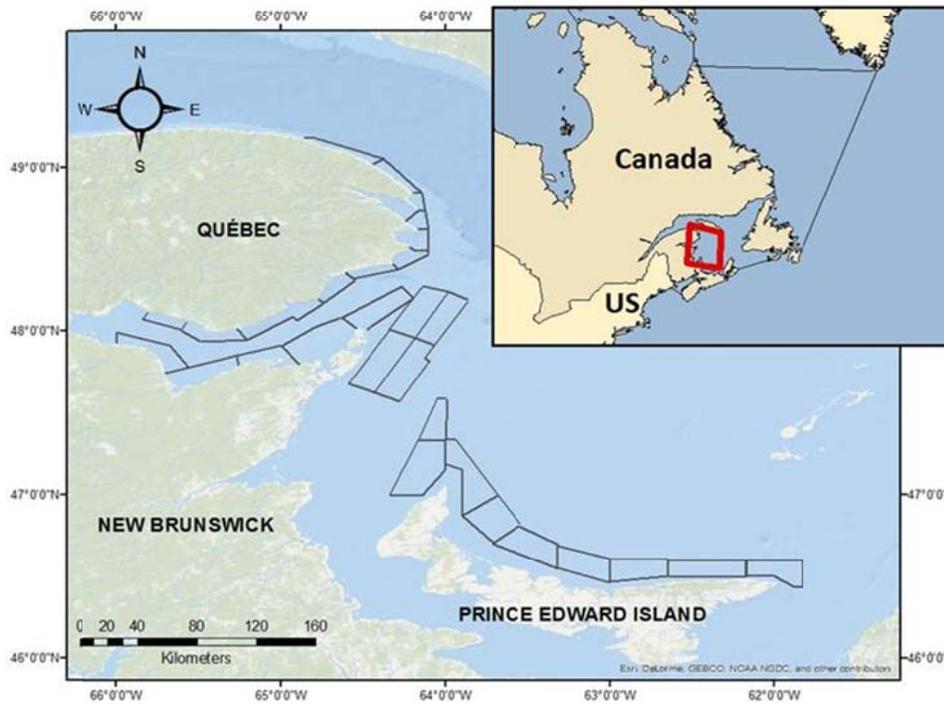
### Background

- The fall herring acoustic survey in the Southern Gulf has been conducted since 1991.
- The sampling design includes random (within strata) parallel transects with a hull-mounted single beam (120 KHz) transducer, using a Femto DE9320 digital echosounder. (LeBlanc *et al.* 2012)
- Survey has been conducted during the same period of time by the same vessel using the same equipment since it began.
- HDPS editing software uses a destructive approach and removes all backscatter not associated with the target species.
- Tuna were observed over the years but not available for quantification in the final analysis.



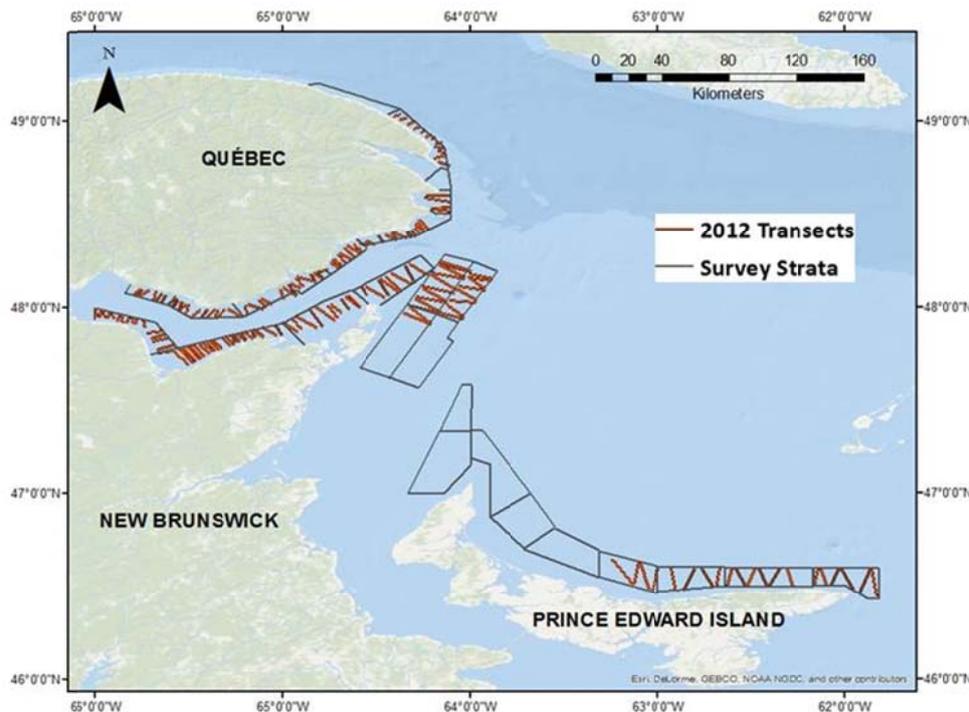
## NAFO Division 4T Acoustic Survey

A fall acoustic survey of herring concentrations in the Southern Gulf, Canada has been conducted since 1991.



The acoustic biomass index contributes to the stock assessment of 4T herring.

## Survey Transects 2012



Transect length ranges between ~2.5 and 18.4 km, average 7.7 km (2012).

In 2012 the total transect distance covered was 1, 289 km.

## Available Data

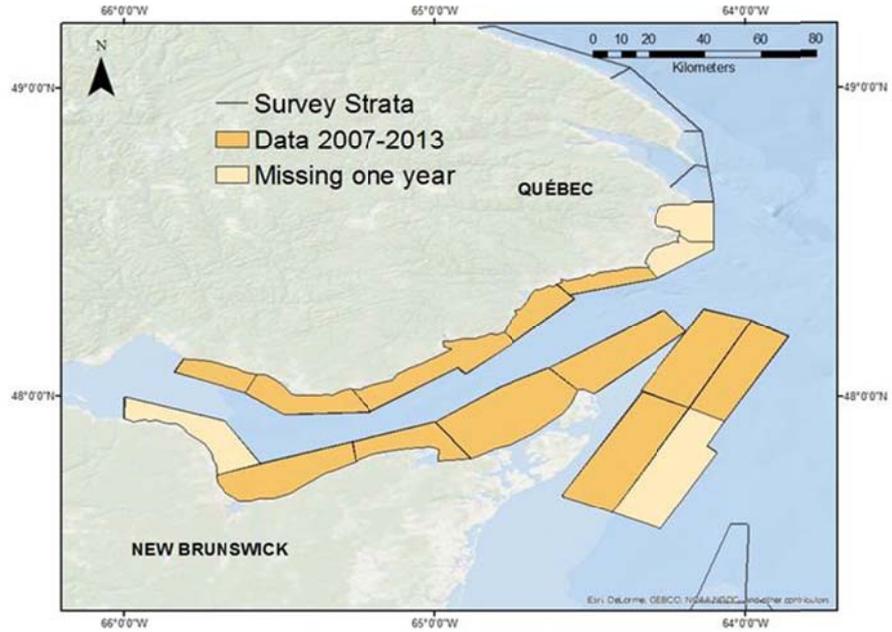
**24 years of acoustic survey data available.**

**PEI has been surveyed 17 of the 24 years.**

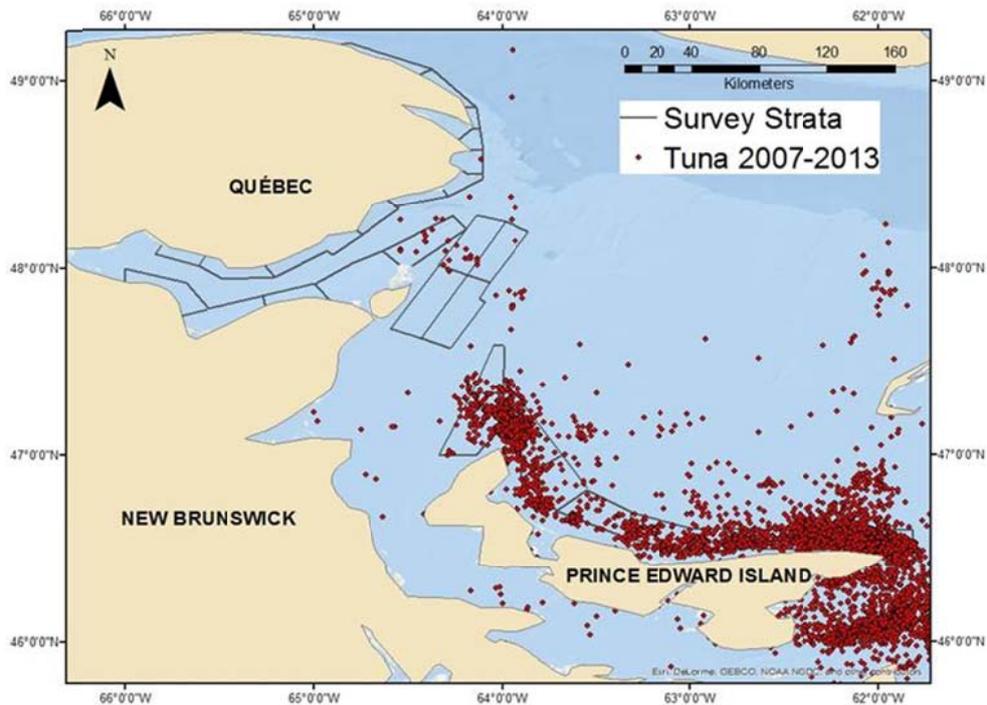
To date:

2007-2013 data have been re-edited and processed for BFT.

16 strata have been consistently sampled.



## Commercial Landing Locations of BFT



PEI Coverage:

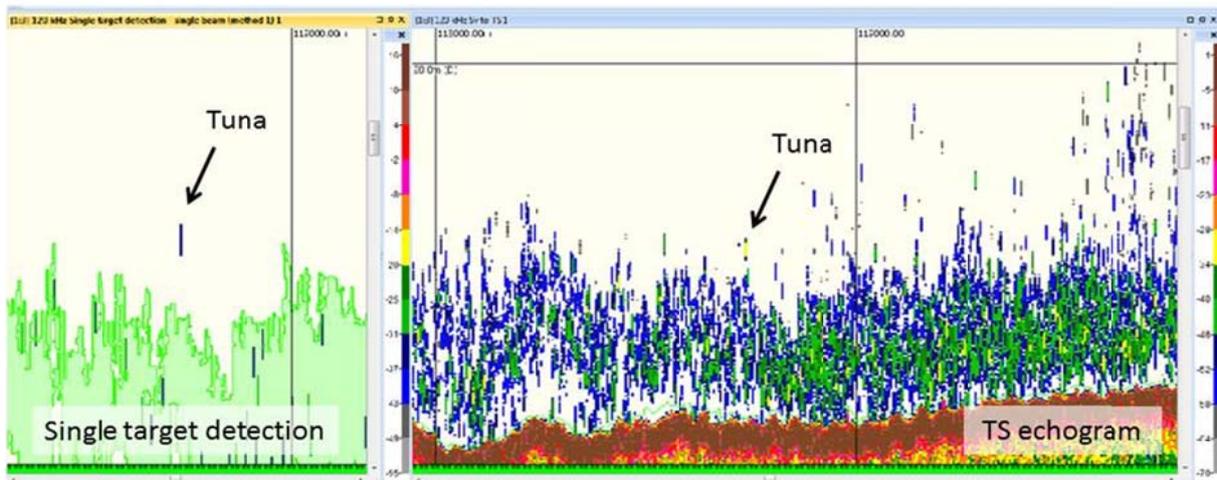
- 24 year of Surveying
- 17 years some PEI Strata
- Many years of incomplete coverage
- Final analysis will look at PEI coverage

Year	PEI Survey	Year	PEI Survey	Year	PEI Survey
1991	n/a	1999	Y	2007	Y
1992	n/a	2000	Y	2008	Y
1993	Y	2001	Y	2009	Y
1994	n/a	2002	Y	2010	Y
1995	Y	2003	Y	2011	n/a
1996	Y	2004	Y	2012	Y
1997	Y	2005	Y	2013	n/a
1998	n/a	2006	Y	2014	n/a

### Acoustic Estimation of Gulf Region Bluefin Tuna Abundance

Did we find tuna in the Raw? Yes

- ❖ 377 identified single targets in 2012 and 279 in 2013 (preliminary, note- PEI was not surveyed in 2013)



**To do:**

Analyze multiple years and compare acoustic abundance estimate (# tuna/km<sup>2</sup>) to the current CPUE index.

## Steps

- Quality Control
- Identify TS range of observed bluefin from previous acoustic work.
- Finesse single target detection algorithm
- Identify BFT from all transects
- Enumerate the number observed per transect
- Stratum area weighted estimates to account for inter-year variability.

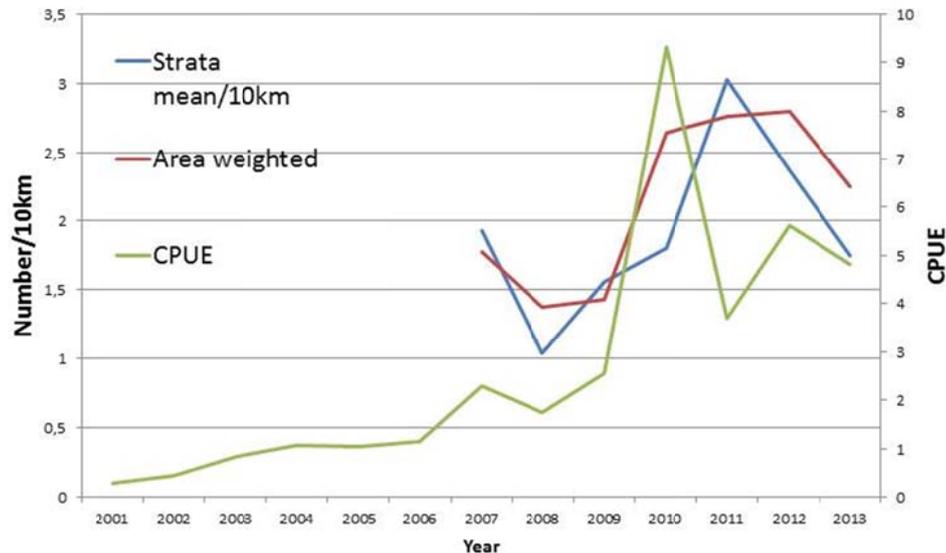
### Tuna like Single Target Identification

Table: Parameters for single target detection

Parameter	Value selected
Minimum TS value	-35 dB
Maximum TS value	-16 dB
Pulse length determination level	6 dB
Minimum normalized pulse length	0.50
Maximum normalized pulse length	1.80

- A school detection algorithm was used to detect and remove targets within schools.
- Single targets above 2.5 meters from the surface and below 1 m from the bottom (best bottom candidate in Echoview) were removed.
- Remaining single targets that meet the above criteria were individually assessed.

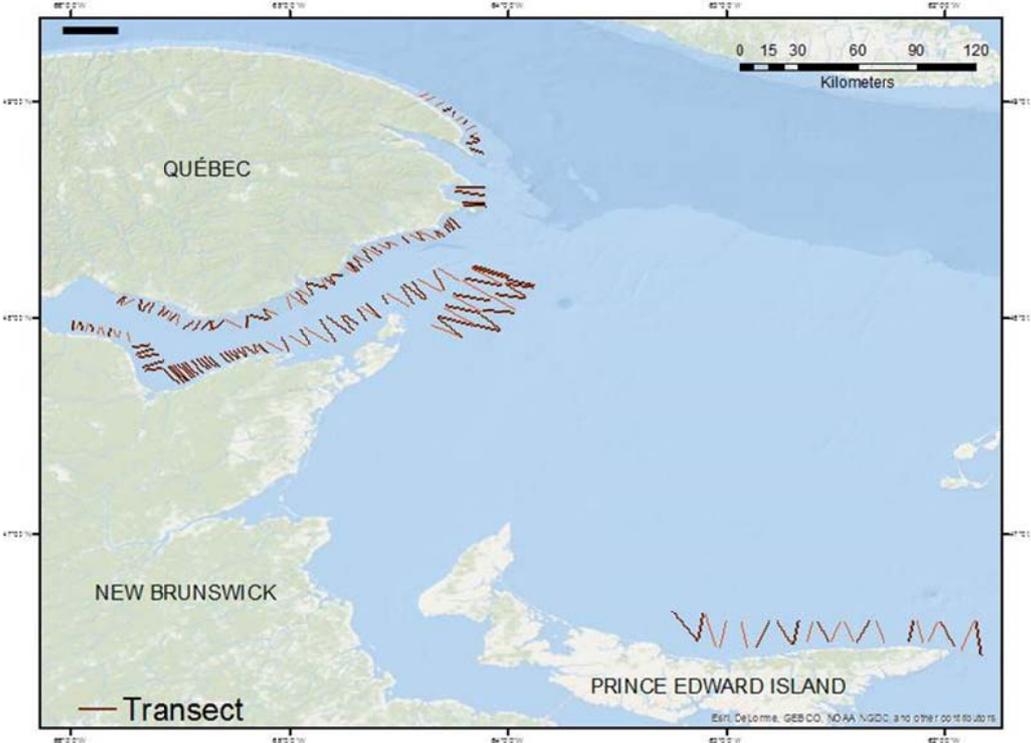
## Preliminary Results



## Summary

- BFT #/10km appears to follow a similar trajectory as the CPUE, without the extreme inter-annual variation.
- There is a significant increase, but not unrealistic, in the index in 2010 that remains high until 2013 when it decreases some.
- Anticipated data analysis (including variance) from 2001 to 2014 to be presented at the 2015 SCRS meeting.

# Acoustic Survey 2012



**Appendix 5 to ANNEX 4.6**

## DFO Bluefin Tuna Science Projects for 2015

### 2015 New BFT Projects

- For 2015, five projects have been developed that address specific issues identified to improve data input for the 2016 assessment.
- Projects are industry funded.
- Project are schedules to commence around August 1, 2015.
- All projects are to be completed before the 2016 data prep meeting

#### 1) Review and revise the SW Nova Bluefin tuna index of abundance.

- Uncertainty related to effort actually directed at bluefin tuna during a fishing trip for some vessels.
- Effort and by-catch of Big Eye tuna has been increasing since the early 2000's.
- The project will define a series of criteria to identify the proportion of a standard trip devoted to Bluefin tuna.
  - through consultations with the industry and a review of individual log books.
- Work has already commenced.

## Project 1 – SWNS BFT Index

### Objectives are to:

- Determine protocols for identifying from vessel log books those trips which may not reflect the effort devoted to Bluefin tuna;
- Examine and adjust fishing effort of affected trips, and
- Revise the Bluefin tuna index of abundance for southwest Nova Scotia fleet.

### Expected Completion:

- December 31, 2015 or earlier

## 2) Sampling Program Support

- Continuation and expansion of field sampling program
- collections throughout the Atlantic Provinces during the fishing season
- Technical support for processing and cataloguing

## Project 2 – Field Sampling Support

### • Objectives are to:

- Coordinate the collection of bluefin tuna heads and biological data associated with landed fish.
- Provide training in the removal of otoliths and collection of a tissue sample for genetic studies.
- Collect and process the otoliths and tissue samples from fishing ports throughout the Atlantic Provinces and Quebec required for a variety of studies.
- Preserve and catalogue all material collected.

### • Completion Date:

- Annual - December 31, 2015

### 3) Review of Gulf of St. Lawrence Bluefin tuna index of abundance

- Gulf of St Lawrence Bluefin tuna index is one of the key indices of abundance used in the 2014 stock assessment and has a strong influence on the stock status.
- Concerns were expressed regarding the representativeness of the index due to management and fishing pattern changes.
- suggestions to split the index into two time periods to try and account for the abrupt increase in 2010.
- Investigate if these changes can be accounted for through standardization and consultations with industry

### Project 3 - GoSL Index

#### Objectives:

- Determine protocols for identifying from vessel log books those trips which may not reflect the effort devoted to bluefin tuna;
- Examine and adjust fishing effort of affected trips, and
- Revise the bluefin tuna index of abundance for the Gulf of St Lawrence.

#### Completion Date:

- March 31, 2016

### Project 4 - PSAT Tagging study

- PSAT studies have been initiated to investigate the movement, distribution and origin of Atlantic Bluefin tuna.
- Project currently underway to report all Canadian tags in a format consistent with the SCRS requests.
- BFT expanding range (i.e., Newfoundland, Bay Chaleur). With apparent increase in abundance it is important to have a good understanding on how these fish are moving.
- Propose to release 20 new PSAT focusing on release locations not previously targeted.

## Project 4 - PSAT Tagging study

- Objectives:
  - Coordinate with the fishing industry the locations from which tagging will be conducted.
  - To tag 20 Bluefin tuna throughout the Atlantic Provinces and possibly Quebec based on availability.
  - Monitor and report on the movement of BFT as the tags are released and data transmitted.
  - Prepare a final report on the distribution and movement of tagged fish.
- Completion Date:
  - March 31, 2016

## Project 5- ICCAT Tagging Program

- GBYP program has established a voluntary tagging program with the fishing industry to tag and release bluefin tuna.
- ICCAT provides the conventional tags and reporting forms to the industry.
- Industry tag the bluefin tuna – fleets throughout Atlantic Canada engaged to undertake tuna

## Project 5- ICCAT Tagging Program

- Objectives
  - Collaborate with the industry to mark bluefin tuna released alive with conventional tags.
  - Promote the tagging of released bluefin tuna with conventional tags provided by ICCAT and in support of GBYP.
- Completion Date:
  - March 21, 2016, but subject to renewal annually

# Progress Report on selected USA Research Activities to Improve the Stock Assessment of western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna



United States of America Scientific Delegation to ICCAT SCRS  
Meeting of the Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists  
in support of the Western Bluefin Stock Assessment  
June 25, 2015

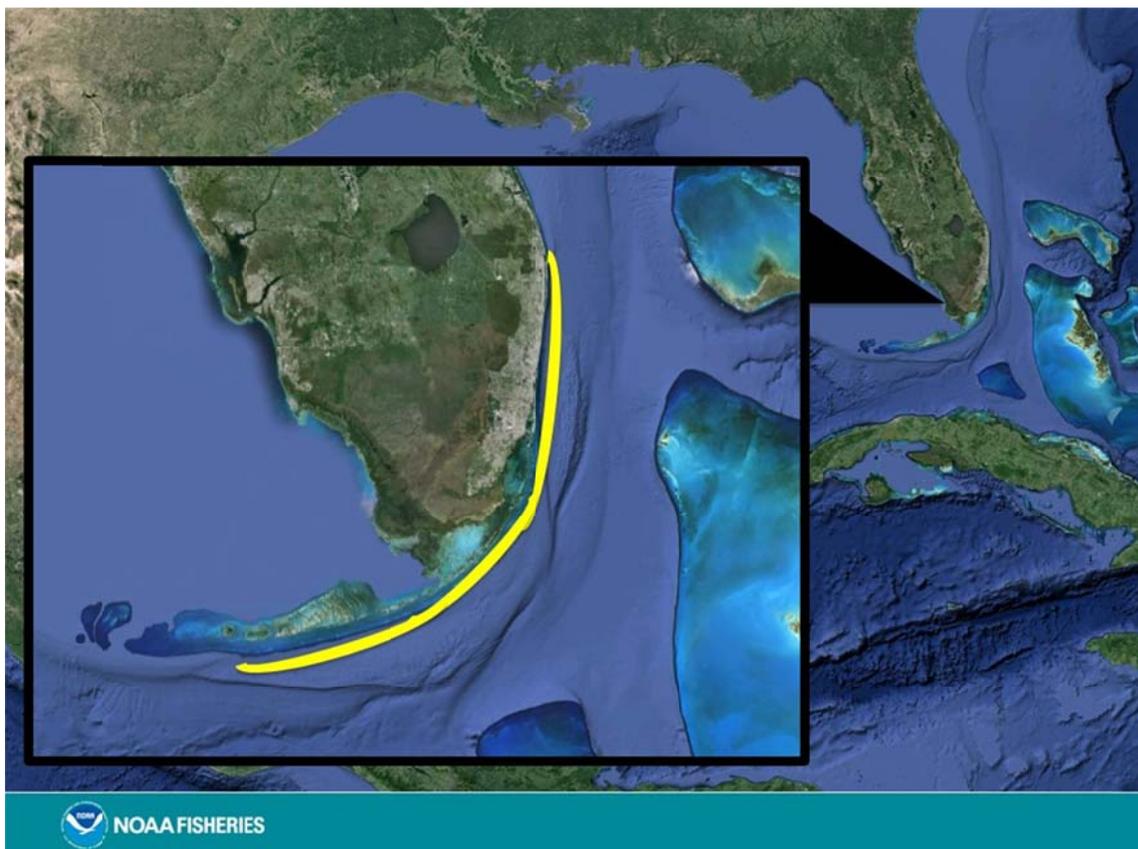


U.S. Department of Commerce | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration | NOAA Fisheries | Page 1



## A feasibility study on the development of annual relative abundance indices for young-of-the-year Bluefin tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) in the Straits of Florida





NOAA scientists have been meeting with recreational fishermen and charter boat captains to explain the study, and provide training in how to identify young-of-the-year bluefin tuna. A number of these fishermen have agreed to participate in the voluntary network of samplers along the Florida Straits.



Blackfin 19-25 gillrakers

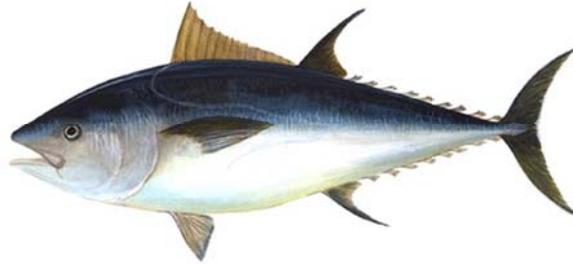


Bluefin 34-43 gillrakers

NOAA scientists have also conducted some initial field testing of the gear provided by Japanese scientists.



## Developing a genomic approach Bluefin tuna assessment



### Background

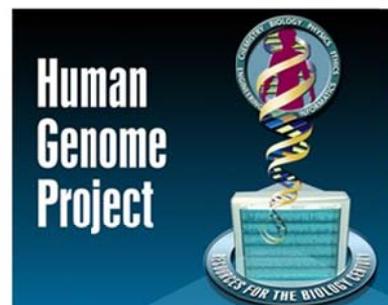
Human genome project has changed the game for molecular DNA technology and analysis

Newly-developed, next-generation DNA techniques have dramatically increased power of genetic methods

New economy of human genome project has vastly decreased analytical costs, now comparable to or cheaper than many traditional sampling methods

1000s of DNA markers can be sequenced rapidly and cheaply to identify individuals.

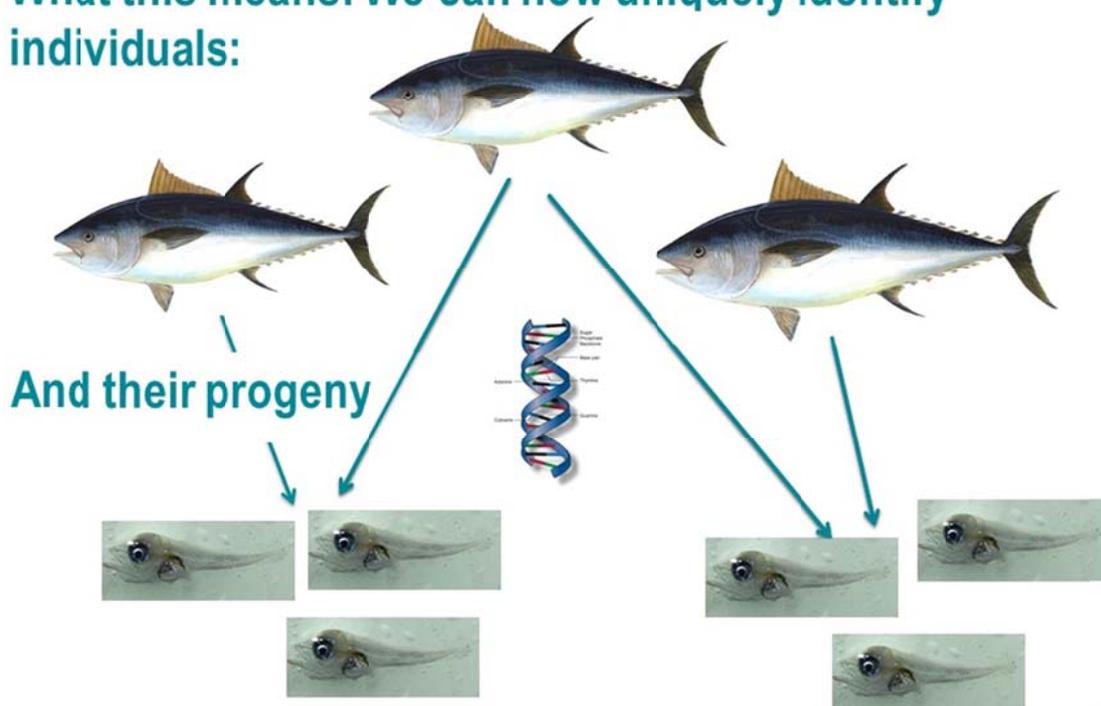
It is time to apply these methods to fisheries problems



Courtesy: National Human Genome Research Institute and Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History



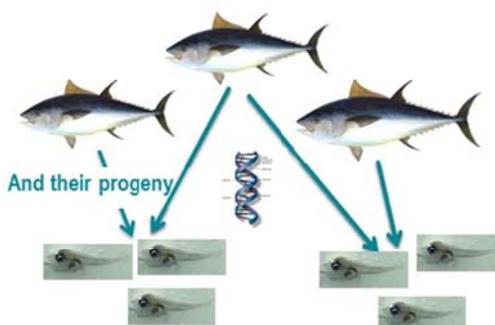
## What this means: We can now uniquely identify individuals:



Larval pictures from Katherine Dale, NMFS

## Close-Kin Analysis

By counting number of parent-offspring pairs, we can estimate number of parents



Similar to a mark-recapture experiment

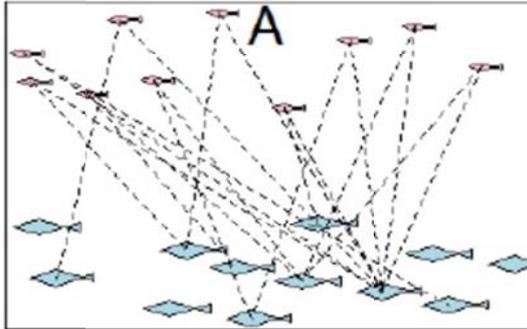
Successfully applied to

- Minke whales
- Southern Bluefin tuna



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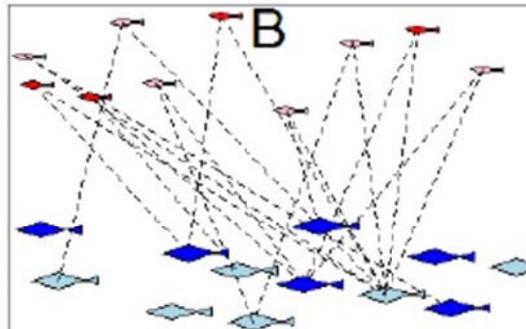
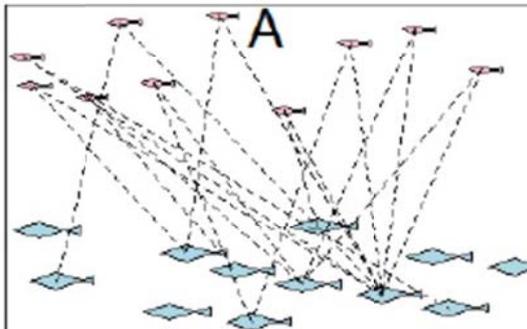
## Close-Kin Analysis (Bravington et al. 2013)



A. Each juvenile  
'tags' its parent's  
DNA marker

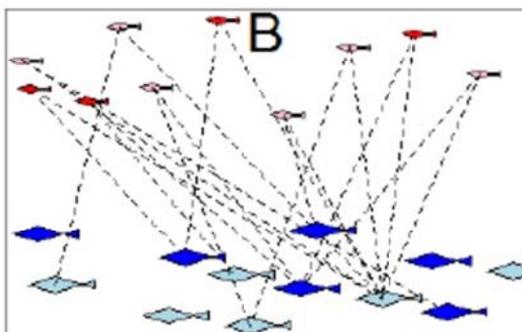
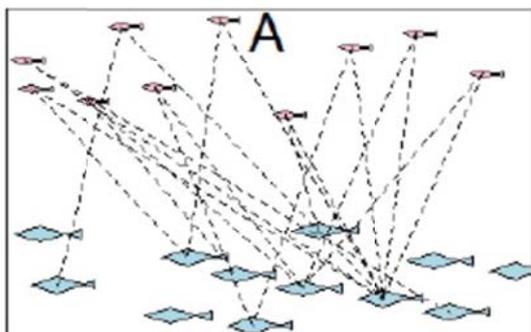
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## Close-Kin Analysis (Bravington et al. 2013)

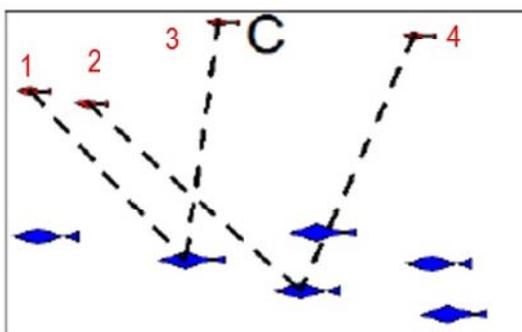


B. Sample some fraction of adults  
and juveniles, obtain genotypes

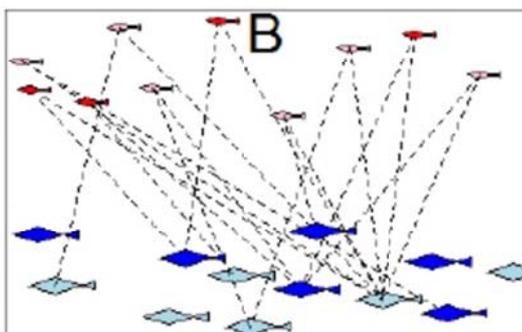
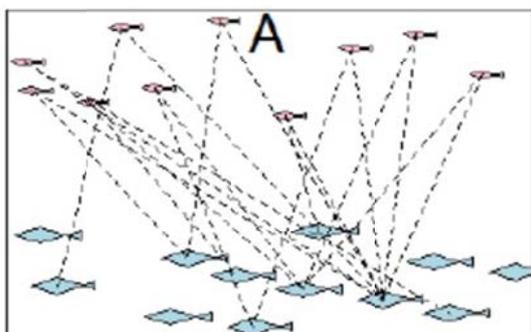
## Close-Kin Analysis (Bravington et al. 2013)



C. Genetically identify matches, i.e. number of parent/offspring pairs; here there are 4



## Close-Kin Analysis (Bravington et al. 2013)



D. Estimate number of spawners:

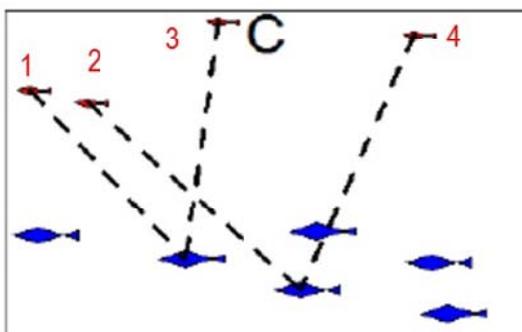
$$\hat{N} = 2 * J * A / POP$$

4 Juveniles sampled

6 adults sampled

4 POPs

$$\hat{N} = 2 * 4 * 6 / 4 = 12 \text{ spawners}$$



## Close-Kin Analysis: Study Design Overview

- **Spawner Marking:** Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Larval Sampling Program
  - Existing long-term monitoring survey since 1977
  - Stratified random sampling
  - Coverage across the northern Gulf of Mexico spawning grounds
- **Spawner Recapture:** Sampling of U.S., Canada, Japan, and Mexico Fisheries (and other international fisheries)
  - Marked individuals (GOM spawners) assumed to mix with unmarked population
  - Marked spawners recaptured in fisheries after the spawning period, outside of the GOM (does this represent a random sample of adults?)
  - Short duration between mark and recapture events, potentially negligible natural mortality



## Pilot Study underway – Objectives:

- Identify unique individuals using next-generation genomic sequencing following methods developed for Southern BFT
- Evaluate the feasibility of using GOM larvae to mark WBFT spawners
  - 500-1,500 individual larvae encountered yearly
  - Very clustered: few samples capture many larvae
  - Can we extract sufficient quality DNA from larval samples?
  - Unknown kinship (spawner genetic diversity) in larval samples
    - Does one plankton tow represent multiple spawner genomes or a single pair?
    - Has sufficient larval mixing occurred such that individual larvae represent a sample unit, i.e. unique spawner pairs?
- Feasibility of sampling fisheries for recaptures of genetically marked spawners
  - Can we identify stock origin of harvested fish? (i.e. East versus West Atlantic and remove positive N bias of recapturing mixed stocks)
  - Can we obtain representative samples from fisheries and meet the assumption of homogeneity in probability of recapture? (essential to obtain unbiased estimates of spawner absolute abundance using CKA)



## Potential Benefits

### Pilot:

1) Application of next-generation genetic techniques for spawning stock abundance estimation – a different and more valuable result than just stock origin

2) Estimation of East vs West stock origin by genetic methods – useful as a stand-alone product for allocating catch compositions

### Operational (Provided that pilot succeeds):

- a full close-kin analysis may provide an estimate of absolute number of spawners
- This could greatly reduce assessment uncertainty
- Or provide new basis for deriving quotas as a fraction of the spawning stock



## Developing new/improved fishery independent indices for western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna using larval collections



## Potential improvements to existing indices

- Incorporate an adaptive sampling scheme based upon habitat models
- Expand depth-stratified sampling to define the vertical distribution of larvae
- Incorporating age and mortality estimates for larvae collected in different regions within the Gulf of Mexico

## Potential new indices that might be developed:

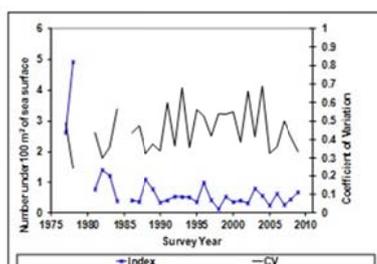
- Develop an index of larval prey, feeding success and growth
- Initiate sampling for bluefin tuna eggs, to index of spawning stock biomass
- Extend exploratory sampling efforts in the Caribbean Sea and western North Atlantic to determine the significance of alternative spawning grounds



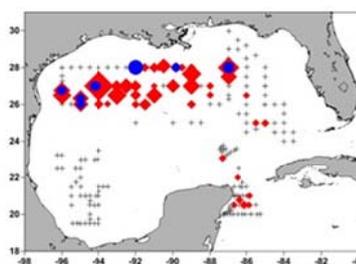
## Past improvements to existing larval index: catch efficiencies

- *Issues:*
  - The larval index was zero-inflated, and didn't account for environmental conditions. This resulted in a high degree of uncertainty around index values
- *Solutions:*
  - We developed an environmentally-driven habitat model to predict conditions and locations where larvae would be expected
  - This model suggested that catchability of larvae was likely sub-optimal, so we introduced a new plankton sampling gear in 2010, which is much more efficient

Larval bluefin index (blue), and coefficient of variation (black)



Larval bluefin catches from bongo net (blue) and S-10 net (red) tows, 2010



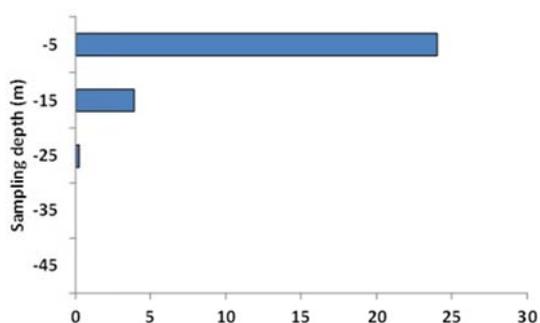
## Potential future improvements to existing larval index: depth distributions

- *Issues:*
  - We have limited information on distributions of larvae by depth, and so catch efficiencies are still not well known
  - This contributes another potential source of error to the larval index
- *Solutions:*
  - We propose to increase use of depth-stratified opening/closing nets on annual cruises, in order to quantify the sampling efficiencies of all gears used
- *What we need:*
  - More ship time during the peak spawning season

A MOCNESS opening and closing plankton sampling net

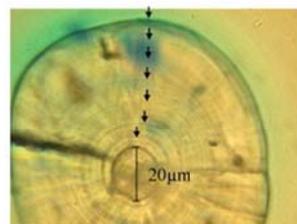


Preliminary data on larval depth distributions



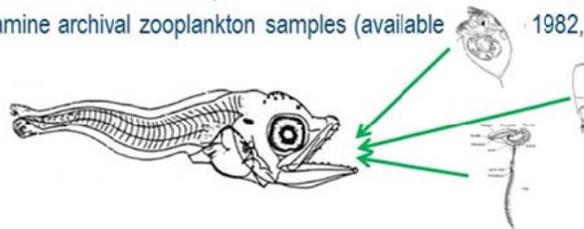
## Potential future improvements to existing larval index: larval aging

- *Issues:*
  - Estimates of age-at-length are required to standardize larval catches for the larval index
  - The current age-length curve was developed from larvae sampled off Miami more than 30 years ago
- *Solutions:*
  - New age curve was developed from samples taken in 2012. Curve will be updated using the 2013 and 2014 specimens.
  - We have begun to age larval bluefin from several cruises in the Gulf of Mexico in recent years
  - When sufficient samples have been processed, we will develop predictive models to define how environmental conditions affect growth, and how this varies among years
- *What we need:*
  - Resources for lab work, to dissect and age larvae



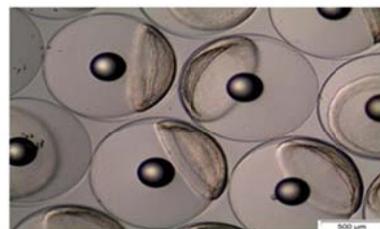
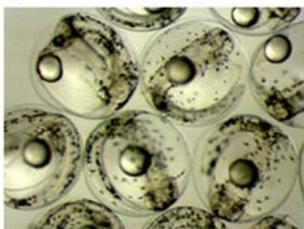
## Potential development of new indices: feeding success and recruitment

- *Issues:*
  - Survival of larvae at very early life stages may exert a strong influence on recruitment variability
  - Planktonic feeding conditions are likely important, but little is known about larval bluefin feeding ecology
- *Solutions:*
  - We have begun to look at gut contents and feeding preferences of larvae from the Gulf of Mexico, in collaboration with WHOI, and this year we will examine archival plankton samples from past years to determine the abundance of these prey items.
  - Larval feeding success and prey fields will be compared among years with good vs. poor recruitment
  - When combined with estimates of larval growth rates, we can investigate how environmental conditions drive larval survival and recruitment, and how these might have varied in the past several decades
- *What we need:*
  - Resources for lab work, to dissect and process larvae
  - Resources to examine archival zooplankton samples (available 1982, possibly earlier)



## Potential development of new indices: egg production

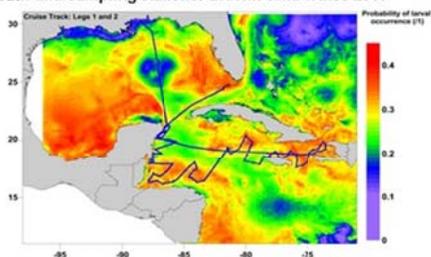
- *Issues:*
  - Larval growth and mortality contributes to variability in larval abundances, which adds error to estimates of spawning stock biomass from the larval survey
- *Solutions:*
  - A daily egg production model (DEPM) provides a much more direct estimate of spawning biomass
  - This could be developed for bluefin tuna using genetic techniques to identify eggs
- *What we need:*
  - Resources for genetic analyses to identify eggs, which are already collected during annual surveys



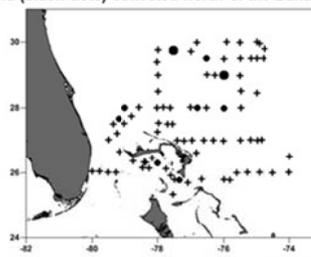
## Potential development of new indices: alternate spawning grounds

- *Issues:*
  - Sampling for larval bluefin tuna has traditionally been concentrated in the northern Gulf of Mexico
  - Limited sampling in the southwest Gulf, western Caribbean, and north of the Bahamas has collected small numbers of larvae
  - However, the importance of this spawning activity to the western stock is not known
- *Solutions:*
  - Additional sampling efforts in potential spawning grounds with greater spatiotemporal coverage
  - Genetic analyses to compare relationships between larvae from inside vs. outside the Gulf of Mexico
  - Backtracking and development of individual Based Models (IBMs) using hydrodynamic models estimate spawning locations of larvae caught
- *What we need:*
  - More ship time in the southwestern Gulf of Mexico, western Caribbean and western central Atlantic
  - Resources to sort collected samples, and to analyze collected larvae genetically
  - Resources to complete IBM and larval backtracking analyses

Cruise track and sampling stations: Bluefin tuna cruise 2011



Larval bluefin tuna (black dots) collected north of the Bahamas, 2013



## Areas where progress has been made since 2014 meeting of this Working Group:

Potential improvements to existing indices currently underway:

- Incorporating age and mortality estimates for larvae collected in different regions within the Gulf of Mexico  
**This work is underway**

Potential new indices that might be developed:

- Develop an index of larval prey, feeding success and growth  
**Study initiated on archived historical samples**
- Extend exploratory sampling efforts in the Caribbean Sea and western North Atlantic to determine the significance of alternative spawning grounds  
**Sampled off Cuba and Mexico this year. Funding has not yet been identified for expansion into the Atlantic. There is likely a need for a larger NOAA ship with increased endurance for this work.**



#### **4.7 REPORT OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP FOR PREPARING THE NEXT PERFORMANCE REVIEW** (*Miami, United States, 19 May 2015*)

The Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Stefaan Depypere, opened the meeting on May 19, 2015, in Coral Gables, Florida. The CPCs present were Brazil, Canada, EU, Ghana, Japan, Norway, and the United States.

Ms. Rachel O'Malley of the United States served as rapporteur.

The Chair referenced the virtual work of this group and explained that comments on the tentative agenda from Japan, Norway and the United States had been incorporated in a revised agenda (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.7**).

One CPC noted that the Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Performance Review contained in the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish an Ad Hoc Working Group for Preparing the Next Performance Review* (Rec. 14-12) refer to the *Resolution by ICCAT on Best Available Science* (Res. 11-17) and proposed that given the relevance of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Principles of Decision Making for ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* (Rec. 11-13), a reference to this document should also be incorporated into the Agenda.

##### **1. Consideration of assessment criteria for the performance review**

There was general agreement that, in order to facilitate a comparison of findings, the assessment criteria for the upcoming performance review should not diverge substantially from the criteria applied in the first performance review. However, in some cases, the criteria must be revised to reflect developments since 2008 (e.g., port State measures).

The United States offered to circulate a matrix that summarizes information on criteria used in other recent performance reviews for RFMOs. This suggestion was welcomed by the group and it was agreed that further comments on potential criteria would be exchanged electronically.

##### **2. Parameters for the composition of the performance review panel**

The Working Group recalled the process used to select the reviewers for the first performance review, which was designed with transparency in mind. All CPCs were invited to nominate qualified experts, and then the CPCs engaged in a voting process to express their preference for reviewers. The panel for the 1st Performance Review included one legal expert, one fisheries scientist and one fisheries manager. All were external experts that did not have a current connection to ICCAT.

There was some discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of having a mixed panel for the second performance review that would include both external experts as well as one or more reviewers who are involved in the work of ICCAT. Some CPCs preferred that the review panel be composed of an equal number of outside and internal experts. Other CPCs expressed reservations about a mixed panel for various reasons including the also discussed inclusion of non-governmental organizations (environmental and industry) on the review panel. All agreed that achieving an appropriate balance of perspectives and expertise is critical. Concerning the size of the panel, it was acknowledged that a larger panel would provide additional perspectives but could also make the process more complicated and costly.

As a result three alternatives regarding the composition of the panel will be further considered:

- 1) three external experts;
- 2) external and internal experts (3-4 of each), potentially including NGOs (1 environmental and 1 representing industry);
- 3) a smaller group composed of primarily external experts with one or two internal experts on ICCAT management and administration.

In addition to expertise, the Working Group agreed that the independence of reviewers is an important factor to keep in mind during the selection process, and that reviewers should be appointed as individuals in their professional capacity.

It was noted that if NGOs are not included among the reviewers, these perspectives will nonetheless be represented through the review panel's outreach to interested NGOs representing industry and environmental concerns. It was also suggested that NGOs could be included in the meetings of the review panel as observers.

One CPC recalled that it was very difficult to select CPC representatives for the NAFO performance review and that ICCAT has a much higher membership than NAFO. It was suggested that this could be addressed by considering panel representation or geographic representation.

The Working Group agreed to consider these three alternatives virtually and convey their views to the Chair so that a preferred alternative can be identified, if possible.

### **3. The timeline for launching and implementing the review process**

While the timeline will depend in part on the option selected, members of the Working Group concurred that selection of panelists should occur by February or March 2016 and that the review panel should be able to complete its work by the time of the subsequent annual meeting. There was general agreement that effort should be made to present the final report at the 2016 Commission meeting. Others noted that if a larger and more complex panel structure was selected, it is unlikely the report could be finalized until the 2017 Commission meeting. In this case, an update on the review panel's work could be provided at the 2016 Commission meeting.

### **4. Comparison of ICCAT's performance with the performance of other tuna RFMOs**

The Working Group agreed that this comparison should be conducted with the goal of identifying best practices, and acknowledged that performance reviews conducted for other tuna RFMOs will provide relevant information for the reviewers to consider. In order to maximize the efficiency of the review panel's work, the number of issues identified for comparison should be limited to those considered the most critical.

### **5. Expected budget of performance review**

The Working Group discussed concerns with the potential cost of this exercise, and possible ways to minimize costs to the extent possible. The cost of ICCAT's first performance review was 106,265.35 Euros. ICCAT's Executive Secretary informed the group that 600 Euros/day is typically the fee for expert consultants. One CPC suggested that ICCAT could circulate a call for tenders with a more reasonable consulting fee (e.g., 400 Euros/day).

It was noted that use of a reviewer who works for one of the CPC's governments could result in financial savings, as these reviewers are typically reimbursed only for their travel expenses. It was also agreed that (1) any developed State CPCs serving on the panel would need to cover their own costs; (2) developing State CPCs could receive travel assistance for their involvement; and (3) if NGOs were to serve on the panel, they would be required to cover their own costs.

The Executive Secretary asked the Working Group to consider that the budget for 2016-17 will be agreed at the annual meeting in Malta.

### **6. Presentation of the Terms of Reference developed by the Working Group**

The Working Group will continue to meet virtually to consider the evaluation criteria and develop the terms of reference. These will be circulated to the CPCs in October 2015, in preparation for consideration by the Commission at the annual meeting in November 2015 (**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.7**).

**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 4.7****Agenda***(virtual work to start February 2015)***1. Consideration of assessment criteria for the performance review**

Recommendation 14-12 indicates that the assessment criteria should take into account, inter alia, the following:

- The criteria used by ICCAT during its first performance review
- The criteria for second performance reviews by other RFMOs
- Resolution by ICCAT on Best Available Science [Res. 11-17]
- The Kobe recommendations

The assessment criteria should also take into account the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Principles of Decision Making for ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures* [Rec.11-13].

**2. Parameters for the composition of the performance review panel**

The following will need to be considered:

- The number of Panellists
- Qualifications of each Panellist
- Selection criteria for Panellists
- Method for inviting Panellists
- Suggestions for potential candidates
- Working language of the Panellists

**3. The timeline for launching and implementing the review process**

The Working Group will need to determine:

- Planning of the various steps of the review process
- Timeline for the selection of Panellists
- Deliverables expected and deadlines for each deliverable

The Commission should adopt the assessment criteria, and hence these should be submitted to the Secretariat in good time for translation and circulation. The criteria for the assessment of the SCRS should be submitted earlier, in order for the SCRS to review these before the Commission.

Potential deliverables could be:

- Evaluate how ICCAT has responded to the outcome of the first ICCAT performance review of 2008, taking into consideration the discussions/recommendations of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT and subsequent decisions and practices by the Commission and its subsidiary bodies
- Taking into account the evaluation referred to above, assess the functioning of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, in particular the Compliance Committee and the SCRS
- Compare, to the extent possible, the performance of ICCAT with that of other tuna RFMOs (see point 4)
- Advise the Commission on areas in need of strengthening and on ways to improve ICCAT performance

#### 4. Comparison of ICCAT’s performance with the performance of other tuna RFMOs

- Consideration of elements which should be included in a comparative review
- Development of recommendations on how such a comparative performance review could be carried out by Panel experts

#### 5. Expected budget of performance review

Depending on the experts chosen, the number of deliverables, and the deadlines imposed for deliverables, the Working Group will need to consider cost implications and propose a realistic budget. As needed, this budget proposal will be reviewed in light of the decision of the Commission concerning the Terms of Reference for the second performance review of ICCAT.

#### 6. Presentation of the Terms of Reference developed by the Working Group

The proposed Terms of Reference and relevant explanatory information will be presented to the Commission at its 2015 annual meeting for consideration. Translation time should be taken into account when submitting to the Secretariat. The Terms of Reference and any explanatory information will be presented to the Commission by the Chair of the Working Group.

#### List of Documents

PER-001A	Agenda and documents list
PER-002	Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish an Ad Hoc Working Group for Preparing the Next Performance Review [Rec. 14-12]
PER-003	Report of First Performance Review
PER-004	Procedures adopted for selection of experts, budget and criteria of First Performance Review
PER-005	Progress made since the ICCAT Performance Review (Secretariat Document PLE-103/14)
PER-006	Resolution by ICCAT on Best Available Science [Res. 11-17]
PER-007	Terms of Reference for second performance review of CCSBT
PER-008	Terms of Reference for second performance review of IOTC
PER-009	Terms of Reference for performance review of WCPFC
PER-010	Recommendations of Kobe III
PER-011	Letter from the ISSF
PER-012	General presentation of the 2nd ICCAT performance review

**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.7****Approach to a second performance review of ICCAT**

The purpose of this document is to present an approach for the manner in which the Second ICCAT Performance Review should be conducted.

**1. The First ICCAT Performance Review**

ICCAT carried out its First Performance Review in 2008, making use of the common criteria adopted at the *Sixth round of informal consultations of States Parties to the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (the Agreement)*. Those criteria outlined “what” (at minimum) should be assessed in the performance review.

The evaluation was oriented towards the examination of the Commission’s objectives, as stipulated in the ICCAT Convention, and the measures in place to achieve such objectives. In particular, the review included the following:

- a) Assessment of the text of the Convention, and its ability to assimilate the requirements of international fisheries instruments.
- b) Assessment of the extent to which measures adopted achieve the Commission’s objectives and the objectives of international instruments.
- c) Recommendations on how the Organization could be improved.

Following this review, the Review Panel made the following main general observations:

- ICCAT has developed reasonably sound conservation and fisheries management practices, which, if fully implemented and complied with by Contracting Parties, Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities (CPCs), would have been expected to be effective in managing the fisheries under ICCAT’s purview.
- The ICCAT Convention should be reviewed, modernised, or otherwise supplemented, to reflect current approaches to fisheries management.
- The ICCAT standing committee and panel structure is sound and the committees provide timely advice to ICCAT. However, the Panel expressed strong reservations on the performance of the Compliance Committee (COC).
- The Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) provides sound advice to the Commission members operating under significant difficulties largely caused by CPCs failing to provide timely and accurate data.
- The performance of the Secretariat is sound and well regarded as both efficient and effective by CPCs.
- The fundamental problems and challenges that ICCAT faces in managing sustainably the fisheries under its purview are not unique; other tuna RFMOs also face them, but the size of the ICCAT membership adds more difficulties.

The Review Panel made the following general assessment of ICCAT performance:

- Fundamentally ICCAT’s performance to date does not meet its objectives for several of the species under its purview.
- ICCAT’s failure to meet its objectives is due in large part to the lack of compliance by many of its CPCs.
- CPCs have consistently failed to provide timely and accurate data and to implement monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) arrangements on nationals and national companies.

- The judgement of the international community will be based largely on how ICCAT manages fisheries on bluefin tuna (BFT). ICCAT CPCs' performance in managing fisheries on bluefin tuna particularly in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea is widely regarded as an international disgrace and the international community which has entrusted the management of this iconic species to ICCAT deserve better performance from ICCAT than it has received to date.
- There are concerns about transparency within ICCAT both in decision making and in resource allocation.
- Most of the problems and challenges ICCAT faces would be simple to fix if CPCs developed the political will to fully implement and adhere to the letter and spirit of the rules and recommendations of ICCAT.

## **2. Approach for the Second ICCAT Performance Review**

### ***2.1 Terms of reference***

The aim of the second assessment should be to:

1. Evaluate how ICCAT has responded to the outcome of the First ICCAT Performance Review of 2008, taking into consideration the discussions/recommendations of the Working Group on the Future of ICCAT, of the Working Group on Convention Amendment and subsequent decisions and practices by the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.
2. Taking into account the evaluation under item 1 above, assess the functioning of the Commission and of its subsidiary bodies, in particular the Compliance Committee and the SCRS.
3. Compare, to the extent possible, the performance of ICCAT with the performance of other tuna RFMOs, i.e. by taking into account the Performance Reviews by other tuna RFMOs and by highlighting best practices adopted by other RFMOs that could help further strengthen ICCAT.
4. Identify areas where improvement is needed to strengthen the organisation further including an analysis of reporting requirements with a view to streamline and make recommendations to the Commission on how performance could be improved, taking into consideration the development in fisheries and ocean management that has taken place during the period covered by the review.

### ***2.2 Criteria and standards for performance evaluation***

It is suggested that the criteria used for the First Performance Review be adapted to the new terms of reference for the Second Performance Review, as laid out in *Addendum 1 to Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.7*. These criteria outline “what” (at minimum) should be assessed in the performance review.

### ***2.3 Selection of reviewers***

The Commission should decide on the composition and size of the Panel. The panel for the First Performance Review included one legal expert, one fisheries scientist and one fisheries manager. All were external experts that did not have a current connection to ICCAT.

For the Second Performance Review, regarding the composition of the Panel, the Commission should consider three external experts, as in the First Performance Review.

Reviewers should be independent and be appointed as individuals in their personal capacity. One of the reviewers, who should come from the group of external experts, will be assigned the task of coordinating the Panel.

Qualifications/experience of reviewers:

- profound knowledge of the following areas: international fisheries instruments and organisations, fisheries management, and fisheries science, ensuring that all these fields are adequately covered.

- an appropriate level of education and experience in their specialized field of work.
- very good command of written and spoken English. Knowledge of one or more of the other official languages of ICCAT would be an advantage.

The ICCAT Secretariat should provide adequate information and other support to the experts to facilitate their work but Secretariat staff will not form part of the Panel.

Selection process:

- The Commission should establish a Screening Committee, to support the selection process of panelists as specified in the 6<sup>th</sup> tic below, composed of: Commission Chairman, First Vice-Chair and Second Vice Chair, Chairs of STACFAD and the SCRS, and the Executive Secretary.
- All Contracting Parties will be invited to nominate qualified experts in one or more of the desired fields (i.e., international fisheries instruments and organizations, fisheries management, and/or fisheries science).
- The Secretariat will compile lists of candidates by field of expertise on the basis of nominations made by the Contracting Parties.
- The ICCAT Chairman will distribute the lists with the names and relevant background of all the candidates by field of expertise and request the CPCs to select and rank a maximum of three-experts per field among these candidates in order of preference.
- The Screening Committee will review the input from the CPCs, prepare a composite list of candidates by assigning a value in inverse relationship to the order on each list (i.e. 3 points for number 1; 2 points for number 2 and 1 point for number 3) and confirm the selection of the Review Panel by the Commission in accordance with the outcome of the ranking process.
- The Secretariat will communicate the results of the Screening Committee's analysis to CPCs and the resultant selection of the Review Panel.
- It is envisaged to complete the selection process by mid of February 2016.

#### ***2.4 Timing***

The work should be carried out within a reasonable time period as specified by the Commission, and should preferably commence no later than March 2016. The final report should be presented at the 2016 ICCAT Annual Meeting.

#### ***2.5 Review procedures***

At the end of the specified period (15 September 2016), the panel of experts would make a provisional report available for review by the Screening Committee for the sole purpose of improving the clarity of the report. Any requests for clarification made by the Screening Committee should be addressed by the Review Panel before presentation of the final report to the Commission.

The role of the Secretariat is to ensure the Review Panel has access to all required information and documentation to complete its work efficiently and effectively.

#### ***2.6 Dissemination and consideration of the performance review report***

The performance review report will be distributed to CPCs as soon as it is finalized and also posted on the public portion of the ICCAT website without delay. The Commission will consider the performance review report at its 2016 meeting and at future meetings as necessary.

### 3. Budgetary requirements

#### 3.1 General rules

Internal reviewers (i.e. reviewers associated with a developing CPC) will be reimbursed for travel expenses only.

The daily rate of external reviewers is calculated to be not more than €600 per person excluding travel costs.

#### 3.2 Budget

On the basis of fourteen weeks work by three external experts, a total of 210 person days would be required to carry out the review. The price per day includes all materials and communication costs.

In addition, the panel of experts would be required to make one trip to meet with the Steering Committee and at least the Panel's Coordinator would make a second trip to present the report to the Commission. Under this scenario, travel and per diem of external experts would be paid by the Commission, but not fees.

Costs could vary depending on the original location of experts and location of the meetings, and, hence, estimates are tentative.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Unit cost (€)</i>	<i>Number of units</i>	<i>Total cost (€)</i>
Days of work	600	210	126,000
Travel costs	3,000	7	21,000
Contingencies	10% of total work/travel	1	14,700
<b>Total</b>			<b>161,700</b>

*Addendum 1 to Appendix 2 to ANNEX 4.7***Criteria for the second performance review of ICCAT**

	<i>Area</i>	<i>General criteria</i>	<i>Detailed criteria</i>	<i>Changes compared to 2007 criteria</i>
1	<i>First performance review</i>	Follow-up to first performance review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of actions taken by ICCAT in response to the conclusions and recommendations of the first performance review and consideration of their effectiveness.</li> </ul>	New item.
2	<i>Conservation and management</i>	Status of living marine resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Status of major fish stocks under the purview of ICCAT in relation to maximum sustainable yield or other relevant biological standards.</li> <li>• Trends in the status of those stocks.</li> <li>• Status of species that belong to the same ecosystems as, or are associated with or dependent upon, the major target stocks (hereinafter “non-target species”).</li> <li>• Trends in the status of those species.</li> </ul>	
		Data collection and sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent to which ICCAT has agreed formats, specifications and timeframes for data submission, taking into account UNFSA Annex I.</li> <li>• Extent to which ICCAT members and cooperating non-members, individually or through ICCAT, collect and share complete and accurate fisheries data concerning target stocks and non-target species and other relevant data in a timely manner (Task I/II data).</li> <li>• Extent to which fishing data and fishing vessel data are gathered by ICCAT and shared among members and other RFMOs.</li> <li>• Extent to which ICCAT is addressing any gaps in the collection and sharing of data as required.</li> <li>• Extent to which capacity building initiatives are put in place to improve data collection in developing economies.</li> </ul>	Added reference to Task I/II data.

	<i>Area</i>	<i>General criteria</i>	<i>Detailed criteria</i>	<i>Changes compared to 2007 criteria</i>
		Adoption of conservation and management measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent to which ICCAT has adopted conservation and management measures for both target stocks and non-target species that ensure the long-term sustainability of such stocks and species and are based on the best scientific evidence available.</li> <li>• Extent to which ICCAT has applied the precautionary approach as set forth in UNFSA Article 6 and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries Article 7.5, including the application of precautionary reference points.</li> <li>• Extent to which ICCAT has adopted and is implementing effective rebuilding plans for depleted or overfished stocks.</li> <li>• Extent to which ICCAT has moved toward the adoption of conservation and management measures for previously unregulated fisheries.</li> <li>• Extent to which ICCAT has taken due account of the need to conserve marine biological diversity and minimize harmful impacts of fisheries on living marine resources and marine ecosystems.</li> <li>• Extent to which ICCAT has adopted measures to minimize pollution, waste, discards, catch by lost or abandoned gear, catch of non-target species, both fish and non-fish species, and impacts on associated or dependent species, in particular endangered species, through measures including, to the extent practicable, the development and use of selective, environmentally safe and cost-effective fishing gear and techniques.</li> </ul>	Suggest deletion of new and exploratory fisheries as not applicable in ICCAT.
		Capacity management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent to which ICCAT has identified fishing capacity levels commensurate with long-term sustainability and optimum utilization of relevant fisheries.</li> <li>• Extent to which ICCAT has taken actions to prevent or eliminate excess fishing capacity and effort.</li> </ul>	
		Compatibility of management measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent to which measures have been adopted as reflected in UNFSA Article 7.</li> </ul>	
		Fishing allocations and opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent to which ICCAT agrees on the allocation of allowable catch or levels of fishing effort, including taking into account requests for participation from new members or participants as reflected in UNFSA Article 11.</li> </ul>	

	<i>Area</i>	<i>General criteria</i>	<i>Detailed criteria</i>	<i>Changes compared to 2007 criteria</i>
		Reporting Requirements	Analysis of ICCAT reporting requirements to improve efficiency, avoid redundancy and reduce unnecessary burden to CPCs.	New item.
3	<i>Monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS)</i>	Port State measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent to which ICCAT has adopted measures relating to the exercise of the rights and duties of its members as port States, as reflected in UNFSA Article 23 and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries Article 8.3.</li> <li>• Extent to which ICCAT has adopted Port State Measures pursuant to the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.</li> <li>• Extent to which these measures are effectively implemented.</li> </ul>	New area (MCS) – previously under "compliance and enforcement".
		Integrated MCS measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent to which ICCAT has adopted integrated MCS measures (e.g., required use of VMS, observers, catch documentation and trade tracking schemes, restrictions on transshipment, boarding and inspection schemes).</li> <li>• Extent to which these measures are effectively implemented.</li> </ul>	New title (former one: <i>Monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS)</i> ).
4	<i>Compliance and enforcement</i>	Flag State duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent to which ICCAT members are fulfilling their duties as flag States under the treaty establishing the RFMO, pursuant to measures adopted by the RFMO, and under other international instruments, including, inter alia, the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention, the UNFSA and the 1993 FAO Compliance Agreement, as applicable.</li> </ul>	
		Cooperative mechanisms to detect and deter non-compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent to which ICCAT has established adequate cooperative mechanisms to both monitor compliance and detect and deter non-compliance (e.g., compliance committees, vessel lists, sharing of information about non-compliance).</li> <li>• Extent to which these mechanisms are being effectively utilized.</li> </ul>	
		Follow-up on infringements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent to which ICCAT, its members and cooperating non-members follow up on infringements to management measures.</li> <li>• Extent to which ICCAT and its members effectively implement Recommendations 11-15, 06-13, 96-14, 97-01, 00-14, and 11-11.</li> </ul>	New item.
		Market-related measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent to which ICCAT has adopted measures relating to the exercise of the rights and duties of its members as market States.</li> <li>• Extent to which these market-related measures are effectively implemented.</li> </ul>	

	<i>Area</i>	<i>General criteria</i>	<i>Detailed criteria</i>	<i>Changes compared to 2007 criteria</i>
		Reporting Requirements	Analysis of ICCAT reporting requirements to improve efficiency, avoid redundancy and reduce unnecessary burden to CPCs	New item.
5	<i>Governance</i>	Decision-making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent to which ICCAT has transparent and consistent decision-making procedures that facilitate the adoption of conservation and management measures in a timely and effective manner.</li> <li>• Extent to which these procedures are effectively implemented in ICCAT.</li> </ul>	Decision-making/dispute settlement and international cooperation merged together and renamed "Governance." New item.
		Dispute settlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent to which ICCAT has established adequate mechanisms for resolving disputes.</li> </ul>	
		Transparency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent to which ICCAT is operating in a transparent manner, as reflected in UNFSA Article 12 and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries Article 7.1.9.</li> <li>• Extent to which ICCAT decisions, meeting reports, scientific advice upon which decisions are made, and other relevant materials are made publicly available in a timely fashion.</li> </ul>	
		Confidentiality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent to which ICCAT has set security and confidentiality standards and rules for sharing sensitive scientific and operational/compliance data.</li> </ul>	New item (from IOTC 2 <sup>nd</sup> Perf. Review).
		Relationship to cooperating non-members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent to which ICCAT facilitates cooperation between members and nonmembers, including through the adoption and implementation of procedures for granting cooperating status.</li> </ul>	
		Relationship to non-cooperating non-members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent of fishing activity by vessels of non-members that do not have cooperating status, as well as measures to deter such activities.</li> </ul>	
		Cooperation with other RFMOs and relevant international organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent to which ICCAT cooperates with other RFMOs, including through the network of Regional Fishery Body Secretariats, as well as with other relevant international organizations.</li> </ul>	
		Participation and capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent to which ICCAT members and cooperating non-members participate actively and meaningfully in the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.</li> </ul>	New items to parallel similar element under 6. <i>Science</i> .

	<i>Area</i>	<i>General criteria</i>	<i>Detailed criteria</i>	<i>Changes compared to 2007 criteria</i>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent to which capacity building initiatives and institutional arrangements are in place to facilitate the effective participation of developing economies in the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, including in positions of leadership.</li> </ul>	
		Special requirements of developing States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent to which ICCAT recognizes the special needs of developing States and pursues forms of cooperation with developing States, including with respect to fishing allocations or opportunities, taking into account UNFSA Articles 24 and 25, and the Code of Conduct of Responsible Fisheries Article 5.</li> <li>• Extent to which ICCAT members, individually or through ICCAT, provide relevant assistance to developing States, as reflected in UNFSA Article 26.</li> </ul>	
6	<i>Science</i>	Quality and provision of scientific advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent to which the SCRS produces the best scientific advice relevant to the fish stocks and other living marine resources under its purview, as well as to the effects of fishing on the marine environment.</li> <li>• Extent to which the scientific advice is presented consistently with Resolutions 11-14 and 13-15.</li> <li>• Extent to which the structure, processes, procedures, and expertise of the SCRS and of the ICCAT Secretariat meet the needs and resources of ICCAT as well as the highly demanding data and technical requirements of the most recent modelling platforms.</li> </ul>	<p>Copied from previous "conservation and management" with a specific reference to SCRS.</p> <p>New items.</p>
		Participation and capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent to which ICCAT members and cooperating non-members participate actively in the provision of the scientific advice.</li> <li>• Extent to which capacity building initiatives are put in place to facilitate the effective participation of developing economies in SCRS activities.</li> </ul>	
		Long-term planning and research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent to which ICCAT adopts and regularly reviews a long-term strategy for the SCRS to implement.</li> <li>• Extent to which the research coordinated or undertaken directly by ICCAT is aligned with the needs of the Commission to fulfil its mandate.</li> </ul>	New items.
		Best available science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent to which the <i>Resolution on Best Available Science</i> [Res. 11-17] is effectively implemented.</li> <li>• Extent to which the SCRS and its working groups apply a total quality management process.</li> </ul>	New items (from Res. 11-17).

	<i>Area</i>	<i>General criteria</i>	<i>Detailed criteria</i>	<i>Changes compared to 2007 criteria</i>
7	<i>Comparison with other RFMOs</i>	Best practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To the extent possible, evaluate the extent to which ICCAT's performance is comparable to other tuna RFMOs in relation to the adoption and implementation of conservation and management measures for target and non-target species, status of the resources under its purview, scientific processes and procedures, and adoption and implementation of MCS measures and compliance review procedures.</li> <li>• Identification of areas/best practices that would allow ICCAT to enhance its performance.</li> </ul>	New item.
		Kobe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent to which ICCAT implemented the Kobe III recommendations and comparison to the degree of implementation in other tuna RFMOs.</li> </ul>	New item.
8	<i>Financial and administrative issues</i>	Availability of resources for RFMO activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent to which the need for financial, human, and other resources are effectively forecasted and resources are made available to achieve the aims of ICCAT and to implement ICCAT decisions.</li> </ul>	
		Efficiency and effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent to which ICCAT is efficiently and effectively managing its human and financial resources, including those of the Secretariat, to support Commission objectives and ensure continuity of operations, including through establishment of clear and transparent office policies, structures, roles and responsibilities, and lines of authority; effective internal and external communication; and other aspects of office planning and operations.</li> </ul>	

**RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY ICCAT IN 2015****15-01****TRO****RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON A MULTI-ANNUAL CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR TROPICAL TUNAS**

*CONSIDERING* that the further implementation of a multi-annual program for the medium-term will contribute to the conservation and sustainable management of the tropical tunas fishery;

*RECOGNIZING* the necessity to adopt monitoring and control measures to ensure implementation of conservation and management measures and to improve the scientific assessment of those stocks;

*RECOGNIZING* the necessity to adopt data collection and transmission mechanisms to allow improvement of the monitoring and the scientific assessment of the related fisheries and associated stocks;

*NOTING* that further to the SCRS assessment conducted in 2015, the SCRS concluded that the bigeye tuna stock is overfished and that overfishing is occurring;

*CONSIDERING* that the SCRS recommended taking measures to reduce the bigeye TAC to levels that would allow a recovery with a high degree of probability and within a short timeframe and to find effective measures to reduce FAD-related and other fishing mortality of small bigeye tunas;

*RECOGNISING* that, in view of the state of the stock, it would be appropriate to carry out the stock assessment of bigeye in 2018;

*RECOGNIZING* that the SCRS concluded that the current area/time closure has not been effective at reducing the mortality of juvenile bigeye tuna, and any reduction in yellowfin tuna mortality was minimal, largely due to the redistribution of effort into areas adjacent to the moratorium area;

*RECOGNIZING* the contribution that a reduction in the harvest of juvenile tunas in the Gulf of Guinea can contribute to the long-term sustainability of the stocks;

*NOTING* that Recommendation 14-01 brought the coverage of national observers for purse seiner fishing for tropical tunas during the area/time closure period from the minimum of 5% of the fishing effort established by Recommendation 10-10 to a 100% coverage of fishing;

*CONSIDERING* that it would be appropriate to review the coverage of observers in view of the SCRS advice in 2016;

*FURTHER CONSIDERING* that it is appropriate to review the ICCAT program for transshipment at sea;

*RECALLING* recommendations by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) to address the lack of reliable data collection mechanisms, particularly in tropical tuna fisheries carried on in association with objects that could affect fish aggregation, including FADs;

*FURTHER RECALLING* that as regards skipjack tunas SCRS stated in its 2014 report that the increasing use of FADs since the early 1990s has changed the species composition of free swimming schools, and that association with FADs may also have an impact on the biology and on the ecology of yellowfin and skipjack tunas;

*NOTING* that, according to the 2014 SCRS advice, increasing harvests and fishing effort for skipjack could lead to involuntary consequences for other species that are caught in combination with skipjack in certain fisheries;

*NOTING* that in its 2013 report, SCRS recognized the effect of FADs on both sea-turtle and shark by-catch and the need to provide advice on the design of FADs that would lessen their impact on by-catch species. Therefore, information on dimension and material of the floating part and of the underwater hanging structure should be provided. More particularly the entangling or non-entangling feature of the underwater hanging structure should be reported;

*FURTHER NOTING* that the activities of supply vessels and the use of FADs are an integral part of the fishing effort exerted by the purse seine fleet;

*RECALLING* measures related to FAD management plans in other tuna RFMOs;

*CONSIDERING* that the multispecies characteristics of the tropical tuna fisheries makes it appropriate to extend to skipjack tuna the multi-annual management and conservation plan for yellowfin and bigeye tuna;

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the discussions and the preliminary conclusions of the 2015 ICCAT ad-hoc Working Group on FADs;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* that the structure of *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-Annual Conservation and Management Program for Tropical Tunas* [Rec. 14-01] should be reviewed to improve clarity;

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

**PART I  
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

***Multi-annual Management and Conservation Program***

1. Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (CPCs) whose vessels fish bigeye and/or yellowfin tunas in the Convention area shall implement the Multi-annual Management and Conservation Program initiated in 2012. As from 2015, such program shall also apply to the eastern stock of skipjack tuna.

**PART II  
CATCH LIMITS**

***Catch limits for bigeye tuna***

2. The annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for 2016 and subsequent years of the Multi-annual Program is 65,000 t for bigeye tuna. The following shall apply:
  - a) If the total of catches exceeds the TAC in a given year, the excess amount shall be paid back by CPCs to which a catch limit has been granted for the species concerned. Excess quantities shall be deducted the following year on a *pro rata* basis from the adjusted quotas/catch limits of the CPC concerned, as per paragraphs 9 and 10.
  - b) The TAC and catch limits for 2016 and subsequent years of the Multi-annual Program shall be adjusted based on the latest scientific assessment available. Whatever the outcome, the relative shares used to establish the annual catch limits for the CPCs appearing in paragraph 3 shall remain unchanged.
3. The following catch limits shall be applied for 2016 and subsequent years of the Multi-annual Program to the following CPCs:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Annual catch limits for the period 2016-2018 (t)</i>
China*	5,376
European Union	16,989
Ghana	4,250
Japan	17,696
Philippines*	286
Korea	1,486
Chinese Taipei	11,679

\* The catch limits of China and Philippines are based on the transfer of 1,200 t from Philippines to China. Such transfer shall be subject to confirmation by Philippines before the entry into force of this Recommendation.

4. Catch limits shall not apply to CPCs whose annual catch of bigeye tuna in the Convention area in 1999, as provided to the SCRS in 2000, is less than 2,100 t. However, the following shall apply:

- a) CPCs which are not developing coastal States shall endeavour to maintain their annual catch less than 1,575 t.
  - b) if the catch of bigeye tuna of any developing coastal CPC not listed in paragraph 3 above exceeds 3,500 t in any given year, a catch limit shall be established for that developing CPC for the following years. In such a case, the relevant CPC shall endeavour to adjust its fishing effort so as to be commensurate with their available fishing possibilities.
  - c) The Commission shall review the fishing development plan of El Salvador in 2016 taking into account special requirements and aspirations of developing countries to develop their own fisheries.
5. CPCs shall report quarterly the amount of bigeye caught by vessels flying their flag to the Secretariat by the end of the following quarter. When 80% of the catch limit or threshold for a CPC is exceeded, the Secretariat shall notify that to all CPCs.
  6. If the total catch exceeds in any year the TAC in paragraph 2, the Commission shall review these measures.

#### ***Quota transfers of bigeye tuna***

7. The following annual transfer of bigeye tuna shall be authorized in 2016-2018:
  - a) from Japan to China: 1,000 t
  - b) from Japan to Ghana: 70 t
8. Notwithstanding the *Recommendation by ICCAT Regarding the Temporary Adjustment of Quotas* [Rec. 01-12], in between meetings of the Commission, a CPC with a catch limitation of bigeye tuna as per paragraph 3 may make a one-time transfer within a fishing year of up to 15% of its catch limit to other CPCs with catch limits, consistent with domestic obligation and conservation considerations. Any such transfer shall be notified to the Secretariat in advance and may not be used to cover over harvests. A CPC that receives a one-time catch limit transfer may not re-transfer that catch limit.

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

9. Underage or overage of an annual catch limit for CPCs listed in paragraph 3 for bigeye tuna may be added/to or shall be deducted from the annual catch limit as follows:

<i>Year of catch</i>	<i>Adjustment Year</i>
2015	2016 and/or 2017
2016	2017 and/or 2018
2017	2018 and/or 2019
2018	2019 and/or 2020

However,

- a) The maximum underage that a CPC may carry over in any given year shall not exceed 15% of its annual initial catch limit;
  - b) For Ghana, the overage catch of bigeye tuna in the period 2006 to 2010 shall be repaid by reducing the catch limit of Ghana for bigeye tuna by a yearly amount of 337 t for the period 2012 to 2021.
10. Notwithstanding paragraph 9 if any CPC exceeds its catch limit during any two consecutive years, the Commission will recommend appropriate measures, which may include, but are not limited to, reduction in the catch limit equal to a minimum of 125% of the excess harvest, 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.

**TAC for yellowfin tuna**

11. The annual TAC for 2012 and subsequent years of the Multi-annual Program is 110,000 t for yellowfin tuna and shall remain in place until changed based on scientific advice.

If the total catch exceeds the TAC for yellowfin tuna, the Commission shall review the relevant conservation and management measures in place.

**PART III  
CAPACITY MANAGEMENT MEASURES**

**Capacity limitation for bigeye tuna**

12. A capacity limitation shall be applied for the duration of the Multi-annual Program, in accordance with the following provisions:
- a) The capacity limitation shall apply to vessels 20 meters length overall (LOA) or greater fishing bigeye tuna in the Convention area.
  - b) CPCs which have been allocated a catch limit in accordance with paragraph 3 shall each year:
    - i) Adjust their fishing effort so as to be commensurate with their available fishing possibilities;
    - ii) Be restricted to the number of their vessels notified to ICCAT in 2005 as fishing for bigeye tuna. However, the maximum number of longline and purse seine vessels shall each year be subject to the following limits:

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Longliners</i>	<i>Purse seiners</i>
China	65	-
EU	269	34
Ghana	-	17
Japan	231	-
Philippines	5	-
Korea	14	-
Chinese Taipei	75	-

- c) Ghana shall be allowed to change the number of its vessels by gear type within its capacity limits communicated to ICCAT in 2005, on the basis of two baitboats for one purse seine vessel. Such change must be approved by the Commission. To that end, Ghana shall notify a comprehensive and detailed capacity management plan to the Commission at least 90 days before the Annual Meeting. The approval is notably subject to the assessment by the SCRS of the potential impact of such a plan on the level of catches.
- d) The capacity limitation shall not apply to CPCs whose annual catch of bigeye tuna in the Convention area in 1999, as provided to the SCRS in 2000, is less than 2,100 t.
- e) Curaçao shall be allowed to have up to 5 purse seiners.

**PART IV  
MANAGEMENT OF FADs**

**Area/Time closure in relation with the protection of juveniles**

13. Fishing for, or supported activities to fish for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas in association with objects that could affect fish aggregation, including FADs, shall be prohibited during the period 1 January to 28 February in the following area:

- Southern limit: parallel 4° / South latitude
- Northern limit: parallel 5° / North latitude

- Western limit: meridian 20° / West longitude
- Eastern limit: the African coast

14. The prohibition referred to in paragraph 13 includes:

- launching any floating objects, with or without buoys;
- fishing around, under, or in association with artificial objects, including vessels;
- fishing around, under, or in association with natural objects;
- towing floating objects from inside to outside the area.

15. As soon as possible and at the latest by 2018, the SCRS shall evaluate the efficacy of the area/time closure referred to in paragraph 13 for the reduction of catches of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tunas. In addition the SCRS shall advise the Commission on a possible area/time-closure of fishing activities on FADs to reduce the catch of small bigeye and yellowfin tuna at various levels including the impacts of such reduction on the MSY and relative stock status, in light of the historical records on bigeye and yellowfin tuna catches.

#### ***Limitation of FADs***

16. CPCs shall ensure that for purse seiners flying their flag and fishing for bigeye, yellowfin or skipjack tunas on FADs the following provisional limits are not exceeded:

- No more than 500 instrumental buoys are active at any one time in relation to each of its vessels through such measures as, for example, the verification of telecommunication bills.

17. The Commission shall review the provisional limits laid down in paragraph 16 at its 2016 Annual Meeting following the advice of SCRS and the conclusions of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on FADs.

#### ***FAD Management Plans***

18. CPCs with purse seine and baitboat vessels fishing for bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack tunas in association with objects that could affect fish aggregation, including FADs, shall submit to the Executive Secretary Management Plans for the use of such aggregating devices by vessels flying their flag at least one week in advance to the 2016 meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on FADs and subsequently by 31 January each year.

19. The objective of the FAD Management Plans shall be to:

- i. improve the knowledge about FAD characteristics, buoy characteristics, FAD fishing, including fishing effort, and related impacts on targeted and non-targeted species;
- ii. effectively manage the deployment and recovery of FADs and beacons 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 FAD's set by purse seiners, fishing capacity, number of support vessels).

20. The Plans shall be drawn up by following the Guidelines for Preparation for FAD Management Plans as provided in **Annex 5**.

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

21. 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 fish aggregating devices (FADs), including objects that could affect fish aggregation, shall 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 or beacon ID, type of buoy – e.g. simple buoy or associated with echo-sounder)
  - v. FAD design characteristics (dimension and 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 (hauling, retrieving, intervention on electronic equipment)
  - ii. Position
  - iii. Date
  - iv. FAD type (anchored FAD, drifting natural FAD, drifting artificial FAD)
  - v. FAD identifier (i.e., FAD Marking or beacon ID or any information allowing to identify the owner)
  - vi. 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 or beacon ID)

For the purpose of the collection and the report 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, for harmonized formats.

22. CPCs shall also ensure that all vessels referred to in paragraph 21 keep updated on a quarterly basis a list of deployed FADs, containing at least the information as laid down in **Annex 3**.

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

23. CPCs shall ensure that the following information is submitted every year to the Executive Secretary, to be made available to the SCRS and to the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on FADs:
- i. the number of FADs actually deployed on a quarterly basis, by FAD type, indicating the presence or absence of a beacon/buoy or of an echo-sounder associated to the FAD;
  - ii. the number and type of beacons/buoys (e.g. radio, with echo-sounder) actually deployed on a quarterly basis;
  - iii. the average numbers of active beacons/buoys on a quarterly basis that have been followed by each vessel;
  - iv. average numbers of active lost FADs on a quarterly basis;
  - v. for each support vessel, the number of days spent at sea, per 1° grid area, month and flag State.

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

24. 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. replace by 2016 existing FADs with non-entangling FADs in line with the guidelines under **Annex 6** of this Recommendation.
  - ii. undertake research to gradually replace existing FADs with fully biodegradable and non-entangling FADs, with a view to phase out non-biodegradable FADs by 2018, if possible.

CPCs shall 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***

25. 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***

26. The Commission shall establish and maintain an ICCAT record of authorized tropical tuna 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.
27. 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.
28. 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 Secretariat. The Secretariat shall remove from the ICCAT Record of Vessels any vessel for which the periods of authorization have expired.
29. 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.
30. Conditions and procedures referred to in the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Establishment of an ICCAT Record of Vessels 20 meters in Length Overall or Greater Authorized to Operate in the Convention Area* [Rec. 13-13] shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the ICCAT record of authorized tropical tuna vessels.

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

31. 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 in the previous calendar year.

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

32. The provisions of paragraphs 25 to 31 do not apply to recreational vessels.

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

33. 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 1** 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***

34. The Executive Secretary shall, without delay, verify that any vessel identified or reported in the context of this Multi-annual Program is on the ICCAT record of authorized vessels and not out of compliance with the provisions of paragraphs 13 and 14. 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, request the vessel to stop fishing and, if necessary, leave the area without delay. The flag CPC shall, without delay, report to the Executive Secretary the results of its investigation and the corresponding measures taken.

35. 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.
36. The Executive Secretary shall propose to include any vessels identified in accordance with paragraph 35, or vessels for which the flag CPC has not carried out the required investigation and taken, if necessary, adequate measures in accordance with paragraph 34, on the provisional IUU list.

***Observers and compliance with area/time closure***

37. Each CPC shall:
  - a) Take appropriate action to ensure that all vessels flying its flag, including supply vessels, when engaged in fishing activities during the area/time closure referred to in paragraph 13, have an observer on board in accordance with **Annex 4** and report the information collected by the observers each year by 31 July to the ICCAT Secretariat and to SCRS;
  - b) Take appropriate action against vessels flying their flag that do not comply with the area/time closure referred to in paragraph 13;
  - c) Submit an annual report on their implementation of the area/time closure to the Executive Secretary, who shall report to the Compliance Committee at each Annual Meeting.

***Scientific Observers***

38. For scientific observers on board of 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:
  - a) Scientific observers shall automatically be recognized by all CPCs. Such recognition shall allow the scientific observer to continue the collection of data throughout the EEZ visited by the vessel observed. The coastal CPCs concerned shall receive from the flag CPC which mandated the observer the scientific information collected by the observer and related to fishing activities on ICCAT species in their EEZ.
  - b) CPCs that do not accept that their national scientific observer may collect data in the EEZ of another CPC, or that do not recognize as valid the data collected in their EEZ by a scientific observer of another CPC, must inform the Executive Secretary, for immediate transmission to the SCRS and the Compliance Committee, of their refusal within three months after the entry into force of this Recommendation or their accession to ICCAT. By such refusal, the CPC concerned shall refrain to require the deployment of its national scientific observer on vessels of another CPC.
39. For purse seine and longline vessels flying their flag 20 meters length overall (LOA) or greater targeting bigeye, yellowfin and/or skipjack in the Convention area, CPCs are encouraged to increase the observer coverage stipulated in Recommendation 10-10.
40. In 2016 the Commission shall revise the appropriate coverage level of scientific observers, in light of the SCRS advice pursuant to Recommendation 10-10.

***Transshipment at sea***

41. In 2016 PWG/IMM shall meet in advance of the annual meeting to evaluate the effectiveness of the ICCAT Regional Observer Program for Transshipment at sea and make recommendations as necessary and appropriate to the Commission as regards the future of this Program.

***Port Sampling Program***

42. The port sampling program developed by the SCRS in 2012 aimed at collecting fishery data for bigeye, yellowfin, and skipjack tunas that are caught in the geographical area of the area/time closure referred to in paragraph 13 for surface fishery shall be continued for landing or transshipment ports. Data and information collected from this sampling program 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  
FINAL PROVISIONS**

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

43. CPCs shall ensure that:
- a) Both paper and electronic fishing logbooks referred to in paragraph 33 and the FAD-logbooks referred to in paragraph 21, where applicable, are promptly collected and made available to national scientists;
  - b) The Task II data include the information collected from the fishing or FAD logbooks, where applicable, and is submitted every year to the ICCAT Executive Secretariat, to be made available to the SCRS.
44. With the objective of providing information useful to estimate the fishing effort related to FAD-fishing each CPC should provide full access to VMS data of their fishing and support vessels and trajectories of FADs to its national scientists.
45. CPCs shall undertake historical data mining on the use and number of deployed FADs with a view to possibly submit the relevant information by 31 January 2017 to the ICCAT Executive Secretary, who shall make them available to the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on FADs and to the SCRS.

***Stock assessment***

46. The SCRS shall conduct the next stock assessment of bigeye in 2018.

***Confidentiality***

47. 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.

***Repeals and review***

48. This Recommendation replaces Rec [14-01] and shall be revised in 2016.

### 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) or 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

## Annex 2

## FAD logbook

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

(1, 2) If FAD marking and associated beacon ID are absent or unreadable, report it in this section.

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

(4) I.e., deployment, hauling, 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/mm/dd or °E/W/mm/dd.

(8) Estimated catches expressed in metric tons.

(9) Use a line per taxonomic group.

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

(11) Unit used.

(12) Expressed as number of specimen.

(13) If no FAD marking neither associated beacon ID is available, report in this section all available information which may help to describe the FAD and to identify the owner of the FAD.

**List of deployed FADs on a quarterly basis**

<i>FAD Identifier</i>		<i>FAD &amp; electronic equipment types</i>		<i>FAD Design characteristics</i>				<i>Observation</i>
<i>FAD Marking</i>	<i>Associated beacon ID</i>	<i>FAD Type</i>	<i>Type of the associated beacon and /or electronic devices</i>	<i>FAD floating part</i>		<i>FAD underwater hanging structure</i>		
				<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Materials</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Materials</i>	
(1)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(4)	(6)	(7)
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

- (1) If FAD marking and associated beacon ID are absent or unreadable, mention it and provide all available information which may help to identify the owner of the FAD.
- (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) E.g. width, length, high, depth, mesh sizes, etc.
- (5) Mention the material of the structure and of the cover and if biodegradable.
- (6) E.g. nets, ropes, palms, etc... and mention the entangling and/or biodegradable features of the material.
- (7) Lighting specifications, radar reflectors and visible distances shall be reported in this section.

### Observer Program

1. The observers referred to in paragraph 37 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) Carry out scientific work such as collecting Task II data when required by the Commission, based on the directives from the SCRS.
- b) Report without delay, with due regard to the safety of the observer, any fishing activity associated with FADs made by the vessel in the period referred to in paragraph 13 of this Recommendation.
  - c) Establish general reports compiling the information collected in accordance with this paragraph and provide the master the opportunity to include therein any relevant information.

#### Obligations of the observer

4. Observers shall treat as confidential all information with respect to the fishing and transshipment operations of the fishing vessels and accept this requirement in writing as a condition of appointment as an observer.
5. Observers shall comply with requirements established in the laws and regulations of the flag State which exercises jurisdiction over the vessel to which the observer is assigned.
6. Observers shall respect the hierarchy and general rules of behaviour which apply to all vessel personnel, provided such rules do not interfere with the duties of the observer under this program, and with the obligations of vessel personnel set forth in paragraph 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 paragraph 3 of this Annex:
    - i) satellite navigation equipment;
    - ii) radar display viewing screens when in use;
    - iii) electronic means of communication.
  - 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.

### Guidelines for Preparation of FAD Management Plans

The FAD Management Plan for a CPC purse seine and bait boat 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
  - 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”
  
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

**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.

15-02

TRO

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO ESTABLISH AN AD HOC  
WORKING GROUP ON FISH AGGREGATING DEVICES (FADs)**

*RECOGNIZING* the increasing use of FADs in ICCAT fisheries, notably for tropical tunas, and the impact this may have on the species composition and on the rates of by-catch;

*RECALLING* recommendations by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) to improve data collection for fisheries carried out in association with FADs, including objects that could affect fish aggregation, and to improve the ways to use this information in the process of stock assessments;

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the reporting and monitoring, control, and surveillance measures for fishing activities carried out in association with FADs contained in Recommendation 14-01;

*NOTING* the need to assess the consequences of technological developments of FADs for future FAD-related management options;

*RECOGNIZING* that in response to an SCRS recommendation the Commission created in 2014 an ad hoc working group on FADs, composed of scientists, fishery managers, fishing industry administrators and other stakeholders, which was established by Recommendation 14-03 and held its first meeting in 2015;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* the benefits of collaboration among the ICCAT ad hoc Working Group on FADs and other tuna RFMOs' FAD Working Groups to harmonise progress in addressing FAD issues that are common to all tuna RFMOs;

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the discussions and the preliminary conclusions of the 2015 meeting of the ICCAT ad hoc Working Group on FADs;

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

1. An ad hoc Working Group is established with the following Terms of Reference:
  - a) Assess the use of FADs in tropical tuna fisheries in ICCAT, including by estimating the past and current number of and different types of buoys and FADs operating in ICCAT tropical tuna fisheries, and evaluate ways to improve the use of information related to FADs in the process of stock assessments, including to quantify the effort associated with this type of fishery;
  - b) In view of the identification of data gaps, review the information provided by CPCs pursuant to the FAD related provisions in the relevant ICCAT conservation and management measures;
  - c) Assess the relative contribution of FADs to overall fishing mortality in ICCAT tropical tuna fisheries;
  - d) Assess the developments in FAD-related technology, including with regard to:
    - Technological improvement in relation to fishing mortality.
    - FAD and buoys marking and identification as a tool for monitoring, tracking and control of FADs.
    - Reducing FADs' ecological impact through improved design, such as non-entangling FADs and biodegradable material.
  - e) Identify management options and common standards for FAD management, including components of FAD management plans, the regulation of deployment limits, characteristics and use of FADs, such as marking and activities of support vessels and evaluate their effect on ICCAT managed species and on the pelagic eco-systems, based on scientific advice and the precautionary approach. This should take into consideration all the fishing mortality components, the methods by which FAD fishing has increased a vessel's ability to catch fish, as well as socio-economic elements with the view to provide effective recommendations to the Commission for FAD management in tropical tuna fisheries.

- f) Identify and assess options for and timing of recovery of FADs in order to ensure a proper management of the marine environment.
2. The second meeting of this ad hoc Working Group shall take place in 2016 in association with the Yellowfin Tuna Data Preparatory Meeting.
3. The ad hoc Working Group shall report on its work with a view to recommend the adoption of appropriate measures at the latest at the 2016 ICCAT Commission meeting.
4. The ICCAT Commission, at its annual meeting in 2016, will review the progress and outcomes of the ad hoc Working Group, identify priority tasks, and assess the need to continue the Working Group.
5. The ad hoc Working Group will be chaired by the Chair of Panel 1 and the Chair of the SCRS. The chairs of the ad hoc Working Group should coordinate to establish procedures to ensure a full and open exchange among all participants.
6. The structure of the meetings will include an open forum/dialogue among scientists, fisheries managers, industry representatives and other interested stakeholders. Recommendations to the Commission shall be developed through sessions of the ad hoc Working Group, which should ensure a balanced presence and active participation of scientists and managers.
7. The ICCAT Secretariat should work with the Secretariats of other tuna RFMOs in which FAD Working Groups have been established to promote the cooperation between these groups, including through the organization of a joint session in 2016 with the interested tuna RFMOs.
8. This Recommendation repeals and replaces [Rec. 14-03].

15-03

SWO

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT FOR THE  
CONSERVATION OF SOUTH ATLANTIC SWORDFISH**

*CONSIDERING* that the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) indicates that substantial unquantified uncertainties affect this stock, in particular due to lack or inconsistencies of available data;

*CONSCIOUS* that the SCRS underlined that due to the existing uncertainties there is no room to increase the existing Total Allowable Catch (TAC);

*RECOGNIZING* that this multi-annual approach for the management of South Atlantic swordfish reflects the thrust of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* [Ref. 01-25], adopted by the Commission in 2001, for the period concerned;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* that the structure of *Recommendation by ICCAT on South Atlantic Swordfish* catch limits [Rec. 13-03] should be reviewed to improve clarity;

*NOTING* that *the Recommendation by ICCAT for the conservation of North Atlantic swordfish* [Rec. 13-02] lays down provisions for minimum sizes and that those provisions also apply to South Atlantic swordfish;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* that it is appropriate to amend *the Recommendation by ICCAT on South Atlantic swordfish catch limits* [Rec. 13-03] to clarify the minimum sizes applicable to South Atlantic swordfish;

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

***TAC and catch limits***

1. For 2014, 2015 and 2016, the TAC and the catch limits shall be as follows:

(Unit: t)

<b>TAC<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>15,000</b>
Brazil <sup>(2)</sup>	3,940
European Union	4,824
South Africa	1,001
Namibia	1,168
Uruguay	1,252
United States <sup>(3)</sup>	100
Cote d'Ivoire	125
China	263
Chinese Taipei <sup>(3)</sup>	459
United Kingdom	25
Japan <sup>(3)</sup>	901
Angola	100
Ghana	100
St. Tomé & Príncipe	100
Senegal	417
Philippines	50
Korea	50
Belize	125

(1) The total catch for the three-year management period of 2014-2016 shall not exceed 45,000 t (15,000 t x 3). If the yearly total catch of any of the three years exceeds 15,000 t; the TAC(s) for the following year(s) shall be adjusted to ensure that the three-year total will not exceed 45,000 t. If the total catch in 2016 exceeds 15,000 t and if the three-year total catch exceeds 45,000 t, the exceeded amount for three years shall be adjusted in the next management period. In general, these adjustments shall be carried out through prorata reduction of the quota for each Contracting Party and Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity and Fishing Entity (CPC).

(2) Brazil may harvest up to 200 t of its annual catch limit within the area between 5 degrees North latitude and 15 degrees North latitude.

(3) Japan's, U.S.A's and Chinese Taipei's underage in 2013 may be carried over to 2015 up to 800 t, 100 t and 400 t, respectively, in addition to their quotas specified in this table. Those CPCs may also carry over unused portions during 2014-2016 but such carried over amounts each year shall not exceed the amounts specified here.

**Underage or overage of catch**

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>
2014	2016
2015	2017
2016	2018

However, the maximum underage that a party may carryover in any given year shall not exceed 30% of the quota of previous year. By derogation, the maximum underage that a party may carryover in 2015 shall not exceed 50% of the quota in 2013.

**Transfers**

- 3. Japan shall be allowed to count up to 400 t of its swordfish catch taken from the part of the North Atlantic management area that is east of 35 degrees W and south of 15 degrees N, against its uncaught South Atlantic swordfish quota.
- 4. The European Union shall be allowed to count up to 200 t of its swordfish catch taken from the North Atlantic management area against its uncaught South Atlantic swordfish quota.
- 5. The 50 t quota transfers from South Africa, Japan and United States to Namibia (total: 150 t), the 25 t quota transfers from United States to Côte d'Ivoire, the 25 t quota transfer from United States and the 50 t quota transfers from Brazil and Uruguay to Belize (total: 125 t) shall be authorized. The quota transfers shall be reviewed annually in response to a request from an involved CPC.

**Minimum size**

- 6. In order to protect small swordfish, CPCs shall take the necessary measures to prohibit the taking of and landing of swordfish in the entire Atlantic Ocean weighing less than 25 kg live weight, or in alternative, 125 cm lower jaw fork length (LJFL); however, the CPCs may grant tolerances to boats which have incidentally captured small fish, with the condition that this incidental catch shall not exceed 15 percent of the number of swordfish per landing of the total swordfish catch of said boats.
- 7. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 6, any CPC may choose, as an alternative to the minimum size of 25 kg/ 125 cm LJFL, to take the necessary measures to prohibit the taking by its vessels in the Atlantic Ocean, as well as the landing and sale in its jurisdiction, of swordfish (and swordfish parts), less than 119 cm LJFL, or in the alternative 15 kg, provided that, if this alternative is chosen, no tolerance of swordfish smaller than 119 LJFL, or in the alternative 15 kg, shall be allowed. For swordfish that have been dressed, a cleithrum to keel (CK) measurement of 63cm can also be applied. A Party that chooses this alternative minimum size shall require appropriate record keeping of discards. The SCRS should continue to monitor and analyze the effects of this measure on the mortality of immature swordfish.

**Availability of data to SCRS**

- 8. CPCs shall endeavor to recover any missing catch data for years up to 2012, including reliable Task I and Task II data. CPCs will make available the above data to the SCRS as soon as possible, and not later than one month before the SCRS meeting. From 2013 onwards, CPCs will ensure accurate and timely data submission.

9. All CPCs catching swordfish in the South Atlantic shall endeavor to provide annually the best available data to the SCRS, including catch, catch at size, location and month of capture on the smallest scale possible, as determined by the SCRS. The data submitted shall be for broadest range of age classes possible, consistent with minimum size restrictions, and by sex when possible. The data shall also include discards (both dead and alive) and effort statistics, even when no analytical stock assessment is scheduled. The SCRS shall review these data annually.

***Final provisions***

10. None of the arrangements in this Recommendation shall be deemed to prejudice a future arrangement relating to South Atlantic swordfish.
11. The *Recommendation by ICCAT on South Atlantic Swordfish Catch Limits* [Rec. 13-03] is repealed and replaced by this Recommendation.

15-04

ALB

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO ESTABLISH HARVEST  
CONTROL RULES FOR THE NORTH ATLANTIC ALBACORE STOCK**

*RECALLING* the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT concerning the North Atlantic Albacore Rebuilding Program* [Rec.13-05];

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

*CONSIDERING* that the 2013 Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) stock assessment concluded that the northern albacore stock is overfished but that overfishing is not occurring, and advised that a level of catch of 28,000 t would meet the Convention management objective by 2020 with a 53% probability;

*CONSIDERING* that the Standing Working Group to Enhance Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) has proposed, among other case studies, the northern albacore stock as a suitable candidate to examine harvest control rules;

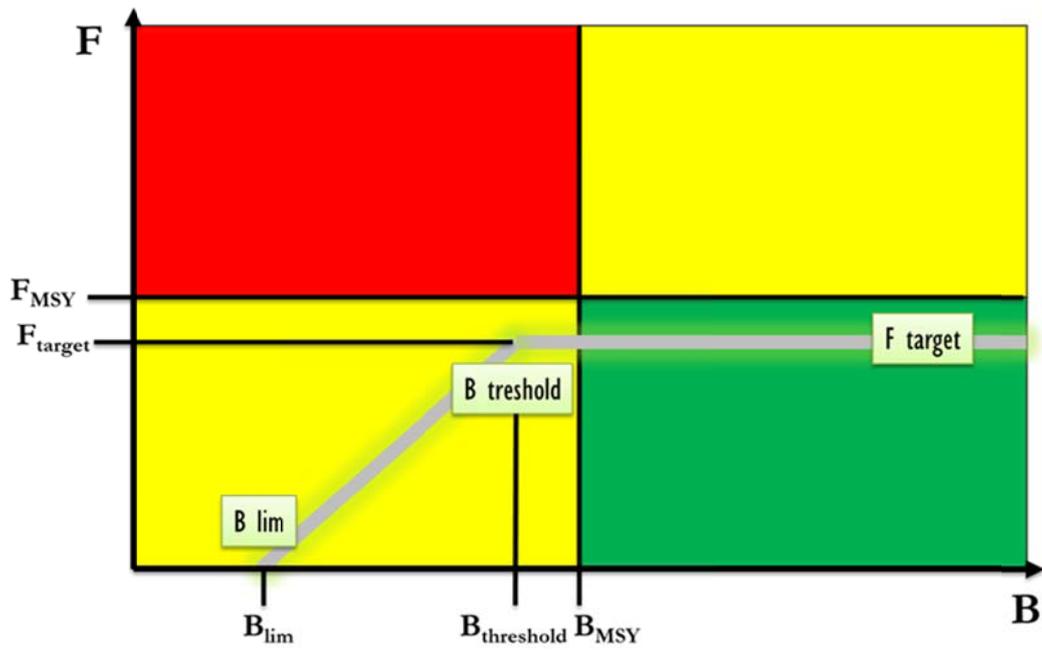
*NOTING* the progress achieved so far by the SCRS in the work for testing harvest control rules and conducting management strategy evaluations for northern albacore and in particular the Kobe II Strategy matrix showing the different levels of probability of being in the green quadrant for different combinations of reference point values;

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

1. The management objective for northern albacore stock is
  - a) to maintain the stock in the green zone of the Kobe plot, with at least a 60% probability, while maximizing long-term yield from the fishery, and
  - b) where the spawning stock biomass (SSB) has been assessed by the SCRS as below the level capable of producing MSY ( $SSB_{MSY}$ ), to rebuild SSB to or above  $SSB_{MSY}$ , with at least a 60% probability, and within as short time as possible, by 2020 at the latest, while maximizing average catch and minimizing inter-annual fluctuations in TAC levels.
2. In 2016, the SCRS shall identify and test candidate reference points (e.g.,  $SSB_{THRESHOLD}$ ,  $SSB_{LIM}$  and  $F_{TARGET}$ ) and associated harvest control rules (HCRs) that would support the management objective expressed in paragraph 1 above and/or any other management objectives agreed by the Commission.
3. The result of the analyses described in paragraph 2 will be discussed in a dialogue between scientists and managers to be organised in 2016, either during a meeting of the SWGSM or as an inter-sessional meeting of Panel 2.
4. Based on the SCRS inputs and advice provided pursuant to paragraph 2 above and the dialogue process indicated in paragraph 3, the Commission shall then adopt HCR for the northern albacore stock, including pre-agreed management actions to be taken under various stock conditions. For this specific purpose, the management actions below will be considered by the Commission and updated as necessary:
  - a) If the average spawning stock biomass (SSB) level is less than  $SSB_{LIM}$  (i.e.,  $SSB < SSB_{LIM}$ ), the Commission shall adopt severe management actions immediately to reduce the fishing mortality rate, including measures that suspend the fishery and initiate a scientific monitoring quota to be able to evaluate stock status. This scientific monitoring quota shall be set at the lowest possible level to be effective. The Commission shall not consider re-opening the fishery until the average SSB level exceeds  $SSB_{LIM}$  with a high probability. Further, before reopening the fishery, the Commission shall develop a rebuilding program in order to ensure that the stock returns to the green zone of the Kobe plot.

- b) If the average SSB level is equal to or less than  $SSB_{THRESHOLD}$  and equal to or above  $SSB_{LIM}$  (i.e.,  $SSB_{LIM} \leq SSB \leq SSB_{THRESHOLD}$ ) and  $F$  is above the level specified in the HCR, the Commission shall take steps to reduce  $F$  as specified in the HCR to ensure  $F$  is at a level that will rebuild SSB to  $SSB_{MSY}$  or above that level.
  - c) If the average SSB is above  $SSB_{THRESHOLD}$  but  $F$  exceeds  $F_{TARGET}$  (i.e.,  $SSB > SSB_{THRESHOLD}$  and  $F > F_{TARGET}$ ), the Commission shall immediately take steps to reduce  $F$  to  $F_{TARGET}$ .
  - d) Once the average SSB level reaches or exceeds  $SSB_{THRESHOLD}$  and  $F$  is less or equal than  $F_{TARGET}$  (i.e.,  $SSB > SSB_{THRESHOLD}$  and  $F \leq F_{TARGET}$ ), the Commission shall assure that applied management measures will maintain  $F$  at or below  $F_{TARGET}$ .
5. These HCRs should be evaluated by SCRS through the management strategy evaluation process, including in light of new assessments of the stock. The Commission shall review the results of these evaluations and make adjustments to the HCRs as needed.

Generic form of the HCR recommended by SCRS in 2010 that would be consistent with UNFSA  
(Report of the 2010 WGSAM)



15-05

BIL

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN  
THE PLAN TO REBUILD BLUE MARLIN AND WHITE MARLIN STOCKS**

*RECALLING* the 2000 *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish a Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Populations* [Rec. 00-13] from ICCAT to rebuild Atlantic blue marlin and Atlantic white marlin;

*FURTHER RECALLING* that the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Stocks* [Rec. 12-04] established an annual landings limit for each of these stocks, along with other conservation and management measures designed to address all sources of fishing mortality, as a step toward the establishment of formal rebuilding programs for these stocks;

*CONSIDERING* that the 2011 SCRS stock assessment indicated that the blue marlin stock is below  $B_{MSY}$  (the stock is overfished) and that fishing mortality is above  $F_{MSY}$  (overfishing is occurring) and that only catch levels of 2000 t or less would prevent further stock decline;

*RECOGNIZING* that SCRS expressed concern with the significant increase in the contribution from non-industrial fisheries to the total blue marlin harvest, that landings from these fisheries are not fully accounted for in the ICCAT database, and that it is imperative to develop CPUE indices for all fleets that have substantial landings of blue marlin;

*TAKING NOTE OF* the results of the 2012 white marlin assessment, which indicated that the stock was overfished but most likely not undergoing overfishing, while noting significant uncertainty associated with species composition in the historical time series of catch (white marlin vs. spearfish) and the actual magnitude of the catch due to the underreporting of discards, and acknowledging SCRS advice that, at a minimum, the Commission should limit white marlin catches to less than 400 t;

*HIGHLIGHTING* that the SCRS indicated that circle hooks can reduce deep hooking and, therefore, increase the post-release survival of marlins in many fisheries while not negatively affecting catch rates of target species, and that the SCRS recommended that the Commission consider this approach;

*FURTHER RECALLING* the existing obligations of Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities (CPCs) to require the collection of discard data in their existing 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. 11-10], and the minimum standards for scientific observer programs established in the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Minimum Standards for Fishing Vessel Scientific Observer Programs* [Rec. 10-10];

*COGNIZANT* that marlins are caught in industrial, artisanal and recreational fisheries, and that fair and equitable conservation actions are needed to end overfishing and support rebuilding;

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

1. An annual limit of 2,000 t for blue marlin and 400 t for white marlin/spearfish is continued for these stocks, for 2016, 2017 and 2018. This landings limit shall be implemented as follows:

<i>Blue Marlin</i>	<i>Landings Limit (t)</i>
Brazil	190
China, P.R.	45
Chinese Taipei	150
Côte d'Ivoire	150
European Union	480
Ghana	250
Japan	390
Korea Rep.	35
Mexico	70
S. Tomé & Príncipe	45
Senegal	60
Trinidad and Tobago	20
Venezuela	100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,985</b>

<i>White Marlin/Spearfish</i>	<i>Landings Limit (t)</i>
Barbados	10
Brazil	50
Canada	10
China, P.R.	10
Chinese Taipei	50
European Union	50
Côte d'Ivoire	10
Japan	35
Korea Rep.	20
Mexico	25
S. Tome & Principe	20
Trinidad and Tobago	15
Venezuela	50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>355</b>

The United States shall limit its landings to 250 recreationally-caught Atlantic blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish combined on an annual basis. All other CPCs shall limit their landings to a maximum of 10 t of Atlantic blue marlin and 2 t of white marlin/spearfish combined.

2. To the extent possible, as the CPC approaches its landings limits, such CPC shall take appropriate measures to ensure that all blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish that are alive by the time of boarding are released in a manner that maximizes their survival. For CPCs that prohibit dead discards, 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 in paragraph 1, on the condition that such prohibition be clearly explained in their Annual Report.
3. Any unused portion or excess of the annual landing limit established in Paragraph 1 may be added to/shall be deducted from, according to the case, the respective landing limit during or before the adjustment year, in the following way:

<i>Catch Year</i>	<i>Adjustment Year</i>
2016	2018
2017	2019
2018	2020

However, the maximum underage that a party may carry over in any given year shall not exceed 10% of its landing limit, for those CPCs whose landing limit is larger than 45 t, or 20% of its landing limit, for those CPCs whose landing limit is lower or equal to 45 t.

4. CPCs shall work to minimize the post-release mortality of marlins/spearfish in their ICCAT fisheries.
5. CPCs with recreational fisheries shall maintain 5% scientific observer coverage of blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish tournament landings.
6. CPCs with recreational fisheries shall adopt domestic regulations that establish minimum sizes in their recreational fisheries that meet or exceed the following lengths: 251 cm LJFL for blue marlin and 168 cm LJFL for white marlin/spearfish, or comparable limits by weight.
7. CPCs shall prohibit the sale, or offering for sale, of any part or whole carcass of blue marlin or white marlin/spearfish caught in recreational fisheries.
8. In their Annual Reports, CPCs shall inform the Commission of steps taken to implement the provisions of this Recommendation through domestic law or regulations, including monitoring, control and surveillance measures.
9. CPCs with non-industrial fisheries shall provide information about their data collection programs in their Annual Reports, and the SCRS shall continue to review and evaluate this information as a basis for developing recommendations to improve or expand these programs, including through capacity building.
10. CPCs shall provide their estimates of live and dead discards, and all available data including observer data on landings and discards for blue marlin, white marlin/spearfish, annually by July 31 as part of their Task I and II data submission to support the stock assessment process. The SCRS shall review the data and determine the feasibility of estimating fishing mortalities by commercial fisheries (including longline and purse seine), recreational fisheries and artisanal fisheries. The SCRS shall also develop a new data collection initiative as part of the ICCAT Enhanced Program for Billfish Research to overcome the data gap issues of those fisheries, in particular artisanal fisheries of developing CPCs, and shall recommend the initiative to the Commission for its approval in 2017.
11. The Secretariat, with support from the Commission and the SCRS, shall continue its review of the relevant work conducted by the regional and sub-regional international organizations, similar to the review conducted for West Africa, with a priority focus on the Caribbean and Latin America.
12. Taking into account the findings of these regional reviews, the CPCs shall take action, as appropriate, to improve data collection and reporting programs in accordance with any SCRS advice in preparation for the blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish stock assessments in 2018.
13. At its next assessments of blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish stocks, the SCRS shall evaluate progress toward the goals of the rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/spearfish.
14. This Recommendation repeals and replaces the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue Marlin and White Marlin Populations* [Rec. 12-04].

15-06

BYC

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON PORBEAGLE  
CAUGHT IN ASSOCIATION WITH ICCAT FISHERIES**

*RECALLING* that the Commission adopted the *Resolution by ICCAT on Atlantic Sharks* [Res. 01-11], the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Conservation of Sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT* [Rec. 04-10], the *Recommendation of ICCAT to amend the Recommendation 04-10 on the Conservation of Sharks caught in association with the fisheries managed by ICCAT* [Rec. 05-05], the *Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT concerning Sharks* [Rec. 07-06], including the obligation of CPCs to annually report Task I & II data for sharks; the *Resolution by ICCAT on Porbeagle Shark (Lamna nasus)* [Res. 08-08], and the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Compliance with Existing Management Measures on shark Conservation and Management* [Rec. 12-05];

*FURTHER RECALLING* that the Commission has adopted management measures for shark species considered vulnerable to overfishing and caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT, including Bigeye Thresher sharks (*Alopias superciliosus*) [Rec. 09-07], oceanic whitetip sharks (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) [Rec. 10-07], hammerhead sharks (family *Sphyrnidae*) [Rec. 10-08] and silky sharks (*Carcharhinus falciformis*) [Rec. 11-08];

*NOTING* that in 2009, SCRS attempted an assessment of the four porbeagle stocks in the Atlantic Ocean (northwest, northeast, southwest and southeast) and concluded that data for southern hemisphere porbeagle stocks were too limited to provide a robust indication on the status of the stocks and allow definition of sustainable harvest levels, whereas recovery of the northern hemisphere stocks to  $B_{MSY}$  under no fishing mortality could take from 15 to 34 years for the northeast Atlantic stock and from 20 to 60 years for the northwest Atlantic stock (depending on the stock and model considered);

*FURTHER NOTING* that the 2008 and 2012 Ecological Risk Assessments undertaken by the SCRS concluded that porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*) was among the most vulnerable shark species which makes it more susceptible to overfishing even at low fishing mortality levels;

*CONSIDERING* that the report of 2015 meeting of the Standing Committee for Research and Statistics (SCRS) estimates that the biomass of northwest Atlantic and northeast Atlantic porbeagle shark is depleted to well below  $B_{MSY}$ , but recent fishing mortality is below  $F_{MSY}$ ;

*FURTHER NOTING* that ICES advice for the North-East Atlantic stock in 2015 recommended on the basis of the precautionary approach that no fishing for porbeagle should be permitted and that landings of porbeagle should not be allowed;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* that the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) adopted Recommendation [2015-7] on Conservation and Management Measures for Porbeagle in the NEAFC Regulatory Area and agreed that no directed fishery for porbeagle shall be undertaken in the Regulatory Area until end 2015;

*FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING* that the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) has adopted Recommendation GFCM/36/2012/3 prohibiting to retain on board, transship, landing, transfer, storage, selling or displaying or offering for sale porbeagle specimens caught in the Mediterranean;

*FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING* that in 2014, porbeagle shark was added to Appendix 2 of the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species*;

*FURTHER NOTING* that, according to SCRS advice precautionary management measures should be considered for shark stocks where there is the greatest biological vulnerability and conservation concern and for which there are few data and/or greater uncertainty in assessment results.

*ACKNOWLEDGING* that the 2015 SCRS advice recommended that porbeagle shark retrieved alive should be released alive, and all catches be reported;

*FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING* that the 2015 SCRS advice also recommended that porbeagle fishing mortality should be kept to levels in line with scientific advice and with catches not exceeding the current level.

*FURTHER NOTING* the intention of the SCRS to undertake, in partnership with International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, a joint stock assessment of northwest and northeast Atlantic porbeagle shark in 2019;

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

1. Contracting Parties, and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities (hereafter referred to as CPCs) shall require their vessels to promptly release unharmed, to the extent practicable, porbeagle sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries when brought alive alongside for taking on board the vessel.
2. CPCs shall ensure the collection of Task I and Task II data for porbeagle sharks and their submission in accordance with ICCAT data reporting requirements. Discards and releases of porbeagle sharks shall be recorded with indication of status (dead or alive) and reported to ICCAT in accordance with ICCAT data reporting requirements.
3. In the event that catches of porbeagle caught in association with ICCAT fisheries increase beyond 2014 levels, the Commission will consider additional measures.
4. CPCs are encouraged to implement the research recommendations of the joint 2009 ICCAT-ICES inter-sessional meeting. In particular, CPCs are encouraged to implement research and monitoring projects at regional (stock) level, in the Convention area, in order to close gaps on key biological data for porbeagle and identify areas of high abundance of important life-history stages (e.g. mating, pupping and nursery grounds). SCRS should continue joint work with ICES Working Group on Elasmobranch Fishes.
5. This recommendation shall be reviewed after the next stock assessment of porbeagle shark stocks that will be performed by the SCRS or in collaboration with other recognized scientific organizations, as appropriate.

15-07

GEN

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF  
HARVEST CONTROL RULES AND OF MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION**

*RECALLING* Recommendation by ICCAT on the Principles of Decision Making for ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures [Rec. 11-13] to support the achievement of the ICCAT Convention objective;

*NOTING* that the 2010 ICCAT Working Group for Stock Assessment Methods held in April 2010 in Madrid (Spain) endorsed the definitions on reference points presented during the 1999 *ad hoc* Meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on Precautionary Approach held in Dublin in May 1999;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* that the discussions held in the First Meeting of the ICCAT Working Group to Enhance Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers suggested that a dialogue of a general nature should continue on issues such as acceptable levels of risk, targets, limits and time horizons based on Rec. [11-13];

*ALSO ACKNOWLEDGING* that the Second Meeting of the ICCAT Working Group to Enhance Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers recommended to examine ways to further define the management framework building on Rec. [11-13], in particular in relation to reference points, associated probabilities and timeframes;

*FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING* that one of the main goals of the SCRS Science Strategic Plan 2015-2020 is to evaluate precautionary management reference points and robust harvest control rules (HCRs) through management strategy evaluations (MSE);

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

1. For the purposes of this Recommendation, the following working definitions apply:
  - a) The management strategy evaluation (MSE) is an inclusive, interactive and iterative process for evaluating, *inter alia*, the performance of proposed harvest control rules and reference points in relation to management objectives, including the risk associated with not achieving those objectives;
  - b) A limit is a conservation reference point based on a level of biomass ( $B_{LIM}$ ) that should be avoided considering that beyond such limits, the sustainability of the stock may be in danger;
  - c) A target is a management objective based on a level of biomass ( $B_{TARGET}$ ) or a fishing mortality rate ( $F_{TARGET}$ ) that should be achieved and maintained;
  - d) A threshold is a level of biomass ( $B_{THRESHOLD}$ ) reflecting the precautionary approach that triggers pre-agreed management actions to reduce the risk of breaching the limits. Thresholds should be set sufficiently far away from limits so that there is low probability that the limits will be exceeded; and
  - e) Harvest Control Rules (HCRs) are decision rules that aim to achieve the target reference point and avoid the limit reference point by specifying pre-agreed management actions when  $B_{THRESHOLD}$ ,  $F_{TARGET}$  or  $B_{LIM}$  are breached.
2. The above definition should be considered by the SCRS during its process of revising the ICCAT glossary. Based on SCRS input, the Commission should revise the definitions, as appropriate.
3. As first steps of MSE implementation for a specific stock, the Commission shall provide guidance to the SCRS. Therefore, beginning in 2016 and consistent with priorities to be agreed by the Commission in light of the SCRS work program, the relevant ICCAT Panels will identify the following management inputs on a stock-by-stock basis, for, *inter alia*, northern albacore, bluefin tuna, North Atlantic swordfish, and tropical tunas:
  - a) Management objectives, such as maximizing average catch, minimizing inter-annual fluctuations in TAC levels, returning or maintaining the stock in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot, etc., taking into account the requirements of Rec. [11-13];

- b) Acceptable quantitative level(s) of probability of achieving and/or maintaining stocks in the green zone of the Kobe plot and avoiding limit reference points; and
  - c) Timeframes for halting overfishing on a stock and/or rebuilding an overfished stock.
4. As the next steps in MSE implementation and taking into account the inputs mentioned above, as soon as feasible for stocks subject to assessment and where possible, the SCRS shall advise the Commission on options for limit, target and threshold reference points and associated HCRs. In 2016, the SCRS will start by evaluating candidate HCRs during the assessment process planned for the northern albacore stock and will provide the Commission with a 5-year schedule for the establishment of species-specific HCRs.
  5. In light of SCRS advice and in establishing the HCR for a particular stock, the Commission shall then determine pre-agreed management actions that will be triggered to halt or reduce fishing mortality if limit or threshold reference points are breached. When defining those actions, principles, included in **Annex 1**, might be taken into account by the Commission together with the requirements of Rec. [11-13].
  6. The SCRS will be requested to continue developing appropriate MSE methods to test the robustness of alternative limit, target and threshold reference points, and associated HCRs in relation to the management objectives, probabilities and timeframes determined by the Commission.

When determining pre-agreed management actions associated to HCRs and reference points, Panels might refer to the following principles

- i) In the case where the stock biomass is assessed as being above  $B_{\text{THRESHOLD}}$ , but the fishing mortality is assessed as exceeding  $F_{\text{TARGET}}$ , management actions shall be adopted to reduce the fishing mortality rate in as short a period as possible to  $F_{\text{TARGET}}$ .
- ii) In the case where the stock biomass is assessed as being below  $B_{\text{THRESHOLD}}$ , management actions shall be implemented to reduce the fishing mortality rate in as short a period as possible to the  $F$  specified in the HCR.
- iii) In the case where the stock biomass is assessed as being below  $B_{\text{LIM}}$ , severe management actions shall be adopted immediately to reduce the fishing mortality rate, including, *inter alia*, the suspension of the fishery and the initiation of scientific monitoring.

15-08

GEN

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT AMENDING  
DEADLINES OF TWO ICCAT RECOMMENDATIONS**

*RECOGNISING* that the change in the form of certain reporting requirements adopted by the Commission in 2014 has resulted in multiple submissions being required of CPCs;

*DESIRING* to reduce the burden of unnecessary reporting requirements;

*RECOGNISING* that current deadlines for certain reporting requirements do not significantly affect the work of the Commission:

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

1. Paragraph 56 of *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 13-07 by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* [Rec. 14-04] shall be amended to read:
  56. By 31 July each year, each CPC shall notify to the ICCAT Secretariat detailed information on bluefin tuna catches in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean in the preceding fishing year. This information should include: a) the name and ICCAT number of each catching vessel; b) the period of authorisation(s) for each catching vessel; c) the total catches of each catching vessel including nil returns throughout the period of authorisation(s); d) the total number of days each catching vessel fished in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean throughout the period of authorisation(s); and e) the total catch outside their period of authorisation (by-catch) including nil returns. For all vessels which were not authorised to fish actively for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean but which caught bluefin tuna as by-catch: 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.
2. Paragraph 4 of the *Recommendation By ICCAT for Management Measures for Mediterranean Swordfish in the Framework of ICCAT* [Rec. 13-04] shall be amended to read:
  4. By 31 July each year CPCs shall submit to the ICCAT Secretariat the list of the special fishing permits delivered for the previous year.
3. Paragraph 14 of the *Recommendation By ICCAT for Management Measures for Mediterranean Swordfish in the Framework of ICCAT* [Rec. 13-04] shall be amended to read:
  14. By 31 July each year, CPCs shall communicate specific information for the fishing vessels that were authorized to carry out pelagic longline fisheries and harpoons in the Mediterranean during the preceding year:
    - a) Specific information on the fishing vessel:
      - Name of the vessel (if no name, the registry number without country initials should be indicated);
      - Registry number;
      - ICCAT list number.

CPCs shall communicate this list electronically to the ICCAT Secretariat according to the format set out in the Guidelines for Submitting Data and Information Required by ICCAT.
    - b) Specific information related to fishing activities, based on sampling or for the whole fleet:
      - Fishing period(s) and total annual number of fishing days of the vessel, by target species and area;
      - Geographical areas, by ICCAT statistical rectangles, for the fishing activities carried out by the vessel, by target species and area;

- Type of vessel, by target species and area;
  - Number of hooks used by the vessel, by target species and area;
  - Number of longline units used by the vessel, by target species and area;
  - Overall length of all longline units for the vessel, by target species and area.
- c) Specific data on the catches, in the smallest time-area possible:
- Size and, if possible, age distributions of the catches;
  - Catches and catch composition per vessel; and
  - Fishing effort (average fishing days per vessel, average number of hooks per vessel, average longline units per vessel, average overall length of longline per vessel).

These data shall be provided to SCRS in the format required by ICCAT.

15-10

SDP

**RECOMMENDATION BY ICCAT TO CLARIFY  
AND AMEND ASPECTS OF ICCAT'S BLUEFIN TUNA CATCH  
DOCUMENTATION PROGRAM TO FACILITATE 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;

*COMMITTED* to the successful implementation of the eBCD system and desiring to complete the transition to the system as expeditiously as possible while ensuring trade is not disrupted;

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 shall become mandatory for CPCs on May 1, 2016, unless, based on examination of the status of the system, the TWG advises the Commission through the Secretariat that the system is not sufficiently ready for implementation. If the TWG so advises the Commission, CPCs must use the eBCD system to the fullest extent practicable, but paper BCD documents (issued pursuant to Recommendation 11-20 or printed eBCDs) shall continue to be accepted until the TWG advises the Commission that the system is sufficiently ready to be implemented. After May 1, 2016, or the date that the TWG advises the Commission that the system is sufficiently ready to be implemented (whichever is later), paper BCDs shall no longer be accepted, and eBCDs shall be used thereafter 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 11-20 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 11-20, 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 11-20; however, in derogation to Recommendation 11-20, 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 11-20.

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. 11-20.

The derogation in this paragraph expires on 31 December 2017. 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 2017 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 11-20 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 11-20. The amending and re-validation of sections 2 and 3 in the eBCD as required by Paragraph 83 of Recommendation 14-04 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 11-20 and need not be recorded in the eBCD system.
- d) The provisions of paragraph 13 of Recommendation 11-20 for waiving government validation of tagged fish only apply when the domestic commercial tagging programs of the flag CPC for the vessel or trap that harvested the bluefin tuna under which the fish are tagged are consistent with the requirements of paragraph 21 of that recommendation and meet the following criteria:
  - i) All bluefin tuna in the eBCD concerned are individually tagged;
  - ii) Minimum information associated with the tag includes:
    - Identifying information on the catching vessel or trap;
    - Date of capture or landing;
    - The area of harvest of the fish in the shipment;
    - The gear utilized to catch the fish;

- 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 Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna (Rec. 14-04) in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, 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 2017 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 71 to 86 of Recommendation 14-04 prior to harvesting may be traded by the purse seine vessel, auxiliary/support vessel(s), and/or farm representatives, where applicable.
  - f) Bluefin tuna that are caught as by-catch in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean by vessels not authorized to fish actively for bluefin tuna pursuant to Rec. 14-04 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) 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 **Annex 1 and 2** unless otherwise decided to address future data collection needs.
  - h) 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. The information may be entered post export but must be entered prior to re-export.
  - i) 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.
  - j) Following the full implementation of the eBCD system, the annual reporting requirements in paragraph 34 of Recommendation 11-20 shall be replaced by reports generated 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 11-20 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. In such an event, the CPC concerned must immediately communicate to the Secretariat that it is unable to use the eBCD system. The Secretariat, after confirming the technical difficulty, will notify other CPCs that paper BCDs may temporarily be used to record the catch and support the trade with that CPC by maintaining a list of such CPCs on the public part of the ICCAT website for reference by all CPCs. A CPC encountering such technical difficulties must begin working with the Secretariat without delay to resolve the issues and shall resume use of the eBCD system as soon as the technical issues are resolved. The Secretariat will notify CPCs without delay when the issues have been resolved, indicating that paper BCDs can no longer be used to support trade with that CPC. 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 5g.
- 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(i) 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 11-20 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 11-20.

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 inform the developing consortium of the specifications on required system developments and adjustments and steer their implementation.
- 8. This recommendation clarifies Recommendation 14-04, repeals and replaces Recommendation 13-17, and clarifies and amends Recommendation 11-20.

**Annex 1****Data requirement for the Trade of Pacific Bluefin Tuna under the BCD program**

Section 1: Bluefin Tuna Catch Document Number

Section 2: Catch information

Name of catching vessel/trap

Flag/CPC

Area

Total weight (kg)

Section 8: Trade information

Product description

- (F/FR; RD/GG/DR/FL/OT)

- Total weight (NET)

Exporter/seller information

- Company name

- Point of export/departure

- State of destination

Transportation description

Government validation

Importer/buyer

- Company name, license number

- Point of import or destination

**Annex 2****ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Re-Export Certificate**

Section 1. Bluefin Tuna Re-Export Certificate Number

Section 2: Re-export section

Re-export country/entity/fishing entity

Point of re-export

Section 3: Description of imported bluefin tuna

Net weight (kg)

BCD (or eBCD) number and date(s) of importation

Section 4: Description of bluefin tuna for re-export

Net weight (kg)

Corresponding BCD (or eBCD) number

State of destination

Section 6: Government validation

**RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY ICCAT IN 2015**

15-09

GEN

**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**

*RECALLING* that the Commission considered draft guidelines to facilitate the application of Recommendation 11-15 in 2012;

*FURTHER RECALLING* that the Commission, through its Compliance Committee, applied these draft guidelines on a trial basis in 2013 and 2014;

*RECOGNIZING* the utility of the draft guidelines and agreeing that their application should continue;

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

1. The Commission will follow the schedule and steps set forth below to guide application of paragraph 3 of Recommendation 11-15:

<i>Data review year (starting in 2013 and annually thereafter)</i>	<i>Following the decision on retention prohibition</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CPCs submit Task I data to the Secretariat in accordance with Commission requirements and SCRS procedures;</li> <li>2. The Secretariat, in consultation with the SCRS, compiles and circulates a report to the COC and CPCs detailing data submission status by species or stock (e.g., complete, incomplete, or missing) for each CPC;</li> <li>3. COC reviews the report and any other relevant information provided by the Secretariat, the SCRS, and CPCs. Based on this review, the COC identifies in its report those CPCs that did not submit required data (i.e., data are missing or incomplete) and notifies them that they are prohibited from retaining the concerned species/stock from the relevant fishery as of the following year unless and until the data are provided to the Secretariat.</li> <li>4. COC also considers if any other actions consistent with Recommendations 05-09 and/or 06-13 should be recommended.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CPCs with a finding of "missing" or "incomplete" data submissions cannot retain those species;</li> <li>2. Such CPCs should seek to rectify the situation by sending the missing data to the Secretariat as soon as feasible;</li> <li>3. In consultation, as necessary and appropriate, with the Chairs of the COC and the Commission, the Secretariat will review the new data submission in a timely manner to determine if it is complete. If the data appear to be complete, the Secretariat will promptly inform the CPC in question that it can resume retention of the concerned species/stock in the relevant fishery.</li> <li>4. At the Annual Meeting following the intersessional provision of data and the decision to permit resumption of retention, the COC reviews this decision and, if it considers that data are still incomplete, the COC will again take the actions specified in the previous column, paragraphs 3 and 4.</li> </ol>

2. To facilitate the reporting of zero catches as required under paragraph 3 of Recommendation 11-15, the following process and procedures will apply:
  - a. As part of the ST02-T1NC electronic form used to report nominal catches, the Secretariat will include a matrix by stock and main ICCAT gear groups (see **Annex** for example reporting matrix), as recommended in the protocol developed by the SCRS.
  - b. CPCs, as part of their Task I nominal catch data reporting, will complete the cells in the matrix with either a value of 'one' (1) to indicate where that CPC had catches (positive catch) for a particular stock/gear combination or a value of 'zero' (0) to indicate where that CPC had no catches (zero landings + zero discards) for a particular stock/gear combination.
  - c. The 'Catch attributes' section of the electronic form ST02-T1NC will only include reports of positive catches.
  - d. In light of the terms of Recommendation 11-15, consideration will be given to expanding the matrix in the future to include additional stocks/species under the competence of ICCAT as well as other stock/gear combinations, as appropriate.

Example reporting matrix

T1 "zero" catch matrix				Gear grp codes												
				LL	PS	BB	HL	TP	TW	TR	GN	HP	RR	HS	TL	TN
				Gear codes												
Species group	Species (code / sci. name)	Stock/MUnit		LL	PS	BB	HAND	TRAP	TRAW	TROL	GILL	HARP	RR	HS	TL	TN
Major temperate tunas	ALB <i>Thunnus alalunga</i>	ALB-N ALB-S ALB-M														
	BFT <i>Thunnus thynnus</i>	BFT-E BFT-W														
Major tropical tunas	BET <i>Thunnus obesus</i>	BET-A														
	SKJ <i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>	SKJ-E SKJ-W														
	YFT <i>Thunnus albacares</i>	YFT-E YFT-W														
	SWO <i>Xiphias gladius</i>	SWO-N SWO-S SWO-M														
Major tuna like sp.	BUM <i>Makaira nigricans</i>	BUM-N BUM-S														
	WHM <i>Tetrapturus albidus</i>	WHM-N WHM-S														
	SAI <i>Istiophorus albicans</i>	SAI-E SAI-W														
	SPF <i>Tetrapturus pfluegeri</i>	SPF-E SPF-W														
Small tuna species	BON <i>Sarda sarda</i>	(all)														
	LTA <i>Euthynnus alletteratus</i>	(all)														
	KGM <i>Scomberomorus cavalla</i>	(all)														
	FRI <i>Auxis thazard</i>	(all)														
	SSM <i>Scomberomorus maculatus</i>	(all)														
Major shark species	BRS <i>Scomberomorus brasiliensis</i>	(all)														
	BSH <i>Prionace glauca</i>	BSH-N BSH-S														
	POR <i>Lamna nasus</i>	POR-N POR-S														
Other regulated sharks species	SMA <i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	SMA-N SMA-S														
	FAL <i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i>	(all)														
Other regulated sharks species	SPK <i>Sphyrna mokarran</i>	(all)														
	SPL <i>Sphyrna lewini</i>	(all)														
	SPZ <i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>	(all)														
	OCS <i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i>	(all)														
	ALV <i>Alopias vulpinus</i>	(all)														
	BTH <i>Alopias superciliosus</i>	(all)														
	PTH <i>Alopias pelagicus</i>	(all)														

Gear grp codes

GearGrpCode	GearGroup
LL	Longline
PS	Purse seine
TP	Trap
BB	Bait boat
TW	Trawl
TR	Troll
GN	Gillnet
RR	Rod & Reel
TN	Trammel net
TL	Tended line
HP	Harpoon
SU	Surface Uncl.
HS	Haul Seine
HL	Handline
SP	Sport
MP	Multi-purpose

15-11

MISC

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT CONCERNING THE APPLICATION  
OF AN ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO FISHERIES MANAGEMENT**

*NOTING* that provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement reflect certain elements of an ecosystem approach to the conservation and management of marine living resources;

*RECALLING* that certain aspects of the ICCAT Convention reflect components of an ecosystem approach, particularly with regard to the research activities of ICCAT;

*FURTHER RECALLING* that ICCAT has taken decisions, such as Rec. [10-06] and Rec. [10-09] that take ecosystem considerations into account;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* the ongoing work of the Sub-Committee on Ecosystems which provides valuable information and advice concerning ecosystem related issues and questions facing the Commission;

*DESIRING* to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of ICCAT species and in so doing safeguarding the marine ecosystems in which the resources occur;

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the discussions taking place within the Convention Amendment Working Group on the incorporation of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management in the proposed amendments to the ICCAT Convention; and

*NOTING* that this resolution is without prejudice to any discussions or decisions made by the Working Group in this regard;

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

1. When making recommendations pursuant to Article VIII of the Convention, the Commission should apply an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management,
2. In implementing an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management, the Commission should, *inter alia*:
  - a) consider the interdependence of stocks and species belonging to the same ecosystem or associated with or dependent upon target stocks;
  - b) consider the impacts of fishing, other relevant human activities, and environmental factors on target stocks, non-target species and species belonging to the same ecosystem or associated with or dependent upon target stocks in the Convention area; and
  - c) minimize negative impacts of fishing activities on the marine ecosystem.

15-12

MISC

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT CONCERNING  
THE USE OF A PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH IN  
IMPLEMENTING ICCAT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES**

*NOTING* that the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement has set out elements of a precautionary approach to the conservation and management of straddling and highly migratory fish stocks in order to protect the living marine resources and preserve the marine environment;

*FURTHER NOTING* the general principles and Article 6.5 of the 1995 FAO International Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, which urges States and subregional and regional fisheries management organizations to apply a precautionary approach to conservation, management and exploitation of living aquatic resources in order to protect them and preserve the aquatic environment;

*RECALLING* that the ICCAT Convention does not prevent the Commission from applying a precautionary approach when making management and conservation decisions;

*FURTHER RECALLING* that ICCAT has taken decisions, such as ICCAT Resolutions 09-12, 11-14, and 11-17 as well as Recommendations 11-09, 11-13, 11-15 and 12-05 that apply elements of a precautionary approach;

*TAKING INTO ACCOUNT* the discussions taking place within the Convention Amendment Working Group on the incorporation of a precautionary approach in the proposed amendments to the ICCAT Convention; and

*NOTING* that this Resolution is without prejudice to any discussions or decisions made by the Working Group in this regard;

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

1. When making recommendations pursuant to Article VIII of the Convention, the Commission should apply a precautionary approach, in accordance with relevant international standards.
2. In applying a precautionary approach, the Commission should *inter alia*:
  - a) use the best available scientific advice;
  - b) exercise caution when scientific information is uncertain, unreliable or inadequate;
  - c) determine, on the basis of the best scientific information available, stock specific reference points, in particular limit reference points, and the action to be taken if exceeded; and
  - d) not use the absence of adequate scientific information as a reason to postpone or not to take conservation and management action in relation to the species under its mandate.
3. In applying a precautionary approach, the Commission should take measures to ensure that when limit reference points are approached, they will not be exceeded. In the event that they are exceeded, the Commission should without delay take action to restore the stocks to levels above the identified reference points.

15-13

MISC

**RESOLUTION BY ICCAT ON CRITERIA  
FOR THE ALLOCATION OF FISHING POSSIBILITIES**

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

**I. Qualifying Criteria**

Participants will qualify to receive possible quota allocations within the framework of ICCAT in accordance with the following criteria:

1. Be a Contracting or Cooperating Non-Contracting Party, Entity or Fishing Entity.
2. Have the ability to apply the conservation and management measures of ICCAT, to collect and to provide accurate data for the relevant resources and, taking into account their respective capacities, to conduct scientific research on those resources.

**II. Stocks to Which the Criteria Would be Applied**

3. These criteria should apply to all stocks when allocated by ICCAT.

**III. Allocation Criteria**

**A. Criteria Relating to Past/Present Fishing Activity of Qualifying Participants**

4. Historical catches of qualifying participants.
5. The interests, fishing patterns and fishing practices of qualifying participants.

**B. Criteria Relating the Status of the Stock(s) to the Allocated and the Fisheries**

6. Status of the stock(s) to be allocated in relation to maximum sustainable yield, or in the absence of maximum sustainable yield an agreed biological reference point, and the existing level of fishing effort in the fishery taking into account the contributions to conservation made by qualifying participants necessary to conserve, manage, restore or rebuild fish stocks in accordance with the objective of the Convention.
7. The distribution and biological characteristics of the stock(s), including the occurrence of the stock(s) in areas under national jurisdiction and on the high seas.

**C. Criteria Relating to the Status of the Qualifying Participants**

8. The interests of artisanal, subsistence and small-scale coastal fishers.
9. The needs of the coastal fishing communities which are dependent mainly on fishing for the stocks.
10. The needs of the coastal States of the region whose economies are overwhelmingly dependent on the exploitation of living marine resources, including those regulated by ICCAT.
11. The socio-economic contribution of the fisheries for stocks regulated by ICCAT to the developing States, especially small island developing States and developing territories<sup>1</sup> from the region.
12. The respective dependence on the stock(s) of the coastal States, and of the other States that fish species regulated by ICCAT.
13. The economic and/or social importance of the fishery for qualifying participants whose fishing vessels have habitually participated in the fishery in the Convention area.

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<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this document, the term "territories" refers only to the territories of those States that are Contracting Parties to the Convention in respect of those territories alone.

14. The contribution of the fisheries for the stocks regulated by ICCAT to the national food security/needs, domestic consumption, income resulting from exports, and employment of qualifying participants.
15. The right of qualified participants to engage in fishing on the high seas for the stocks to be allocated.

**D. *Criteria Relating to Compliance/Data Submission/Scientific Research by Qualifying Participants***

16. The record of compliance or cooperation by qualifying participants with ICCAT's conservation and management measures, including for large-scale tuna fishing vessels, except for those cases where the compliance sanctions established by relevant ICCAT recommendations have already been applied.
17. The exercise of responsibilities concerning the vessels under the jurisdiction of qualifying participants.
18. The contribution of qualifying participants to conservation and management of the stocks, to the collection and provision of accurate data required by ICCAT and, taking into account their respective capacities, to the conduct of scientific research on the stocks.

**IV. *Conditions for Applying Allocation Criteria***

19. The allocation criteria should be applied in a fair, equitable and transparent manner with the goal of ensuring opportunities for all qualifying participants.
20. The allocation criteria should be applied by the relevant Panels on a stock-by-stock basis.
21. The allocation criteria should be applied to all stocks in a gradual manner, over a period of time to be determined by the relevant Panels, in order to address the economic needs of all parties concerned, including the need to minimize economic dislocation.
22. The application of the allocation criteria should take into account the contributions to conservation made by qualifying participants necessary to conserve, manage, restore or rebuild fish stocks in accordance with the objective of the Convention.
23. The allocation criteria should be applied consistent with international instruments and in a manner that encourages efforts to prevent and eliminate over-fishing and excess fishing capacity and ensures that levels of fishing effort are commensurate with the ICCAT objective of achieving and maintaining MSY.
24. The allocation criteria should be applied so as not to legitimize illegal, unregulated and unreported catches and shall promote the prevention, deterrence and elimination of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, particularly fishing by flag of convenience vessels.
25. The allocation criteria should be applied in a manner that encourages cooperating Non-Contracting Parties, Entities and Fishing Entities to become Contracting Parties, where they are eligible to do so.
26. The allocation criteria should be applied to encourage cooperation between the developing States of the region and other fishing States for the sustainable use of the stocks managed by ICCAT and in accordance with the relevant international instruments.
27. No qualifying participant shall trade or sell its quota allocation or a part thereof.

## OTHER DECISIONS ADOPTED BY ICCAT IN 2015

**7.1 PROPOSAL TO UNIFY ALL SCIENTIFIC DATA REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

The Secretariat submitted this document to the Commission in 2014. While there was some general agreement as to the utility of this proposal, several CPCs indicated that they would need more time to consider its full implications, and it was agreed that the matter could be reconsidered in 2015.

The Sub-committee on Statistics, at its 2014 meeting, agreed that the submission of regular Task I and Task II was sufficient to satisfy the reporting requirements taken below. If the Commission agrees, this definition will be included in the regular annual request for scientific data, and CPCs will not be required to make separate submissions. The list of scientific reporting requirements will be reduced accordingly.

**List of ICCAT Requirements on statistics which are already  
included in the regular request on Task I and Task II statistics**

	<i>Requirement</i>	<i>Reference</i>		<i>Form</i>	<i>Notes</i>
S8	Catches from sport & recreational fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea (all tuna and tuna-like species)	Rec. 04-12	para 3	Include in Task I and Task II data	Redundant
S9	Specific data to determine separately the magnitude of recreational fisheries of each species	Res. 99-07	para 1	Include in Task I and Task II data	Redundant
S14	Sport and Recreational fishing data	Rec. 12-03	paras 35 and 39/ paras 36 and 40	Forms as for Task I and	Redundant
S19	Report on fishing mortality of all W-BFT, including dead discards	Rec. 12-02	para 20	Include in Task I and Task II data	Redundant
S20	Information on confiscated bluefin tuna of unauthorised by-catch	Rec. 12-03	para 32	Include in Task I data	Redundant
S26	Best available data on SWO, including by sex and discards and effort statistics	Rec. 11-02	para 9	Forms for Task I and Task II	Redundant
S29	CPCs shall submit Task I and Task II data for sharks including available historical data	Rec. 04-10	para 1	Include in Task I and Task II data	Redundant
S30	Task I and Task II of thresher sharks, including discards and releases	Rec. 09-07	para 4	Include in Task I and Task II data	Redundant
S31	CPCs shall record through their observer programs the number of discards and releases of silky sharks with indication of status (dead or alive) and report it to ICCAT	Rec. 11-08	para 3	Include in Task I and Task II data	Redundant
S33	Task I and Task II of silky sharks caught for local consumption	Rec. 11-08	para 4	Include in Task I and Task II data	Redundant
S34	Task I and Task II of hammerhead sharks caught for local consumption	Rec. 10-08	para 3	Include in Task I and Task II data	Redundant
S35	Number of discards and releases of hammerhead sharks with indication of status (dead or alive)	Rec. 10-08	para 4	Include in Task I and Task II data	Redundant

S36	Number of discards and releases of oceanic whitetip with indication of status (dead or alive)	Rec. 10-07	para 2	Include in Task I and Task II data	Redundant
S40	CPCs shall report the bycatch and discard data	Rec. 11-10	para 1d)	Discard data on Task I / Task II forms. By-catch TBD	Redundant

## REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION (STACFAD)

### 1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) was opened on Thursday 12 November 2015 by the Committee Chair, Ms. Sylvie Lapointe (Canada).

### 2. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, was adopted (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8**).

### 3. Appointment of Rapporteur

The Secretariat was appointed Rapporteur.

### 4. Reports from the Secretariat

#### *4.1 2015 Administrative Report*

The 2015 Administrative Report was presented by the Chair. The report summarized the activities carried out by the Secretariat in 2015. The Chair pointed out that since the last meeting, El Salvador had ratified the Convention and that there were currently 50 Contracting Parties. The Chair also highlighted that the ICCAT recommendations and resolutions had been circulated on the dates agreed in Article VIII.2 and mentioned the numerous intersessional meetings, ICCAT working groups and the meetings at which ICCAT was represented. She noted that the Appendix to the report contained a summary of these activities. The Chair mentioned that the Secretariat continued to send every year two letters of reminder of compliance with budgetary obligations, and she highlighted that ICCAT manages twenty-one research programmes.

The Chair explained that the draft of the revised ICCAT Staff Regulations and Rules was not finished and would be presented in 2016.

The Administrative Report was approved and forwarded to the Commission for adoption.

#### *4.2 2015 Financial Report*

The Head of Administration and Finance presented the Secretariat's financial report. He stated that the 2014 auditing report had been sent to the Contracting Parties in June 2015 and that the financial report presented the situation of the Commission's budgetary statements, at 20 October 2015, as well as the trust funds managed by the Secretariat. He also stated that the Working Capital Fund stood at 97.64% of the total budget, reflecting the Commission's sound financial position. He explained the most significant aspects of the financial statements and informed that expenses incurred amounted to 72% while revenue received amounted to 81% of the budget approved for 2015. As regards extra-budgetary expenses, he highlighted the meetings financed through the Working Capital Fund (€654,834.94), the funding for the special Meeting Participation Fund (MPF) (€74,000.00), the implementation of the eBCD (€2,082.22) in 2015, the travel expenses of the ICCAT Chairs (€39,486.34), as well as the expenses incurred as a result of the SCRS recommendations approved for 2015 (€124,495.21).

As for extra-budgetary revenue, the voluntary contribution that was received from the European Union to meet the costs of the 2015 Commission meeting (€409,167.77) was recorded, as well as the balance which remained to be received for the 2014 meeting (€191,287.72), the special contribution from Chinese Taipei (€100,000.00), observer fees (€3,438.61), bank interest (€4,368.92), refund of VAT expenses (€13,195.30) and the overhead received from the ICCAT programmes (€2,864.78).

He also informed that subsequent to the date of this report, 20 October 2015, contributions were received from Ghana (€3,585.00), and Vanuatu (€8,825.20).

Finally, he stated that the costs estimated by the Secretariat to year-end amounted to €1,432,190.42 and that if no new revenue is received before the end of the current financial year, the Working Capital Fund would stand at 52.88% of the budget (€1,692,153.25). He also noted that the report contained a summary of the Commission trust funds.

The Financial Report was approved and forwarded to the Commission for adoption.

#### ***4.3 Review of progress on payment of arrears and voting rights***

The STACFAD Chair presented the document “Detailed Information on the Accumulated Debt of the ICCAT Contracting Parties & Review of the Payment Plans of Past-Due Contributions”, which reflected the accumulated debt of the Contracting Parties by year. The Chair asked the CPCs included in the document to contact the Secretariat to regularise their situation and to provide payment plans.

### **5. Consideration of financial implications of the measures proposed and SCRS requests**

The SCRS Chairman presented the document titled “General recommendations to the Commission that have financial implications”, which contained the recommendations issued by the Scientific Committee with financial implications for 2016 and 2017, the amounts of which totaled €10,107.14 and €384,200.00, respectively. The SCRS Chairman stated that the document contained a summary divided into three groups: the first related to statistics and the Secretariat, the second to data preparatory and stock assessment meetings, and the final one to support activities purely related to research. The SCRS Chairman indicated that all the items were described in detail in the work plans contained in the SCRS report, and that for each of the activities the priority of importance for the SCRS was indicated as well as the potential sources of financing. It was stated that the activities were not yet confirmed.

The Executive Secretary noted that the group related to statistics and the Secretariat included the expenses necessary for upgrading the VMS equipment.

The STACFAD Chair recalled that in recent years SCRS requests which required financing had been covered by the Working Capital Fund, and asked whether this practice would continue in the next two years.

After several questions were put to the SCRS Chair regarding specific activities such as assessments in 2016, peer reviews, the Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tuna Tagging Programme and the Small Tunas Year Programme, the STACFAD Chair stated that this item would be revisited when the Working Capital Fund was discussed.

The SCRS Chair said that the possibility was being explored of bringing together all the research funds in one all encompassing fund to be included in the regular budget. This suggestion was supported by the United States and others. The SCRS Chair stated that a proposal would be prepared for the next regular meeting of the Commission.

### **6. Assistance for developing CPCs and identification of mechanism to finance the Meeting Participation Fund and other capacity building activities**

#### ***6.1 Summary of assistance provided in 2015 to developing coastal States***

The Secretariat presented the document “Summary of assistance provided in 2015 to developing coastal States” which listed the assistance provided in 2015 to developing coastal States. The Executive Secretary stated that this information was contained in the Secretariat's Financial Report and for this reason would not be presented in coming years, as agreed in the 2014 Commission meeting.

## **6.2 Meeting Participation Fund**

The Head of Administration and Finance presented the document “Meeting Participation Fund”, which informed about the financial situation of the Meeting Participation Fund (MPF). He highlighted that in addition to the opening balance of €125,679.40, the fund had been provisioned with €74,000.00 from the Working Capital Fund, with a voluntary contribution from Morocco of €1,000.00 and another in the amount of €39,900.00 from the European Union Fund for Capacity Building. He mentioned that until 10 November 2015 travel arrangements had been made for participation by 80 people from 25 CPCs, which is double the amount in 2014. Finally, he indicated that it had been estimated that for 2016 an allocation of €250,000.00 would be required to cover the requests in 2016. He also stressed the importance of applicants abiding by the procedure protocols approved for the Fund, with the objective of fully utilising financial and human resources of the Secretariat staff, since, on occasion, there has been duplication of the resources necessary to arrange travel due to the fact that applicants did not obtain visas.

The STACFAD Chair indicated that applications must be viable for the Secretariat. The STACFAD Chair also reminded that the corresponding funds requested were for €250,000.00, and that this item would be reviewed when discussing the document on the Working Capital Fund.

## **6.3 Mechanism for financing the special Scientific Capacity Building Fund**

The Head of Administration and Finance presented the document “Scientific Capacity Building Fund (SCBF)” which reflects the financial position of this Fund in 2015. He also highlighted that the current balance of the Fund was €65,898.33 and that in 2015 the stay of a scientist from Côte d’Ivoire at Centro AZTI Tecnalia in San Sebastián, Spain, and a Tunisian scientist in NOAA in Miami had been financed.

The Committee did not propose any change regarding the financing of the fund.

## **7. Consideration of other programmes/activities which may require additional or extra-budgetary funding**

### **7.1 ICCAT Atlantic-Wide Research Programme for Bluefin Tuna (GBYP)**

The European Union indicated that the programme had been essential for recovery of bluefin tuna, and that it could provide €1,700,000.00 for Phase VI of GBYP (80%), noting that the remaining 20% would be needed from other sources. The European Union pointed out that before proceeding with any successive phases beyond Phase VI it would be appropriate to carry out an external review of the project.

### **7.2 Atlantic Ocean Tropical Tunas Tagging Programme (AOTTP)**

The STACFAD Chair recalled that a proposal had been made via circular in 2015 to use the Working Capital Fund to co-finance implementation of the AOTTP and that during the meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment, held in Miami, this proposed financing mechanism was discussed. She recalled that the programme had a budget of €15,000,000.00, of which the European Union would provide up to a maximum of €13,480,000.00 (90%) provided 10% co-financing could be found. In light of the input received intersessionally the STACFAD Chair sent a circular to CPCs confirming the decision of the Commission and STACFAD Chairs that the programme would be financed through the Working Capital Fund but that the process for and amount of funding for the out-years of the programme would be considered by STACFAD at its 2015 meeting.

Brazil pointed out that funding for the AOTTP had been approved by correspondence in response to the circular from the STACFAD Chair and that this approval should be endorsed. The Committee approved a 10% contribution for the programme from the Working Capital Fund, noting that the total amount to be provided each year could be offset by any voluntary contributions received.

The Executive Secretary informed that in June a contract had been signed with the European Union and that the initial funds of the programme had been received. He also informed that the Coordinator had been hired and that he would take up his position at the end of November 2015.

### **7.3 Bluefin Tuna Electronic Catch Document (eBCD) Programme**

The Secretariat indicated that the annual maintenance cost of the eBCD was estimated at some €200,000.00. For this reason, a new budgetary chapter had been presented that included a portion of these expenses. For 2016, it was agreed that the portion not covered by the new chapter, would be covered by the Working Capital Fund.

## **8. Consideration of procedures for approving utilisation of the Working Capital Fund**

In response to the concern expressed by some CPCs regarding the procedures applied to authorise the use of the Working Capital Fund, in particular with respect to intersessional access for funding the AOTTP, the document “The Situation of the ICCAT Working Capital Fund” was presented.

The document, presented by the Secretariat, contained detailed information on: the composition of the Working Capital Fund, its evolution over the past ten years and on the possible options for use of the Working Capital Fund, where examples were provided of minimum and maximum utilisation, as well as one of the possible intermediary uses.

Finally, the document contained an item related to the approval procedure for use of the Working Capital Fund in response to an emergency situation, such as the one which arose at the time of financing the AOTTP.

The Head of Administration and Finance commented that owing to the positive position of the Working Capital Fund in recent years, many of the projects and additional expenses which had been required by Commission activities had been covered by the Working Capital Fund. He recalled that there were five items that required financing in 2016 and that they were presented to the Commission for consideration: the second performance review (€61,700.00), the Meeting Participation Fund (€250,000.00), SCRS recommendations (€10,107.00 for 2016 and €384,000.00 for 2017), the eBCD (€125,000.00) and the AOTTP (€83,520.00 per year, with a five-year duration).

Many delegations supported an intermediary use of the Working Capital Fund, as described in the document “The Situation of the ICCAT Working Capital Fund”, but, at the same time, said that they were not willing to accept an increase in their budgetary contributions. The Committee therefore decided that the five items which required financing in 2016 were to be covered by the Working Capital Fund.

Regarding the use of the Working Capital Fund intersessionally, the STACFAD Chair indicated that authorisation in emergency situations is granted following approval by the Commission Chairman, the STACFAD Chair and the Executive Secretary. She also informed that the Committee would prepare some guidelines for its use, and that these guidelines would be presented to the Commission at its next meeting.

The Executive Secretary stressed the need for the Commission to approve funding for the AOTTP, as well as upgrading of the equipment necessary for the VMS. STACFAD confirmed that funding to support these upgrades should come from the Working Capital Fund.

## **9. Review of findings of the virtual Working Group on Communications Policy and actions required**

The STACFAD Chair presented the document titled “Elements of an ICCAT Communication Policy”, which summarised the work carried out by the virtual working group created to establish an ICCAT communications policy. The document was divided into three blocks: “target audiences”, “goals” and “next steps to implement the policy: review and recommendations by the virtual working group”. The STACFAD Chair concluded that this work would continue and that further developments would be presented at the next Commission meeting.

## **10. Procedures for selection of the ICCAT Executive Secretary**

The STACFAD Chair explained that following the extension of the term of office of the current Executive Secretary until 1 April 2018, the Committee agreed in 2014 that during the meeting of the Working Group on Convention Amendment a draft would be prepared with the procedure for selection of the ICCAT Executive Secretary. The document contained the process and announcement of the vacancy.

The document described the steps to follow: development of vacancy announcement; finalise statement of duties and obligations and statement of qualifications; the announcement of the position; and the Screening Committee which would be comprised of the Chairman, the First Vice Chair, the Second Vice Chair, the STACFAD Chair and the SCRS Chairman and the current Executive Secretary. It is indicated in the procedure that once the applications that meet the requirements have been received, they would be circulated to the Heads of Delegation for purposes of ranking. The Heads of Delegation will inform the Screening Committee of the five candidates they have selected in order of merit. The Screening Committee will draw up a composite list of candidates assigning a value in inverse relationship to the order on each list. The top 5 shortlisted candidates would be invited to the 2017 annual meeting to participate in an interview.

The delegation of the European Union mentioned that for an organisation such as ICCAT the languages aspect was very important. The delegation of the European Union commented that in the previous selection process for an Executive Secretary, as well as for recent ICCAT vacancies, the requirements indicated that it was necessary to have an excellent oral and written command of at least one of the three official languages (English, French and Spanish) and good knowledge of the other two languages of the Commission, and that they would prefer this to be included in this process too.

The delegation of South Africa expressed its concern regarding confidentiality of the applications and of the process.

The STACFAD Chair commented that for the interview process several options could be considered in relation to the questions. The first is that the questions would be treated as confidential and could not be provided to the candidates. The second is that questions are circulated at least two weeks in advance of the annual meeting so that the candidates can prepare a response to them. The third option is that the Chairman would formulate ten questions and the Heads of Delegation would select from three to five just before the interviews.

In the discussion, the delegations expressed several points of view, which is why the STACFAD Chair proposed improving the text of the procedure during the intersessional period and postponing the new proposal until the 2016 Commission meeting, taking into account that there is still time before the process begins.

## **11. Budget and Contracting Party contributions for 2016 and 2017**

The draft budget for 2016 and 2017 was circulated in July 2015 and was presented in the document titled “Explanatory note on the ICCAT budget for financial years 2016 and 2017” for its consideration.

The draft showed an 11.32% increase for 2016 and a 2.00% increase for 2017.

The Head of Administration and Finance explained by chapter the most important changes. Chapter 1 includes the cost necessary for hiring a person in the general services category. He explained that, following approval of the MPF and other funds, the staff in the Department of Administration and Finance began to feel overwhelmed, and that it was necessary to increase the number of staff to complete tasks as efficiently as possible. He also mentioned that the USD/€ exchange rate had caused a significant increase in the expense corresponding to the Vanbreda Pensions Plan (now known as CIGNA) of the staff which had been included in the budget. As regards Chapter 10, he stated that an increase in this chapter had been included to cover the repatriation costs of permanent staff recruited internationally over the coming years. Finally, he indicated that the creation of a new chapter in the budget which could group the expenses related to the creation and maintenance of databases and other headings related to Compliance was presented to the Commission for its approval.

The Chair requested that CPCs take into account the financial implications arising from the Recommendations as well as the necessary human resources.

The delegation of Iceland supported the idea and said that thought could be given to the idea of a Recommendation, when produced, being accompanied by an economic assessment or report. The EU added that it would also be useful to undertake an assessment of the existing measures so to evaluate their costs and effectiveness against the Convention's objectives.

Brazil indicated that following review of the budget it considered the proposals to be very valid, but that it considered it very complicated to increase the budget for the coming years. It asked the Secretariat whether the proposal would help in the long or short term, and indicated that the draft budget would have to be revised.

The Executive Secretary indicated that the Department of Administration and Finance currently supported an ongoing workload (accounting, management, logistical) and that it continued to grow due to the increase in the number of programmes approved by the Commission. Consequently, more human resources were called for to create a team which could work together logistically.

South Africa, Canada and Belize stated that the costs of the draft budget presented must be reviewed and reduced.

The delegate of the United States thanked the Secretariat for the good work that had been done and signaled that in recent years the ICCAT budget had been very moderate in comparison with other RFMOs and that the high balance of the Working Capital Fund had meant that it could be used to cover costs that were or had become regular expenditures. She noted that this practice was starting to be dangerous. The United States called for Chapter 12 to be broken down to see what specific costs it included, noting it agreed with its creation. The United States also suggested that a proposal be tabled in which the cost increase is spread over two years, so that the increase would be more moderate.

Morocco proposed that the in-port inspection arising from Rec. 12-07 be included in the budget.

The Executive Secretary indicated that to-date there had been no in-port inspection activity. He also indicated that the increase in 2016 was due to the fact that staff would be hired in 2016 and not in 2017.

The STACFAD Chair indicated that a new proposal would be presented that included the delegations' requests.

At the second session a revised budget was presented which included a 6% increase for 2016 and a 6% increase for 2017. The budget also set out the update of the exchange rate to November 2015 published by the United Nations and the incorporations of CPCs in the different Panels.

The United States enquired about the reduction in the Chapter concerned with the ICCAT Enhanced Research Program for Billfish. The Executive Secretary indicated that, following consultations with the SCRS Chair, they had agreed to reduce this chapter taking into account that during 2015 the full balance had not been spent and that with the carryover and the €20,000.00 contribution from the ICCAT budget, the activities scheduled for 2016 could be carried out.

The revised draft budget for 2016-2017 was approved.

## **12. Election of Chair**

The delegation of the European Union proposed that Ms. Lapointe (Canada) continued to hold the office of STACFAD Chair. This proposal was seconded by numerous delegations and she was, therefore, elected to continue as STACFAD Chair for the next two years.

## **13. Other matters**

### ***Streamlining of ICCAT conservation and management measures***

Following the request of the Committee in 2014, the Secretariat reviewed existing measures, together with the Panel Chairs and the Compliance Committee Chairman, and prepared a list of those measures which could be eliminated, either due to obsolescence, expiry or duplication. These measures were presented in each of the Panels or other Committees for their consideration in the document titled "Streamlining of ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures".

## **14. Adoption of the Report and adjournment**

The 2015 meeting of STACFAD was adjourned.

The STACFAD Report was adopted by correspondence.

**Table 1.** 2016-2017 Commission Budget (Euros).

Chapters	2015	Revised Increase	2016	Revised Increase	2017
1. Salaries	1,563,173.33	8.53%	1,696,487.72	2.00%	1,730,417.47
2. Travel	25,500.00	0.00%	25,500.00	2.00%	26,010.00
3. Commission meetings (annual & inter-sessional)	156,060.00	-0.04%	156,000.00	2.00%	159,120.00
4. Publications	25,500.00	1.96%	26,000.00	2.00%	26,520.00
5. Office Equipment	10,404.00	-51.94%	5,000.00	0.00%	5,000.00
6. Operating Expenses	163,200.00	-20.34%	130,000.00	3.85%	135,000.00
7. Miscellaneous	7,344.00	0.76%	7,400.00	2.00%	7,548.00
8. Coordination of Research					
a) Salaries	982,770.30	3.85%	1,020,643.80	2.00%	1,041,056.68
b) Travel to improve statistics	30,600.00	-18.30%	25,000.00	2.00%	25,500.00
c) Statistics-Biology	17,340.00	-1.96%	17,000.00	2.00%	17,340.00
d) Computer-related items	37,740.00	0.69%	38,000.00	2.00%	38,760.00
e) Database maintenance	24,480.00	2.12%	25,000.00	2.00%	25,500.00
f) Phone line-Internet domain	22,440.00	11.41%	25,000.00	2.00%	25,500.00
g) Scientific meetings (including SCRS)	76,500.00	-1.96%	75,000.00	2.00%	76,500.00
h) Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00
<i>Sub-total Chapter 8</i>	<i>1,191,870.30</i>	<i>2.83%</i>	<i>1,225,643.80</i>	<i>2.00%</i>	<i>1,250,156.68</i>
9. Contingencies	5,000.00	-100.00%	0.00	100.00%	5,000.00
10. Separation from Service Fund	20,000.00	50.00%	30,000.00	1.67%	30,500.00
11. Research Programmes					
a) ICCAT Enhanced Research Program for Billfish	31,836.24	-37.18%	20,000.00	2.00%	20,400.00
<i>Sub-total Chapter 11</i>	<i>31,836.24</i>	<i>-37.18%</i>	<i>20,000.00</i>	<i>2.00%</i>	<i>20,400.00</i>
12. Compliance					
a) Compliance database maintenance			70,000.00	185.71%	200,000.00
<i>Sub-total Chapter 12</i>			<i>70,000.00</i>	<i>185.71%</i>	<i>200,000.00</i>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>3,199,887.87</b>	<b>6.00%</b>	<b>3,392,031.52</b>	<b>6.00%</b>	<b>3,595,672.15</b>

**Table 2.** Basic information to calculate the Contracting Party contributions in 2016-2017.

Contracting Parties	Groups <sup>a</sup>	GNP <sup>b</sup> 2012	GNP <sup>b</sup> 1991	Catch <sup>c</sup>	Canning <sup>d</sup>	Catch + Canning	Panels <sup>e</sup>				Total Panels	Contracting Parties
							1	2	3	4		
Albania	D	3,809	2,177	6	0	6	-	X	-	-	1	Albania
Algérie	D	5,380	3,074	2,080	1,562	3,642	-	X	-	X	2	Algérie
Angola	C	5,586	3,192	5,340	0	5,340	X	-	-	X	2	Angola
Barbados	C	16,004	9,145	308	0	308	-	-	-	-	0	Barbados
Belize	C	4,795	2,740	17,448	0	17,448	X	X	X	X	4	Belize
Brazil	B	11,347	6,484	40,554	13,391	53,945	X	X	X	X	4	Brazil
Canada	A	52,283	29,876	2,316	0	2,316	X	X	-	X	3	Canada
Cabo Verde	C	3,850	2,200	19,164	1,200	20,364	X	-	-	X	2	Cabo Verde
China, People's Rep. of	D	6,070	3,469	4,262	0	4,262	X	X	X	X	4	China, People's Rep. of
Côte d'Ivoire	C	1,230	703	10,996	0	10,996	X	-	-	X	2	Côte d'Ivoire
Curaçao	A	46,073	26,327	22,240	0	22,240	X	-	-	-	1	Curaçao
Egypt	D	3,155	1,803	1,543	0	1,543	-	X	-	X	2	Egypt
El Salvador	D	3,790	2,166	0	0	0	X	-	-	-	1	El Salvador
France (St. P. & M.)	A	39,552	22,601	8	0	8	X	X	-	X	3	France (St. P. & M.)
Gabon	C	14,747	8,427	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Gabon
Ghana	C	1,605	917	129,924	19,333	149,257	X	-	-	-	1	Ghana
Guatemala, Rep. de	C	3,340	1,909	7,304	0	7,304	X	X	-	X	3	Guatemala, Rep. de
Guinea Ecuatorial	C	19,680	11,246	1,267	0	1,267	X	-	-	X	2	Guinea Ecuatorial
Guinea, Rep. of	C	532	304	8,130	0	8,130	X	-	-	X	2	Guinea, Rep. of
Honduras	D	2,339	1,337	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Honduras
Iceland	A	41,670	23,811	4	0	4	-	X	-	-	1	Iceland
Japan	A	46,838	26,765	30,052	0	30,052	X	X	X	X	4	Japan
Korea, Rep. of	C	23,052	13,173	3,496	0	3,496	X	X	X	X	4	Korea, Rep. of
Liberia	D	356	203	0	0	0	X	-	-	X	2	Liberia
Libya	C	15,566	8,895	565	1,113	1,678	X	X	-	-	2	Libya
Maroc	C	2,952	1,687	7,877	799	8,676	X	X	-	X	3	Maroc
Mauritania	D	1,018	582	0	0	0	X	X	-	X	3	Mauritania
Mexico	C	9,795	5,597	1,623	0	1,623	X	X	X	X	4	Mexico
Namibia	C	5,668	3,239	5,214	0	5,214	X	-	X	X	3	Namibia
Nicaragua, Rep. de	D	1,754	1,002	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	0	Nicaragua, Rep. de
Nigeria	D	1,555	889	40	0	40	X	-	-	X	2	Nigeria
Norway	A	100,056	57,175	0	0	0	-	X	-	X	2	Norway
Panama	B	9,534	5,448	15,301	0	15,301	X	X	X	X	4	Panama
Philippines, Rep. of	D	2,587	1,478	1,422	0	1,422	X	-	X	-	2	Philippines, Rep. of
Russia	C	14,178	8,102	2,111	0	2,111	X	-	-	-	1	Russia
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	D	6,349	3,628	1,289	0	1,289	X	X	-	X	3	Saint Vincent and Grenadines
São Tomé e Príncipe	D	1,386	792	2,295	0	2,295	X	-	-	X	2	São Tomé e Príncipe
Senegal	C	1,017	581	10,542	245	10,787	X	-	-	X	2	Senegal
Sierra Leone	C	725	414	10,490	0	10,490	X	-	-	-	1	Sierra Leone
South Africa	C	7,336	4,192	3,526	0	3,526	X	-	X	X	3	South Africa
Syrian Arab Republic	D	2,126	1,215	23	0	23	-	X	-	-	1	Syrian Arab Republic
Trinidad & Tobago	C	17,365	9,923	2,707	0	2,707	X	-	-	X	2	Trinidad & Tobago
Tunisie	C	4,150	2,371	5,171	2,197	7,368	-	X	-	X	2	Tunisie
Turkey	B	10,653	6,087	4,100	9,954	14,054	X	X	X	X	4	Turkey
Union Européenne	A	33,995	19,426	262,013	203,725	465,738	X	X	X	X	4	Union Européenne
United Kingdom (O.T.)	A	39,213	22,407	598	0	598	-	-	-	-	0	United Kingdom (O.T.)
United States	A	50,880	29,074	21,917	10,536	32,453	X	X	X	X	4	United States
Uruguay	C	14,703	8,402	696	0	696	X	-	X	X	3	Uruguay
Vanuatu	D	3,040	1,737	661	0	661	-	-	-	-	0	Vanuatu
Venezuela	B	12,767	7,295	7,817	573	8,390	X	X	-	X	3	Venezuela

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

**Table 3.** Contracting Party contributions 2016 (Euros).

Contracting Party		Catch +	% Catch +	% Member +	Membership	Panel	Variable fees	Variables fees	Total	Contracting	
Group <sup>a</sup>	Canning <sup>a</sup>	Panels <sup>a</sup>	Canning <sup>b</sup>	Panels <sup>c</sup>	fee <sup>d</sup>	Membership <sup>e</sup>	for Member <sup>f</sup>	Catch-Canning <sup>g</sup>	fees <sup>h</sup>	Party	
	Albania	D	6	1	0.04%	4.76%	912.00	912.00	1,411.07	23.42	<b>3,258.49</b> Albania
	Algérie	D	3,642	2	23.99%	7.14%	912.00	1,824.00	2,116.60	14,216.05	<b>19,068.65</b> Algérie
	Angola	C	5,340	2	1.92%	4.17%	912.00	1,824.00	9,452.54	8,690.81	<b>20,879.35</b> Angola
	Barbados	C	308	0	0.11%	1.39%	912.00	0.00	3,150.85	501.27	<b>4,564.11</b> Barbados
	Belize	C	17,448	4	6.26%	6.94%	912.00	3,648.00	15,754.23	28,396.48	<b>48,710.71</b> Belize
	Brazil	B	53,945	4	58.83%	26.32%	912.00	3,648.00	34,185.59	152,857.22	<b>191,602.82</b> Brazil
	Canada	A	2,316	3	0.42%	12.90%	912.00	2,736.00	89,602.91	5,812.27	<b>99,063.18</b> Canada
	Cabo Verde	C	20,364	2	7.30%	4.17%	912.00	1,824.00	9,452.54	33,142.25	<b>45,330.79</b> Cabo Verde
	China, People's Rep. of	D	4,262	4	28.07%	11.90%	912.00	3,648.00	3,527.67	16,636.14	<b>24,723.81</b> China, People's Rep. of
	Côte d'Ivoire	C	10,996	2	3.94%	4.17%	912.00	1,824.00	9,452.54	17,895.90	<b>30,084.44</b> Côte d'Ivoire
	Curaçao	A	22,240	1	4.02%	6.45%	912.00	912.00	44,801.45	55,813.90	<b>102,439.35</b> Curaçao
	Egypt	D	1,543	2	10.16%	7.14%	912.00	1,824.00	2,116.60	6,022.89	<b>10,875.49</b> Egypt
	El Salvador	D	0	1	0.00%	4.76%	912.00	912.00	1,411.07	0.00	<b>3,235.07</b> El Salvador
	France (St. P. & M.)	A	8	3	0.00%	12.90%	912.00	2,736.00	89,602.91	20.08	<b>93,270.99</b> France (St. P. & M.)
	Gabon	C	0	2	0.00%	4.17%	912.00	1,824.00	9,452.54	0.00	<b>12,188.54</b> Gabon
	Ghana	C	149,257	1	53.54%	2.78%	912.00	912.00	6,301.69	242,914.56	<b>251,040.25</b> Ghana
	Guatemala, Rep. de	C	7,304	3	2.62%	5.56%	912.00	2,736.00	12,603.39	11,887.20	<b>28,138.59</b> Guatemala, Rep. de
	Guinea Ecuatorial	C	1,267	2	0.45%	4.17%	912.00	1,824.00	9,452.54	2,062.03	<b>14,250.57</b> Guinea Ecuatorial
	Guinea, Rep. of	C	8,130	2	2.92%	4.17%	912.00	1,824.00	9,452.54	13,231.51	<b>25,420.05</b> Guinea, Rep. of
	Honduras	D	0	2	0.00%	7.14%	912.00	1,824.00	2,116.60	0.00	<b>4,852.60</b> Honduras
	Iceland	A	4	1	0.00%	6.45%	912.00	912.00	44,801.45	10.04	<b>46,635.49</b> Iceland
	Japan	A	30,052	4	5.43%	16.13%	912.00	3,648.00	112,003.64	75,419.03	<b>191,982.67</b> Japan
	Korea, Rep. of	C	3,496	4	1.25%	6.94%	912.00	3,648.00	15,754.23	5,689.71	<b>26,003.95</b> Korea, Rep. of
	Liberia	D	0	2	0.00%	7.14%	912.00	1,824.00	2,116.60	0.00	<b>4,852.60</b> Liberia
	Libya	C	1,678	2	0.60%	4.17%	912.00	1,824.00	9,452.54	2,730.93	<b>14,919.47</b> Libya
	Maroc	C	8,676	3	3.11%	5.56%	912.00	2,736.00	12,603.39	14,120.12	<b>30,371.51</b> Maroc
	Mauritania	D	0	3	0.00%	9.52%	912.00	2,736.00	2,822.13	0.00	<b>6,470.13</b> Mauritania
	Mexico	C	1,623	4	0.58%	6.94%	912.00	3,648.00	15,754.23	2,641.42	<b>22,955.65</b> Mexico
	Namibia	C	5,214	3	1.87%	5.56%	912.00	2,736.00	12,603.39	8,485.74	<b>24,737.13</b> Namibia
	Nicaragua, Rep. de	D	0	0	0.00%	2.38%	912.00	0.00	705.53	0.00	<b>1,617.53</b> Nicaragua, Rep. de
	Nigeria	D	40	2	0.26%	7.14%	912.00	1,824.00	2,116.60	156.13	<b>5,008.73</b> Nigeria
	Norway	A	0	2	0.00%	9.68%	912.00	1,824.00	67,202.18	0.00	<b>69,938.18</b> Norway
	Panama	B	15,301	4	16.69%	26.32%	912.00	3,648.00	34,185.59	43,356.54	<b>82,102.13</b> Panama
	Philippines, Rep. of	D	1,422	2	9.37%	7.14%	912.00	1,824.00	2,116.60	5,550.58	<b>10,403.18</b> Philippines, Rep. of
	Russia	C	2,111	1	0.76%	2.78%	912.00	912.00	6,301.69	3,435.64	<b>11,561.33</b> Russia
	Saint Vincent and Grenadines	D	1,289	3	8.49%	9.52%	912.00	2,736.00	2,822.13	5,031.44	<b>11,501.57</b> Saint Vincent and Grenadines
	São Tomé e Príncipe	D	2,295	2	15.12%	7.14%	912.00	1,824.00	2,116.60	8,958.22	<b>13,810.82</b> São Tomé e Príncipe
	Senegal	C	10,787	2	3.87%	4.17%	912.00	1,824.00	9,452.54	17,555.76	<b>29,744.30</b> Senegal
	Sierra Leone	C	10,490	1	3.76%	2.78%	912.00	912.00	6,301.69	17,072.39	<b>25,198.08</b> Sierra Leone
	South Africa	C	3,526	3	1.26%	5.56%	912.00	2,736.00	12,603.39	5,738.54	<b>21,989.92</b> South Africa
	Syrian Arab Republic	D	23	1	0.15%	4.76%	912.00	912.00	1,411.07	89.78	<b>3,324.84</b> Syrian Arab Republic
	Trinidad & Tobago	C	2,707	2	0.97%	4.17%	912.00	1,824.00	9,452.54	4,405.62	<b>16,594.16</b> Trinidad & Tobago
	Tunisie	C	7,368	2	2.64%	4.17%	912.00	1,824.00	9,452.54	11,991.36	<b>24,179.90</b> Tunisie
	Turkey	B	14,054	4	15.33%	26.32%	912.00	3,648.00	34,185.59	39,823.07	<b>78,568.66</b> Turkey
	Union Européenne	A	465,738	4	84.16%	16.13%	912.00	3,648.00	112,003.64	1,168,824.38	<b>1,285,388.01</b> Union Européenne
	United Kingdom (O.T.)	A	598	0	0.11%	3.23%	912.00	0.00	22,400.73	1,500.75	<b>24,813.48</b> United Kingdom (O.T.)
	United States	A	32,453	4	5.86%	16.13%	912.00	3,648.00	112,003.64	81,444.63	<b>198,008.26</b> United States
	Uruguay	C	696	3	0.25%	5.56%	912.00	2,736.00	12,603.39	1,132.73	<b>17,384.12</b> Uruguay
	Vanuatu	D	661	0	4.35%	2.38%	912.00	0.00	705.53	2,580.12	<b>4,197.66</b> Vanuatu
	Venezuela	B	8,390	3	9.15%	21.05%	912.00	2,736.00	27,348.48	23,773.70	<b>54,770.17</b> Venezuela

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

**Table 4.** Contributions by group 2016. Fees expressed in Euros.

<b>Groups</b>	<b>Parties<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Panels<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>Catch + Canning<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>% of each Party<sup>d</sup></b>	<b>% of the Budget<sup>e</sup></b>	<b>Fees<sup>f</sup></b>	<b>Panels fees<sup>g</sup></b>	<b>Other fees<sup>h</sup></b>	<b>Total fees<sup>i</sup></b>
<b>A</b>	9	22	553,409	---	62.25%	8,208.00	20,064.00	2,083,267.62	2,111,539.62
<b>B</b>	4	15	91,690	3.00%	12.00%	3,648.00	13,680.00	389,715.78	407,043.78
<b>C</b>	22	50	278,786	1.00%	22.00%	20,064.00	45,600.00	680,582.93	746,246.93
<b>D</b>	15	27	15,183	0.25%	3.75%	13,680.00	24,624.00	88,897.18	127,201.18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>939,068</b>		<b>100.00%</b>	<b>45,600.00</b>	<b>103,968.00</b>	<b>3,242,463.52</b>	<b>3,392,031.52</b>

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

**Table 5.** Contracting Party contributions 2017 (Euros).

Contracting Party	Group <sup>a</sup>	Catch + Canning <sup>a</sup>	Panels <sup>a</sup>	% Catch + Canning <sup>b</sup>	% Member + Panels <sup>c</sup>	Membership fee <sup>d</sup>	Exchange rate: 1 € =		Variable fees for Member <sup>f</sup>	Variable fees Catch-Canning <sup>g</sup>	Total fees <sup>h</sup>	Contracting Party
							1.096 US\$ (11/2015)					
Albania	D	6	1	0.04%	4.76%	912.00	912.00	1,532.28	25.43	3,381.71	Albania	
Algérie	D	3,642	2	23.99%	7.14%	912.00	1,824.00	2,298.42	15,437.25	20,471.68	Algérie	
Angola	C	5,340	2	1.92%	4.17%	912.00	1,824.00	10,074.78	9,262.90	22,073.68	Angola	
Barbados	C	308	0	0.11%	1.39%	912.00	0.00	3,358.26	534.26	4,804.52	Barbados	
Belize	C	17,448	4	6.26%	6.94%	912.00	3,648.00	16,791.29	30,265.74	51,617.04	Belize	
Brazil	B	53,945	4	58.83%	26.32%	912.00	3,648.00	36,329.18	162,442.03	203,331.21	Brazil	
Canada	A	2,316	3	0.42%	12.90%	912.00	2,736.00	95,055.22	6,165.95	104,869.17	Canada	
Cabo Verde	C	20,364	2	7.30%	4.17%	912.00	1,824.00	10,074.78	35,323.91	48,134.69	Cabo Verde	
China, People's Rep. of	D	4,262	4	28.07%	11.90%	912.00	3,648.00	3,830.70	18,065.23	26,455.94	China, People's Rep. of	
Côte d'Ivoire	C	10,996	2	3.94%	4.17%	912.00	1,824.00	10,074.78	19,073.94	31,884.72	Côte d'Ivoire	
Curaçao	A	22,240	1	4.02%	6.45%	912.00	912.00	47,527.61	59,210.16	108,561.77	Curaçao	
Egypt	D	1,543	2	10.16%	7.14%	912.00	1,824.00	2,298.42	6,540.28	11,574.70	Egypt	
El Salvador	D	0	1	0.00%	4.76%	912.00	912.00	1,532.28	0.00	3,356.28	El Salvador	
France (St. P. & M.)	A	8	3	0.00%	12.90%	912.00	2,736.00	95,055.22	21.30	98,724.52	France (St. P. & M.)	
Gabon	C	0	2	0.00%	4.17%	912.00	1,824.00	10,074.78	0.00	12,810.78	Gabon	
Ghana	C	149,257	1	53.54%	2.78%	912.00	912.00	6,716.52	258,904.97	267,445.49	Ghana	
Guatemala, Rep. de	C	7,304	3	2.62%	5.56%	912.00	2,736.00	13,433.03	12,669.70	29,750.74	Guatemala, Rep. de	
Guinea Ecuatorial	C	1,267	2	0.45%	4.17%	912.00	1,824.00	10,074.78	2,197.77	15,008.55	Guinea Ecuatorial	
Guinea, Rep. of	C	8,130	2	2.92%	4.17%	912.00	1,824.00	10,074.78	14,102.50	26,913.28	Guinea, Rep. of	
Honduras	D	0	2	0.00%	7.14%	912.00	1,824.00	2,298.42	0.00	5,034.42	Honduras	
Iceland	A	4	1	0.00%	6.45%	912.00	912.00	47,527.61	10.65	49,362.26	Iceland	
Japan	A	30,052	4	5.43%	16.13%	912.00	3,648.00	118,819.03	80,008.26	203,387.29	Japan	
Korea, Rep. of	C	3,496	4	1.25%	6.94%	912.00	3,648.00	16,791.29	6,064.25	27,415.54	Korea, Rep. of	
Liberia	D	0	2	0.00%	7.14%	912.00	1,824.00	2,298.42	0.00	5,034.42	Liberia	
Libya	C	1,678	2	0.60%	4.17%	912.00	1,824.00	10,074.78	2,910.70	15,721.48	Libya	
Maroc	C	8,676	3	3.11%	5.56%	912.00	2,736.00	13,433.03	15,049.61	32,130.64	Maroc	
Mauritania	D	0	3	0.00%	9.52%	912.00	2,736.00	3,064.56	0.00	6,712.56	Mauritania	
Mexico	C	1,623	4	0.58%	6.94%	912.00	3,648.00	16,791.29	2,815.30	24,166.59	Mexico	
Namibia	C	5,214	3	1.87%	5.56%	912.00	2,736.00	13,433.03	9,044.34	26,125.37	Namibia	
Nicaragua, Rep. de	D	0	0	0.00%	2.38%	912.00	0.00	766.14	0.00	1,678.14	Nicaragua, Rep. de	
Nigeria	D	40	2	0.26%	7.14%	912.00	1,824.00	2,298.42	169.55	5,203.97	Nigeria	
Norway	A	0	2	0.00%	9.68%	912.00	1,824.00	71,291.42	0.00	74,027.42	Norway	
Panama	B	15,301	4	16.69%	26.32%	912.00	3,648.00	36,329.18	46,075.18	86,964.36	Panama	
Philippines, Rep. of	D	1,422	2	9.37%	7.14%	912.00	1,824.00	2,298.42	6,027.40	11,061.82	Philippines, Rep. of	
Russia	C	2,111	1	0.76%	2.78%	912.00	912.00	6,716.52	3,661.79	12,202.31	Russia	
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	D	1,289	3	8.49%	9.52%	912.00	2,736.00	3,064.56	5,463.65	12,176.21	Saint Vincent and Grenadines	
São Tomé e Príncipe	D	2,295	2	15.12%	7.14%	912.00	1,824.00	2,298.42	9,727.76	14,762.18	São Tomé e Príncipe	
Senegal	C	10,787	2	3.87%	4.17%	912.00	1,824.00	10,074.78	18,711.40	31,522.18	Senegal	
Sierra Leone	C	10,490	1	3.76%	2.78%	912.00	912.00	6,716.52	18,196.22	26,736.74	Sierra Leone	
South Africa	C	3,526	3	1.26%	5.56%	912.00	2,736.00	13,433.03	6,116.29	23,197.32	South Africa	
Syrian Arab Republic	D	23	1	0.15%	4.76%	912.00	912.00	1,532.28	97.49	3,453.77	Syrian Arab Republic	
Trinidad & Tobago	C	2,707	2	0.97%	4.17%	912.00	1,824.00	10,074.78	4,695.63	17,506.41	Trinidad & Tobago	
Tunisie	C	7,368	2	2.64%	4.17%	912.00	1,824.00	10,074.78	12,780.72	25,591.50	Tunisie	
Turkey	B	14,054	4	15.33%	26.32%	912.00	3,648.00	36,329.18	42,320.15	83,209.33	Turkey	
Union Européenne	A	465,738	4	84.16%	16.13%	912.00	3,648.00	118,819.03	1,239,947.04	1,363,326.06	Union Européenne	
United Kingdom (O.T.)	A	598	0	0.11%	3.23%	912.00	0.00	23,763.81	1,592.07	26,267.88	United Kingdom (O.T.)	
United States	A	32,453	4	5.86%	16.13%	912.00	3,648.00	118,819.03	86,400.51	209,779.54	United States	
Uruguay	C	696	3	0.25%	5.56%	912.00	2,736.00	13,433.03	1,207.30	18,288.33	Uruguay	
Vanuatu	D	661	0	4.35%	2.38%	912.00	0.00	766.14	2,801.76	4,479.90	Vanuatu	
Venezuela	B	8,390	3	9.15%	21.05%	912.00	2,736.00	29,063.34	25,264.41	57,975.76	Venezuela	

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

**Table 6.** Contributions by group 2017. Fees expressed in Euros.

<b>Groups</b>	<b>Parties<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Panels<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>Catch + Canning<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>% of each Party<sup>d</sup></b>	<b>% of the Budget<sup>e</sup></b>	<b>Fees<sup>f</sup></b>	<b>Panels fees<sup>g</sup></b>	<b>Other fees<sup>h</sup></b>	<b>Total fees<sup>i</sup></b>
<b>A</b>	9	22	553,409	---	62.25%	8,208.00	20,064.00	2,210,033.91	2,238,305.91
<b>B</b>	4	15	91,690	3.00%	12.00%	3,648.00	13,680.00	414,152.66	431,480.66
<b>C</b>	22	50	278,786	1.00%	22.00%	20,064.00	45,600.00	725,383.87	791,047.87
<b>D</b>	15	27	15,183	0.25%	3.75%	13,680.00	24,624.00	96,533.71	134,837.71
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>939,068</b>		<b>100.00%</b>	<b>45,600.00</b>	<b>103,968.00</b>	<b>3,446,104.15</b>	<b>3,595,672.15</b>

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

**Table 7. Catch and canning figures (in t) of the Contracting Parties.**

Parties	2011			2012			2013			Parties	
	Catch	Canning	Total	Catch	Canning	Total	Catch	Canning	Total		
Albania	0	t	0	9	coo	9	9	t	9	Albania	
Algérie	1,797		1,549	2,123		1,565	2,320		1,573	Algérie	
Angola	5,156	t	5,156	4,027	t	4,027	6,838	t	6,838	Angola	
Barbados	257	t	257	344	t	344	323	t	323	Barbados	
Belize	14,386	co	14,386	22,899	co	22,899	15,060	t	15,060	Belize	
Brazil	45,294		12,587	37,640		14,446	38,727		13,141	Brazil	
Canada	2,311		0	2,291		0	2,345		0	Canada	
Cabo Verde	16,353	t	1,200	17,553	coo	17,553	14,438	coo	14,438	Cabo Verde	
China, People's Rep. of	4,997		4,997	4,271		4,271	3,518		3,518	China, People's Rep. of	
Côte d'Ivoire	2,856	t	2,856	14,585	t	14,585	15,548	t	15,548	Côte d'Ivoire	
Curaçao	20,032		0	22,723		0	23,964		0	Curaçao	
Egypt	1,955		0	1,955		0	1,405		0	Egypt	
El Salvador			0			0			0	El Salvador	
France (St. P. & M.)	1		1	0		0	23		23	France (St. P. & M.)	
Gabon			0			0			0	Gabon	
Ghana	154,442	co	18,000	172,442	co	20,000	190,680	coo	20,000	Ghana	
Guatemala, Rep. de	5,962		5,962	6,842		6,842	9,108		9,108	Guatemala, Rep. de	
Guinea Ecuatorial	1,267	t	1,267	1,267	coo	1,267	1,267	coo	1,267	Guinea Ecuatorial	
Guinea, Rep. of	2,189	t	2,189	11,423	t	11,423	10,778	t	10,778	Guinea, Rep. of	
Honduras			0			0			0	Honduras	
Iceland	2		0	5		0	4		0	Iceland	
Japan	25,442		0	25,442		0	31,150		0	Japan	
Korea, Rep. of	4,312	t	4,312	3,533	t	3,533	2,642	t	2,642	Korea, Rep. of	
Liberia			0			0			0	Liberia	
Libya	0	co	1,359	1,359	co	990	1,753	t	990	Libya	
Maroc	8,584	co	482	9,066	co	957	8,681	t	957	Maroc	
Mauritania			0			0			0	Mauritania	
Mexico	1,637		0	1,637		0	1,401		0	Mexico	
Namibia	8,449		0	8,449		0	2,461		0	Namibia	
Nicaragua, Rep. de			0			0			0	Nicaragua, Rep. de	
Nigeria	17	t	17	52	t	52	52	coo	52	Nigeria	
Norway			0			0			0	Norway	
Panama	20,668	t	20,668	12	t	12	25,224	t	25,224	Panama	
Philippines, Rep. of	1,557		1,557	764		764	1,944		1,944	Philippines, Rep. of	
Russia	3,355		0	3,355		0	1,535		0	Russia	
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	1,958	t	1,958	966	t	966	944	t	944	Saint Vincent and Grenadines	
São Tomé e Príncipe	2,229		0	2,229		0	2,359		0	São Tomé e Príncipe	
Senegal	5,997	co	337	6,334	co	199	4,136	t	199	Senegal	
Sierra Leone	10,490	t	10,490	10,490	coo	10,490	10,490	coo	10,490	Sierra Leone	
South Africa	1,550	t	1,550	4,093	t	4,093	4,935	t	4,935	South Africa	
Syrian Arab Republic	22	coo	22	25	t	25	22	t	22	Syrian Arab Republic	
Trinidad & Tobago	2,842		2,842	2,351		2,351	2,928		0	Trinidad & Tobago	
Tunisie	5,069		2,205	7,274		2,195	7,403		2,190	Tunisie	
Turkey	6,102		7,984	14,086		9,525	12,754		12,352	Turkey	
Union Européenne	275,942		204,825	480,767		202,375	460,379		203,976	Union Européenne	
United Kingdom (O.T.)	1,109		0	1,109		0	441		0	United Kingdom (O.T.)	
United States	19,996		8,519	28,515		10,139	35,066		12,949	United States	
Uruguay	1,067	t	1,067	540	t	540	480	t	480	Uruguay	
Vanuatu	764	t	764	633	t	633	587	t	587	Vanuatu	
Venezuela	7,981	co	573	8,554	t	573	8,701	t	573	Venezuela	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>696,396</b>		<b>259,620</b>	<b>956,016</b>		<b>264,164</b>	<b>959,581</b>		<b>270,100</b>	<b>901,608</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

co = Transfer of the data received (S13-3343)

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 23 June 2015)

**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 1.75 (Source: CPI Inflation/Bureau of Labor Statistics/United States Department of Labor)
c	Average 2011-2012-2013 Catches (t)
d	Average 2011-2012-2013 Canning (t)
e	Panel membership: Panel 1 = Tropical tunas; Panel 2 = Temperate tunas-North; Panel 3 = Temperate tunas-South; and Panel 4 = Other species

**Table 3 and 5**

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

**Table 4 and 6**

a	Number of Contracting Parties per group (Table 2)
b	Number of Panels in 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

**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 8****Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Appointment of Rapporteur
4. Reports from the Secretariat
  - 4.1 2015 Administrative Report
  - 4.2 2015 Financial Report
  - 4.3 Review of progress of the payment of arrears and voting rights
5. Consideration of financial implications of measures proposed and SCRS requests
6. Assistance to developing CPCs and identification of mechanism to finance the Meeting Participation Fund and other capacity building activities
7. Consideration of other programs/activities which may require additional or extra-budgetary funding
8. Consideration of procedures for approving utilisation of the Working Capital Fund
9. Review of findings of Virtual Working Group on Communications Policy and actions required
10. Procedures for selection of the Executive Secretary
11. Budget and Contracting Party contributions for 2016 and 2017
12. Election of Chair
13. Other matters
14. Adoption of the Report and adjournment

**REPORTS OF THE MEETINGS OF PANELS 1 TO 4*****REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 1*****1. Opening of the meeting**

Mr. Helguilè Shep (Côte d'Ivoire) chaired the meeting of Panel 1.

**2. Appointment of Rapporteur**

Ms. Christiane Laurent-Monpetit (France in respect of St. Pierre & Miquelon) was appointed Rapporteur.

**3. Adoption of the Agenda**

The Agenda was adopted with no modifications (attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**).

**4. Review of Panel membership**

Mr. Driss Meski, the ICCAT Executive Secretary, presented the list of members of Panel 1 which was made up of the following 37 members: Angola, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Cabo Verde, China (People's Rep.), Côte d'Ivoire, Curaçao, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea (Rep.), Honduras, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Panama, Philippines, Russia, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United States of America, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

El Salvador and Liberia requested to become members of Panel 1. The Chair welcomed the new members, bringing total panel membership to 39.

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

Dr David Die, the SCRS Chairman, presented the Executive Summaries on the three tropical tunas: bigeye, yellowfin and skipjack. A bigeye stock assessment was carried out in 2015, while yellowfin and skipjack tuna assessments were conducted in 2011 and 2014, respectively.

Tropical tuna fisheries are multi-species and multi-gear, with significant catches in recent years by purse seiners. One of the difficulties concerns the mix of the three species, of very similar sizes, which gives rise to mixed catches in some fisheries. Catches are increasingly taken under fish aggregating devices (FADs); these devices have an impact on the biology and ecology of the tunas. The SCRS is attempting to study the different impacts of FADs. The Commission has adopted successive area/time closures. These fisheries are very dynamic spatially and temporally and show an expansion towards the North and South along the African coast. However, the SCRS has stated that the area/time closure currently in place off the coast of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire has no effect on the state of stocks. The absence of effect may be linked to the short duration of the closure, and to the increase in fleet capacities during the closure outside the area concerned. A longer and larger offshore closure would have a greater effect.

The bigeye tuna assessment indicates that even though recent catches from 2012 to 2014 were lower than the TAC adopted, the stock biomass is lower than the level estimated in the 2010 assessment. The current TAC has not enabled attainment of Commission objectives. Recovery would be achieved with 49% probability by 2028 with a constant catch of 65,000 t and with 58% probability with catches of approximately 60,000 t.

As regards skipjack, the 2014 assessments of the eastern and western Atlantic stocks indicated that it was unlikely that either stock was overfished although serious uncertainties characterise the data for the eastern stock. Given the lack of quantitative findings for the eastern stock and pending the submission of additional data necessary to improve the stock assessment, however, the SCRS recommends that catch and effort levels do not exceed those of previous years for this stock.

As regards yellowfin, the SCRS has noted a strong association of younger age classes (40-80 cm) with floating objects (FADs), which accentuates the vulnerability of small fish to surface gears, in particular, purse seiners whose landings of fish aged 0 to 1 have shown a marked increase in the eastern Atlantic. According to the SCRS, the MSY estimate of around 144,600 t could be below the figure obtained in recent decades given that global selectivity has shifted towards smaller fish. In summary, the 2010 stock assessment indicated that yellowfin tuna was overfished but not subject to overfishing and that maintaining catch levels in the order of 110,000 t would result in biomass slightly above  $B_{MSY}$  by 2016 with a 60% probability.

Moreover, the Chair of Panel 1 briefly presented the Report of the First Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) held on 11 and 12 May 2015 in Madrid, Spain. Fifty participants from eight CPCs, five NGOs and Secretariat staff were present. Scientists and stakeholders from several CPCs made numerous presentations. The report addresses the different tropical tuna stocks and recalls the different management measures in force as well as the issue of FAD management by other tuna RFMOs. The group discussed a comparison of catches under FADs versus on free schools. Several lines of future work were proposed by the group, together with several recommendations regarding the SCRS and the Commission.

Dr Die highlighted that this meeting had been very productive: the group had worked well and we can be optimistic about future work.

The EU indicated that this group backed by the tropical tunas species group has been implemented adequately and that knowledge on FADs, their impact, the design to limit their impact (non-tangling FADs) were very useful. It is however clear that a lot of work needs to be done by the SCRS, the Commission but also by the Compliance Committee (COC) to ensure a sustainable FAD fishery. The EU recalled that the use of FADs is one fishing method but that it should not be looked at in isolation; it was necessary to envisage enhanced measures as from this year. The EU tabled a proposal to strengthen the FADs working group.

Following the SCRS presentation, many CPCs agreed that it was a matter of urgency to find a way to reduce juvenile bigeye catches by altering the time and area closure area in line with scientific advice to make it longer and larger. Some CPCs further suggested that the time/area closure be broadened from a prohibition on the use of FADs to a total closure.

The EU highlighted the importance of starting the tropical tunas tagging programme, noting the deficiencies in certain data. In this context, the EU asked where the gaps were in the CPUE series (bigeye tuna from 20 to 40 kg), if this absence could be linked to discards or non-compliance with reporting obligations, and whether, ultimately, this would enable closure of the data gaps. It understood the need to reduce fishing mortality in juveniles while also noting that longline fishing during 2010-2014 accounted for almost 50% of total bigeye tuna mortality by weight, and, therefore, all fishing gears must be taken into account in reducing fishing mortality on this species.

Ghana also expressed concern about the proportion of juveniles in landings. It noted that the area/time closure had not had any effect because as it has pointed out since 2010 there is no scientific basis for the closure if spawning areas are considered. The closure area is too small.

Dr Die addressed a question regarding the usefulness of a complete closure on fishing under FADs. He stated that if applied to a much larger area off the African coast and on the high sea, it would certainly lead to a decrease in FAD related catches of juveniles during the closure period. He further noted that the impacts would likely be greater for a three month closure than a two month closure.

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

Panel 1 adopted one recommendation, namely the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish an Ad Hoc Working Group on Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs)* (**Rec. 15-02**) (**ANNEX 5**) which replaces Recommendation 14-03. It contains amendments that call for the Working Group to work cooperatively with similar groups established in other regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) and ensure that the group is not constrained in the types of information it can review and the recommendations it can make.

As regards a new management measure for tropical tunas, the EU and Gabon tabled a joint proposal and Japan tabled a counter-proposal. After significant debate on the various provisions, a joint proposal, the *Recommendation by ICCAT on a Multi-annual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tunas* (**Rec. 15-01**) (**ANNEX 5**), was developed. Among other things, the recommendation lowers the bigeye tuna TAC, expands the size of the Gulf of Guinea time and area closure to FAD fishing, adjusts capacity limitations, reduces the amount of underharvest that can be carried forward from one year to the next, and amends various control measures, including observer requirements. As consensus on this measure could not be reached in the Panel, it was agreed to forward the proposal to the Commission for further consideration.

Ecology Action Centre provided a statement, which is attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9**. The Pew Charitable Trusts also provided a statement, which is attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9**.

## **7. Research**

The tropical tuna tagging programme (AOTTP) was presented. This five-year programme will enable better understanding of tuna migration as well as their ecology for a cost of €15,000,000.00. The EU will finance up to €13,480,000.00, which equates to 90% of the programme's budget. The Secretariat recently hired an AOTTP Coordinator to begin programme implementation. The Secretariat noted that ICCAT has agreed to co-finance the remaining 10% of the total programme budget, which equates to €1,520,000. In that regard, a total of €1,417,600.00 will be provided over the five year period following deduction of voluntary contributions already received from the United States (€77,400.00) and Chinese Taipei (€25,000.00). Without additional voluntary contributions the Commission will provide co-financing in the amount of €83,520.00/year over the five years of the programme from the Working Capital Fund. This arrangement will ensure the bulk of the programme funding can continue to be provided by the EU.

Moreover, the SCRS anticipates carrying out a yellowfin tuna stock assessment in 2016 and conducting studies related to biological data on yellowfin and bigeye tuna reproduction.

## **8. Election of Chair**

At the proposal of the EU, endorsed by Guinea (Rep.), Ghana, the United States, Gabon, Senegal, South Africa, Cabo Verde and Morocco, Côte d'Ivoire was re-elected as Chair of Panel 1 to serve for the next biennial period.

## **9. Other matters**

There were no other matters.

## **10. Adoption of the report**

The 2015 meeting of Panel 1 was adjourned.

The Report of Panel 1 was adopted by correspondence.

## **REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 2**

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

The meeting was opened by the Chair of Panel 2, Mr. Masanori Miyahara (Japan).

### **2. Appointment of Rapporteur**

Mr. Antonio Lizcano Palomares (European Union) was designated Rapporteur of Panel 2.

### **3. Adoption of the Agenda**

The Agenda was adopted (attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**).

### **4. Review of Panel Membership**

Panel 2 was comprised of 25 Contracting Parties: Albania, Algeria, Belize, Brazil, Canada, China (People's Rep.), Egypt, European Union, France (St. Pierre and Miquelon), Guatemala, Iceland, Japan, Korea, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Panama, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, United States and Venezuela.

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

Dr David Die (United States), Chairman of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), was responsible for the presentations on assessments and stock status of temperate tunas in the northern hemisphere, as well as the progress made on research programmes regarding these.

#### **5.1 *Albacore***

The SCRS has continued conducting intense research on the North Atlantic stock including work on the development of Management Strategies Evaluation (MSE) for northern albacore. The SCRS has analyzed several potential harvest control rules (HCRs), with different biomass thresholds for definition of limit reference points (LRPs), including simulation of alternatives and the evolution of the stock for each of them. Dr Die suggested the possibility that the Commission determine the indicators linked to the stock management objectives.

The last assessment for northern albacore was conducted in June 2013 and included data through 2011. As reflected in the SCRS Report, the stock was slightly overfished but not experiencing overfishing. The stock was projected to rebuild by 2019 with a 53% probability, which would meet the objective of the northern albacore recovery plan. With regard to the Mediterranean stock, fishing mortality was lower than  $F_{MSY}$ .

The work plan proposed by the SCRS included assessment of the North and South Atlantic albacore stocks in 2016, as an update of the 2013 assessments. The management strategies evaluation framework and simulation work would be continued. It was recommended to improve statistics on discards.

#### **5.2 *Bluefin tuna***

##### **5.2.1 *Western Atlantic stock***

Catches including discards stabilised in recent years under the TAC. The SCRS in 2015 has updated the abundance indices. Advances have been made on a combined U.S.-Canada pelagic longline observer index for the northwest Atlantic and a combined U.S.-Canada rod and reel, handline and harpoon index.

Stock status is subject to uncertainty regarding the level of recruitment potential (high or low) and mixing with the East Atlantic and Mediterranean stock. Under the high recruitment scenario, the stock is considered overfished and would not rebuild by 2019 even with no catch. Under the low recruitment scenario, the stock is above  $B_{MSY}$  with greater than 60% probability. The stock was estimated to not be undergoing overfishing under both recruitment scenarios. The SCRS did not change the recommendations on this stock issued in 2014. The SCRS strongly recommends the continuation of enhanced data collection programs and the replacement of current assessment methods with appropriate approaches (modeling) that take the unquantified uncertainties into account.

### 5.2.2 GBYP

The SCRS Chairman presented the latest progress on the ICCAT Atlantic-wide Bluefin Tuna Research Programme (GBYP). The priorities of phase 5 of the programme have been data collection, aerial surveys and electronic tagging. The aerial surveys have covered more than 60% of the surface of the Mediterranean, confirming the zones previously identified as spawning areas. The releases of conventional tags have been reduced and electronic tagging has been increased compared to the previous period. The resulting position data has provided information on migration and the high mobility of individuals. The biological age studies, genetic and micro-chemical analyses for eastern and western stocks have continued, which are of interest for determination of the mixing of both stocks. The modeling work has continued, including tools for management strategies evaluation. The continuance of the GBYP with phase 6 would require financing with a budget of €2,125,000.

One CPC expressed concern about the disappearance of some fisheries dependent indices due to the change in exploitation in recent years noting that certain aspects such as the type of recruitment in the eastern stock could be more important for knowledge of the fishery than information from aerial surveys. It was suggested that the current size data are insufficient and could be supplemented with harmonised information from data obtained through stereoscopic cameras in the caging operations of the different CPCs.

In addition, some delegations expressed frustration with delaying the assessments until 2017 to incorporate data collected under the GBYP and suggested a cost-benefit analysis be performed in the GBYP review process to make a decision on the continuation of the programme. The SCRS Chair indicated that an external review is scheduled to occur in 2016. The European Union noted a possible voluntary contribution of €1.7 million, which would cover maximum 80% of the budget for phase 6. One delegation criticized the complexity of the modeling approaches and the lack of clear results or a specific timeframe for the conclusion of the GBYP, questioning whether the results obtained to date justify the effort made.

Mexico requested expansion of the GBYP modeling work to the western stock. The SCRS Chairman stated that the establishment of priorities is the decision of the GBYP Steering Committee and contributors to the project.

### 5.2.3 Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock

The SCRS Chairman indicated that, following the drastic reduction in TAC of the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean stock recovery plan, the SCRS has observed a significant increase in the spawning stock biomass (SSB). Information on stock abundance is essentially from fishery dependent indices, CPUE, and should be confirmed with other indices. The 2014 assessment analysed three recruitment scenarios. The 2015 indices are sensitive to recruitment type. In addition, there is uncertainty about the quality of the data and spatial and temporal coverage of the catch data. Fishing mortality would be below  $F_{MSY}$  in the recruitment scenarios analysed and the Kobe matrix shows that there exists a high probability of achieving the objectives of stock recovery. Current regulations are effective in preventing existing capacity from exceeding the TAC.

### 5.2.4 Responses of the SCRS to Commission requests

The SCRS Chair addressed the SCRS responses to the following requests by the Commission:

- 1) *The SCRS shall update the Commission annually and prior to the Commission meeting, on any changes of the estimated bluefin catch rates per vessel and gear, [Rec. 14-04] paragraph 43.*

This response is presented in point 19.3 of the 2015 SCRS Report.

- 2) *Continue to explore operationally viable technologies and methodologies for determining the size and biomass at the points of capture and caging and report to the Commission, [Rec. 14-04] paragraph 82.*

This response is presented in point 19.4 of the 2015 SCRS Report.

- 3) *Evaluate the results of the 100% coverage programme using stereoscopic cameras systems or alternative techniques that provide the equivalent precision to refine the number and weight of the fish during all caging operations. [Rec. 14-04] paragraph 83.*

This response is presented in point 19.5 of the 2015 SCRS Report.

- 4) *Evaluate the bluefin tuna national observer programmes conducted by CPCs to report the Commission and to provide advice on future improvements, [Rec. 14-04] paragraph 88.*

This response is presented in point 19.6 of the 2015 SCRS Report.

- 5) *Evaluation of data deficiencies pursuant to [Rec. 05-09].*

This response is presented in point 19.7 of the 2015 SCRS Report.

#### *5.2.5 BFT work plan, both for eastern and western*

The SCRS considered that more time is needed to process the information of the tagging programme, genetics and trade statistics. This information will not be available for an assessment in 2016, but will be for 2017. The SCRS Chairman proposed that work in 2016 will include updating scientific advice based on revised projections, looking in more depth at evidence of strong eastern bluefin tuna year classes in 2004 and 2007 and advancing work to develop indices for the western stock by combining non-aggregated data from multiple CPCs.

Delegations were disappointed at the proposed postponement of the assessment scheduled for 2016. However, they called on the SCRS Chairman for clarifications on the update proposed for 2016 as well as the feasibility of an assessment with the new model in 2017. The SCRS Chair clarified that the stock status estimates and scientific advice in the 2016 update will be based on the revised projections (using 2015 catches) and updated indices; the new assessment model (which is expected to incorporate mixing rate information, among other things) would not be ready until 2017.

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

### ***6.1 Report of the Intersessional Meeting of Panel 2, held in Madrid on 23 and 24 February 2015***

The Chair of the meeting, Haruo Tominaga (Japan), presented the results of the intersessional meeting. The main issue was the consideration of the fishing, inspection and capacity management plans for 2015, proposed by the CPCs with eastern bluefin tuna quotas. A portion of these management plans were submitted within the deadline and others afterwards. A total of 14 management plans were approved, some of which were adopted by correspondence.

The intersessional meeting of Panel 2 took note of potential non-compliance by Albania, since it had submitted its management plan late and it was impossible to have the translation in the intersessional meeting, the matter was referred to the Compliance Committee for consideration. Turkey submitted a fishing plan for informative purposes. The intersessional meeting looked at the potential non-compliance issues of the regional observers programme (ROP-BFT), resulting from written and oral communication from observers. The catch of bluefin tuna by Gibraltar, which occurred outside the quota allocation scheme, was discussed; the matter was referred to the Commission for consideration.

Regarding the communication issues of the ROP-BFT, the ICCAT Secretariat indicated that it tries to hire, to the extent possible, observers that speak the language of the CPC. The Secretariat suggested that the Contracting Parties urge their operators to comply with the observer request deadlines. Some delegations were concerned by the cost of training, considering that it is not necessary to repeat the training for experienced observers. Panel 2 requested that the Secretariat continue to reduce these training costs to the extent possible.

In relation to the Gibraltar issue, Panel 2 agreed to recommend that the Commission Chairman send a letter to the Governments of the United Kingdom and Gibraltar, requesting information on bluefin tuna catches and vessels involved in this fishery.

Several delegations opened discussion on the relevance and scope of the intersessional meeting of Panel 2 held in February, considering it to be of limited usefulness to maintain a meeting in which eastern bluefin tuna management plans similar to those submitted in the previous campaign would be presented, proposing instead electronic transmission of the management plans to the ICCAT Secretariat. Other delegations considered this intersessional meeting to be necessary and useful, which would allow for readjustment of capacity plans and would facilitate monitoring by the Commission of proper compliance with management measures. The Chair of Panel 2 proposed maintaining the February intersessional meeting for another year, since it is necessary for the Commission to adopt the management plans, but indicated it may be possible to eliminate the 2017 intersessional meeting. This matter should be further considered in the Panel 2 session at the 2016 ICCAT annual meeting.

## **6.2 *Third Meeting of the Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists in support of the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment***

The Chair of the group briefly summarised the progress achieved, including advances and collaboration on issues such as the development of combined indices of abundance, acoustic studies and close-kin analysis. The group concluded that a meeting in 2016 is not necessary, leaving the decision about possibly holding a meeting in 2017 to the 2016 Panel 2 session.

Panel 2 took note of the report of the meeting of the working group and referred it to the Commission for its adoption.

## **6.3 *Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Harvest Control Rules for the North Atlantic Albacore Stock***

Following consultations with CPCs, a proposal to establish harvest control rules for northern albacore was presented by the European Union and Norway. This stock is proposed as the first candidate in the establishment of a general framework of management strategies, with an implementation schedule and a *modus operandi* i.e., the Commission would decide the management objectives, for which the SCRS would propose harvest control rules and candidate reference points.

The delegations supported the suggestion that this stock be given priority in the exercise to establish management strategies. Some delegations were concerned about the proposed schedule, which would involve work for the SCRS in 2016, as well as the guidance on the type of actions to be taken by the Commission according to the biomass levels of the stock. The SCRS Chairman confirmed that the forecasts would fit in with the work plan envisaged, and also considered it necessary to determine the guidance on the actions to be undertaken by the Commission for the SCRS to focus its work properly. Following the relevant clarifications, Canada, the EU and Norway presented a revised proposal *Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Harvest Control Rules for the North Atlantic Albacore Stock (Rec. 15-04) (ANNEX 5)*, which was adopted by Panel 2.

The Chair of Panel 2 suggested that an intersessional meeting of Panel 2 be held to conduct intersessional work on the development of HCR/MSE for North Atlantic albacore. This meeting could be held in late June or early July, following the North Atlantic albacore stock assessment. Japan informed that it could consider hosting this intersessional meeting. The intersessional meeting would include albacore and other possible issues at the request of the Contracting Parties. The Secretariat will notify the corresponding agenda. Panel 2 accepted the proposal on the holding of an intersessional meeting in June or July 2016 and referred the issue of the Commission for final decision.

Ecology Action Centre provided a statement, which is attached as **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9**. The Pew Charitable Trusts also provided a statement, which is attached as **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9**.

## **6.4 *Turkey's objection to Recommendation 14-04 and establishment of an autonomous quota***

The delegation of Turkey justified the objection as a consequence of the claim it has sustained over a decade, and the fact that the Commission has not responded to its aspirations concerning the allocation key. It considers that it has been discriminated against in relation to the reference period used and that the allocation could have been based on ICCAT recommendations in force. Given that in 2014 the stock showed clear signs of improvement and there was no response to its claim, this Contracting Party proceeded to establish an autonomous quota, following its assessment that this does not jeopardise recovery of the stock. This delegation considers that the Commission could revise Turkey's quota using non-discriminatory criteria.

The Chair of Panel 2 highlighted the seriousness of the matter, which affects the Organisation's credibility. Revision of the EBFT allocation key is scheduled for 2017, as provided for in the current recommendation to address Algeria's adjustment, but nothing has yet been decided for other Contracting Parties.

Panel 2 recognised Turkey's right to object to Recommendation 14-04 within the established deadline. However, it was concerned about Turkey's autonomous quota, and its possible impact on stock recovery. Some delegations supported Turkey's claim, suggesting that the Commission should reconsider the current allocation key. Panel 2 did not reach any conclusions on the issue.

## 7. Research

Panel 2 considered that this agenda item had been dealt with and closed in Item 5.

## 8. Election of Chair

Japan was re-elected Chair of Panel 2. Numerous delegations acknowledged the excellent work undertaken by Mr. Miyahara as Chair of Panel 2.

## 9. Other matters

Under this item, issues relevant to Panel 2 concerning *Streamlining of ICCAT conservation and management measures* were addressed.

*[98-08] Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Limitation on Fishing Capacity on Northern Albacore*

Panel 2 has postponed making a response to its 2016 session in order to have information on the North Atlantic albacore stock assessment.

*[01-08] Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT on Bluefin Tuna Research in the Central North Atlantic Ocean*

Panel 2 supports repeal of this Recommendation.

*[01-09] Resolution by ICCAT Regarding the SCRS Mixing Report on Atlantic Bluefin Tuna*

Panel 2 supports repeal of this Recommendation.

*[06-08] Resolution by ICCAT on Fishing Bluefin Tuna in the Atlantic Ocean*

A delegation considered it important to maintain this Resolution to contribute to the recovery of the western Atlantic stock.

*[14-04] Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 13-07 by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean*

It is proposed to delay notification of the bluefin tuna catches taken in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean during the previous fishing year, provided for in Article 56 of Recommendation 14-04.

The delegations considered that this obligation is related to other mandatory reporting requirements, and have therefore deferred the matter for future consideration.

## 10. Adoption of Report and closure

The 2015 meeting of Panel 2 was adjourned.

The Report of Panel 2 was adopted by correspondence.

## ***REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 3***

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

The meeting was opened by the Panel 3 Chair, Ms. Siphokazi (Mpozi) Ndudane (South Africa).

### **2. Appointment of Rapporteur**

The Secretariat agreed to serve as Rapporteur for Panel 3.

### **3. Adoption of Agenda**

The Agenda was adopted by the Panel members and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**.

### **4. Review of Panel 3 membership**

Panel 3 currently comprises 14 members as follows: Belize, Brazil, China (People's Rep.), European Union, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Mexico, Namibia, Panama, Philippines, South Africa, Turkey, United States of America and Uruguay.

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

Relevant information is contained in the 2015 SCRS Report. A stock assessment was carried out for both North and South Atlantic albacore in 2013; the stock assessment for Mediterranean albacore was carried out in 2011; no new assessment was carried out on any albacore stock in 2015. The SCRS Chair, Dr David Die, reviewed the current state of the stocks covered by this Panel, based on the outcomes of the last meeting of the SCRS held in October 2015. He noted that the albacore catches in the ICCAT Convention area are about 20% of the world albacore catch.

#### ***5.1 South Atlantic albacore***

The SCRS Chair informed the Panel that a stock assessment of South Atlantic albacore had been conducted in 2013 with data up to 2011 and no new assessment is available. Preliminary reported catches in 2014 were 13,681 t, well below the TAC of 24,000 t. This recent decline of the catch level is caused by the shifting of fishing effort by the Chinese Taipei fleet which is now targeting other species; therefore, albacore catches are mostly by-catch for this fleet. Around 70% of catches are obtained by LL, while 26% are provided by BB. Projections at a level consistent with the 2013 TAC (24,000 t) showed that probabilities of being in the green area of the Kobe plot would be higher than 50% only after 2020. Similar probabilities could be achieved earlier with lower TAC values. Likewise, lower TAC values would provide higher probabilities of being in the green area by 2020. However, larger TACs would not provide larger than 50% probability in the timeframe analyzed. Projections at  $F_{MSY}$ , without considering implementation errors, suggested that the stock biomass would not rebuild with a probability higher than 50% before 2026. Similar probabilities (higher than 50%) of rebuilding could be obtained from 2017 when projected at  $0.95 * F_{RMS}$ . The SCRS opinion is that the South Atlantic albacore stock is probably around  $SSB_{MSY}$  and  $F_{MSY}$ , but projections at a level consistent with 2012-2013 TAC showed that possibilities of being in the green area of the Kobe matrix would exceed 50% only after 2020. With catches around 20,000 t, probabilities of 50% would be exceeded by 2015 and probabilities of 60% would be exceeded by 2018. Lower catch levels would increase the probabilities within these timeframes, while catches over the present TAC will not permit the rebuilding of the stock with at least 50% probability over the projection timeframe.

#### ***5.2 Southern bluefin tuna***

This stock is currently managed by the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT).

The SCRS report had no comments from the participants.

## **6. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities* [Ref. 01-25]**

The Chair introduced the discussion about the underage and the carry-over of this underage in the following year.

The ICCAT Secretariat and Chair of Panel 3 informed about the communication received from Chinese Taipei for the carry-over of underage quantities in 2014 to be used in 2016. This communication is attached as **Appendix 6 to ANNEX 9**.

Additionally South Africa, Namibia, the USA, the EU, Korea, Brazil, UK-OTs, Uruguay and China notified their requests for the carry-over of underage quantities in 2014 to be carried over to 2016.

Japan expressed that they had already reported their underage in their compliance tables and expressed their intention of carrying this amount forward to 2016.

It was noted that the USA requested carry over for 2016, but according to Recommendation 13-06 paragraph 3, the USA does not have an individual quota assigned for southern albacore. They are therefore not entitled to carry overs as specified in Recommendation 13-06 paragraph 4.

The required amount of fish that was requested by the CPCs to be rolled over in line with Clause 4(a) of Recommendation 13-06 is 8,929 t. This is less than the 10,261 t of available fish from 2014 and thus all CPCs that requested carry overs would be accommodated and would receive their requested amounts. The schedule of CPCs requesting underages and their apportionments is included in **Appendix 7 to ANNEX 9**.

## **7. Research**

The SCRS Chair reported the recommendations provided by the albacore species group and endorsed by the SCRS. The main objective will be to conduct stock assessments for all three albacore stocks in 2016. The SCRS also intends to proceed with the Management Strategy Evaluation for albacore, to review biological parameters and to investigate the impact of environmental and other potential non-fishing related factors on population status. It was also highlighted that several countries with important albacore fisheries were not represented in the 2013 data preparatory meeting. This limited the ability of the SCRS to properly revise the basic fishery data and some standardized CPUEs that were submitted electronically. This resulted in unquantified uncertainties and negatively affected the objective of the meeting. To overcome this, the SCRS recommends that CPCs make additional efforts and be made aware of capacity building funds available for participation in and contributing to working group meetings. External expertise will also be required to address the lack of capacity to assess this stock.

## **8. Election of Chair**

The current chair Siphokazi (Mpozi) Ndudane from South Africa was reelected as chair for a further term.

## **9. Other matters**

There were no other matters.

## **10. Adoption of the Report and adjournment**

The 2015 meeting of Panel 3 was adjourned.

It was agreed to adopt the Report of Panel 3 by correspondence.

## ***REPORT OF THE MEETING OF PANEL 4***

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

The Chair of Panel 4, Mr. Fabio Hazin (Brazil), opened the meeting.

### **2. Appointment of Rapporteur**

The United States nominated Nichola Clark (US) to serve as Rapporteur for Panel 4.

### **3. Adoption of Agenda**

The Agenda (**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 9**) was adopted without changes.

### **4. Review of panel membership**

Panel 4 was comprised of the following 34 members: Algeria, Angola, Belize, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canada, China (People's Rep.), Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France (St. Pierre & Miquelon), Gabon, Guatemala, Guinea (Rep.), Honduras, Japan, Korea (Rep.), Liberia, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Sao Tomé & Príncipe, Senegal, South Africa, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Liberia and Cabo Verde requested to become members of Panel 4. The Chair welcomed the new members, bringing total panel membership to 36.

### **5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics**

The Chair of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS), Dr David Die, presented the report of the SCRS on Panel 4 species: swordfish, marlins, sailfish, small tunas, and sharks, including the detailed results of the new blue shark assessment.

#### ***5.1 Swordfish***

##### ***5.1.1 North Atlantic swordfish***

Landings for the North Atlantic swordfish stock have generally been below the total allowable catch (TAC). The fishing mortality rate is below  $F_{MSY}$  and the stock biomass is above  $B_{MSY}$ . The SCRS reported that the current TAC of 13,700 t has an 83% probability of maintaining the North Atlantic swordfish stock in a rebuilt condition by 2021. TACs of up to 14,300 t would still have a greater than 50% probability of maintaining the stock in a rebuilt condition by 2021, but would be expected to lead to greater biomass declines.

##### ***5.1.2 South Atlantic swordfish***

Landings for the South Atlantic swordfish stock have generally been below the TAC and there is a trend of decline in landings. The fishing mortality rate is below  $F_{MSY}$  and the stock biomass is above  $B_{MSY}$ . The SCRS reported that it did not have sufficient confidence in the assessment results to change its previous recommendation of limiting catches to no more than 15,000 t.

##### ***5.1.3 Mediterranean swordfish***

Landings for the Mediterranean swordfish stock have generally been declining and the stock is overfished. The SCRS also recommended that discard levels of undersized Mediterranean swordfish be closely monitored and that the Commission consider the implications of potential excess capacity in terms of vessels authorized to catch Mediterranean swordfish.

## **5.2 Marlins**

### *5.2.1 Blue marlin*

The vast majority of the assessment results indicate that this stock is subject to overfishing and is overfished. The SCRS is concerned about the effectiveness of Rec. 12-04 and the current TAC of 2,000 t, in light of severe underreporting of blue marlin catches. The SCRS noted that the use of circle hooks can reduce billfish mortality in most fisheries and recommended that the Commission consider this approach. In addition, the SCRS recommends that the Commission should consider actions to reduce fishing mortality of blue marlin from non-industrial fisheries.

### *5.2.2 White marlin*

The SCRS expressed its concern with respect to the effectiveness of Rec. 12-04, which includes a TAC of 400 t, due to misidentification of spearfishes in the white marlin catches. The SCRS also noted that one approach to reduce fishing mortality could be the use of circle hooks as terminal gear. In addition, the SCRS recommends that the Commission should consider actions to reduce fishing mortality of white marlin from non-industrial fisheries.

### *5.2.3 Sailfish*

The SCRS is concerned that the eastern and western sailfish stocks are likely below  $B_{MSY}$  and are possibly subject to overfishing. The status of the western sailfish stock is slightly more optimistic than that of the eastern stock. The SCRS recommends that catches of eastern stock be reduced from current levels and that catches of western stock should not exceed current levels.

## **5.3 Small tunas**

No stock assessments were conducted and the SCRS did not make any management recommendations, noting that the provision of scientific advice for small tuna stocks will depend on the accurate reporting of data by the CPCs. Other work is being carried out to address knowledge gaps regarding size data and biological parameters.

## **5.4 Sharks**

The SCRS Chair reported that precautionary measures should be considered for sharks, especially for those stocks that show the greatest vulnerability. The SCRS also strongly urged CPCs to submit all required statistics on shark catches, including discards, whether they are dead or alive, from commercial, recreational and artisanal fisheries.

### *5.4.1 Blue shark*

The SCRS Chair reported on the results of the 2015 blue shark assessment. While highly uncertain, the results of the North Atlantic stock assessment generally indicate that the fishing mortality rate is below  $F_{MSY}$  and the biomass is above  $B_{MSY}$ . The results of the South Atlantic stock assessment were inconclusive; some models pointed towards a healthy stock with low fishing mortality and other models suggested that there were high levels of fishing mortality and a lower stock size. The SCRS recommends that recent catch levels (2009-2013) for south Atlantic blue shark should not be increased. Though the estimations for the North Atlantic blue shark indicated that the stock was not overfished, uncertainties associated with the estimation left the SCRS unable to reach a consensus with respect to a specific quantitative management recommendation.

### *5.4.2 Shortfin mako*

Given the high vulnerability of shortfin mako sharks and the uncertainty associated with the 2012 shortfin mako stock assessment, the SCRS recommends that catches of shortfin mako should not be increased from the 2006-2010 catch levels until a more reliable stock assessment can be done.

The SCRS Chair noted that the next shortfin mako assessment will be conducted in 2017 after a 2016 intersessional meeting to review the progress on the shark research and data collection program. He noted that the SCRS intends to move towards using the statistical age-structure model, as they did for the blue shark assessment in 2015.

#### *5.4.3 Porbeagle*

The SCRS expressed concern regarding status of all porbeagle stocks, as indices for three stocks (northeast, northwest, and southwest) suggest that the biomass is below  $B_{MSY}$ . The status of the southwestern stock is unknown. The SCRS therefore recommended that porbeagle catches should not exceed current levels.

#### *5.5 SCRS responses to Commission's request*

The SCRS reported that there are data deficiencies for much of the basic information used to support ICCAT assessments. They noted that these deficiencies are more common for bycatch species than target stocks and that they are also common for small tunas and sharks. The SCRS further noted that serious data deficiencies remain for billfish, noting in particular the catches in moored FAD fisheries in several Caribbean countries over the last two decades.

#### *5.6 General comments*

The EU thanked Dr Die for the quality of his presentation and noted their concern regarding the status of the Mediterranean swordfish stock. They noted that overfishing is taking place and that the stock is in a bad situation; they believe that it is a matter of urgency to conduct a stock assessment and would prefer to see a data preparatory meeting and stock assessment in 2016.

Dr Die reminded the Panel that Mediterranean swordfish was assessed last year (2014) and noted that one of the reasons that the next assessment is scheduled for 2017 is to allow more time for new data to be reported so that the results of the assessment will be more informative. He noted that the quality of information during the last assessment was a problem and agreed that the next assessment would benefit from a data preparatory meeting.

The United States thanked Dr Die for his excellent presentation and asked him to remind the Panel of the probability of rebuilding associated with the current TACs for blue and white marlin and by what year rebuilding might occur for each stock.

Dr Die reminded the panel that the probability of rebuilding the blue marlin stock by 2026 under the current TAC of 2,000 t is 32% and that the probability of rebuilding the white marlin stock in 2022 under the current TAC of 400 t is 0%.

The United States asked Dr Die about recent progress on the impact assessment of ICCAT fisheries on sea turtles, pursuant to Rec. 10-09, noting that advice was requested by the Commission in 2010 and that the SCRS has not yet reported any preliminary results.

Dr Die reported that the SCRS Subcommittee on Ecosystems will take the initial steps to analyze catch rates of sea turtles in 2016 and it will also endeavor to evaluate the mitigation measures that have been put in place by CPCs, as requested by Rec. 10-10.

Japan asked for clarification regarding the blue marlin stock outlook specifically if noncompliance or underreporting was preventing the blue marlin stock biomass from recovering to levels that would support MSY.

Dr Die noted that the current rebuilding plan is designed to allow the biomass of blue marlin to increase, but that it did not provide a timeframe for rebuilding. He confirmed that the SCRS has expressed concern about the effectiveness of the current measures in light of the severe underreporting currently occurring in some fisheries.

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

### *6.1 Introduction of proposals*

The Chair identified ten proposals on the table for the Panel's consideration. The Chair noted that Canada is a sponsor of both draft recommendations on porbeagle and asked if the Panel should consider only the most recent recommendation "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Porbeagle Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries"; Canada confirmed that the Panel should only consider that most recent recommendation.

The Chair asked delegations to work together, in particular Brazil, United States, and Japan, to merge their separate proposals on marlins.

The Chair then asked the proponents of each proposal to give a presentation on their proposed recommendations and allow other CPCs to ask questions or clarifications. He also explained that if all CPCs agreed with a proposal presented at that stage, it would be adopted by the group; otherwise, the Panel would come back to debate the proposed recommendations in the next session.

## **6.2 Sharks**

### *6.2.1 Fins attached*

Senegal introduced the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning the Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries Managed by ICCAT”, co-sponsored by Albania, Algeria, Angola, Belize, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Côte d’Ivoire, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, France-St. P&M, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea (Rep.), Honduras, Namibia, Nigeria, Mauritania, Panama, Russia, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Kingdom-OT, United States and Venezuela. This proposal would prohibit the removal of shark fins at sea and require that all sharks be landed with their fins naturally attached (fully or partially) through the point of first landing of the shark; the recommendation would also have CPCs prohibit the sale, selling or purchasing of shark fins that are taken in contravention of this recommendation.

Uruguay noted that the prohibition of the sale and purchasing of shark fins might be problematic because it would require some sort of certification when the fins were landed. China followed on Uruguay’s concern by asking if a catch document system would be established for all shark species.

Japan noted that concerns expressed by some CPCs at the last annual meeting had not been addressed, and clarified that its biggest concern with this proposal was that it would not cover small-scale longline fisheries targeting sharks. Japan, China, and Korea all indicated that they were not ready to adopt this draft recommendation as written.

Due to a lack of consensus, this proposal was not adopted. The United States and the EU indicated their interest in making more progress on the matter next year. The United States noted that all CPCs are obligated to report on their domestic implementation of Rec. 04-10, and that a review of existing finning bans as implemented by the CPCs through their domestic legislation would help to inform the Panel’s discussion in 2016.

### *6.2.2 Porbeagle*

The EU introduced the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Porbeagle Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries”, sponsored by the EU, Canada, and the United States. This proposal would require CPCs to promptly release porbeagle sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries when brought alive alongside for taking on board the vessel. The proposal also required the Commission to consider additional measures in the event that porbeagle catches increase beyond 2014 levels.

Uruguay asked if the proposed recommendation was limited only to live sharks and also asked why the catch level was based on 2014 data. The EU clarified that the proposal specifically called for the release of live sharks and noted that they used the 2014 data as the basis because that year had a low level of catches and would therefore minimize fishing mortality on the stock and increase the probability of recovery.

Norway asked the sponsors to clarify what type of additional measures were referred to in the third paragraph of the recommendation. The EU responded that additional measures could include, but were not limited to, the reduction of allowable catches or the total prohibition of retention of porbeagle sharks.

Uruguay noted that the Global Environment Facility (GEF), under the auspices of the FAO, was in the process of conducting an assessment of the association of porbeagle shark with bluefin tuna in the South Atlantic and suggested that the SCRS cooperate with GEF and the FAO in this regard.

The proposed Recommendation was adopted by consensus in Panel 4 and forwarded to the Plenary for consideration.

### 6.2.3 *Shortfin mako*

The EU introduced the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Shortfin Mako Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries”, sponsored by the EU and the United States. This proposal would limit the catches of both stocks of shortfin mako sharks to 7,000 t, the average catch levels over the reference period 2009-2013, and would also call for the SCRS to conduct a stock assessment of shortfin mako sharks by 2017.

Japan asked why there was a global limit rather than distinguishing between northern and southern stocks and asked if the catch limit was an annual limit. The EU responded that they set a global limit because the SCRS did not separate the two stocks in their management recommendations and because the SCRS recommended that, as a precautionary measure, the catch should not be increased above recent levels. The EU also confirmed that the catch limit would be an annual catch limit.

China asked for clarification regarding the catch limit, noting that the 2014 figures in the proposal did not match the most recent record of the 2014 catch.

Namibia noted that the SCRS will do an assessment of shortfin mako shark in 2017 and suggested that the Panel wait to make any recommendations regarding shortfin mako until the SCRS has completed its assessment. The EU responded by noting that the shortfin mako shark assessment was supposed to take place in 2016 and that it was a vulnerable species that merits taking this precautionary measure.

Norway questioned the principle of managing a species caught as bycatch through a catch limit, and also questioned the mechanisms by which one would manage the species without assigning quotas to individual CPCs. The EU noted that there was a precedent for not allocating the TAC into individual quotas, providing yellowfin tuna as an example.

Uruguay echoed the comments of Norway and Namibia.

Norway clarified that it wanted to know how the bycatch would be regulated and how the burden would be shared among CPCs.

Mexico shared Norway’s concerns and also noted that climate change and associated changes in stock distribution should be taken into consideration.

Sao Tomé and Príncipe reiterated that this was not a targeted fishery and asked what steps CPCs needed to take in order to ensure that they were compliant with respect to limiting bycatch.

The EU clarified that the cap on bycatch would not be a cap on an individual CPC but would require that CPCs self-monitor to ensure that they collectively do not exceed the TAC. The Chair urged delegations to work together to find common ground.

Japan stated that it was unable to support this proposal. Due to a lack of consensus, this proposal was not adopted and was not forwarded to Plenary for consideration.

### 6.2.4 *Thresher shark*

The EU introduced the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on the Conservation of Thresher Sharks Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries in the ICCAT Convention Area”, originally sponsored by the EU. This proposal would extend the scope of the bigeye thresher shark recommendation that was adopted in 2009 to include common thresher shark. The EU reported that scientific research suggested that the common thresher shark was a vulnerable species and that it was difficult to distinguish between common thresher shark and bigeye thresher shark.

Japan stated that it was easy to differentiate between common and bigeye thresher shark and asked the EU to provide evidence that led to their conclusion. Japan also asked the EU to clarify where scientific advice had called for ICCAT to adopt conservation measures for common thresher shark.

The EU responded by noting that the ICCAT Task I data indicated that there was a potential reporting problem on thresher shark which could be a misidentification problem. The EU also noted that ICES had advised that a precautionary approach should be adopted with respect to the conservation of the common thresher shark.

China stated that the prohibition on sale of both bigeye thresher shark and common thresher shark would have to be deleted before they could support the proposal.

Japan stated that it could not support this proposal due to a lack of scientific advice from the SCRS on that matter.

Due to a lack of consensus, this proposal was not adopted and was not forwarded to Plenary for consideration.

#### *6.2.5 Blue shark*

The EU introduced the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT on Blue Shark Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries”, co-sponsored by the EU and the United States. This proposal would limit the catch of North Atlantic blue shark to 36,860 t and that of South Atlantic blue shark stock to 26,400 t. The proposed recommendation also included measures that would address data deficiencies and asked the SCRS to provide options for harvest control rules for ICCAT fisheries associated with blue shark bycatch.

Norway noted that the proposal was unclear with regards to whether it was regulating a directed fishery or bycatch and additionally noted that they believed the proper way to address the problem would be to directly address the targeted fisheries.

The EU responded by noting that the associated target species, swordfish, is already regulated and that this proposal aimed to address fishing mortality of the blue shark.

Norway suggested that other management approaches for blue shark might be preferable to catch limits, such as the closure of spawning grounds, or establishment of a minimum size. As a way forward, Norway proposed removal of the phrase “catch limits” and suggested the following text: “If the total catch for any of the blue shark stocks exceeds the level recommended by SCRS (36,860 t for North Atlantic blue shark; 26,400 t for South Atlantic blue shark), further measures shall be considered by the Commission.”

Japan conveyed its disappointment that its earlier comments were not addressed in the revised version. Japan noted that the SCRS did not identify any specific figures with respect to catch limits and suggested that the catch limit should therefore be the highest figure between 2009 and 2013 for both North and South Atlantic stocks (38,000 t for the North Atlantic stock and 34,900 t for the South Atlantic stock).

Uruguay echoed Japan’s comments.

The EU circulated a revised proposal that was no longer co-sponsored by the United States that incorporated Japan’s suggestions for higher catch limits and Norway’s edits. During the negotiations, both Norway and the United States stated that choosing the highest catch levels in the 2009-2013 timeframe would allow catches to increase and was not in line with SCRS advice and therefore neither Norway nor the United States could support the revised proposal.

The Chair noted that while CPCs were close to an agreement on this proposal, it was clear that it was not yet ready for adoption; the proposal was then deferred to the Plenary session of the Commission for further discussion.

### **6.3 Other species**

#### *6.3.1 North and South Atlantic swordfish*

The EU introduced simultaneously the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for the Conservation of North Atlantic Swordfish” and the “Draft Recommendation by ICCAT for the Conservation of South Atlantic Swordfish”. These proposals were intended to provide legal clarity and harmonize provisions that apply to both the southern and northern stocks. Both proposals included the new vessel listing requirements similar to those in Rec. 14-01. The EU explained that the purpose of adding these proposed measures was to address a problem with the South Atlantic swordfish being laundered as Indian Ocean swordfish.

China asked if the addition of the vessel listing measures would apply to swordfish caught as bycatch in the bigeye tuna fishery. The EU responded by noting that vessels catching swordfish as bycatch would already be covered by the vessel listing requirements in Rec 14-01.

Mexico asked the EU to clarify the transfer authorizations outlined in paragraphs 3 and 4; the EU responded that the text reflected the existing measures and was not part of its amended proposal.

Japan asked for clarification regarding vessel registration, specifically noting that it wanted to avoid having to re-register the 245 Japanese vessels already registered through ICCAT as tropical tuna vessels. Japan indicated that they could support this proposal as long as re-registration was not necessary.

Brazil echoed Japan's comments.

The United States asked the EU to ensure that the vessel listing text in the proposals was consistent with the existing language in paragraphs 10 and 11 of Rec 14-01.

Canada noted that paragraph 20 should clarify that the assessment will happen in 2017 and not in 2016.

The two Draft Recommendations were deferred to the Plenary session of the Commission for further discussion. For the South Atlantic proposal, the revised version deleted the reference to the vessel listing measures but retained the paragraphs on the minimum size requirements.

### *6.3.2 Blue marlin and white marlin*

Brazil introduced the "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue and White Marlin Stocks", co-sponsored by Brazil and the United States. This Recommendation extended the current TACs for 2016, 2017, and 2018; the proposal also encouraged the use of circle hooks.

Japan introduced its "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue and White Marlin Stocks". Japan explained that its proposal extended Rec. 12-04 for three more years and also called for CPCs to endeavor to provide better data to the SCRS. They also clarified that they believed it was premature to encourage CPCs to use circle hooks.

The Chair requested that the United States, Brazil, and Japan work together to merge their two proposals on marlins.

There was a revised "Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Further Strengthen the Plan to Rebuild Blue and White Marlin Stocks" that superseded the previous two proposals related to marlins.

The United States indicated that the revised draft included a change to paragraph 12 to improve data collection and the deletion of the paragraph encouraging the use of circle hooks. The United States expressed its disappointment that the paragraph on circle hooks was not accepted by other CPCs, noting that the SCRS had provided advice on this matter.

Japan indicated that it still had some minor concerns with paragraph 11 and 12, noting that it would like to see those two paragraphs streamlined.

Senegal and Cote d'Ivoire supported the proposal.

Mexico noted that this proposal asked for information on sailfish and indicated that it would like sailfish to be excluded from the measure.

The proposal was deferred to the Plenary session of the Commission for further discussion.

## **7. Research**

The Chair noted that the Panel had already received a presentation from the SCRS Chair. There were no additional questions for the SCRS.

## **8. Election of Chair**

Mexico nominated Brazil to continue in this position.

Japan, Uruguay, the United States, Tunisia, South Africa, Senegal, Cabo Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, and the EU all thanked Dr. Fabio Hazin for his service and endorsed Mexico's nomination of Brazil.

The Chair thanked the CPCs for their nomination and accepted the nomination on behalf of Brazil to serve as the Chair of Panel 4 for the next two years.

## **9. Other matters**

The United States noted that the document "*Streamlining of ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures*" was referred to Panel 4 for its consideration.

The Secretariat noted that Recommendation 94-14 (identified in the document referred to above) was redundant except for one sentence and asked that this matter be considered.

The United States suggested that the Panel deal with Rec. 94-14 next year when the Panel addresses both swordfish recommendations. Japan noted that the EU proposed a similar measure in its proposals.

It was decided that both Recs. 94-14 and 01-04 would be considered alongside their complementary proposals during the Plenary session and if a decision was not made during the Plenary session this year, the Panel would discuss these two matters at the 2016 annual meeting.

Ecology Action Centre provided a statement which is attached as **Appendix 8 to ANNEX 9**. Oceana provided a statement which is attached as **Appendix 9 to ANNEX 9**. And Defenders of Wildlife, Humane Society International, Project Aware, Shark Advocates International and Shark Trust provided a joint statement which is attached as **Appendix 10 to ANNEX 9**.

## **10. Adoption of the Report and adjournment**

The 2015 meeting of Panel 4 was adjourned.

The Report of Panel 4 was adopted by correspondence.

## 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. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*
7. Research
8. Election of Chair
9. Other matters
10. 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. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*
7. Research
8. Election of Chair
9. Other matters
10. 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. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*
7. Research
8. Election of Chair
9. Other matters
10. Adoption of the report and adjournment

### ***Panel 4***

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Review of Panel membership
5. Report of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS)
6. Measures for the conservation of stocks and implementation of the *ICCAT Criteria for the Allocation of Fishing Possibilities*
7. Research
8. Election of Chair
9. Other matters
10. Adoption of the report and adjournment

**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 9****Statement by Ecology Action Centre to Panel 1**

According to the 2015 stock assessment, the Atlantic bigeye stock is both overfished and experiencing overfishing. Bigeye fisheries are also suffering, with maximum sustainable yield steadily decreasing and the adult biomass required to produce maximum sustainable yield increasing. According to the SCRS, the prolific use of fish aggregating devices (FADs) that promote the removal of juvenile bigeye is a significant factor in driving these negative changes to both the stock and to the fisheries that target it.

Panel 1 should develop and move to implement a recovery plan for the Atlantic bigeye stock at this 24th meeting. In order to be effective, a bigeye recovery plan should, at minimum, include:

- A reduction in the bigeye total allowable catch (TAC) to 50,000 tonnes, the largest TAC that would provide a 60% likelihood of ending overfishing within a year and a 75% likelihood of recovering the stock by 2028;
- An end to rollover of underages in bigeye catch from year to year;
- The inclusion of all minor harvesters within the allocation key to ensure that the true catch does not exceed the TAC.

The above points are essential to give the bigeye stock a chance to recover in the near future, but they must be coupled with changes to the current management system in order to address the unsustainable removal of juvenile bigeye associated with FADs. Panel 1 should develop a set of recommended measures to reduce the mortality of small bigeye tuna from FADs this year.

**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 9****Statement by The Pew Charitable Trusts to Panel 1**

This year, Panel 1 must take immediate action to improve bigeye fisheries management within the Convention area. The most recent stock assessment indicated that the Atlantic stock of bigeye tuna is both overfished and experiencing overfishing. The maximum sustainable yield has been steadily decreasing in recent years, and the biomass necessary to produce that declining yield has increased. The SCRS has clearly stated that the combination of a growing reliance on fish aggregating devices (FADs) in the eastern Atlantic and the tendency for FAD fishing to disproportionately remove juvenile bigeye is a significant driver of the current state. In a response to ICCAT on the efficacy of the FAD area/time closure in the Gulf of Guinea, the SCRS reported – unequivocally – that it has not achieved its purpose of reducing juvenile bigeye catch.

The Pew Charitable Trusts urges the members of Panel 1 to:

1. Develop a multi-year recovery program for bigeye that initially involves a total allowable catch (TAC) of 50,000 t per year. This is the maximum amount that gives a 60% likelihood of ending overfishing within one year and a 75% likelihood of recovering the stock by 2028. As part of the recovery program, the so-called “minor harvesters” should be included in the allocation key, to ensure that the TAC is not exceeded. Similarly, catch underages should no longer be rolled over from year to year. Reduced capacity and increased observer coverage also may be necessary to ensure that these parameters of the recovery program are successful.
2. Take the necessary steps to better manage FAD fishing, in order to prevent the unsustainable removal of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tunas. In its current form, the Gulf of Guinea area/time closure is ineffective, but with a better design, it would likely have a better chance at success. According to the SCRS, a more effective closure would be larger, farther offshore, and for a longer period of time. It should also be designed in such a way as to prevent redistribution of FAD-fishing effort. Furthermore, the closure should be one piece of a larger package of tools to reduce the mortality of juvenile tunas. Limits on the number of purse seine sets on FADs and controls on FAD deployment are two more tools that must be considered. ICCAT should direct the Working Group on FADs and the SCRS to investigate the impact that FAD purse seine limits and FAD deployment limits would have on the mortality of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tunas.

A management strategy that combines these tools/measures would help solidify ICCAT's reputation as an organization committed to ending overfishing of the species under its management.

#### **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 9**

##### **Statement by Ecology Action Centre to Panel 2**

Important discussions around establishing management procedures for priority species took place in June of this year at the Second Meeting of the ICCAT Working Group to Enhance the Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM). These tools can offer particular advantages over the traditional approach to fisheries management. They can help to account for risk and allow for the balancing of trade-offs, enable managers to act swiftly and efficiently to ensure the health of the resource and long-term profitability, and effectively implement best practices in modern fisheries management.

While the overarching discussion to advance these management procedure tools will take place in Plenary, the recommendation from the SWGSM was for "the Panels commence discussion to identify management objectives, as well as, relevant parameters for Harvest Control Rules and performance indicators on a stock by stock basis."

We therefore recommend that Panel 2 agree to a timeline to adopt a management strategy for priority species, including Atlantic bluefin tuna, by 2017, which includes deadlines for defining target and limit reference points, as well as a suite of possible harvest control rules. In doing so, Panel 2 should set at least a 75% probability of achieving the established target with only a 5% likelihood of breaching the limit; make clear that a fishery will be suspended and scientific monitoring instituted when limits are breached; and fully support the SCRS in developing a Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) tool including direct engagement with managers when necessary.

#### **Appendix 5 to ANNEX 9**

##### **Statement by The Pew Charitable Trusts to Panel 1**

This year, Panel 2 has a clear opportunity and responsibility to focus on formulating a vision for the future of ICCAT-managed fisheries through the development of stock-specific harvest strategies. When designed appropriately, pre-agreed harvest strategies increase the predictability, transparency and efficiency of management; contribute to the sustainability and profitability of fisheries; and greatly strengthen management at the Commission.

In June, the Second Meeting of the ICCAT Working Group to Enhance Dialogue between Fisheries Scientists and Managers (SWGSM) recommended that "the Panels commence discussion to identify management objectives, as well as, relevant parameters for HCR and performance indicators on a stock by stock basis." An overarching Recommendation to advance these tools is being discussed in Plenary here in Malta. We urge the members of Panel 2 in Malta to follow the SWGSM's recommendation in the spirit of the newly proposed Recommendation by:

1. Adopting a pilot harvest strategy for northern albacore; and
2. Setting management objectives for Atlantic bluefin tuna.

To ensure robust and effective harvest strategies that are consistent with relevant international and domestic agreements to which ICCAT members have committed, both efforts should include the following elements:

- A requirement to immediately end overfishing;
- A requirement that rebuilding plans be designed to have at least a 75% chance of success;
- Agreement that if the biomass-based limit reference point is breached, the management action would include immediate fishery suspension and the initiation of scientific monitoring;
- Precautionary biomass-based target and/or threshold reference point(s) that will drastically reduce the likelihood (e.g., to less than 10%) of breaching the limit reference point;
- A target fishing mortality rate of  $0.8F_{MSY}$  to maximize the likelihood that the stock remains in the green quadrant of the Kobe plot;
- A request to the SCRS to present the projected results of a suite of candidate harvest control rules for bluefin tuna to the Commission in 2016.

The albacore pilot harvest strategy and bluefin management objectives adopted by the Commission this year should be evaluated by the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics (SCRS) using management strategy evaluation (MSE). The results of the MSE should be presented to the Commission in 2016 and 2017, respectively, in order to adopt final harvest strategies for the stocks in 2017. It is imperative that ICCAT go down the path toward harvest strategy-based management to help to fully rebuild bluefin and northern albacore stocks and protect them from future declines.

### Appendix 6 to ANNEX 9

#### Statement by Chinese Taipei to Panel 3

Chinese Taipei would like to take this opportunity to inform this panel that the underage of southern albacore catch of Chinese Taipei in 2014 is intended to be used in 2016. Based on the catch report provided by our fishing vessels, the provisional catches of southern albacore were 6,675 metric tons in 2014. After deducting this amount, we own an underage of 2,725 metric tons.

According to item a), paragraph 4 of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on the Southern Albacore Catch Limits for the Period 2014 to 2016* (Rec. 13-06), underage of the annual quota in 2014 may be added to the respective quota for specific CPC in 2016 to the maximum limit of 25% of their original quota. Hence, Chinese Taipei intends to use the portion of the underage 2,350 metric tons in 2016 and requests the recording in the minutes of Panel 3.

### Appendix 7 to ANNEX 9

#### A schedule of CPCs requesting carry-over of 2014 underages in accordance with Rec. 13-06

CPCs	Original TAC per 2013 table	2014 Allocation	2014 Catch	2014 Balance	Maximum Allowable Carry Over 25% of Original Allocation	CPCs that have requested Carry Over	Recommended Carry Over
Namibia	5000	3600	1044	2556	900	Yes	900
South Africa	5000	4400	3719	681	1100	Yes	1100
Brazil	3500	2160	438.45	1721.55	540	Yes	540
Uruguay	1200	440	0	440	110	Yes	110
C.Taipei	13000	9400	6675	2725	2350	Yes	2350
Angola	50	50	50	0	12.5		12.5
Belize	300	250	98.36	151.64	62.5		62.5
China	100	100	33.82	66.18	25	Yes	25
Cote d'Ivoire	100	100	0	100	25		25
Curacao	50	50	0	50	12.5		12.5
EU	1540	1470	335.36	1134.64	367.5	Yes	367.5
Japan	342.28	1725	1202.4	522.6	338.75	Yes	338.75
Korea	150	140	3.42	136.58	35	Yes	35
Panama	100	25	0.3	24.7	6.25		6.25
Philippines	150	140	18	122	35		35
St Vincent & Grenadi	100	100	109.83	-9.83	25		25
UK-St Helena	100	100	0	100	25	Yes	25
USA	100	100	0	100	25		25
Vanuata	100	100	91	9	25		25
	30982.28	24080	13818.94	10261.06	6020		6020

Note: Japan received a transfer of 100 t from Brazil, 50 t from Namibia and 220 t from Uruguay in 2014.

#### Statement by Ecology Action Centre to Panel 4

Panel 4 has not taken significant actions to reduce shark mortality in the Convention area in several years. With growing support for many proposals and recommendations to cap or reduce mortality from the SCRS, Panel 4 has the opportunity to address sharks by taking the following actions this year:

- Support a proposed ‘fins naturally attached’ regulation this year to strengthen the safeguard for sharks

ICCAT was the first RFMO to ban shark finning, but loopholes exist with the 5% rule, which mean illegal shark fins are still being landed. Requiring sharks to be landed with fins attached at the first point of landing is the most straightforward way of enforcing the finning ban and will greatly improve species-specific data collection for sharks.

- Prohibit the retention of porbeagle sharks in the ICCAT Convention area

According to the SCRS, porbeagle sharks are one of the most vulnerable sharks in the ICCAT area; they have also been assessed as Endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. Furthermore, the SCRS advises that precautionary management measures should be considered for shark stocks where there is the greatest biological vulnerability and conservation concern.

- Establish precautionary catch limits for both shortfin mako and blue sharks

The SCRS continues to recommend that fishing mortality should not increase for shortfin mako.

Specifically, the “Committee reiterates, as a precautionary approach, that catches of shortfin mako sharks should not be increased with respect to the 2006-2010 levels until more reliable stock assessment results are available for both the Northern and Southern stocks.”

The SCRS Ecological Risk Assessment has also identified blue sharks as vulnerable and recommends measures to ensure catches stay within the Convention objective. This year, the SCRS recommends that, “methods for mitigating shark by-catch by these fisheries also need to be investigated and applied.” Further, the Committee recommends that recent catch levels (2009-2013) should not be increased for the South Atlantic stock of blue sharks. While the Committee could not reach a consensus on a specific management recommendation for the North Atlantic stock, the Commission needs to act with precaution to ensure sustainable harvest of blue shark is maintained before this shark becomes as depleted as other shark species in the Convention area.

#### Appendix 9 to ANNEX 9

#### Statement by Oceana to Panel 4

2015 is a crucial year for Panel 4 – obstacles in the path towards sustainable fisheries management of all species under ICCAT's purview should be eliminated, while finally addressing two long-standing obligations: recovering Mediterranean swordfish to MSY levels and managing commercially exploited blue shark and shortfin mako.

- Mediterranean swordfish (inaction is not an option)

The stock assessment run in 2014<sup>1</sup>, reported that Mediterranean swordfish has been and remains overfished. This stock is currently in a bleak situation, with over 70% of its catches composed of juveniles, and a biomass that has declined by 2/3 since the 80s.

The too long neglected and unaddressed overexploitation of Mediterranean swordfish is creating the negative precedent of setting a double-standard within ICCAT. 67% of tuna and tuna-like stocks under ICCAT purview are managed on the basis of catch limits aimed at meeting Convention objectives. Yet, despite over 30 years of overfishing and an oversized fleet composed of over 15,800 vessels – 77% of all ICCAT vessels – targeting Mediterranean swordfish, this stock's catches remain unfortunately completely unregulated.

<sup>1</sup> Report of the 2014 ICCAT Mediterranean Swordfish Stock Assessment Meeting (Heraklion, Greece – July 21 to 25, 2014).

Considering the bleak status of Mediterranean swordfish, ICCAT should adopt a recovery plan to rebuild this stock so as to ensure a high probability of ending overfishing in as short a period as possible, in line with Recommendation 11-13.

As the leading RFMO, ICCAT should ensure consistency and coherence when addressing management for stocks under its purview. Setting different standards for adjacent stocks, like the Atlantic and the Mediterranean swordfish, not only affects the status of the resource but also leaves the doors open to illegal fishing.

In order to achieve the Convention objective, the SCRS indicate that a reduction in fishing mortality is required. The SCRS suggest this reduction could eventually be achieved within the measures laid out in Recommendation 13-14. However, the effectiveness of these measures has been impossible to evaluate because of the lack of compliance with reporting obligations by certain CPCs on this particular stock. In addition, the 2014 stock assessment was conducted in the absence of Task 1 data from the major catching state for this particular stock, which likely interfered with the final outcome of the exercise.

Noting the dramatic status of the stock, Oceana urges ICCAT to act without delay and ensure the proper recovery of this stock by:

- i. Adopting a recovery plan for Mediterranean swordfish with a clear management target to urgently rebuild the stock to MSY levels through a Total Allowable Catches regime.
- ii. Requesting that the SCRS conduct a new stock assessment, to assess the targets and provide advice on any readjustment to catch levels needed in light of the new, more complete scientific information available.
- iii. Balancing fleet capacity with fishing possibilities within MSY.
  - Address the management of sharks

During the last three years, ICCAT has not agreed on any significant new management measures for sharks. With many shark species of interest to ICCAT considered threatened or nearly threatened, and increasing global attention on the need for cooperative management and conservation of sharks, it is clearly long overdue for ICCAT to demonstrate that it can manage its shark fisheries responsibly.

Oceana calls on ICCAT Contracting Parties to take immediate management action on three major aspects of shark management:

1. Require sharks to be landed with their fins naturally attached, thereby closing long-standing loopholes in the ICCAT ban on shark finning: in 2004, ICCAT adopted Rec. 04-10 in an attempt to prohibit the wasteful practice of shark finning, but this recommendation includes loopholes that allow illegal finning to continue. Incentives for finning remain, particularly for species prohibited for retention, or whose meat has low commercial value. Fisheries scientists recommend that the most effective approach to banning shark finning is to land sharks with their fins still naturally attached. A growing number of ICCAT CPCs are already adopting 'fins-attached' policies, including major shark fishing CPCs that together account for more than 75% of shark catches reported to ICCAT – suggesting that fins-attached is a feasible option for implementation across the Convention area. By requiring sharks to be landed with their fins attached, ICCAT would finally implement an enforceable ban on shark finning, would aid collection of key species-specific data on shark catches, and would help to enforce prohibitions on threatened species whose fins are valuable in trade. ICCAT should not permit a small minority of CPCs to once again block this measure from being adopted.
2. Set science-based, precautionary catch limits for major commercially fished shark species in ICCAT fisheries, such as blue shark and shortfin mako: blue sharks rank 4th in ICCAT species in terms of catch volumes reported. Within the ICCAT Convention area however, their fishery still lacks any management. Precautionary catch limits should be adopted in order to ensure blue shark fisheries remain within the exploitation boundaries established by the Commission. The last stock assessment of shortfin mako in 2012 produced very uncertain results, and the SCRS recommendation is straightforward: catches of shortfin makos should not be permitted to increase until more reliable stock assessment results are available.

3. Prohibit the retention, landing, and trade of highly threatened species, such as porbeagles: porbeagle sharks (*Lamna nasus*) are critically endangered in the Mediterranean and North-East Atlantic, and endangered in the North-West Atlantic. The joint ICCAT/ICES porbeagle assessment in 2009 concluded that stocks were so depleted that recovery would take decades, or under if there were no longer any catches. Some nations and international bodies have already implemented conservation measures for porbeagle within the ICCAT Convention area. Retention, landing, and/or directed fisheries are prohibited by the EU, Uruguay, and NEAFC. In the Mediterranean, retention, landing, and trade are prohibited under the Barcelona Convention and GFCM. Globally, a CITES Appendix II listing of porbeagle entered into effect in September 2014, thereby requiring controls on international trade. Within ICCAT, however, no management measures have yet been adopted for porbeagle.

## Appendix 10 to ANNEX 9

### **Joint statement by Defenders of Wildlife, Humane Society International, Project Aware, Shark Advocates International and Shark Trust to Panel 4**

Sharks are among the most vulnerable animals taken in high seas fisheries for tuna and swordfish. ICCAT has led the world's Regional Fishery Management Organizations in adoption of shark conservation measures, but has yet to agree basic, science-based limits for key shark species, or to align its finning ban with best practices.

At the 2015 annual meeting, we urge ICCAT to:

- Establish caps on shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*) and blue shark (*Prionace glauca*) catches;
- Prohibit the retention of porbeagle sharks (*Lamna nasus*);
- Require that sharks be landed with all fins still naturally attached; and
- Expand the Convention scope for enhanced elasmobranch conservation.

Our organizations focus on conservation of sharks due to the low reproductive capacity that leaves these species exceptionally vulnerable to overexploitation. We are deeply concerned about the precarious status of pelagic sharks taken in ICCAT fisheries due to the lack of science-based fishing quotas, as well as poor compliance with existing limits and best practices. The reasons behind our requests for our specific ICCAT actions for sharks are outlined below.

#### **A stronger finning ban**

We are very pleased by the growing number of countries proposing the best practice for shark finning ban enforcement (requiring that all sharks be landed with fins still naturally attached) at Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMOs) around the world. As detailed in the 2010 expert report from the European Elasmobranch Association and the Shark Specialist Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)<sup>1</sup>, under such a “fins-attached” policy:

- Enforcement burden is greatly reduced;
- Information on species and quantities of sharks landed is vastly improved; and
- “High-grading” (mixing bodies and fins from different animals) is impossible.

A ban on at-sea shark fin removal by ICCAT would underscore the strong precedent for other RFMOs set last year at the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), and would help to prevent this wasteful practice throughout the Atlantic Ocean.

#### **Blue sharks**

We are disappointed that the latest stock assessment for heavily fished and increasingly retained blue sharks (*Prionace glauca*) remains uncertain, yet stress that uncertainty should not be used as an excuse for inaction. The precautionary approach, the Standing Committee for Research and Statistics (SCRS) recommendation that South Atlantic catches not increase, and the benefits of consistent action across the Convention area together support an ICCAT limit that at least caps blue shark landings.

#### **Shortfin mako sharks**

We are deeply concerned about the lack of catch limits in place for the shortfin mako shark (*Isurus oxyrinchus*), one of the world's most valuable and vulnerable pelagic sharks. According to the SCRS:

- In ICCAT’s three Ecological Risk Assessments (ERAs) since 2008, the shortfin mako has ranked 2nd or 3rd among 16 pelagic elasmobranch species with respect to vulnerability to ICCAT fisheries.
- Fishing mortality on shortfin mako sharks “should not be increased until more reliable stock assessment results are available for both the northern and southern stocks.”
- “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.”

We recognize the pressing need for improved shortfin mako data with which to improve population assessments, and appreciate plans to do so over the next two years. In the meantime, however, biological vulnerability and status uncertainty in the face of high demand and fishing pressure continue to urgently warrant limits to at least cap mako landings. Given that ICCAT has taken stronger action for five shark species with lower ERA rankings, we see no valid excuse for continuing to leave mako sharks wholly unprotected from overfishing.

### **Porbeagle sharks**

We strongly support EU efforts to secure an ICCAT prohibition on retention, transshipment, storage, landing, and sale of porbeagle sharks (*Lamna nasus*), another exceptionally valuable and vulnerable shark species. We stress that the porbeagle, which ranks 4th in the latest ICCAT ERA, is among the most imperiled sharks taken in ICCAT fisheries: the IUCN has classified this species as *Vulnerable* globally, *Endangered* in the Northwest Atlantic, and *Critically Endangered* off Europe.

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<sup>1</sup> Fowler, S. and Séret, B. 2010. *Shark fins in Europe: Implications for reforming the EU finning ban*. European Elasmobranch Association and IUCN Shark Specialist Group.

## REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE (COC)

### 1. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC) was opened on Thursday, 12 November 2015 by the Chairman, Mr. Derek Campbell (United States).

### 2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Mr. Jamie Walsh (EU) was appointed to serve as Rapporteur.

### 3. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda had been circulated prior to the 2015 meeting of the Conservation and Management Measures Compliance Committee (COC).

The United States requested that the Committee consider the implementation of the *Recommendation by ICCAT to establish minimum standards for fishing vessel scientific observer programs* (Rec. 10-10) under agenda item 5.5 given concerns that the objectives of this recommendation are not being achieved at least in part due to a lack of reporting.

The United States also noted its intention to introduce the concept of an online reporting tool for consideration by the COC under agenda item 8. Such a tool would simplify reporting as well as improve consistency and accessibility of information.

The Chairman noted these points and the Agenda was adopted and is attached as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 10**.

### 4. Review of actions taken by CPCs in response to letters of concern/identification arising from the 2014 meeting

The Chairman initiated a general discussion of CPC responses to the 2014 Commission letters, including actions taken. 24 Contracting Parties and 2 Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties received letters of concern about fishery related activities. This was an improvement on previous years and is an indication of progress made on compliance issues. 13 responses from CPCs were received by the response request date of 30 days prior to the annual meeting. These responses were collated by the Secretariat in "Responses from Contracting Parties to letters of concern and to Chair's letters received before 10 October 2015". One Chair's letter was sent to Venezuela but a reply had not been received.

The Chairman emphasized the importance of timeliness and completeness in responding to letters of concern. Responses to these letters are important in advancing the work of the Compliance Committee, the SCRS and the Commission, including by demonstrating the commitment of CPCs to the implementation of ICCAT measures. Improvements in response rates were noted from past years. In general, the Chairman was pleased with the content of a number of letters that offered details on concrete measures taken to address compliance issues. The Chairman proposed that specific CPC issues addressed by the responses would be taken up under agenda item 5 in conjunction with examination of the "Compliance summary tables", which are attached as **Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**.

The Chairman signaled his intention to consult with the Secretariat during the intersessional period to examine how the information received from CPCs in their replies to letters of concern as well as other relevant compliance information, might be summarised and packaged to help facilitate a more efficient review.

## 5. Review of implementation of and compliance with ICCAT requirements

### 5.1 Compliance tables

The Chairman noted that under the *Recommendation by ICCAT to Clarify the Application of Compliance Recommendations and for Developing the Compliance Annex* (Rec. 11-11), compliance reporting tables must be submitted by CPCs by September 15 and are the primary means of evaluating each CPC's compliance with catch and size limits and for ensuring transparency in adjusting quotas and applying payback rules.

The Chairman regretted that there continues to be a significant number of late or incomplete submissions from CPCs and reiterated the importance of submitting tables, including zero catches (if applicable). The Chairman added that the Secretariat is available to answer queries from CPCs on the completion of compliance tables and encouraged CPCs to seek assistance if required.

During the reporting period, six CPCs did not submit compliance tables. The Chairman requested these CPCs to submit their compliance tables or submit an explanation to the Secretariat as to why they did not make a submission.

On a general note concerning the compliance tables, which are attached as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 10**, the EU requested that a column be added to the quotas to highlight the available quota that is offered for the coming year. The European Union stressed that such transparent information is important to help prevent laundering of illegal catch.

The compliance tables were approved with certain exceptions, N-ALB was held open as data for St. Vincent and the Grenadines was pending. Approval of this table will be done by correspondence through the intersessional adoption of the meeting report. In addition, the adjusted quota for S-ALB for 2015 and 2016 will also be approved by correspondence taking into account the work on this issue by Panel 3 as reflected in the report of that body. Finally the COC left open the WHM and BUM tables in order to resolve a number of issues at the 2016 annual meeting including which fisheries the 2012 marlin recommendation applies to.

### 5.2 CPC Annual Reports, Statistical data summaries, Compliance summaries

Annual Reports submitted by the CPCs were compiled by the Secretariat into the document Annual Reports of Contracting Parties. The Chairman recalled the Revised Guidelines for the Preparation of Annual Reports (Ref. 12-13). This format was designed to assist the Secretariat in processing information, streamline reporting by CPCs, and facilitate review of compliance by the Compliance Committee.

The Chairman noted that CPCs are improving their rate of compliance with submission of Annual Reports in accordance with ICCAT rules. However, the Chairman reminded CPCs of the new format and noted that the Secretariat is still receiving the old format from some CPCs. It is primarily through the Annual Reports, compliance tables, and other reporting requirements that the COC is in a position to assess the compliance of CPCs. Failure to submit required reports and information or incorrect submissions severely inhibits the work of the Committee and is very time consuming. The Chairman encouraged CPCs to make use of the ICCAT website (<http://www.iccat.es/en/SubmitCOMP.htm>) and to contact the Secretariat as early as possible if there are any issues or questions in relation to the completion of Annual Reports.

The Chairman noted that in many cases where CPCs have submitted their Annual Report correctly some of the fields in the reporting form are blank and include no explanation as to why this is the case. The use of 'Non-Applicable' (N/A) by CPCs should be explained in sufficient detail, particularly with respect to requirements to report on steps taken avoid catches of sharks, turtles and seabirds or to mitigate those interactions. As the effort to understand the reasons for N/A submissions slows down the work of the Committee, the Chairman felt it might be necessary to raise this in individual CPC reviews. Japan and the United States concurred with the Chairman.

### 5.3 Inspection and observer reports

Summary information on inspection and observer reports was compiled by the Secretariat in the document "Issues of potential non-compliance reported by observers under the ICCAT Regional Observer Programmes". The Chairman drew attention to the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme for Transshipment (ROP-Trans) where a total of sixty-seven potential non-compliance (PNC) alerts were issued by observers during the past year.

Forty-nine of these were confirmed cases of non-compliance by the concerned CPCs prior to the ICCAT annual meeting; responses to three issues had not been received by the time of the meeting. Almost all PNCs have been subject to responsive action by the CPCs concerned.

A total of one hundred and eight potential non-compliance alerts were issued by observers embarked on purse seine vessels under the ROP-BFT in 2015. Following investigation, the CPCs confirmed a total of 37 cases of non-compliance (4 still under investigation, and no response received on one issue).

A total of forty-nine potential non-compliance alerts were issued by observers deployed on bluefin tuna farms or traps under the ROP-BFT in 2015. Following investigation, the CPCs have reported that only four PNC reports were confirmed.

There was some discussion of the new ST09 Observer data collection forms. The use of this form was approved by the Commission in 2014. The Chairman noted that the SCRS Sub-Committee on Ecosystems noted some difficulty with the use of the new ST09 form. Ghana and the EU requested also clarification on the reporting procedure for observer data related to tropical tuna, and considered the ST09 form should be submitted by the flag CPC and not directly delivered by the observer to the Secretariat, as it was the case under the ROP-TROP. Consequently to the termination of the ROP-TROP, the Annex 4.4 of Rec 14-01 should be modified accordingly. The confidentiality requirements are causing some complications in this regard.

The Chairman drew attention to the “ICCAT Secretariat Report to the Compliance Committee Regarding Compliance with ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures Currently In Force”, which summarizes submissions relating to the implementation of *Recommendation by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port* (Rec. 12-07). This measure requires CPCs to submit to ICCAT lists of ports in which landings or transshipments by foreign flagged vessels are authorized. Twenty CPCs did not submit this information, which makes it difficult to determine the applicability of the measures and to make an accurate assessment of compliance. A number of CPCs have indicated that the measure is not applicable. It was agreed that details on why it is not applicable to certain CPCs should be provided. The EU explained that no landing or transshipment under Rec. 12-07 occurred in its designated ports, which justifies the absence of port inspection reports.

#### **5.4 Information on implementation of shark recommendations**

The Chairman noted that in 2012, ICCAT adopted *Recommendation by ICCAT on Compliance with Existing Measures on Shark Conservation and Management* (Rec. 12-05) as a means to improve the Commission’s ability to review the implementation of and compliance with seven ICCAT shark measures by requiring CPCs to report steps taken to implement these measures by 2013. The Chairman recalled that ICCAT Recommendations 04-10; 07-06; 09-07; 10-08; 10-07; 11-08; 11-15 concern shark conservation measures yet, there has been limited progress on the implementation of Rec. 12-05.

The Chairman noted that the Secretariat prepared a document collating all pertinent information that CPCs have submitted (“Updates to information received in accordance with Rec. 12-05”). Many CPCs have not reported at all and many others have responded that certain measures are not applicable to them without explanation. The Chairman noted that those CPCs that are engaged in ICCAT fisheries are likely to interact with some sharks species and, therefore, he questioned whether a response of “not applicable” is appropriate in most cases.

Japan noted that, due to poor reporting, there is not sufficient clarity on whether or not CPCs have transposed legally binding ICCAT measures into their domestic law. The United States shared Japan’s concern on the lack of reporting on shark conservation measures.

#### **5.5 Other relevant information**

##### **5.5.1 Access Agreements**

Reports on Access Agreements were summarized and made available as Table 11 to the “ICCAT Secretariat Report to the Compliance Committee Regarding Compliance with ICCAT Conservation and Management Measures Currently In Force”. The Secretariat flagged specific reporting deficiencies on access agreements which would be discussed in the CPC-by-CPC review if necessary.

The Secretariat noted that the only information not included in Table 11 are access agreements reported from the EU, which was reported as a weblink. On the format for reporting, the Secretariat noted that there seems to be some difficulty with the CP 39 form but that they have not received any input from CPCs on how it can be improved. The Chairman encouraged CPCs to contact the Secretariat with suggestions.

The EU felt that it might be necessary to review the content and philosophy of the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Access Agreements* (Rec. 14-07) as it is important to provide all data elements. The EU weblink provides an exhaustive list of agreements that the EU has made with African countries and contains all the details of the kind of agreements that it has made. 99% are pertinent to tuna.

#### 5.5.2 Chartering

Paragraph 13 of *Recommendation by ICCAT on Vessel Chartering* (Rec. 13-14) requires parties to notify the Executive Secretary of chartering arrangements (including their terms and duration) at the time the arrangement is made. The Secretariat intervened to remind CPCs that retroactive reporting is not in line with the requirements of the recommendation. Compliance with Recommendation 13-14 was addressed in the “Secretariat Report to the Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures”.

Two CPCs intervened to express concern about notification of chartering arrangements being submitted late or even after the agreement had actually ended. This is contrary to measure’s provisions and the transparency they are intended to achieve.

#### 5.5.3 Information submitted by NGOs

The Chairman noted that no submissions were received consistent with the requirements of Recommendation 08-09. He noted that information on a compliance matter was received from an NGO; however, it did not meet the submission deadline of 120 days in advance of the ICCAT annual meeting. Under the circumstances, the Compliance Committee determined that this information would not be considered at its 2015 meeting.

#### 5.5.4 Fish Aggregating Devices

The Secretariat noted that only two management plans were received this year from CPCs. The EU explained that Spanish and French FAD management plans had not changed and, therefore, no new report was submitted.

#### 5.5.5 Reports relevant to implementation of Rec. 14-04

Reports on implementation of *Recommendation by ICCAT Amending the Recommendation 13-07 by ICCAT to Establish a Multi-Annual Recovery Plan for Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean* (Rec. 14-04) were presented in “Reports of implementation of E-BFT management plan”. The Secretariat noted that there had been almost full compliance with this requirement and all CPCs with the exception of Syria had submitted reports.

The Chairman noted the issue of retroactive posting of vessels to the authorized vessel list. The Secretariat received requests for such postings that far exceed the allowed time frame for adding vessels retroactively to that list. The Chairman recalled that this was discussed previously and there was a decision to provide a longer time frame for post-registration notification. This timeframe was expanded a second time (to 45 days) to accommodate administrative delays; however, the problem persists. The United States noted that there are very real repercussions for this compliance failure, and the deadline should be respected.

#### 5.5.6 Implementation of Recommendation by ICCAT on Penalties Applicable in case of Non-fulfilment of Reporting Obligations (Rec. 11-15)

Recommendation 11-15 provides that “CPCs that do not report Task I data, including zero catches, for one or more species for a given year, in accordance with SCRS data reporting requirements, shall be prohibited from retaining such species as of the year following the lack or incomplete reporting until such data have been received by the ICCAT Secretariat.”

The Chairman commended CPCs on the fact that significant progress had been made in the three years since this recommendation was first implemented and a number of issues have been resolved. The COC specifically took note of the very significant contributions of the Secretariat staff and the SCRS over the past year to improve the implementation of this measure and to develop a more efficient means for reporting. Nevertheless, some outstanding problems remain.

In the case of 2014 catches (reported in 2015), Mauritania and Nicaragua had not reported Task I data or confirmed zero catches for purposes of 11-15.

Following up on discussion of 11-15 at the 2014 COC meeting, the Chairman noted that CPCs need to agree a method of reporting and confirming zero catches.

In this regard the SCRS Sub-committee on Statistics developed a draft “SCRS protocol to report zero catches for the main ICCAT species in Task I”, which was outlined by the Chair of the Sub-committee, Dr Guillermo Diaz. The draft protocol was aimed to clearly establish the rules and process for the reporting of zero catches in the submission of Task I catch data. Two types of “zero catch” were identified:

- a) Real “zero”: effective annual based zero catches of a given species having behind a fishing activity (fleet/gear combination) in a given region of the ICCAT Convention area.
- b) Global “zero”: informative zeros, reported by an ICCAT CPC aimed to inform that no fishing activity took place in the ICCAT Convention area (ALL species/ gears/ fleets).

The Secretariat undertook to prepare an electronic form with a matrix containing rows with each stock/management unit for the relevant species and columns with the major ICCAT gear groups.

CPCs would be required to fill the matrix as follows:

1. A value of ZERO (0) will be entered to indicate a REAL ZERO for that particular stock/gear combination. The real zero values reported using the above mentioned matrix do not have to be reported using the form ST02-T1NC.
2. A value of ONE (1) will be entered to indicate that the CPC had an annual positive catch for that particular stock/gear combination. The positive catches have to be reported using the form ST02-T1NC.
3. A value of NEGATIVE ONE (-1) will be entered to indicate that the CPC had no fishing activity associated to that particular stock/gear combination.

Japan and the EU both intervened to say they were not entirely clear on the merits of distinguishing between two types of zeros. Iceland was concerned at the level of work this might impose on CPCs and suggested that a zero for particular gear types might be useful. Brazil acknowledged the importance of implementing the recommendation but voiced its concern at adding too many forms to the reporting requirements. The SCRS confirmed to Côte d'Ivoire that the form will apply to all types of fisheries, including artisanal. The SCRS also urged CPCs to reach out to the Secretariat to help develop the most effective way of reporting zero catches.

The United States outlined its “Draft Resolution by ICCAT Establishing Guidelines for the Implementation of the Recommendation by ICCAT on Penalties Applicable in the Case of Non-Fulfilment of Reporting Obligations [Rec. 11-15]”, including a protocol for reporting zero catches based on the SCRS draft protocol with certain revisions. The U.S. proposal was intended to streamline implementation and resolve outstanding issues, and was based in part on guidelines provisionally applied by the COC in the past. The United States acknowledged that the zero catch reporting protocol in the resolution would impose a slight additional administrative burden but felt it solves the confusion inherent in the concept of a global catch and the -1 aspect in the SCRS proposal.

The U.S. proposal recommended that as part of the ST02-T1NC electronic form used to report nominal catches, the Secretariat will include a matrix by stock and main ICCAT gear groups as recommended in the protocol developed by the SCRS. CPCs, as part of their Task I nominal catch data reporting, will complete the cells in the matrix with either a value of ‘one’ (1) to indicate where that CPC had catches (positive catch) for a particular stock/gear combination or a value of ‘zero’ (0) to indicate where that CPC had no catches (zero landings + zero discards) for a particular stock/gear combination.

Algeria, Tunisia and Brazil intervened to stress the importance of streamlining the work of the organisation and not impose additional administrative burdens on CPCs. Algeria asked if the Task I data already supplied by CPCs is sufficient to provide the SCRS with enough data to determine if the recommendation is being implemented and argued that the presumption of innocence should prevail.

In response to Algeria, the Secretariat and SCRS representative noted that the Task I data already supplied was not sufficient to meet the requirements of Rec. 11-15 because of the specific requirement in that recommendation to report zero catches. Trying to solve this issue by using the existing Task I form would, in fact, create more of a burden on CPCs and the Secretariat than the approach set out in the U.S. proposal. It was stressed that the new form was intended to ease the reporting burden on all CPCs.

In light of the explanations, the *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 (Res. 15-09) (ANNEX 6)* was approved by the Compliance Committee and referred to the Commission for adoption.

#### 5.5.7 Implementation of Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Minimum Standards for Fishing Vessel Scientific Observer Programs (Rec. 10-10)

Since the adoption of Rec. 10-10, the Secretariat developed the form CP-45 for the submission of information relating to implementation of observer programmes. Nineteen CPCs to date have submitted the completed form. One additional CPC submitted information in 2011 before the development of this format, and one more CPC indicated in its Annual Report that a scientific observer programme is in place, but details have not been received. Twelve CPCs have also specifically reported on alternative monitoring measures.

The United States expressed concern that it had been five years since the adoption of Rec. 10-10 and yet several parties have not submitted what is required. The United States understood that analysis would be on several levels. The adequacy of coverage levels was not entirely sufficient and the United States queried how sampling might be stratified and whether the alternative approaches are adequate.

#### 5.5.8 Port inspections

In accordance with *Recommendation by ICCAT for an ICCAT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port (12-07)*, lists of authorized ports and contact points have been received from twenty CPCs. Twenty CPCs have indicated that the Recommendation is not applicable to them. Equatorial Guinea has indicated in its Annual Report that the list of authorized ports is not available and that the submission of inspection reports is not applicable. Trinidad and Tobago indicated applicability of the measure and the submission of the list of authorised ports was pending receipt at the time of the Compliance Committee meeting. No information regarding applicability is available for the following CPCs: Angola; Brazil; Gabon; Guinea (Rep.); Mauritania; Nicaragua; Sao Tomé & Príncipe; Sierra Leone; Syria; Venezuela; Bolivia and Guyana.

A number of CPCs again emphasised the importance of providing an explanation when indicating that the ICCAT recommendation on a port inspection scheme is not applicable to them.

#### 5.6 CPC-by-CPC review

The Chairman proceeded to conduct a CPC-by-CPC review in alphabetical order.

See compliance summary tables (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**).

### 6. Actions to address issues of non-compliance by CPCs and issues relating to NCPs arising from items 4 and 5

The Chairman reported that the practice of constituting the small Friends of Chair group represented by geographical area to review the “Compliance summary tables” (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**) and develop recommended actions was continued. The Friends of the Chair met twice in 2015.

The Chairman provided an overview of how the group came to its recommendations on what actions should be taken with respect to each CPC to address issues of non-compliance.

The COC adopted the “List of actions recommended by Friends of the Compliance Committee Chairman in response to issues of non-compliance by ICCAT CPCs”, which reflects Compliance Committee actions to address compliance issues, as amended by the Compliance Committee.

Twenty-five (25) Contracting Parties and cooperating non-members will receive letters concerning compliance issues. These letters mainly relate to reporting issues and additional information required. In responding to the letters, CPCs will need to give a fuller picture of any outstanding issue and any actions taken to address the matter. Noting the variety of expressions used to describe the letters, the United States expressed its preference for a consistent use of terminology over time, in particular with respect to letters of concern, so there is a clear understanding of the letters and the expectations associated with them. In addition, the United States requested confirmation that these letters would be endorsed and sent by the Commission. The Compliance Committee Chair confirmed that the letters would be approved by the Commission and signed by the Compliance Committee Chairman on behalf of the Commission.

Japan requested that the Chairman emphasise the seriousness of not sending replies to Commission letters from the Chair. Japan also requested that the issue of erroneously reporting ‘non-applicable’ be flagged with a number of CPCs. The Chair responded he will follow up with a circular to all CPCs to remind CPCs of the need to provide an explanation for “N/A” responses in future Annual Reports. With respect to CPCs not responding to letters, the Chairman undertook to raise it as a concern in all relevant cases where such CPCs receive letters in 2016.

In addition to sending letters of concern to various CPCs, the COC determined that one CPC, Trinidad and Tobago, should be identified under the *Recommendation by ICCAT Concerning Trade Measures* (Rec. 06-13) for diminishing the effectiveness of ICCAT conservation and management measures. Specifically, Trinidad and Tobago was identified for chronic overharvests, the lack of a management framework, and the lack of logbook requirements. The situation of Trinidad and Tobago will be reviewed in 2016 taking into account Trinidad and Tobago’s response to the Commission’s letter of identification, which is due at least 30 days prior to the 2016 ICCAT Annual meeting. Failure to rectify the issues leading to identification could result in more serious action by the Commission, including, as a last resort, the imposition of non-discriminatory trade restrictive measures.

See compliance summary tables (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10**).

## **7. Review of requests for cooperating status**

Four Parties currently enjoy cooperating status: Bolivia, Chinese Taipei, Guyana, and Suriname. Bolivia has specifically requested renewal of such status, but such requests are not strictly required under the *Recommendation by ICCAT on Criteria for Attaining the Status of Cooperating non-Contracting Party, Entity, or Fishing Entity in ICCAT* (Rec. 03-20). Japan noted that Bolivia’s table contained no reply to the letter of concern issued by the Commission. Japan stressed that if ICCAT is to renew cooperating status for Bolivia, it will be important to stress the need for Bolivia to engage more fully with ICCAT, including replying to letters of concern. The Compliance Committee supported the renewal of cooperating status for Bolivia, Chinese Taipei, Guyana, and Suriname and forwarded this recommendation to the Commission for approval.

In 2015, the ICCAT Secretariat wrote to Dominica, Grenada, and St. Kitts & Nevis requesting them to consider seeking cooperating status. No response to these requests was received, and unlike previous years, CARICOM did not submit an Annual Report containing information on these three countries. St. Lucia has voluntarily submitted ICCAT statistical data for 2014.

The United States noted serious concern about the developments of fisheries by these countries. These States have significant catches and ICCAT needs to do all it can to obtain relevant statistical information from these fisheries. This is important for scientific studies and management efforts. Stronger action may be necessary. Ghana agreed with the United States and the Chairman that non-parties are not directly bound by our conservation measures but they cannot undermine them. There is a need to draw attention of non-members to ICCAT’s measures and the importance of observing them.

The Compliance Committee recommended that the Commission send letters to Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Lucia regarding their catches of ICCAT species and lack of participation in ICCAT’s work, including data reporting by most of these non-members. The letters should also reiterate points from the Commission’s 2015 letter inviting these countries to join ICCAT or apply for cooperating status.

The COC also took note of discussions in plenary about fishing by Gibraltar for E-BFT and the importance of follow up with Gibraltar by the Commission on this matter.

## **8. Recommendations to the Commission to improve compliance**

### ***8.1 Electronic Reporting Concept Paper***

The United States outlined its “Concept note on an ICCAT online reporting system” aimed at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Compliance Committee as well as reducing the information compilation, reporting, and analysis workload of both the Secretariat and CPCs in the long term. The paper centres on the development of an online reporting and would facilitate access to required information. The concept note is attached as **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 10**.

The United States noted that the WCPFC and IOTC are in the process of rolling out an electronic reporting system to streamline their work. The United States recommended that the Secretariat reach out to other tuna commissions as part of a fact-finding mission. CPCs should consider whether they agree with such an approach and contact the Commission on how they see it being developed and implemented.

Japan, Panama and the EU noted support for the proposal. Brazil strongly supported the concept but highlighted the problem of capacity of some States. The Chairman acknowledged the support for the proposal from the floor and requested that the Secretariat begin outreach to other RMFOs and send a circular to CPCs sometime after the 2015 annual meeting to ask how they see the system being implemented. The Secretariat can then report back at the next ICCAT annual meeting. The Compliance Committee recommended this approach to the Commission for endorsement.

### ***8.2 Intersessional meetings***

Canada noted that it was timely for the Compliance Committee to review how it functions. In previous years two full days were dedicated to the Compliance Committee in advance of the annual meeting along with sessions during the annual meeting. Now the work must be covered in four short sessions during the annual meeting. One way Canada believes the work of the Committee could be improved is to have an intersessional meeting to look at the functioning of the COC. The Compliance Committee requested the Commission to consider this matter when looking at the 2016 intersessional schedule of the Commission.

### ***8.3 Intersessional work to refer compliance issues to other ICCAT subsidiary bodies***

The COC recommended collaboration among the Chairman, Secretariat, and Friends of the Chair group during the intersessional period to identify possible compliance-related issues that could potentially be referred to other ICCAT subsidiary bodies for review and discussion during the ICCAT annual meeting under a dedicated compliance agenda item. Suggestions resulting from this collaboration will be considered in 2016.

## **9. Election of Chair**

Brazil nominated Mr. Derek Campbell (United States) to continue serving as Chairman of the Committee. The nomination was supported from the floor by the EU, Turkey, Panama, Egypt, Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Gabon, Norway, Namibia, Senegal, Cabo Verde and South Africa.

## **10. Other matters**

Recalling the review of compliance information under agenda item 5, the United States noted the benefits of receiving information compiled by topic or issue area (similar way information was presented in 2015 on sharks) in addition to the CPC-by-CPC approach. Such a format supports a very focused review by the COC of how obligations associated with a specific topic or issue area are being implemented and should help identify any gaps. The United States suggested that the COC identify priority topics or issue areas that would benefit from this type of review and that the Secretariat be asked to compile available information in this manner to support future COC deliberations. The United States also noted that this work would be facilitated if an electronic reporting format were implemented.

### **11. Adoption of Report and adjournment**

The Chairman thanked the CPCs for their efforts in the difficult but necessary work of the Compliance Committee. Improvements to the ICCAT compliance evaluation process have been made possible because of the hard work of the CPC delegates and this has strengthened the Commission for the benefit of all CPCs. The Chairman also thanked the Secretariat for their continuing hard work in preparing all the necessary material and assisting CPCs in fulfilling their obligations.

The 2015 meeting of Compliance Committee was adjourned.

The Report of Compliance Committee was adopted by correspondence.

**Appendix 1 to ANNEX 10****Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Review of actions taken by CPCs in response to letters of concern/identification arising from the 2014 meeting
5. Review of implementation of and compliance with the ICCAT requirements
  - 5.1 Compliance tables
  - 5.2 CPC Annual Reports, Statistical data summaries, Compliance summaries
  - 5.3 Inspection and observer reports
  - 5.4 Information on implementation of shark recommendations
  - 5.5 Other relevant information
  - 5.6 CPC-by-CPC review of compliance with ICCAT requirements
  - 5.7 Review of information relating to NCPs
6. Actions to address issues of non-compliance by CPCs and issues relating to NCPs arising from items 4 and 5
7. Review of requests for cooperating status
8. Recommendations to the Commission to improve compliance
9. Election of Chair
10. Other matters
11. Adoption of Report and adjournment

**2015 Compliance Tables**  
(Compliance in 2014, reported in 2015)

**NORTH ALBACORE** (All quantities are in metric tons)

YEAR	Initial catch limits					Current catches				Balance				Adjusted quota/catch limit					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2011	2012	2013	2014	2011	2012	2013	2014	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
TAC	28000.00	28000.00	28000.00	28000.00	28000.00														
BARBADOS	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	4.30	20.30	22.20	12.80	245.70	179.70	177.80	227.20	250.00	200.00	200.00	240.00	240.00	
BELIZE	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	351.00	155.00	230.00	79.20	-101.00	125.00	50.00	120.80	200.00	280.00	280.00	418.00	450.00	
BRAZIL	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
CANADA	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	28.00	34.00	31.90	47.10	222.00	216.00	218.10	202.90	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
CHINA	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	101.00	21.00	81.08	34.87	149.00	229.00	168.92	165.13	250.00	250.00	250.00	200.00	250.00	250.00
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	0.00	145.87	0.00	0.00	250.00	104.13	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
EU	21551.30	21551.30	21551.30	21551.30	21551.30	16413.48	21935.47	18607.00	23544.56	11503.32	5003.66	8323.13	2990.40	27916.80	26939.13	26939.13	26534.96	26939.13	24541.70
FRANCE (St. P&M)	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.27	0.08	250.00	250.00	249.73	249.92	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
JAPAN	478.68	638.88	573.68	453.92		285.30	1822.10	266.40	294.90	193.38	-1183.22	307.28	159.02	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a		
KOREA	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	101.00	191.00	184.40	63.87	149.00	59.00	65.60	186.13	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	215.60	250.00
MAROC	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	199.80	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
STV & G.	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	329.10	304.50	286.00	326.91	20.90	16.40	44.40	-10.51	350.00	320.90	330.40	316.40	303.49	
TR. & TOBAGO	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	23.00	46.80	66.70	71.10	227.00	203.20	183.30	178.90	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
UK-OT	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	0.76	0.20	0.30	0.63	249.24	249.80	249.70	249.37	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
USA	527.00	527.00	527.00	527.00	527.00	422.37	417.70	598.84	459.39	236.38	241.05	59.91	127.52	658.75	658.75	658.75	586.91	654.52	
VANUATU	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	197.41	171.92	257.60	195.32	52.59	78.08	-7.60	54.68	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
VENEZUELA	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	247.40	312.00	180.70	284.71	-556.90	-680.90	-549.60	-584.31	-309.50	-306.90	-368.90	-299.60	-314.31	
CHINESE TAIPEI	3271.70	3271.70	3271.70	3271.70	3271.70	1367.00	1180.00	2393.63	947.00	2622.60	2609.62	1395.99	2842.62	3989.60	3789.62	3789.62	3789.62	3789.62	
TOTAL CATCH						19871.32	26757.86	23180.98	26362.48										
Recommendation n°	09-05	11-04	11-04	13-05	13-05									07-02	09-05	09-05	11-04	13-05	13-05

BELIZE: payback proposal from 2012 to 2014. Also receiving a transfer of N-ALB from Chinese Taipei: 200 t in 2014, 2015 and 2016 (Rec. 13-05).

EU: shall transfer 20 t from its quota to Venezuela in 2014, Rec. 13-05.

JAPAN is to endeavour to limit North albacore catches to no more than 4% of its total bigeye tuna catch (2.2% in 2008, 3.2% in 2009 and 3.7% in 2010).

JAPAN: all 2014 figures are provisional.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2015 adjusted quota is 3789.62 t (=3271.7+3271.7\*25%-100-200) due to the underage of 2013 exceeding 25% of 2015 catch quota and transfer of 100 t to St. V&G and 200 t to Belize.

VENEZUELA: the European Union transferred 20 t of its quota to Venezuela in 2014 (rec. 13-05, para 2).

## SOUTH ALBACORE

YEAR	Initial quota /catch limit					Reference years	Current catches				Balance				Adjusted quota (only applicable in case of overharvest)										
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015		Average 1992-1996	2011	2012	2013	2014	2011	2012	2013	2014	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016				
TAC	29900	24000	24000	24000	24000																				
ANGOLA				50.00	50.00		0.00	168.00																	
BRAZIL	TAC share 26336.30	TAC share 21000.00	3500.00	2160.00	2160.00		1269.00	1856.58	1720.30	438.45	21509.00	20330.58	1757.00	1621.55			3500.00	2060.00	2700.00	2700.00					
NAMIBIA			10000.00	3600.00	3600.00		3791.00	2265.00	990.00	1044.00												4329.17	4500.00		
S. AFRICA				4400.00	4400.00		3380.00	3553.00	3526.10	3719.00						681.00									5500.00
URUGUAY				1200.00	440.00	440.00		37.00	12.00	209.00			0.00								70.00				550.00
CH. TAIPEI				13000.00	9400.00	9400.00		13032.00	12812.00	8519.00			6675.00			4481.00	2725.00				9400.00	11506.75	11750.00		
BELIZE	360.00	300.00	300.00	250.00	250.00	327.00	364.00	171.00	87.00	98.36	-4.00	129.00	163.00	226.64			250.00	325.00	325.00	312.50					
CHINA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	80.05	61.02	65.12	33.82	19.95	38.98	34.88	66.18	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	125.00	125.00					
CÔTE D'IVOIRE		100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00		0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00											100.00				
CURAÇAO				50.00	50.00				0.00	0.00											50.00				
EU	1914.70	1540.00	1540.00	1470.00	1470.00	1740.60	410.16	521.99	455.00	335.36	1129.84	1018.01	1085.00	1502.00					1470.00	1470.00	1837.50				
JAPAN	275.06	415.68	342.28	1355.00	1355.00		1776.40	3550.60	1713.80	1202.40	-1501.34	-3134.92	-1372.12	522.60	n.a	n.a	n.a	1725.00	1355.00	1693.75					
KOREA	100.00	150.00	150.00	140.00	140.00	9.00	29.00	98.00	33.22	3.42	8.00	52.00	116.78	146.58	-24.00	37.00	150.00	150.00	177.50	175.00					
PANAMA	119.90	100.00	100.00	25.00	25.00	109.00	0.00	12.00	3.00	0.30	100.00	88.00	97.00	24.70							25.00				
PHILIPPINES	100.00	150.00	150.00	140.00	140.00	0.00	96.00	293.00	495.00	18.00	4.00	-143.00	-345.00	2.00					20.00	40.00	140.00				
STV & G	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00		94.00	92.10	97.40	109.83	6.00	13.90	16.50	6.67	100.00	106.00	113.90	116.50	106.67	100.00					
UK-OT	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	40.00	120.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	-20.00	78.00	98.00	100.00			80.00	100.00	116.00	125.00					
USA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	100.00	100.00	99.95	100.00	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a				
VANUATU	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00		86.04	35.11	53.11	91.00	13.96	64.89	46.89	9.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00				
TOTAL CATCH							24564.65	25553.40	18003.40																
Rec. number	07-03	11-05	11-05	13-06	13-06										07-03	07-03	07-03	11-05	13-06	13-06					

BELIZE: requested to the Commission in November 2014 to carry forward its unused quota allocation from 2014 of 48 t.

BRAZIL: transfer of 100 t to Japan in August 2014.

BRAZIL: notified a transfer in 2015 of 250 t of its 2014 quota to South Africa.

JAPAN: all 2014 figures are provisional.

JAPAN: agreed the transfer of 100 t from Brazil to Japan in 2014; the adjusted quota includes the transfer in 2014 of 50 t from Namibia and of 100 t from Uruguay.

JAPAN: informed in 2015 of an additional transfer in 2014 of 120 t from Uruguay.

JAPAN: according to paragraph 4 b) of Rec. 13-06 for the period 2014 to 2016, Japan expresses its intention to carry over the underage in 2014 to 2016.

The amount of the underage to be used in 2016 is 338.75 t which is 25% of its original quota.

NAMIBIA: Japan has agreed the transfer of 50 t from Namibia to Japan in 2014.

NAMIBIA: in 2014 South Africa shall transfer 250 t to Namibia.

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.

SOUTH AFRICA: South Africa transfers 250 t of its 2014 southern Atlantic albacore quota to Namibia as a once-off transfer. Rec. 13-06.

SOUTH AFRICA: notified in 2014 the Commission of its request to transfer the 2013 underage of 1250 t to be caught and landed in 2015 [Rec. 13-06].

URUGUAY: notified in 2014 a transfer of 100 t to Japan in 2014. In 2015, Uruguay notified a transfer of 120 t to Japan in 2014.

URUGUAY: notified in 2015 a transfer in 2014 of 150 t of its quota to South Africa.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2015 adjusted quota is 11506.75 (=9400+2106.75).

**NORTH SWORDFISH**

YEAR	Initial quota					Current catches				Balance				Adjusted quota					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2011	2012	2013	2014	2011	2012	2013	2014	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
TAC	13700	13700	13700	13700	13700														
BARBADOS	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	25.60	21.00	16.10	21.10	41.90	46.50	48.30	46.40	67.50	67.50	64.40	64.40	67.50	67.50
BELIZE	130.00	130.00	130.00	130.00	130.00	184.00	141.00	142.00	75.61	11.00	75.00	63.00	54.39	195.00	216.00	205.00	270.00	268.00	
BRAZIL	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00
CANADA	1348.00	1348.00	1348.00	1348.00	1348.00	1550.60	1488.50	1505.50	1604.20	153.10	172.40	176.80	278.30	1703.70	1660.90	1682.30	1882.50	2157.70	
CHINA	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	74.70	59.00	95.95	60.29	5.30	46.30	4.05	39.71	80.00	105.30	100.00	100.00	104.05	137.50
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	6.60	1.37	0.00	46.80	68.40	73.63	75.00	46.80	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00
EU	6718.00	6718.00	6718.00	6718.00	6718.00	6110.68	6604.08	5567.90	5020.43	2886.22	1793.42	2829.60	2867.07	8996.90	8397.50	8397.50	7887.50	8397.50	7685.70
FRANCE (St. P&M)	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	0.60	0.00	17.85	3.02	79.40	100.00	82.15	96.98	80.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
JAPAN	842.00	842.00	842.00	842.00	842.00	669.20	437.50	438.70	748.40	2038.23	2357.73	2676.03	2659.63	2707.43	2795.23	3114.73	3114.73	3408.03	3391.62
KOREA	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	64.40	34.66	-109.50	10.00	-4.40	15.34	-109.50	10.00	60.00	50.00	45.60	65.34
MAROC	850.00	850.00	850.00	850.00	850.00	781.00	770.00	1062.00	1062.50	381.00	492.50	0.50	0.00	1162.00	1262.50	1062.50	1062.50	850.00	
MAURITANIA									0.00				100.00						
MEXICO	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	37.00	40.00	32.00	32.00	246.50	260.00	268.00	268.00	283.50	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
PHILIPPINES	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	25.00	37.50	25.00	37.50	37.50	37.50	25.00	25.00	
SENEGAL	400.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	43.00	30.10	43.20	48.79	557.00	344.90	387.92	436.21	600.00	375.00	431.12	485.00		
ST V & G.	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00	10.70	8.30	4.21	39.80	101.80	104.20	108.29	72.70	112.50	112.50	112.50	112.50		
TR. & TOBAGO	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	15.60	14.10	15.90	26.40	171.90	98.40	96.60	86.10	187.50	112.50	112.50	112.50	112.50	
UK-OT	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	6.55	1.40	14.40	0.98	45.95	51.10	38.10	51.52	52.50	52.50	52.50	52.50	52.50	
USA	3907.00	3907.00	3907.00	3907.00	3907.00	2773.70	3610.00	2955.00	1954.55	3086.80	1123.75	1778.75	2904.20	5860.50	4733.75	4733.75	4858.75	4468.05	
VANUATU	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	18.49	15.48	1.75	43.67	12.51	15.52	29.25	-12.67	31.00	31.00	31.00	31.00		
VENEZUELA	85.00	85.00	85.00	85.00	85.00	18.00	24.95	24.10	23.85	109.50	102.55	103.40	103.65	127.50	127.50	127.50	127.50	127.50	
CHINESE TAIPEI	270.00	270.00	270.00	270.00	270.00	192.00	166.00	114.82	78.00	213.00	204.00	255.18	292.00	405.00	370.00	370.00	370.00	370.00	
Recommendation n°	10-02	11-02	11-02	13-02	13-02									10-02	11-02	11-02	11-02	11-02	13-02
DISCARDS																			
CANADA						7.80	111.00												
USA																			
TOTAL DISCARDS																			
TOTAL CATCH																			

BRAZIL: according to Rec. 13-02, for the year 2014, transfer of 25 t to Mauritania.

CANADA: new balances and adjusted quotas for 2011-2013 due to recalculation of historic dead discards as submitted to SCRS.

EU: allowed to count up to 200 t against its uncaught southern SWO.

EU: quota transfer in 2015 from EU-Spain to Canada of 450 t.

JAPAN: all 2014 figures are provisional.

MAURITANIA: Brazil, Japan, Senegal and United States transfer 25 t each for a total of 100 t per year.

SENEGAL: transfer of quota in 2014 of 125 t to Canada and of 25 t to Mauritania.

USA: 2015 adjusted limit includes 25 t transfer from U.S. to Mauritania.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2015 adjusted quota is 370 t (=270+270\*50%-35) due to the underage of 2013 exceeding 50% of 2015 catch limit and a transfer of 35 t to Canada.

## SOUTH SWORDFISH

YEAR	Initial quota					Current catches				Balance				Adjusted quota					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2011	2012	2013	2014	2011	2012	2013	2014	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
TAC	15000	15000	15000	15000	15000														
ANGOLA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00														
BELIZE	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	206.00	197.00	136.00	45.29	-56.00	-40.50	-11.00	79.71	150.00	156.50	125.00	205.00	239.00	
BRAZIL	3785.00	3940.00	3940.00	3940.00	3940.00	3033.00	2832.60	1395.11	2892.02	2585.00	2999.90	3726.89	1047.98	5618.00	5832.50	5122.00	5048.00	5122.00	4987.98
CHINA	263.00	263.00	263.00	263.00	263.00	247.51	315.50	195.96	205.89	114.49	61.99	67.04	119.10	362.00	377.49	263.00	324.99	330.04	341.90
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	145.44	81.76	108.98	53.42	3.35	105.74	78.52	134.08	148.79	187.50	187.50			
EU	5082.00	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	4962.50	5061.40	4308.60	4364.64	356.00	317.70	871.40	777.06	5318.50	5379.10	5180.00	5141.70	5695.40	5601.06
GHANA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	60.40	54.00	37.00	26.00	-50.4	-4.14	50.72	23.30	10.00	49.86	87.72	49.30		
JAPAN	901.00	901.00	901.00	901.00	901.00	1276.30	840.70	958.20	385.40	-425.30	447.56	-532.50	913.16	851.00	1288.26	425.70	1298.56	318.50	1651.00
KOREA	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	42.00	47.30	52.63	69.50	8.00	10.70	-2.63	69.50	50.00	58.00	50.00	60.70	47.37
NAMIBIA	1168.00	1168.00	1168.00	1168.00	1168.00	348.10	404.70	421.80	392.80	1027.40	1276.75	1330.20	1359.20	1375.50	1681.45	1752.00	1752.00		
PHILIPPINES	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	51.00	51.00	44.00	71.80	24.00	24.00	31.00	2.20	75.00	75.00	74.00	74.00	50.00	
S.T. & PRINCIPE	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	59.90	84.10	60.20		40.10	15.90	39.80							
SENEGAL	401.00	417.00	417.00	417.00	417.00	222.00	161.83	178.40	143.33	395.00	463.67	400.60	357.42	617.00	625.50	579.00	500.75	402.90	
SOUTH AFRICA	962.00	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	1001.00	96.57	50.20	171.40	152.39	1465.43	1550.80	1429.60	848.61	1562.00	1601.00	1601.00			
UK-OT	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	6.41	37.50	37.50	32.50	31.09	37.50	37.50	37.50	37.50	37.50	
URUGUAY	1204.00	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	1252.00	179.00	40.00	103.50	0.00	1784.00	2104.00	1774.50	1202.00	1954.00	2144.00	1878.00	1202.00		
USA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	99.75	100.00	99.94	99.94	99.75	100.00	100.00	99.94	99.94	
VANUATU	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	20.00	0.89	2.74	0.10	8.00	28.11	26.26	28.90	17.00	29.00	29.00	29.00	29.00		
CHINESE TAIPEI	459.00	459.00	459.00	459.00	459.00	424.00	379.00	582.10	406.00	119.00	199.00	75.90	128.90	543.00	578.00	658.00	534.90		
TOTAL						11252.71	10514.43	8840.60											
Rec. n°	12-01	12-01	12-01	13-03	13-03									06-03	06-03	12-01	12-01	12-01	13-03

BELIZE: received a 25 t transfer of S-SWO from USA 50 t from Brazil and 50 t from Uruguay. Payback proposal from Belize from 2013 to 2014.

BELIZE: payback proposal from 2014 to 2015 (as presented at COC in 2014: refer to doc. COC-304-2014 Annex).

EU: allowed to count up to 200 t against its uncaught northern SWO.

JAPAN: all 2014 figures are provisional.

USA: adjusted quota for 2015 reflects transfers to Namibia (50 t), Belize (25 t) and Côte d'Ivoire (25 t) under Rec. 12-01.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2015 adjusted quota includes 128.9 t of 2014 underage.

**EAST BLUEFIN**

YEAR	Initial quota					Current catch				Balance				Adjusted quota					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2011	2012	2013	2014	2011	2012	2013	2014	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
TAC	12900	12900	13400	13400	16142														
ALBANIA	32.3	32.3	33.58	33.58	39.65	0.15	0.00	8.59	33.55	32.15	0.00	24.99	0.03	32.30	0.00	33.58	33.58	39.65	
ALGERIE	138.46	138.46	143.83	143.83	169.81	0.00	69.00	243.80	243.80	138.46	69.46	0.00	0.00	228.46	138.46	243.83	243.83	369.81	
CHINA	36.77	36.77	38.19	38.19	45.09	35.93	36.04	38.14	37.62	0.84	0.73	0.05	0.58	36.77	36.77	38.19	38.19	45.09	
EGYPT	64.58	64.58	67.08	67.08	79.20	64.58	64.25	77.10	77.08	0.00	0.33	-0.02	0.00	64.58	64.58	77.08	77.08	155.20	
EU	7266.41	7266.41	7548.06	7938.65	9372.92	5656.45	5715.60	7841.00	7795.98	99.96	40.81	97.65	#####	5756.41	5756.41	7548.06	7938.65	9372.92	
ICELAND	29.82	29.82	30.97	30.97	36.57	2.35	5.07	3.80	30.24	76.46	24.75	27.17	0.73	78.81	29.82	30.97	30.97	36.57	
JAPAN	1097.03	1097.03	1139.55	1139.55	1345.44	1088.82	1092.60	1128.97	1134.47	8.21	4.43	10.58	5.08	1097.03	1097.03	1139.55	1139.55	1390.44	
KOREA	77.53	77.53	80.53	80.53	95.08	0.00	77.04	80.50	80.52	77.53	0.49	0.03	0.01	77.53	77.53	80.53	80.53	0.08	
LIBYA	902.66	902.66	937.65	937.65	1107.06	0.00	761.26	933.20	932.64	902.66	141.40	4.45	5.01	902.66	902.66	937.65	937.65	1157.06	
MAROC	1223.07	1223.07	1270.47	1270.47	1500.01	1236.94	1223.00	1269.90	1270.46	1.39	0.07	0.57	0.01	1238.33	1223.07	1270.47	1270.47	1500.01	
MAURITANIA					5.00														5.00
NORWAY	29.82	29.82	30.97	30.97	36.57	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.12	29.82	29.82	30.66	30.85	29.82	29.82	30.97	30.97	36.57	
SYRIA	32.33	32.33	33.58	33.58	39.65	82.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	33.58	82.05	0.00	0.00	33.58	39.65	
TUNISIE	1017.56	1017.56	1057.00	1057.00	1247.97	851.48	1017.40	1056.60	1056.60	8.70	0.16	0.40	0.40	860.18	1017.56	1057.00	1057.00	1247.97	
TURKEY	535.89	535.89	556.66	556.66	657.23	527.53	535.55	551.45	555.08	8.36	0.34	5.21	1.58	535.89	535.89	556.66	556.66	1222.96	
CHINESE TAIPEI	39.75	39.75	41.29	41.29	48.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	106.05	39.75	31.29	31.29	106.05	39.75	31.29	31.29	38.76	
TOTAL CATCH						9839.08	10970.60	13233.36											
Rec. number	10-04	10-04	12-03	13-07	14-04									09-06	10-04	12-03	13-07	14-04	

JAPAN: all 2014 figures are provisional.

MAURITANIA: may catch up to 5 t for research in each year until the end of 2017 (Rec. 14-04, paragraph 5).

TURKEY: Turkey has lodged a formal objection to Rec. 14-04 and, consistent with Res. 12-11, has submitted measures to be taken.

TURKEY: the adjusted quota for 2015 indicating 1222.96 metric tons is the independent catch limit announced for 2015 by Turkey in its objection to Rec. 14-04.

KOREA: transfers in 2015 50 t of its quota to Egypt and 45 t of its quota to Japan.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2015 adjusted quota is 38.76 t (=48.76-10) due to the transfer of 10 t to Egypt in 2015.

## WEST BLUEFIN

YEAR	Initial quota					Current catches				Balance				Adjusted quota/limit					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2011	2012	2013	2014	2011	2012	2013	2014	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
TAC	1750	1750	1750	1750	2000														
CANADA	396.66	396.66	396.66	396.66	437.47	483.30	487.40	480.40	462.90	5.60	1.40	4.10	24.40	488.90	488.80	484.50	487.30	476.90	
FRANCE (St. P & M)	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.51	0.40	0.00	0.31	0.17	7.60	8.00	7.69	7.83	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.51	
JAPAN	301.64	301.64	301.64	301.64	345.74	303.95	303.60	306.26	302.63	4.42	2.48	1.86	0.87	308.37	306.06	304.12	303.50	346.61	
MEXICO	95.00	95.00	95.00	95.00	108.98	14.00	50.60	22.00	51.00	36.50	80.90	67.40	24.90	50.50	131.50	89.40	75.90	133.88	
UK-OT	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.51	0.26	0.40	0.80	0.01	47.27	7.60	7.20	7.99	47.53	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.51	
USA	948.70	948.70	948.70	948.70	1058.79	904.70	919.00	658.90	810.29	138.87	124.57	384.67	233.28	1043.57	1043.57	1043.57	1043.57	1178.66	
TOTAL LANDING						1706.61	1761.00	1468.67											
Discards																			
CANADA																			
JAPAN	n.a													n.a					
USA																			
TOTAL DISCARDS																			
TOTAL REMOVAL																			
Rec. number	10-03	10-03	12-02	13-09	14-05									08-04	10-03	10-03	12-02	13-09	14-05

CANADA: Mexico's transfer to Canada for 2015 not included/to be determined.

JAPAN: all 2014 figures are provisional.

MEXICO: requests to transfer to Canada 86.5 t (para 19, Rec. 12-02).

MEXICO: the 2014 balance is explained by the 2014 adjusted quota after 86.5 t transfer to Canada (for 2014) - (Rec. 13-09) and, for the 2015 adjusted quota: the 2015 catch is unknown.

MEXICO: 2015 catch unknown, transfer to Canada to be determined.

ICCAT REPORT 2014-2015 (II)

BIGEYE

YEAR	Initial catch limit					1999 (SCRS 2000)	Current catches				Balance				Adjusted catch limits					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015		2011	2012	2013	2014	2011	2012	2013	2014	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
TAC	85000	85000	85000	85000	85000															
ANGOLA						0.00	320.00	4069.00												
BARBADOS						0.00	7.10	14.80	11.10	25.70										
BELIZE						0.00	1218.00	1242.00	1336.00	1501.60										
BRAZIL						2024.00	1799.20	1399.70	1134.99	3475.12										
CANADA						263.00	136.90	166.40	197.30	185.90										
CABO VERDE						1.00	1037.00	713.00	1333.00	2271.00										
CHINA	5572	5572	5572	5572	5572.00	7347.00	3720.78	3231.00	2371.30	2231.75	4851.22	6942.00	6130.70	7941.85	8572.00	10342.00	8502.00	10173.60	10173.60	
CÔTE D'IVOIRE						0.00	47.10	506.58	635.40	440.90										
EU	22667.00	22667.00	22667.00	22667.00	16989.00	21970.00	23526.39	20798.23	18652.00	18152.90	6340.61	9068.77	10815.10	11314.20	29867.00	29867.00	29467.10	29467.10	29467.10	29467.10
FRANCE (SP&M)						0.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.10										
GABON						184.00														
GHANA	4722.00	4722.00	4722.00	4722.00	4722.00	11460.00	4440.00	2913.80	2786.00	4369.00	-13074.00	1983.20	3637.20	583.00	-8634.00	4897.00	6423.20	4952.00		
GUATEMALA						0.00	281.90	261.70	163.10	651.80										
JAPAN	23611.00	23611.00	23611.00	23611.00	23611.00	23690.00	11930.00	15971.90	14342.00	11348.05	14964.30	11652.40	13282.30	16276.25	26894.30	27624.30	27624.30	27624.30	27624.30	
KOREA	1983.00	1983.00	1983.00	1983.00	1983.00	124.00	2762.00	1908.00	1150.90	1038.83	21.00	76.00	881.10	1319.07	2783.00	1984.00	2039.00	2357.90	2557.90	
MAROC						700.00	300.00	300.00	308.00	300.00										
MEXICO						6.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	1.00	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
NAMIBIA						423.00	207.70	918.40	129.59	224.09										
PANAMA	3306.00	3306.00	3306.00	3306.00	3306.00	26.00	3461.55	1994.00	2774.00	2315.00	-155.55	2206.45	532.00	991.00	3306.00	4200.45	3306.00	3306.00	4297.00	
PHILIPPINES	1983.00	1983.00	1983.00	1983.00	1983.00	943.00	1266.00	531.00	1323.00	1963.00	717.00	1452.00	660.00	615.00				2578.00	1983.00	
RUSSIA						8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00						
S. TOME & PRIN						0.00	100.10	103.30	106.60											
SENEGAL						0.00	239.00	225.00	639.00	361.00										
SOUTH AFRICA						41.00	152.50	47.20	293.80	331.50	n.a	n.a	n.a		n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a		
St. V. & GR.							37.00	24.70	15.03	29.70										
TRIN & TOBAGO						19.00	33.50	33.30	36.60	58.90										
UK-OT						8.00	189.05	51.30	25.70	17.70										
URUGUAY						59.00	15.00	2.00	29.90	0.00										
USA						1261.00	722.11	867.50	880.40	866.10										
VANUATU						0.00	35.16	22.84	8.82	4.00										
VENEZUELA						128.00	263.80	97.70	93.70	169.10										
CURACAO						0.00	3441.40	2890.00	1964.00	2315.00										
CH. TAIPEI	15583.00	15583.00	15583.00	15583.00	15583.00	16837.00	13732.00	10805.00	10315.55	13272.00	6525.90	9382.90	9872.35	6915.90	20257.90	20187.90	20187.90	20187.90	20187.90	
GUYANA																				
TOTAL CATCH							75323.14	72007.05	62126.60											
Rec. number	10-01	11-01	11-01	11-01	14-01										08-01	10-01	11-01	11-01	14-01	14-01

GHANA: in 2012-2015, annual transfers of China (70 t), Korea (20 t), Chinese Taipei (70 t) and Japan (70 t) have been authorised, Rec. 11-01.

GHANA: committed to payback the overharvest of 2006 to 2010 from 2012 until 2021 with 337 t per year.

JAPAN: all 2014 figures are provisional.

SAO TOME E PRINCIPE: catches are artisanal.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2015 adjusted quota is 20187.9 t (=15583+15583\*30%-70) due to the underage of 2013 exceeding 30% of 2015 catch limit and a transfer of 70 t to Ghana.

## BLUE MARLIN

	Landings limit					Reference years		Current landings				Balance				Adjusted landings*		
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	1996	1999	2011	2012	2013	2014	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
						(PS+LL)	(PS+LL)	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+P	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS
			2000.00	2000.00	2000.00													
<b>BELIZE</b>									47.00	19.00	8.47		-47.00	-9.00				
<b>BRAZIL</b>	254.40	254.40	190.00	190.00	190.00	308.00	509.00	63.35	48.37	33.16	19.77			156.84	170.23	209.00	209.00	
<b>CHINA</b>	100.50	100.50	45.00	45.00	45.00	62	201	99.50	35.00	44.85	39.66	1.00	65.50	0.15	5.34	45.00		
<b>CÔTE D'IVOIRE</b>			150.00	150.00	150.00			42.08	22.76	26.32	43.84	-42.08	-22.76	123.68	106.16			
<b>EU</b>	103.00	103.00	480.00	480.00	480.00	206.00	200.00	69.70	88.30	357.07	552.37	33.30	14.70	122.93	-72.37	528.00	407.63	
<b>GHANA</b>			250.00	250.00	250.00			332.00	234.00	163.00	235.57			87.00	14.43	264.43		
<b>JAPAN</b>	839.50	839.50	390.00	390.00	390.00	1679.00	790.00	478.00	156.50	231.50	270.30	361.50	683.00	158.50	119.70	429.00		
<b>KOREA</b>	72.00	72.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	144.00	0.00	57.00	34.00	23.77	9.78	15.00	38.00	11.23	25.22	42.00	42.00	
<b>MEXICO</b>	17.50	17.50	70.00	70.00	70.00	13.00	35.00	67.00	105.00	85.00	67.00	-49.50	-87.50	-15.00	3.00			
<b>S. TO ME &amp; PRINCIPE</b>			45.00	45.00	45.00			72.00	59.50	73.10				-41.90				
<b>SENEGAL</b>			60.00	60.00	60.00				10.00	21.84	11.65			38.16	48.35			
<b>SOUTH AFRICA</b>				10.00	10.00			0.20	0.27	0.43	0.05	-0.20	-0.27					
<b>T &amp; TOBAGO</b>	9.90	9.90	20.00	20.00	20.00	13.90	19.70	25.10	45.00	47.60	48.10	-15.20	-35.10	-27.60	-48.10	-50.00	-98.10	
<b>VENEZUELA</b>	30.40	30.40	100.00	100.00	100.00	60.74	29.99	32.98	50.38	47.56	40.77	-2.58	-19.98	52.44	59.23		110.00	
<b>CHINESE TAIPEI</b>	330.00	330.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	660.00	486.00	199.00	133.00	77.84	62.00	131.00	197.00	72.16	88.00	165.00		
<b>TOTAL</b>								1527.71	1009.31	930.35								
<b>USA(# of bum+whm)</b>	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00			106.00	97.00	105.00	98.00	144.00	153.00	145.00	152.00	n.a		
<i>Rec. number</i>	06-09	11-07	11-07	12-04	12-04											12-04	12-04	12-04

\* as of entry into force of Rec.12-04.

JAPAN: all 2014 figures are provisional.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2016 adjusted quota is 165 t=(150+150\*10%) due to the underage of 2014 exceeding 10% of 2016 catch limit.

USA: total marlin landings for 2014 include 54 BUM, 42 WHM and 2 RSP.

VENEZUELA: transfer of 10% of the underage of its 2014 catch to its 2016 adjusted quota.

**WHITE MARLIN**

	Landings limit					Reference years		Current landings				Balance				Adjusted landings*		
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	1996	1999	2011	2012	2013	2014	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
			400.00	400.00	400.00													
						PS+LL	PS+LL	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS	LL+PS
<b>BARBADOS</b>			10.00	10.00	10.00			<b>2.00</b>	<b>4.00</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>5.30</b>			<b>5.00</b>	<b>4.70</b>	<b>12.00</b>	<b>12.00</b>	
<b>BRAZIL</b>	51.81	51.81	50.00	50.00	50.00	70.00	158.00	<b>59.66</b>	<b>70.79</b>	<b>16.30</b>	<b>49.24</b>				<b>0.76</b>	<b>55.00</b>	<b>55.00</b>	
<b>CANADA</b>	2.60	2.60	10.00	10.00	10.00	8.00	5.00	<b>0.80</b>	<b>2.30</b>	<b>2.70</b>	<b>4.60</b>	<b>1.80</b>	<b>0.30</b>	<b>7.30</b>	<b>5.40</b>			
<b>CHINA</b>	9.9	9.9	10	10	10.00	9	30	<b>0.73</b>	<b>0.21</b>	<b>2.12</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>9.17</b>	<b>9.69</b>	<b>7.88</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>12.00</b>		
<b>CÔTE D'IVOIRE</b>	2.31	2.31	10.00	10.00	10.00	1.00	7.00	<b>0.52</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.63</b>	<b>0.91</b>	<b>1.79</b>	<b>2.31</b>	<b>9.37</b>	<b>9.09</b>			
<b>EU</b>	46.50	46.50	50.00	50.00	50.00	148.00	127.00	<b>22.40</b>	<b>58.40</b>	<b>47.50</b>	<b>102.21</b>	<b>24.10</b>	<b>-11.90</b>	<b>2.50</b>	<b>-52.21</b>	<b>52.50</b>	<b>23.89</b>	<b>23.89</b>
<b>JAPAN</b>	37.00	37.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	112.00	40.00	<b>27.90</b>	<b>49.60</b>	<b>16.90</b>	<b>2.60</b>	<b>9.10</b>	<b>-16.00</b>	<b>18.10</b>	<b>32.40</b>	<b>42.00</b>		
<b>KOREA</b>	19.50	19.50	20.00	20.00	20.00	59.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.15</b>	<b>19.50</b>	<b>19.50</b>	<b>20.00</b>	<b>19.85</b>	<b>24.00</b>	<b>24.00</b>	
<b>MEXICO</b>	3.63	3.63	25.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	11.00	<b>28.00</b>	<b>36.00</b>	<b>30.00</b>	<b>20.00</b>	<b>-24.37</b>	<b>-32.37</b>	<b>-5.00</b>	<b>5.00</b>			
<b>S. TOME &amp; PRINCIPE</b>			20.00	20.00	20.00			<b>n.a</b>	<b>n.a</b>	<b>n.a</b>	<b>n.a</b>							
<b>SOUTH AFRICA</b>				2.00	2.00			<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>							
<b>TRIN &amp; TOBAGO</b>	4.30	4.30	15.00	15.00	15.00	8.20	13.00	<b>14.50</b>	<b>38.50</b>	<b>32.50</b>	<b>38.30</b>	<b>-10.20</b>	<b>-34.20</b>	<b>-17.50</b>	<b>-38.30</b>	<b>-42.40</b>	<b>-80.70</b>	
<b>VENEZUELA</b>	50.04	50.04	50.00	50.00	50.00	152.00	43.00	<b>40.81</b>	<b>63.52</b>	<b>44.30</b>	<b>73.74</b>	<b>9.23</b>	<b>-13.48</b>	<b>5.70</b>	<b>-23.74</b>		<b>31.26</b>	
<b>CHINESE TAIPEI</b>	186.80	186.80	50.00	50.00	50.00	586.00	465.00	<b>28.00</b>	<b>15.00</b>	<b>6.72</b>	<b>7.00</b>	<b>158.80</b>	<b>171.80</b>	<b>43.28</b>	<b>43.00</b>	<b>55.00</b>		
TOTAL								<b>225.32</b>	<b>338.32</b>	<b>226.47</b>								
<b>USA (# of bum+whm)</b>	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00			<b>106.00</b>	<b>97.00</b>	<b>105.00</b>	<b>98.00</b>	<b>144.00</b>	<b>153.00</b>	<b>145.00</b>	<b>152.00</b>	<b>n.a</b>		
Recommendation numl	06-09	11-07	12-04	12-04	12-04											12-04	12-04	12-04

\* as of entry into force of Rec.12-04.

JAPAN: all 2014 figures are provisional.

SAO TOME E PRINCIPE: catch data not available.

USA: total marlin landings for 2014 include 54 BUM, 42 WHM and 2 RSP.

CHINESE TAIPEI: 2016 adjusted quota is 55 t=(50+50\*10%) due to the underage of 2014 exceeding 10% of 2016 catch limit.

## Compliance with size limits in 2014

Species	SWO			BFT						
	AT.N	AT.S	Medi	AT.E	AT.E	Adriatic	Medi	AT.E	Medi	AT.W
Area										
Recommendation Number	13-02 § 9-10	13-02 § 9-10	13-04 § 7-8	14-04 § 27	14-04 Annex I, §2	14-04 § 27	14-04 § 27	14-04 § 28	14-04 § 28	14-05 §9
Gear/fishery	all	all	all	BB, TROL; >17 m*	BB <17 m**	Adriatic catches	coastal artisanal	14-04 all other	all other gears	all gears
Min. weight (kg)	A=25 kg LW or B=	A=25 kg LW or B= 15 kg/	10kg RW or 9 kg GG or	8 kg	6.4 kg	8 kg	8 kg	30 kg	30 kg	30 kg
Min. size (cm)	A=125 cm LJFL/ 63 cm	A=125 cm LJFL/ 63 cm	90 cm LJFL	75 cm FL	70 cm FL	75 cm FL	75 cm FL	115 cm FL	115 cm FL	115 cm FL
Atl-SWO: Option chosen A or B			Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
EBFT: Amount allocated. To be	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable					Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Max. tolerance	A=15% 25kg/125		5%	0%	100 t**	0%	0%	5% between 8-	5% between	10%
Tolerance calculated as	number of fish per		weight or number of	weight or number of	weight per allocation of	weight or number of	weight or number of	number of fish per	number of fish	weight of the total
<b>PERCENTAGE (%) OF TOTAL</b>										
Albania										
Algeria								0%		0%
Angola										
Barbados	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0	n.a.	n.a.
Belize										
Brazil										
Canada	1.9% less than 125cm									<1%
Cabo Verde										
China	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0	n.a.	n.a.
Côte d'Ivoire	0%	0%								
Curacao										
Egypt			0%					0%		
El Salvador										
EU	15%	13.40%	3.50%	0	0	0	0	2%	0.80%	n.a
France (SPM)	0,00%									0,00%
Gabon										
Ghana										
Guatemala										
Guinea Ecuatorial										
Guinée République										
Honduras										
Iceland								0		
Japan	2.1%	1.1%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0%	n.a.	0%
Korea	<1%	<1%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0%	n.a.
Liberia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Libya	n.a.	n.a.	8, 279	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0	n.a.	294 n.a.
Maroc	0%	n.a	0%	n.a	n.a	n.a	0%	0%	n.a	10%
Mauritania										
Mexico	15.43									0
Namibia										
Nicaragua										
Nigeria										
Norway								0%		
Panama										
Philippines	n.a	0	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a	n.a
Russia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sao Tome										
Sénégal	1.65%	4.25%								
Sierra Leone										
South Africa										
St. Vincent & G	0%									
Syria										
Trinidad & Tobago	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Tunisie			3%					3.50%		10%
Turkey	n.a.	n.a.	1.79%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0	n.a.
UK-OT										
USA	8.2									2.6
Uruguay										
Vanuatu										
Venezuela										
Bolivia										
Chinese Taipei	0.95% (<125cm) 0% (<119cm)	0.28% (<125cm) 0% (<119cm)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Guyana										
Suriname										

### Compliance Summary Tables

2014

2015

Appendix 3 to ANNEX 10

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>ALBANIA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No reporting summary table received with Part II of Annual Report.		Lift identification. Letter of concern regarding incomplete reporting but recognizing improvement.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task II Catch & Effort or size data received. The annual report presents data of 2014.	Albania is working to improve its data collection.	Commission to send letter on reporting issues, including a request for clarification and updates, as necessary, to ensure 2015 Annual Report contains information required for 2015.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 13-07: monthly catch reports received late.			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> 14-04: Fishing plan received after the deadline.		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No compliance tables received.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late.		
	<b>Other issues:</b> Reply to Letter of identification received late, but Task I data for 2011 received and confirmation of null BFT catches for 2012 confirmed in March 2014.			<b>Other issues:</b> No reply to letter of concern. PNC reports contained in COC-305.		

2014

2015

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken by COC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken by COC</i>
<b>ALGERIA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>	Attributed incorrect BCD number to use of 3-letter ISO code issue. A full investigation of the ROP PNCs took place. Video evidence shows live fish being thrown back rather than dead discards. There was also a logbook issue - this was simply the logbook number not being clearly visible to the observer. Full details in COC 305.	No action	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>	Algeria investigates all PNCs and takes necessary measures every time there is an incident in order to prevent reoccurrence.	No action necessary.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 11-20: wrong unique identification number.			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b> ROP-BFT: PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305.			<b>Other issues:</b> PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305.		

		2014		2015		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>ANGOLA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No summary table of requirements received with Annual Report.	Until 2012, little attention was paid to data collection as there were no tuna fishing activities. Since that time, prior data submission has been made a requirement to get a license. This has caused discrepancies between newly submitted and older data. Reiterated request for ICCAT assistance/training.  No information on Access Agreement.	Lift identification in recognition of improvement. Send letter of concern regarding reporting issues and to request information on access agreement.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Annual Report submitted. No Task I Fleet Characteristics or size data submitted.	Artisanal data were submitted. Full information will be submitted later. No vessels over 20 m.	Letter on reporting issues.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No compliance tables received.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No compliance tables received.		
	<b>Other issues:</b> Rec. 11-16: no information on Access Agreements (reported by Cabo Verde). No reply to letter of identification.			<b>Other issues:</b> No reply to letter of concern. Response to letter of prohibition regarding 2013 catches received late/during the meeting.		

		2014		2015		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>BARBADOS</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>			<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Part I of Annual Report received late.	Not present at the meeting.	Letter on N. SWO management plan and lack of response to 2014 letter on prohibition of retention of certain species in 2015 under Rec. 11-15.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 13-02: No N. Swo management plan received in 2015.		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b> No response to letter of prohibition regarding 2013 catches.		

2014

2015

CPC	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>BELIZE</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Information submitted relates mainly to high seas fisheries, extent of implementation in national water fisheries unclear.	Confirmed application of ICCAT requirements in national waters.	Letter of concern to request additional information regarding report of port inspector harassment and actions to taken to address the issue.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Reporting summary Part II received late. Task II size data submitted in incorrect format.		Letter on retroactive vessel authorization request, reporting, and to request information regarding potential fishing by vessel with expired authorization.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 98-08: Very minor delay in submission of N. Alb list.	Delay in N. Albacore was an internal process issue. Will endeavor to improve this in the future. A payback plan for swordfish has been submitted. Drastic reduction in catch and effort expected in 2015. Spanish port infraction described as a logbook that was not bound. Could not reply at this time to reports of inspection interference. Will review and reply at a later time.		<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 13-13/14-10 & Rec. 12-06: Vessels reported for changes/updates on P20m & Carriers lists with start dates more than 45 days prior to notification. No N. Swo management plan received in 2015.	Belize informed that its process for licence renewal is currently being modified.	
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Continued overharvest of SWO and BUM. Payback plan for SWO submitted.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
<b>Other issues</b> - EU-Spain inspection at port of 2013 concerning a vessel from Belize. ROP_transhipment: PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305.		<b>Other issues:</b> ROP_transhipment: PNC report contained in COC-305.	Belize explained that the logbook was not in the vessel and that it had been an administrative problem.			

2014

2015

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>BRAZIL</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Part I of Annual Report received late (during SCRS) and Part II not complete (no reporting summary table).	Noted that restructuring and election had created some internal delays.	Letter of concern regarding reporting, but noting improvement.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Part I summary table of Annual Report received late. Reporting table of Part II received late. No Task I Fleet Characteristics or size data submitted.	Brazil informed that it first had to clarify its data and will then send them to the SCRS.	Letter on reporting (but noting improvement) and retroactive vessel authorization request.
	<b>Conservation and Management measures:</b> Rec. 13-13: Problems with data system resulted in vessels being reported for inclusion more than 30 days prior to notification. Rec. 11-01 (TROP list) retroactive listing of a vessel. Rec. 13-02: No swordfish fisheries development or management plan submitted.	Stated that they will be seeking clarification on their need to submit a swordfish plan, which they do not fish, at Panel 4. Their swordfish is harvested in the south as by-catch.		<b>Conservation and Management measures: 13-13/14-10 &amp; 14-01:</b> Retroactive registration of vessels (P20m lists and/or TROP list), including one inactive of one year prior. Rec. 13-02: No N. Swo management plan received in 2015.	Brazil acknowledged that not submitting the N-SWO plan had been recurrent.	
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late.	Noted that restructuring and election had created some internal delays.		<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late.		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b> No summary report received on chartering (Rec. 13-14).	Brazil informed that the summary had not been submitted since the vessels were in port and not active.	

		2014		2015		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>CANADA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action necessary.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 98-08: List of N-ALB vessels received late; Rec.11-20: wrong unique identification numbering. BCD information concerning catch and trade is not always completed. BCD annual report received late. Late submission of statistical document data reports.	BCD errors related to artisanal harvesters utilizing unused BCD forms from previous years despite being issued current year forms. Will continue to educate artisanal harvesters. Hopeful eBCD implementation will eliminate errors going forward. Committed to meeting vessel submission deadlines in future.		<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Compliance tables received late. Incomplete data in the BCDs and incorrect unique identification number, Rec. 11-20.		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b>		

	2014			2015		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>CABO VERDE</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No reporting summary received with Part II of Annual Report.		Letter of concern regarding reporting issues but noting improvement from previous years.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action necessary.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b>		

2014

2015

CPC	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>CHINA, People's Rep.</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action necessary.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b> PNC ROP_Transhipment reports and explanation contained in COC-305.			<b>Other issues:</b> ROP_transhipment: PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305.		

		2014		2015		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>CÔTE D'IVOIRE</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Summary table in part II of Annual Report incomplete.	No further comment.	Letter of concern regarding reporting but noting improvements from previous years.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		Letter regarding requirement to present N. SWO management plan.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 13-02: No swordfish fisheries development or management plan submitted.			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> No N. Swo management plan received in 2015.		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late.		
	<b>Other Issues:</b>			<b>Other Issues:</b> Response to letter of prohibition regarding 2013 catches received during the meeting.		

<i>CPC</i>	2014			2015		
	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>CURAÇAO</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Reporting summary not received with Part I of Annual Report.		No action necessary.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late.		
	<b>Other issues:</b> Information on time/area closure Gulf of Guinea received late.			<b>Other issues:</b>		

2014

2015

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>EGYPT</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Part I of Annual Report received late (after SCRS).		Letter of concern regarding reporting issues and to request additional information on swordfish fishing.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Task I data received but with formatting problems. No Task II Catch & Effort or size data received. No information on shark by-catch in the Annual Report.	Egypt explained that they needed more time to improve data submission. Egypt also informed that they had no by-catch and no sharks data to be reported.	Letter on reporting issues requesting timely and complete reporting in the future.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 13-07: Monthly reports received late (all weekly reports received on time). Rec. 13-04: No SWO-MED closure report received, applicability unclear.	Noted difficulty collecting data themselves from artisanal fishers. Feel their reporting has improved overall. Are taking steps to have supporting export authorities report to them on a species by species basis going forward.				
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late.					
	<b>Other issues:</b> EU reported imports of small quantities of swordfish imported from Egypt in 2013/14, but no Task I for SWO submitted by Egypt.	Delay related to other government authorities collecting the data for little fished species. Explained that they did investigate the potential interference infraction, but no evidence/witness collaboration.			<b>Other issues:</b> PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305. EU requested some explanation on the vessel Samur Lifti inspected under the JIIS (inspection report presented in Annex 3 to COC-303/2015).	

<i>CPC</i>	2014			2015		
	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>EL SALVADOR</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Zero catches reported. Part I of Annual Report received late (after SCRS).		Letter of concern regarding reporting deficiencies.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action necessary.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b> Reply to letter of concern received late.		

CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2014	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken	Potential issues of non-compliance-2015	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken
<b>EUROPEAN UNION</b>	<b>Annual Reports/Statistics:</b> Task I FC (fleet characteristics) missing for Spain, Netherlands and Denmark.	No tuna vessels in Denmark. EU did not send the grouped info for Spain, but can.	No action.	<b>Annual Reports/Statistics:</b> Task II Catch & Effort and size data missing for 2 Member States (all others received).		No action necessary.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 13-13: EU-ESP notification more than 30 days after authorization start date; Rec. 12-03: EU-PRT changes to BFT sent late due to administrative reasons; Rec. 98-08: Delay in submission of N. Alb list (except for EU-UK).	Wrong BCD ID numbers related to ISO code errors. eBCD should fix this. Some late submissions due to minor internal process delays and/or lack of clarity in requirements.		<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Some EU Member States submit their BCDs well after the 5 working days validation. Rec. 14-01: No FAD management plan received in 2015. Rec. 12-07: Port inspection reports not received.	Explained FAD management plan for 2014 applied in 2015 as there is no update. No port inspection reports since no first landings from foreign flag vessels.	
	Rec. 11-20: Wrong unique identification numbering by EU-Spain; several non completed BCDs sent by EU-France and EU-Italy; EU-Malta and EU-Spain have sent BCDs well after the 5 working days validation. EU-France and EU-Italy statistical documents received late					
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
<b>Other issues:</b> Rec. 13-07: 1) ROP-BFT: PNCs reported by observers under ROP-BFT. 2) Potential infringements under Annex 8, Rec- 13-07 (2 inspection reports in EU-France, 1 inspection in EU-Italy). 3) OCEANA: Potential non compliance of Rec. 03-04 in use of driftnet by EU-Italy.	Investigated in Italy. Impossible to tell from pictures/video if nets on board were drift nets. Could also not confirm swordfish was being targeted at that time. Italy is taking steps regarding driftnet reduction in the Mediterranean.		<b>Other issues:</b> Rec. 13-07: 1) ROP-BFT: PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305. 2) One vessel reported by Turkey for inclusion on draft IUU list but removed from provision following response from EU.	Turkey confirmed that the information received from the EU concerning the vessel sighted was sufficient.		

		2014		2015		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>FRANCE (St. Pierre &amp; Miquelon)</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task II size data submitted.	France SPM indicated that the information was not submitted due to an administrative error and would be sent.	No action necessary.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 13-02: N-SWO plan received late. Statistical document bi-annual report received late.	Three day delay due to administrative error.		<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b>		

		2014		2015		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>GABON</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Annual Report received. Task I received for foreign flagged vessels. No data for national catches received.		Letter of concern regarding reporting issues.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Annual Report Part II comprises only the reporting summary/received late during the meeting.		Letter requesting timely and improved reporting, but noting improvements.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> no Compliance tables received.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b> No reply to letter of concern received.			<b>Other issues:</b>		

		2014		2015		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>GHANA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Task II size data submitted in incorrect format.		No action necessary.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 11-01. Vessels list BET/YFT fished previous year received late.	Note tropical tuna fishery is a mixed fishery with licenses issued for calendar year.		<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 14-01: Comprehensive and detailed capacity management plan not received. Data from observer trips received for 2014, but no reports for 2015 closure received.		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b>		

2014

2015

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>GUATEMALA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action necessary.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 11-01. Vessels list BET/YFT fished previous year received late.	Steps will be taken to fix late vessel list submission going forward.		<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late.		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b>		

		2014		2015		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>GUINEA ECUATORIAL</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task I or Task II data received. No reporting summary table received with Part II of Annual Report.	Noted that they have no actual fleet to collect data from. It is all artisanal fishers. Requested technical/training assistance from ICCAT on data collection and submission.	Letter of concern regarding reporting deficiencies, noting request for technical training from ICCAT on data collection and submission.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task I Fleet Characteristics, no Task II Catch & Effort or size data received.		Letter requesting timely and improved reporting, but noting improvements. Equatorial Guinea may request assistance from Secretariat, but details of requirements and difficulties should accompany such a request.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No compliance tables received.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No Compliance tables received.		
	<b>Other issues:</b> No reply to letter of concern received. No explanation for non-reporting in 2013.			<b>Other issues:</b>		

		2014		2015		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>GUINEA Rep.</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Part I of Annual Report received late (during SCRS). No reporting summary table received with Part II.	Stated they are committed to improving efforts and being in compliance in the future.	Letter of concern regarding reporting deficiencies but noting improvement, and requesting additional information on access agreement reported by Panama and contained in COC-303.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Part I of Annual Report received late. No reporting summary received with Part II. No Task I Fleet Characteristics		Letter requesting timely and improved reporting, but noting improvements.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> No internal actions report 20 m+ received.			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No compliance tables received.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> no Compliance tables received.		
	<b>Other issues:</b> No information on access agreement with Panama (reported by Panama).	Delegate stated that there is no access agreement with Panama.		<b>Other issues:</b>		

2014

2015

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>HONDURAS</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task I or Task II data received. No report submitted to SCRS. No Annual Report received.	Submitted a statement to ICCAT reporting zero catches of convention species and pledging to supply any other missing data previously identified.	Lift identification. Send letter of concern regarding continued reporting deficiencies, while recognizing improvement from previous year.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Annual Report received late.		Letter requesting complete and timely reporting, but noting improvement.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No compliance tables received.	Pledged to supply any other missing data previously identified.		<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late.		
	<b>Other issues:</b> No reply to letter of identification received. No explanation of non-reporting in 2013.			<b>Other issues:</b> Reply to letter of concern received late.		

2014

2015

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>ICELAND</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action necessary.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b> Rec. 13-07: transmission of VMS started late.			<b>Other issues:</b>		

2014

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CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2014	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken	Potential issues of non-compliance-2015	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken
JAPAN	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Part I of Annual Report received late (during SCRS), without reporting summary.	A changeover of staff led to these late submissions and the missing summary.	Letter of concern regarding logbook issues, while recognizing Japan's constructiveness at the annual meeting on this matter and commitment to find a solution to this issue.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>	Japan has provided explanations including Japanese commitment to improve compliance with logbook requirements.	No action necessary.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Rec. 13-06. Possible overharvest of S. Albacore.	Their season just started in August. This is not the proper time to consider a possible over harvest.		<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b> Rec. 11-16: No information on Access Agreements (reported by Colombia). Reply to letter of concern received late. ROP_transshipment: PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305.	Will endeavor to find a solution to the 3-ring binder/bound logbook issue.		<b>Other issues:</b> ROP_transshipment: PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305.		

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<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>KOREA, Rep. of</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action necessary.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>	ROP - Have supplied a response letter to ICCAT.		<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>	Korea confirmed prohibition on shark retention of relevant species.	
	<b>Other issues:</b> ROP_BFT; ROP-transshipment: PNC reports contained in COC-305. Statistical Document data: 2013 exports of bigeye slightly higher than reported catch figures.	The vessel in question has been suspended for 60 days of the fishing season. The figure discrepancy was caused by late season catches in one year being actually exported in the following year.		<b>Other issues:</b> ROP_transshipment: PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305.		

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<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>LIBERIA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Part I of report received late (joined 2014, no fishing in 2013).		No action.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Annual Report received late, both parts after Commission deadline.		Letter requesting complete and timely reporting.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Liberia joined ICCAT in 2014.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late/during the meeting.		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b>		

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<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>LIBYA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Annual Report received late (during the meeting). No Task II Catch & Effort or size data received.		Letter requesting complete and timely reporting and referring to retroactive vessel authorization requests.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> 14-04, para. 52: Vessels reported for some changes/updates and inclusion (7 cases) on E-BFT-Others lists, were not in accordance with provisions requiring submission 15 days in advance of authorisation. BCD annual report was received late.		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late.		
	<b>Other issues:</b> BFT-ROP: PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305. Potential infringements under Annex 8, Rec. 13-07 (2 inspections reports by Tunisia: 1 inspection by EU). OCEANA: potential non compliance: IUU vessels.			<b>Other issues:</b> PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305.		

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<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	
<b>MAURITANIA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No reporting summary table received with Part I or II of Annual Report.	No national fishery for tuna or sharks. Only foreign vessels fishing within Mauritania through Access Agreements.	Letter of concern regarding reporting deficiencies.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Reporting summary for Part II received. No Task I or Task II data received.	Mauritania explained that a new law and a decree has come into force, and undertook to provide the data in the future.	Letter on reporting issues, particularly recalling the need to report artisanal catches and by-catch, and requesting N. SWO development plan.	
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>	Access agreements are private agreements rather than national agreements.		<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> No SWO development plan submitted.	Will provide it by the deadline in the future.		Recall that all CPCs should respond to letters of concern. Prohibited from catching species under ICCAT mandate until Task I or confirmation of zero catches received.
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late (during meeting).			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late/during the meeting.			
	<b>Other issues:</b> No reply to letter of concern received.			<b>Other issues:</b> No reply to letter of concern received.			

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<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>MEXICO</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action necessary.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 11-20: Wrong unique identification number. Statistical document data received late (no imports).	BCD number error likely an ISO number error. Have recently improved internal IT system to better handle date compilation and submission.		<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Wrong unique identification number, Rec. 11-20.		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Overharvest of WHM and BUM.	Have achieved meaningful reduction in both species harvest the last 2 years. Have implemented management measures pertaining to observer coverage, release of by-catch, and more that will further reduce harvest.		<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b>		

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<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>MOROCCO</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action necessary.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 11-20: BCD wrong identification number.	3-letter ISO code problem, which has been corrected. Looking to eBCD to eliminate problem in the future.		<b>Conservation and Management:</b> Rec. 11-20 BCD annual report received late. Rec. 13-04 SWO-MED closure and Rec. 13-02 N. SWO plan received late.	SWO requirements sent late due to administrative error, prepared on time but sent to wrong email.	
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b> ROP_BFT: PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305. OCEANA: Potential non compliance of Rec. 03-04 in use of driftnet.	BFT operation at issue was repeated to satisfaction of observer. Info from driftnet investigation provided to OCEANA and elaborated in COC-307.		<b>Other issues:</b>		

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<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>NAMIBIA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>	In response to CPC inquiry about VMS, confirmed that their VMS has been implemented since report filed.	No action.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action necessary.
<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 12-07: Port inspection carried out and reports received.					
<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>					
<b>Other issues:</b>	<b>Other issues:</b>					

		2014		2015		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>NICARAGUA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task I or Task II data received.	Not present.	Letter of concern regarding continued reporting deficiencies.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Annual Report received. No Task I or Task II data received.	Not present at the meeting.	Letter requesting complete and timely reporting, recalling that reply to letter of concern and Annual Report should be submitted even if no activities to report. Prohibited from catching species under ICCAT mandate until Task I or confirmation of zero catches received.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No compliance tables received.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No compliance tables received.		
	<b>Other issues:</b> No reply to letter of concern received nor written confirmation of 0 catches.			<b>Other issues:</b> No reply to letter of concern received.		

<i>CPC</i>	2014			2015		
	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>NIGERIA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Only summary tables for Annual Report Parts I and II.		No action necessary.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b>		

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<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>NORWAY</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action required	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Reporting summary of Part I received late (with Part II of Annual Report).	Requests Secretariat to be clearer in its guidelines/calendar for Annual Reports.	No action necessary.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 13-07: Weekly catch reports received late (0 catch). Rec. 11-20: Wrong identification number.	Thought it was not required to send reports of zero catches. Will do so going forward. ISO code error on the BCD item, which has been addressed.		<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
<b>Other issues:</b> 13-07: Transmission of VMS started late.	Despite late start, transmission did pre-date fishing activity by 15 days.		<b>Other issues:</b>			

2014				2015		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>PANAMA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Annual Report received late (during meeting).	Cited government change as an issue that created delays.	Letter of concern regarding reporting deficiencies, while noting improvement from previous years.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Reporting summary not received with Part I of Annual Report. No Task I Fleet Characteristics.		Letter on reporting issues and retroactive vessel authorization requests.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 11-01 and 13-01: Information on FADs received late. Rec.12-06: Retroactive reporting of a vessel for the carrier vessel list ( <i>Note: Secretariat seeking clarification as to whether this is allowed under the Rec. ).</i> Rec. 12-07: Foreign vessel allowed to entered port not included on ICCAT Record of authorised ports.	Domestic legislation only permits addition to national vessel lists after annual renewal of fishing licence. The deadline for licence renewal in Panama was after the deadline for vessel list submission to ICCAT. Regarding the port entry issue, observer reported wrong port. The actual port was included on their list of authorized ports.		<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 14-04: Vessels submitted for E-BFT other list not in accordance with provisions requiring submission 15 days in advance of authorisation. Incorrect VMS messages received for several vessels.		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late (during meeting).			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late.		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b>		

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CPC	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>PHILIPPINES</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>	Payback plan provisionally approved. Committed to complying and preventing future overharvests. Significant potential sanctions have been established for vessel masters who violate in the future.	Letter of concern regarding S. ALB overharvest, recognizing payback plan but requesting information on steps Philippines will be taking to prevent future such overharvests.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>	Not present at the meeting.	Letter recalling that the N. SWO management plan was missing and that no reply to 2014 letter on prohibition of certain species in 2015 under Rec. 11-15 was submitted.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 13-02: No N. Swo management plan received in 2015.		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Rec. 13-06: Overharvest of S. ALB payback plan submitted. Figures on compliance tables require further explanation.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b> PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305.	<b>Other issues:</b> No response to letter of prohibition regarding 2013 catches. See COC-305, PNCs under ROPs.				

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<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>RUSSIA</b>	<p><b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Task I FC (fleet characteristics) received late. Also received for previous years.</p> <p><b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b></p> <p><b>Quotas and catch limits:</b></p> <p><b>Other issues:</b></p>	No tuna targeted fishing occurred.	No action.	<p><b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Task I Fleet Characteristics received late.</p> <p><b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b></p> <p><b>Quotas and catch limits:</b></p> <p><b>Other issues:</b></p>		No action necessary.

2014				2015		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>SAO TOME &amp; PRINCIPE</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task I or Task II data received. No Annual Report received.	Taking steps to improve internal organization to improve data collection and future compliance. Noted they have an assistance agreement in place with the EU for assistance and training.	Letter of concern regarding reporting deficiencies but noting Sao Tome commitment at annual meeting to meet future deadlines and to submit past data where possible.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Annual Report received. No Task II Catch & Effort or size data received.		Letter on continued lack of timely and complete reporting, but noting some improvement.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No compliance tables received.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late.		
	<b>Other issues:</b> No reply to letter of concern. No explanation for non-reporting in 2013.			<b>Other issues:</b>		

CPC	2014			2015		
	<i>Potential Issues of Non compliance -2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential Issues of Non compliance -2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
SENEGAL	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>	Apologized for late submission.	Letter of concern regarding reporting deficiencies, but recognizing improvement, and to seek additional clarification regarding SWO export - Task I discrepancies.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action necessary.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 13-02: N-SWO plan received late. Statistical document data report received late.			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b> 2013 exports of swordfish significantly higher than reported catches (715 t exported vs. 221 t Task I report).			<b>Other issues:</b>		
	Have asked their government authority responsible for export data for explanation. Will follow-up with Commission.					

CPC	2014			2015		
	Potential issues of non-compliance-2014	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken	Potential issues of non-compliance-2015	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken
SIERRA LEONE	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Annual Report received. Task I for foreign vessels (including previous years) received.		Letter of concern regarding reporting deficiencies.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Annual Report received.	Not present at the meeting.	Letter on continued lack of complete and timely reporting.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No compliance tables received.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No compliance tables received.		
	<b>Other issues:</b> No information on Access Agreements reported by Chinese Taipei. No written confirmation of null catches in 2012 (Rec. 11-15).			<b>Other issues:</b> Letter received after 10.10.2015 concerning Rec. 11-15 and some issues raised in letter of concern.		

		2014		2015		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>SOUTH AFRICA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Annual Report Part I received late. Annual Report Part II received late (during meeting).	Regarding reporting deficiencies, noted significant internal restructuring, committed to fully complying in future.	Letter of concern regarding reporting deficiencies but noting commitment to meet future deadlines.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Task I data submitted late. Annual Report Part II submitted late.		Letter on continued lack of complete and timely reporting.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 12-07: Port inspection reports not received by Secretariat.		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late, (during meeting).			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late/during the meeting.		
	<b>Other issues:</b> No information received on Access Agreement with UK-OT (St. Helena). No information seabird mitigation measures.	Submitted Access Agreement info Aug 12. Has implemented mitigation measures for sea birds. Working with WWF on awareness campaign as well.		<b>Other issues:</b> Summary report on chartering received during the meeting (Rec. 13-14). Reply to letter of concern received late during the meeting. No response to letter of prohibition regarding 2013 catches.		

		2014		2015		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>ST.VINCENT &amp; THE GRENADINES</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Information submitted relates mainly to high seas fisheries, extent of implementation in national water fisheries unclear.	Confirmed submission applies to national waters as well.	No action.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Annual Report received late/during Commission meeting.	SVG apologised for lateness of reporting. Not responding to the letter of concern was due to an oversight and this would be remedied.	Letter on late reporting, N SWO management plan missing, lack of response to 2014 letter on prohibition of retention of certain species in 2015 under Rec. 11-15.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 13-02: No swordfish fisheries development or management plan submitted.	SWO plan in development. Ready in early 2015.		<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 13-02: No N. Swo management plan received in 2015.	SVG indicated that the swordfish management plan would be completed and submitted shortly after internal review.	
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late.		
	<b>Other issues:</b> No reply (to Secretariat) to EU 2012 allegations. No reply to letter of concern received.	Noted human resource constraints as an issue.		<b>Other issues:</b> No response to letter of prohibition regarding 2013 catches. See also COC-305, PNCs under ROPs.	SVG verbally informed the Committee that the two issues on PNCs relating to unbound logbooks and markings have been rectified.	

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CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2014	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken	Potential issues of non-compliance-2015	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken
<b>SYRIA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Annual Report received. No Task I or Task II data received.		Letter of concern regarding reporting deficiencies.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Annual Report received. No Task I Fleet Characteristics received and no Task II (catch & effort or size) data received.	Not present at the meeting.	Letter on continued lack of complete and timely reporting.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> BFT fishery prohibited in 2012 and 2013. Rec, 13-07: Late submission of E_BFT catching vessel due to <i>force majeure</i> , but request for Regional Observer received too late to allow fishing in 2014.			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 11-20: BCD annual report not received. Rec. 14-04: EBFT Implementation Report not received.		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No compliance tables received.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late.		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b> An e-mail message received after 10.10.2015 raising some issues referred in the concern letter.		

		2014		2015		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>TRINIDAD &amp; TOBAGO</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Statistical data received late. No Part II of Annual Report received.		Letter of concern regarding reporting deficiencies and continued and increasing billfish overharvests.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task II catch & effort or size data received.	Not present at the meeting.	Identified due to continued and significant white marlin and blue marlin overharvests. T&T to reply informing of domestic management measures in place for these fisheries, logbook requirements, trade monitoring.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 13-02: No swordfish development/management plan received.			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late. Continued overharvest of BUM and WHM.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Overharvest plan/BUM and WHM to be checked by COC/Commission.		
	<b>Other issues:</b> No reply to letter of concern received.			<b>Other issues:</b> Reply to letter of concern received late.		

		2014		2015		
<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>TUNISIA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action necessary.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 11-20: BCD wrong identification number.	Has already worked with Secretariat and resolved issue.		<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b> Rec. 13-07 1. ROP_BFT: PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305. 2. Potential infringements under Annex 8, Rec. 13-07 (7 inspections reports by EU).	Reiterated their explanation contained in COC-305.		<b>Other issues:</b> PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305.		

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<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>TURKEY</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>	Investigations have happened in all cases. Results shared with relevant parties. Content that any irregularities were minor - poor camera footage as the cam got wet, technical glitch with VMS transmission.	No action.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action necessary.
<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>					
<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>					
<b>Other issues: VMS:</b> Manual transmission of VMS messages in non-NAF format sent from beginning May 2014 and continuing throughout season. ROP_BFT: PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305.	<b>Other issues: PNC</b> reports and explanation contained in COC-305.					

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CPC	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
UNITED KINGDOM (OTs)	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Task II size data submitted.		No action necessary.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 13-02: N-SWO plan received late. Wrong BCD number ("UK.BMU 13-03"/received in December 2013). BCD annual report received late.	Thanked Commission for noting their improvement. Will continue to work to improve compliance.		<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b>		

2014

2015

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action necessary.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 11-01. Very minor delay in submission of BET/YFT vessel list and in N. Alb list.	Due to national holiday.		<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	Rec. 11-20: Wrong unique identification number for the re-export certificates. Re-export certificates from 2012 received one year later in 2013.	Have been working with the Secretariat to make necessary corrections to identification numbers. Safeguards in place to ensure errors do not happen going forward. Administration error led to re-export error - sent to Secretariat once aware. Was discussed and resolved with Secretariat prior to 2013 ICCAT meeting.				
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b>		

2014

2015

<i>CPC</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>URUGUAY</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action required.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action necessary.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b> Information on possible port inspection reports being issued in 2015 at Montevideo/Rec. 12-07 would be welcomed.		
					Uruguay explained that in the event of an infringement: a port inspection report will be submitted.	

2014

2015

CPC	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation by CPC</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>VANUATU</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Part I of Annual Report received late (after SCRS).		Letter of concern regarding data deficiencies.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Part I of Annual Report received late for SCRS without summary table. No sections 4 or 5 received. No Task I Fleet Characteristics or size data submitted.	Not present at the meeting.	Letter on continued reporting issues, no N SWO management plan, requests for retroactive vessel registrations, and lack of response to 2014 letter on prohibition of retention of certain species in 2015 under Rec. 11-15.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 13-02: No N. SWO management plan received in 2014.			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 13-13/14-10 & 14-01: In three cases, retroactive registration of vessels (P20m lists and/or TROP list), of several months prior. Rec. 13-02: No N. Swo management plan received in 2015.		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Compliance tables received late.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b> No reply to letter of concern. No response to letter of prohibition regarding 2013 catches.		

2014

2015

CPC	Potential issues of non-compliance-2014	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken	Potential issues of non-compliance-2015	Response / explanation by CPC	Actions Taken
VENEZUELA	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action (no letter of concern or identification), but Chair to send letter asking for information on actions to address the over harvest of ALB and BUM, which is decreasing but still occurring.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No Part II Annual Report/reporting summary Part II received. Task I Fleet Characteristics not received.	Venezuela has taken steps to address these issues. These will be reported when a new law is passed.	Letter on reporting issues, no N-SWO management plan, N-ALB catches, and lack of response to 2014 COC Chair letter requesting information on actions to address overharvest of N-ALB and BUM.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 11-01: List of BET/YFT authorised vessels received late. No list of vessels fishing previous year received.			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b> Rec. 13-02: No N. Swo management plan received in 2015.		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b> No information received on national measures to reduce ALB and BUM overharvest, as requested by the Commission.			<b>Other issues:</b> No reply received to Chair letter.		

2014			2015			
	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>BOLIVIA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Zero catches reported. No Annual Report received.		Letter of concern regarding reporting deficiencies.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Only summary table of Part I of Annual Report received. No Annual Report Part I text and no Part II received.		No action necessary. Cooperating Status letter to note lack of response to 2014 COC letter, while noting improvement in certain reporting requirements.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No compliance tables received.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No compliance tables received.		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b> No reply to letter of concern.		

		2014		2015		
	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>CHINESE TAIPEI</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		No action.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		Cooperating status renewed. No other action necessary.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b> PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305.			<b>Other issues:</b> PNC reports and explanation contained in COC-305.		

2015

	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>GUYANA</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> No reporting summary for Part I and Part II received.		Cooperating status renewed, but to receive letter requesting timely and complete reporting in order to retain such status in the future.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b>		
	<b>Other issues:</b>		

		2014		2015		
	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2014</i>	<i>Response / explanation</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>	<i>Potential issues of non-compliance-2015</i>	<i>Response / explanation</i>	<i>Actions Taken</i>
<b>SURINAME</b>	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b> Task I (only data corresponds to foreign flagged vessels).		Letter of concern regarding reporting deficiencies.	<b>Annual Reports/ Statistics:</b>		Cooperating status renewed. No other action necessary.
	<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>			<b>Conservation and Management Measures:</b>		
	<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> No compliance tables received.			<b>Quotas and catch limits:</b> Data for compliance tables received late.		
	<b>Other issues:</b>			<b>Other issues:</b> Reply to letter of concern received late.		

### Concept note on an ICCAT online reporting system

#### Purpose and need

ICCAT has adopted a significant number of measures that require CPCs to submit data and reports in various formats and under different schedules. This information is typically submitted via electronic mail to the general intake address (info@iccat.int). This approach places a significant burden on the Secretariat to monitor thousands of e-mails annually, and to evaluate the received information and place it into the appropriate databases for scientific and/or administrative uses. Additionally, there is a heavy burden on the Secretariat to extract the information from numerous electronic files in order to produce required reports and communications, in particular reports to support the work of the Compliance Committee.

An online reporting system on the ICCAT website could provide CPCs with a unified and comprehensive approach to submitting information. The system could assist CPCs by providing a “single window” reporting and management tool for tracking and organizing their respective submissions. The online reporting system could replace the need to separately submit Annual Reports and, to the extent possible, many other periodic submissions to the Secretariat.

Such a system could address the persistent problem of lack of reporting and/or incomplete and late reporting that creates work for the Secretariat and that impedes the effective functioning of the Compliance Committee. Extracts of information made directly by CPCs from the online reporting system could replace several reports and documents now prepared by the Secretariat to support the Compliance Committee. In addition, these extracts could be available to CPCs at any time and could facilitate advance and more effective preparation for the Compliance Committee.

#### Potential features of a system

The system would be based on a relational database consisting of individual reporting elements. These data elements are, to a large extent, already well defined. (See ICCAT guidelines for submitting data and the list of reporting requirements.)

A “pop-up” window for each reporting element would have a brief description of its origin (ICCAT measure) and purpose, an explanation of the requirement and the conditions of its applicability, and an indication of the format and due date. These details are largely already available.

Filtering criteria would be assigned to each reporting element to enable system queries of a particular focus. For example, filters could be developed to allow selection by:

- Associated Recommendation(s)/Resolution(s)
- Associated species (BFT, SWO, ALB, etc.)
- Associated subject (e.g., observers, vessels, MCS)
- Reporting period (year) and applicable due date
- Indication of whether the element contains legacy data or is an active requirement

#### Mode of operation

The internet-based self-reporting would be accomplished by authorized CPC officials such as scientific and administrative correspondents. Password protected accounts would be assigned by the Secretariat and the system would have a self-service password reset.

An automated e-mail reminder could be sent to designated CPC officials when a reporting element is due/overdue.

The system would automatically record the CPC account that is used to enter/modify data and record dates of the original entry and most recent change for that reporting element on each annual cycle.

The CPC official would attach formatted files for loading into respective databases by the Secretariat (e.g., Task I and Task II data, vessel lists). The Secretariat would record a CPC specific response in cases of incorrect/incomplete submission (the system would record date of message).

The Secretariat could post messages for response by involved CPCs (e.g., VMS irregularities, observer PNC reports, inspection reports, submissions under Rec. 08-09) with automated e-mail notification of Secretariat queries to the individual CPCs.

The Secretariat would develop and post an online user manual and help request tool. The Secretariat staff would have administrator role to assist/modify records when needed.

An extract tool would allow CPCs to generate reports (at any time) according to selected filtering criteria (due date, associated species, subject, CPCs indicating not applicable, etc.).

### **Benefits**

- Reduced workload for Secretariat to compile information (direct submissions through online reporting system rather than collate information submitted in e-mails).
- System-enforced formats and completeness of response (e.g., reporting that a measure is not applicable requires explanation).
- Access to extracts would facilitate work of the Compliance Committee in assessing status of each CPC prior to meeting; the system would provide a real time and historical record of reporting status by measure, by subject area, etc.
- Promotes transparency through access to extracts (similar to queries on conservation measures and authorized vessel list).

### **Costs**

- Database development and user interface
- Online user guide and training tools
- Operations and maintenance costs
- Development of new reporting elements when new measures adopted
- Deactivation of legacy reporting elements when measures replaced/rescinded

## 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 meeting of the PWG was opened by the Chair, Mr. Taoufik El Ktiri (Morocco) on November 12, 2015.

### 2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Ms. Yvonne T. Baker (United States) was appointed Rapporteur.

### 3. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was adopted with no modifications. The Agenda is included as **Appendix 1 to ANNEX 11** to this report.

### 4. Consideration of actions referred from the IMM Working Group

The Chair reported the results of the 10th Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM) held in February 2015 in Madrid. At the meeting, the Group considered a number of measures and proposals that were referred to the 24th Regular Meeting of the Commission for further consideration, including those regarding observer programs, high seas boarding and inspection (HSBI), and the progress of the electronic bluefin tuna catch documentation program (eBCD). These proposals were considered under Agenda Item 5 under their respective subheadings.

### 5. Consideration of the effectiveness and practical aspects of implementation of:

#### *5.1 Catch documentation and statistical document programs*

The Chair reported no new discussions on the issue of catch documentation and statistical document programs at the IMM meeting. In response to a CPC's question on the statistical document exemption for bigeye tuna destined for canneries, the PWG clarified that the exemption was for bigeye caught *anywhere* destined for canneries in the Convention area. The Chair emphasized that some CPCs are still submitting catch documents with incorrect numbering and encouraged all CPCs to adopt the standard numbering that was adopted in the past.

Some CPCs highlighted the need to resolve the issue of proper validation authorities of statistical documents for bigeye and/or swordfish imports from the Marshall Islands (Pacific Ocean); from India, Oman and Tanzania (Indian Ocean and other unknown areas), accepted by ICCAT CPCs, as presented in the Secretariat report.

#### *5.2 Progress of eBCD*

The Chair of the eBCD Technical Working Group (TWG), Neil Ansell (EU), provided an update on the status of the eBCD program development, including a brief report of the TWG meetings held in 2015. That report is included as **Appendix 2 to ANNEX 11**. The TWG Chair's description of the core policy issues remaining to implement the eBCD program from IMM was introduced as a "*Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Clarify and Amend Aspects of ICCAT's Bluefin Catch Documentation Program to Facilitate the Application of the eBCD System*". A number of CPCs reported that they have implemented the eBCD program with success and urged other CPCs to do the same. The TWG reassured the PWG that at least 17 CPCs have participated in the development of the eBCD program since its inception.

Japan introduced its proposal, a “*Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Supplementing the Recommendation for an Electronic Bluefin Tuna Catch Document (eBCD) System*”, which set an implementation schedule and included elements from the 2015 IMM proposal to clarify implementation issues relative to the eBCD system. The PWG asked Japan to work with the eBCD Chair to merge the two proposals and also asked interested CPCs to provide their input on the proposals directly with the proponents so that one revised proposal could be tabled.

Japan presented its revised proposal, which established an implementation deadline of May 1, 2016, and provided a way forward on the various policy issues that have been under discussion for many years. The PWG welcomed this document, and several CPCs had comments. Given time constraints, the revised proposal could not be finalized in that session given the complexity of a couple of remaining policy issues. The PWG agreed to refer it to the Commission for final review with a view to its adoption.

In addition, the PWG Chair noted with regret that the ABNJ/GEF programme was unable to provide its financial assistance, as it had been so agreed in the past within the framework of its cooperation with ICCAT, to this important eBCD project due to certain administrative procedures which would not have been complied with within the deadlines fixed by the internal regulations of the FAO.

The Pew Charitable Trusts also provided a statement, which is attached as **Appendix 4 to ANNEX 11**.

### **5.3 ICCAT Regional Observer Programmes**

#### *5.3.1 ROP-Transshipment*

There were no specific comments from the PWG on the Secretariat’s “*Report on the Implementation of the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme (ROP) for Transshipment 2014/15*”. In response to a CPC’s request for recalculation of its transshipment participation fees, the PWG explained that these fees are determined by industry and that the CPC should consult with its own, and other CPCs’, industry.

#### *5.3.2 ROP-BFT*

There were no comments from the PWG on the Secretariat’s “*Report on the Implementation of the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme for East Atlantic and Mediterranean Bluefin Tuna*” and “*A Summary of the ICCAT Regional Observer Programme during 2015*” by the consortium implementing ROP-BFT.

#### *5.3.3 Proposal on ICCAT Scientific Observer Program*

The Chair then opened discussion on a “*Draft Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish an ICCAT Scientific Observer Programme within the ICCAT Convention Area*”, proposed by the European Union. A revision of a proposal submitted at the 2015 IMM meeting in Madrid, the proposal focuses on the scientific role of observers and aims to expand upon Recommendation 10-10 (*Recommendation by ICCAT to Establish Minimum Standards for Fishing Vessel Scientific Observer Programs*) and to serve as a reference by replacing Annex 4 of Recommendation 14-01 while standardizing observer tasks and qualifications, as well as the roles of various entities that interact with observers such as the CPC and the vessel master. The proposal also includes a provision on the mutual recognition of observers meeting the qualification standards. While CPCs recognized the importance of addressing the issue of observers, some CPCs considered the proposal’s approach to be too general, while others expressed concerns about the jurisdiction of foreign observers in their national waters. Some CPCs stated that there was also a need to more clearly define the scope of the program and define terms so that the program would more clearly apply to regional and subregional programs and not restrict a CPC’s ability to operate existing national observer programs. Along with some CPCs, the Chair suggested waiting until the SCRS review of Recommendation 10-10 before a new observer proposal is adopted.

As there was no consensus, the EU stated they would work intersessionally on the proposal with interested CPCs with a view to bringing a revised proposal to the next intersessional meeting. The European Union also said they would ask the SCRS’s opinion on minimum qualifications for observers.

#### **5.4 At-sea and in-port transshipment requirements**

The Chair opened discussion on the Secretariat's report on "*Issues of Potential Non-Compliance Reported by Observers under the ICCAT Regional Observer Programmes*". While there were no specific comments from the PWG on the Secretariat's report on issues of potential non-compliance (PNC) under the ICCAT Regional Observer Programmes, a CPC reported an incident of potential non-compliance of a farm in a case where a report was not possible due to water quality issues. Given another CPC's response that Recommendation 14-04 required observers at the time of caging regardless of water quality, the Chair recommended the CPC refer the issue to COC.

In noting other issues related to transshipments, the European Union stated the desire to reconsider the provisions related to transshipment at sea and asked to introduce this point to the next intersessional meeting of the PWG/IMM.

#### **5.5 Rules for chartering and other fishing arrangements**

The Chair opened discussion on a request for clarification from the Secretariat in its report on whether reporting on a chartering arrangement after the arrangement has already been terminated is in compliance with Recommendation 13-14. The PWG agreed that it is clear within Rec. 13-14 that information of the chartering contract must be reported to the Secretariat at the time of the making of the contract so that other CPCs are informed before the arrangement begins. In response to one CPC's concern, the PWG emphasized that Rec. 13-14 does not intend to infringe on a State's sovereignty, but merely requires reporting an arrangement after it has been negotiated and before the actual fishing activity under the arrangement begins.

In response to a suggestion from the COC Chair, the PWG agreed to discuss, at an intersessional meeting, the status of fishing activity under a chartering arrangement that was reported after it had already terminated.

The PWG endorsed the request made by the Secretariat in its report which consists in asking CPCs to cross check information on chartering agreements, in particular, quota allocation and the precise duration of the agreement, prior to transmission so as to ensure full and correct submission to the Commission.

#### **5.6 At-sea vessel sighting and inspection programs (high-seas boarding and inspection)**

The Chair opened discussion on a "*Draft [Recommendation][Resolution] by ICCAT for a [Model] Joint International Inspection Scheme*" co-sponsored by the United States, the European Union, Panama, and Senegal. This proposal is very similar in substance to that circulated at the IMM meeting in February 2015, as well as other IMM meetings and last year's Annual Meeting, and would have established a Joint International Inspection Scheme that would apply on the high seas in all ICCAT fisheries. This proposal also includes alternative language to reflect a second possible approach which is to adopt a resolution establishing a model high seas boarding and inspection (HSBI) scheme to be activated on a fishery-by-fishery or other basis, where appropriate and as agreed by ICCAT. The United States presented the proposal on behalf of the co-sponsors, emphasizing the importance of ICCAT adopting a modern HSBI scheme to complement a full suite of Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) measures and to help combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. The United States stated that it would be valuable to have a robust discussion of the proposal, including the details of the HSBI scheme and the alternative approaches.

Some CPCs echoed the idea that a HSBI scheme is very beneficial in combating IUU fishing and provides particular assistance to developing countries that may not have the authority or capacity to fight IUU fishing alone. On the other hand, other CPCs noted that while they are fully committed to combating IUU fishing, many of them have domestic legal, technical, and regulatory constraints that prevent them from accepting this proposal at this time. While there was no consensus, a number of CPCs expressed willingness to continue working on the issue and the United States stated it would continue to work intersessionally with co-sponsors and other interested CPCs. It was decided that the parties should continue discussions intersessionally, and including at the proposed 2016 IMM Working Group meeting.

### ***5.7 Port inspection schemes and other port State measures***

The Chair opened discussion with the report from the Secretariat on implementation of Recommendation 12-07, Minimum Standards for Port Inspection. The report reflects that the CPC reporting seems to indicate that the provision for 5% inspection of landings and transshipments at port is not being reached. This issue was also flagged at the 2014 Annual Meeting. The Secretariat noted that the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) had developed a training course for implementation of its port inspection measure and asked whether there was interest in developing an ICCAT course based on the IOTC model and, if so, how it would be financed. The EU reported its initiative to offer capacity building in support of port inspection within the context of its bilateral fisheries agreements, and expressed interest in such training be endorsed by ICCAT, as done by IOTC. One CPC noted that it has received other helpful trainings on port inspection as well.

The PWG took note of Recommendation 14-08, which establishes a special Monitoring Control and Surveillance Fund (MCS Fund) that makes it possible for a requesting developing CPC to receive capacity building assistance to implement their port inspection requirements. It was noted however, that there had not been any official requests to utilize the MCS Fund and that, in accordance with the Recommendation, funds had not yet been allocated from the Working Capital Fund as there was not yet an understanding of the specific needs of CPCs. One CPC suggested that an ICCAT port inspection training course, based on the IOTC model, could be developed with use of the MCS Fund. The Secretariat noted that this year they would recirculate a Circular requesting information from CPCs on their port inspection capacity building needs and urged CPCs to respond.

In response to comments raised in COC on the lack of CPC port inspection report submissions, a number of CPCs stated that they were, in fact conducting port inspections. One CPC noted that a lack of reporting did not necessarily indicate lack of inspection capacity or the incapacity to carry out the inspection operation itself, but instead difficulty with implementation of the port inspection form. The Chair noted that the issue of port inspection report submission should be raised with COC, as submission is required by Recommendation 12-07.

The Chair concluded that CPCs should express their capacity building needs with the Secretariat, and that the Secretariat should cooperate with the IOTC on port inspection trainings, in particular, through an agent hired to develop a course/manual based on the content of that of the IOTC and adapted to ICCAT.

### ***5.8 Vessel listing requirements***

The Chair opened discussion with the report from the Secretariat and noting some requests for clarification concerning vessel listing requirements. The Secretariat reported that it has done significant work on the ICCAT vessel database by reducing data insufficiencies and removing thousands of duplications which affected the ICCAT database and the PWG thanked them for it.

The PWG noted the interest that the CPCs should attach to the integrity of the ICCAT Records of Vessels, in particular, in terms of completeness of the information submitted by each of them, further mandatory information and compliance with the provisions of the rules on deactivation of vessels on expiry of their authorization periods. The PWG considers that this should help to remedy the huge deficiencies that still affect the ICCAT Records of Vessels, as clearly stated in the Secretariat report.

In noting that a significant percentage of CPCs have not provided IMO numbers for their vessels, the Secretariat reminded CPCs that the requirement to have IMO numbers on eligible large-scale commercial vessels in accordance with the provisions of Recommendation 13-13 which come into force on January 1, 2016. The PWG thanked the Secretariat for the reminder. The United States informed CPCs that it had successfully applied for, and received, IMO numbers from IHS-Maritime for all of its steel-hulled vessels, including many under 100 gross tons. It reassured CPCs that it was a smooth process and offered to share with other CPCs the specifics of its experience of working with IHS-Maritime.

Regarding the Secretariat's request to harmonize reporting deadlines to July 31 each year, CPCs generally agreed that harmonization was desirable, but there was concern about changing deadlines in binding recommendations without amending the relevant recommendations. In response, the Chair proposed a "*Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Deadlines of Two ICCAT Recommendations*". The PWG approved the proposal and forwarded it to the Commission for adoption.

Along the same lines, the United States raised concerns that the new form endorsed by PWG last year to combine two previous reporting forms (the SCRS form to collect Task I fleet characteristics information (ST01) and the form to collect authorized vessel list information (CP38)) requested individual vessel-by-vessel information that is not required by underlying management recommendations. In addition, the change also requested some data that are confidential under domestic legislation. The United States suggested that the relevant form be amended to make more clear which information was strictly required by the various ICCAT recommendations, and to give CPCs the option to provide fleet characteristics information either by individual vessel or in aggregate as had previously been done. Japan noted similar confidentiality concerns, and the PWG endorsed the solution suggested by the United States.

In response to a clarification question from the Secretariat in its report regarding Recommendation 12-06, the European Union stated that from a control perspective it would be appropriate that all carrier vessels engaging in at sea and in in-port transshipments of a species of tropical tuna, including tunas caught by purse seiners, should in principle be included on the ICCAT carrier list. This might require a revision of Recommendation 12-06. The Chair clarified that this requirement only applies to purse seiners.

### ***5.9 Requirements of the Consolidated List of Vessels (CLAV)***

The Chair opened discussion, on the basis of both the SCRS report and the Secretariat report, on the progress that has been made with synchronizing the Consolidated List of Authorized Vessels (CLAV) database system coordinated by the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and hosted for Tuna-org. It was reminded that this initiative is the result of recommendations made by the tuna RFMOs within the framework of the Kobe process. It was also noted that this initiative is the result of close cooperation between the tuna RFMOs, through their Secretariats. Assistance has been provided by an expert hired within the framework of the ABNJ project to support implementation of the CLAV. As regards the ICCAT Secretariat, this collaboration has also been extended to certain NGOs and to CPCs that contribute to improving the information necessary for consolidation of the vessels list, in particular, that related to IMO numbers. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) confirmed this cooperation and reiterated the willingness of the ABNF/GEF programme to continue to provide this assistance for maintaining the CLAV database.

The ICCAT Secretariat presented to the PWG for illustrative purposes the web site dedicated to this consolidated list of vessels.

The PWG congratulated the designers of the CLAV database website, expressing that it is user-friendly and a useful tool for effective fisheries management. It encouraged all CPCs to engage in the improvement of this database.

### ***5.10 Vessel Monitoring Satellite System requirements***

The Chair opened discussion on a request for clarification from the Secretariat in its report regarding whether the Secretariat should continue to submit weekly reports of VMS non-reporting to those CPCs participating in the E-BFT fishery whose vessels do not fish during 1 May to 30 July, the period currently stipulated in paragraph 87 of Rec. 14-04. The relevant CPCs and the Chair agreed that the Secretariat does not need to submit these reports given the redundancy of the information, and the need to reduce the Secretariat's workload.

### ***5.11 Flag State responsibilities***

The Chair raised the obligations of flag State CPCs in Recommendation 03-12, which the PWG generally recognized as not requiring specific reporting requirements to the Secretariat given the number of other recommendations related to flag State responsibilities. In response to the Secretariat's note of incorrect marking and identification on some Large Scale Pelagic Longline Vessels – LSPLVs, one CPC asked for the issue of at-sea transshipment controls to be considered at a future intersessional meeting.

### ***5.12 Other issues***

There were no other issues to be considered.

## **6. Consideration of additional technical measures needed to ensure effective implementation of ICCAT's conservation and management measures**

The PWG did not consider any additional technical measures.

## **7. Review and establishment of the IUU vessel list**

The Chair opened discussion on the 2015 provisional IUU Vessel List presented by the Secretariat. A CPC noted two typographical errors to the list, which the Secretariat duly noted to change: (1) the "dot" should be deleted at the end of the vessel name whose serial number on the list is 2015-0003, and (2) the "2" should be deleted at the end of the vessel name whose serial number on the same list is 2015-0028. One CPC raised concerns that the cross-listing of vessels from the IOTC's IUU Vessel List had not fully followed the procedures set out in Rec. 11-18. The CPC emphasized the importance of the Secretariat implementing the intersessional cross-listing process in a timely manner and the need for providing supplementary information on the cross-listed vessels at the time of cross-listing.

Regarding the question of whether the Secretariat had the discretion not to include a vessel on the Provisional IUU Vessel list after it had been originally circulated on the Draft IUU Vessel list, the PWG noted that the obligation of the Secretariat was to include that vessel on the provisional list with any supplementary information provided. The PWG would then review the provisional list and any relevant information concerning vessels therein and determine whether any vessel should be removed before agreeing the final IUU vessel list.

The "Provisional IUU List 2015" was presented by the Secretariat. Following review by the PWG, the "Final IUU List 2015" list was adopted (**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 11**).

## **8. Recommendations to the Commission based on findings of the above**

The "*Draft Recommendation by ICCAT Amending Deadlines of Two ICCAT Recommendations*" was approved and forwarded to the Commission for adoption.

Based on review of the provisional IUU list, the PWG approved a final IUU Vessel List for 2015 and submitted it to the Commission for approval.

## **9. Election of Chair**

Mr. Taoufik El Ktiri declined to stand for reelection for strictly professional reasons. The PWG and the Executive Secretary thanked him for his leadership and hard work over the last four years. Mr. Fabrizio Donatella (EU) was elected to serve as chair for the next biennial period.

## **10. Other matters**

The PWG considered the Secretariat's suggestion for removal from the Compendium or amendment of Resolution 94-09 and Recommendation 97-11. CPCs generally agreed that an update was needed and Japan stated that it would propose a merging of the two documents in the future.

## **11. Adoption of the report and adjournment**

The 2015 meeting of PWG was adjourned.

The Report of PWG was adopted by correspondence.

## Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Consideration of actions referred from the IMM Working Group
5. Consideration of the effectiveness and practical aspects of implementation of:
  - 5.1 Catch Documentation and Statistical Document Programs
  - 5.2 Progress of eBCD
  - 5.3 ICCAT Regional Observer Programmes
  - 5.4 At-sea and in-port transshipment requirements
  - 5.5 Rules for chartering and other fishing arrangements
  - 5.6 At-sea vessel sighting and inspection programs
  - 5.7 Port inspection schemes and other port State measures
  - 5.8 Vessel listing requirements
  - 5.9 Requirements of the Consolidated List of Vessels (CLAV)
  - 5.10 Vessel Monitoring Satellite System requirements
  - 5.11 Flag State responsibilities
  - 5.12 Other issues
6. Consideration of additional technical measures needed to ensure effective implementation of ICCAT's conservation and management measures
7. Review and establishment of the IUU vessel list
8. Recommendations to the Commission based on findings of above
9. Election of Chair
10. Other matters
11. Adoption of the report and adjournment

**Appendix 2 to ANNEX 11****Report of the eBCD Technical Working Group (TWG)**  
*(October 2015)***Introduction**

The eBCD Technical Working Group (TWG) met three times throughout 2015; on 21-22 January in Vigo, Spain; 7-9 April in Brussels and 17-18 September in Madrid.

This report summarizes the main discussion points, an overall state of play of system development and the conclusions of the TWG's most recent meeting in Madrid.

Although details concerning decisions on the most technical discussions are appended to this report (**Attachment 1 to Appendix 2 to ANNEX 11**), the overall matrix of all technical issues is not appended due to its size and complexity; nonetheless, it has since been updated in cooperation with TRAGSA and distributed in English to TWG members. This will be made available to any other CPCs upon request.

**General state of play**

In preparation for the meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures (IMM), the TWG met in January 2015. The report from that meeting and a draft recommendation from the Chair of the TWG can be found in **Appendix 5 and 6 to ANNEX 4.2**, respectively). In summary, a significant number of technical issues were discussed although the TWG agreed to prioritize their work on the core issues required for system implementation. The importance to ensure the continuation of TRAGSA's work was also stressed, and the Secretariat was requested to initiate discussions for extending their contract until December 2015 (for system development).

To facilitate discussions of the IMM, the TWG met again on the margins of that meeting; the report of those discussions can also be found in **Appendix 7 to ANNEX 4.2**. In light of the discussions by the IMM group, it was agreed that the TWG should meet again as soon as possible to move ahead and initiate specifications for the development of the remaining core system issues.

The TWG met in Brussels on 7-9 April in which discussions were dominated with preparing the technical specifications for the core development items to be requested and potentially funded under the project extension budget ('flexible allotment', section 2.3 of the contract extension). In this regard, all new development was subject to an approval process between the TWG and the Executive Secretary prior to implementation by TRAGSA. In advance of authorizing any new development, the TWG requested a full cost and time estimate in order to inform decisions on possible implementation and prioritisation of core items.

In light of the decisions of the TWG, nine cost/time requests and the associated technical specifications were agreed and sent to TRAGSA in July/August. Two items were not agreed by the TWG; nonetheless, work began on the other 7 core items.

The objective of the most recent meeting in Madrid (held September 18-19, 2015) was to discuss the state of play of the development of the core items previously identified and a workplan for the finalisation of system development: Algeria, European Union (EU-ES, EU-FR and EU-PT), Japan, Tunisia and United States (US), TRAGSA and the ICCAT Secretariat attended.

The main conclusion from that meeting is that the core system development is in its final stages. Notwithstanding unforeseen issues and/or new decisions of the Commission which may require additional development, TRAGSA confirmed that the remaining core development items will be completed no later than February 2016.

Nonetheless, it was agreed that the TWG needs to continue its work to steer the ongoing developments, to advance additional improvements that have been identified during previous TWG meetings or may be identified in the future, and to plan and implement training and international testing prior to full implementation of the system. In addition, the TWG will need to transform any decisions made by the Commission that affect the eBCD system in the forthcoming (2015) annual meeting into technical specifications for development by TRAGSA and follow-up on that development.

## 1. Technical issues

### *State of play of core technical issues*

As mentioned, the TWG meeting in Brussels on 7-9 April was dominated with preparing the technical specifications for those items which would be requested and funded under the project extension budget ('flexible allotment', section 2.3). Following some further discussions by correspondence by the participants after the meeting these were agreed and sent to TRAGSA on 30 April. Responses to these requests and full costings and timescales were received from TRAGSA on 17 June. The TWG used a simple priority scoring system to rank these items in order of development. TRAGSA confirmed that the items could only be developed consecutively and not in parallel.

Following the receipt of the views of TWG members, 'Parallel transfers in live trade sector' and 'Grouping BCDs in trade section' were not agreed by one or more TWG members and further discussion was requested.

At the time of the September 2015 TWG meeting, only the first item had been implemented. Based on discussions, including input from TRAGSA, the Working Group decided to slightly amend the order of implementation of the items, as follows:

1. Trade of <3 fish/1 ton and paper BCD/eBCD conversion user profile
2. Domestic trade
3. Editing functionality
4. Data extraction queries/reports
5. CPC administrators editing new users/role applications
6. Re-export certificate (batch restriction)
7. Tag number search functionality

It was recalled that the technical specifications for item No. 2 'Domestic trade' included a number of technical options, a proportion of which may become redundant following decisions by the Commission in light of the provisions contained in the proposal by the Chair of the eBCD Working Group (**Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2**). Hence, in order to be as expeditious and cost effective as possible, it was agreed that the work order would be as above with the exception of 'Domestic trade' which would remain 'floating' pending the outcome of discussions at the Commission's annual meeting. Any changes to the technical specifications in light of the decisions/discussions by the Commission may require a cost adjustment (assumed to be less).

The Chair informed the TWG that Morocco preferred to withdraw their proposal for 'Grouping BCDs in the trade section'; subsequently, the TWG agreed to delete this item from the core items requested under the project extension.

'Parallel transfers in the live trade sector' was re-discussed in light of its non-agreement for development by one or more TWG members. The complexities of these activities and their development in the system were noted; nonetheless, the TWG acknowledged the need to have the system accommodate the particularities of the fishery and existing ICCAT BCD requirements.

The technical requirements were updated in order to facilitate the trading of dead fish after caging, following natural mortality. This involved adding an optional trade possibility (section 8) after caging without the associated Regional Observer (ROP) signing/presence requirements. It was agreed that the Commission would need to approve this given the existing provisions under Recommendations 14-04 and 11-20 prior to initiating any development.

An analysis of the requirements for item No.1, Trade of <3 fish/1 ton and paper BCD/eBCD conversion user profile' was presented by TRAGSA alongside the associated procedures for the new paper/eBCD conversion profile. A number of small adjustments were made by the TWG including: deletion of the 'active box' and changing of 'Authorisation' to 'Activity period'. On the basis of these changes the TWG gave their agreement for implementation of this item.

TRAGSA presented an overall time plan for the completion of the outstanding development of core technical tasks to the Working Group (**Attachment 2 to Appendix 2 to ANNEX 11**). It was noted that taking into account the re-ordering of the items requested by the TWG and the floating aspect of 'domestic trade' pending discussion at the annual meeting, all core development items would be completed no later than February 2016.

### *New/outstanding technical issues*

Although it was agreed that the above-mentioned tasks were the top priorities for TRAGSA, there was discussion on other items either raised by TWG members and/or TRAGSA.

See **Attachment 1 to Appendix 2 to ANNEX 11**.

## **2. International testing**

Following previous decisions of the TWG, the benefits of another international testing was recalled; nonetheless, reservations on the most suitable time to implement it were noted.

It was decided that the second international test would be planned and initiated after the Commission meeting and only when the ongoing core development work underway by TRAGSA under the flexible allotment had been completed. In the meantime, bilateral testing between CPCs was encouraged to which TRAGSA confirmed their availability for support.

TWG members agreed to reflect on what specific operations in an international test would be of most interest for them and communicate them to the TWG prior to their next meeting/test planning.

TRAGSA noted that some test data remains in the production environment following the first international test and that this should be removed by CPCs before further testing.

## **3. Training and manuals**

Along the same lines as the international testing, the TWG decided that training specificities and the calendar for implementing the training requirement of the contract ('training for trainers') would be best discussed and implemented after the completion and testing of the core development work. Nonetheless, it was agreed that it was absolutely essential for this training to be completed prior to full implementation of the system.

In addition to the 'training for trainers' foreseen in the current contract (3 sessions of 4 days – totalling €7,000), the TWG agreed on the importance and utility of further training in the future directed to the full range of system users. There was general agreement that distance learning tools, in particular help videos, would be the most useful given their potential for greater dissemination, flexibility for adaption to different users and relatively lower costs.

It was confirmed that such training tools were not covered in the current contract and, hence, would need additional funding, if requested. Notwithstanding any general discussions on eBCD financing, the TWG noted that STACFAD should consider during its November 2015 meeting the need for additional funds to be provided in the short term to cover the costs associated with developing the required training tools.

For those manuals already developed, the TWG requested the circulation of word versions in order that editorial comments or language preference changes could be made directly and forwarded to TRAGSA by TWG members.

## **4. Implementation schedule**

On the basis of remaining core development items and associated timetable presented by TRAGSA (**Attachment 2 to Appendix 2 to ANNEX 11**), it was the view of the TWG that, notwithstanding any unforeseen complexities and possible development delays, the eBCD system could be available for full implementation by the spring of 2016.

Nonetheless, the TWG agreed that implementation must take into account possible development delays or technical difficulties encountered in the initial stages as well as the results of international testing and training.

Given that development work in the current contract only runs until 31 December 2015, a formal request will need to be sent to TRAGSA allowing them to finalise the development work at no additional cost (i.e. work undertaken between 31 December 2015 and February 2016).

## **5. State of play of contractual issues and future eBCD programme financing/support**

Some TWG members recalled the importance of further discussing options for future programme support to facilitate the discussions of the Commission. Given that the contracts with TRAGSA both for support and maintenance and development will soon expire (31 December 2016) it was considered a pressing issue.

Although discussed in previous meetings/reports in more detail, the potential options for future programme financing/support included (or combinations thereof):

- Costs reclaimed through eBCD issuance fee per certificate/quantity traded (e.g. per BFT ton)
- Apportioned to CPCs as per TAC % allocation key
- Voluntary contributions and publicity campaigns/merchandise
- Non-compliance contributions
- Fixed attribution(s) from the Working Capital Fund

The possible longer term funding approaches listed above are notwithstanding any decision taken in the meantime by the Commission concerning the further utilisation of the Working Capital Fund in the next biennial budget (2016-17).

The TWG stressed the importance to avoid significant increases in the administrative burden of the Secretariat in any chosen option(s).

## **6. Reporting to the Commission**

It was agreed that a general report would be made available to the Commission on the current state of development of the system and progress made in resolving recent technical issues.

The full matrix of technical items will be updated between TRAGSA and the Chair of the TWG and circulated to TWG members prior to the 2015 ICCAT annual meeting.

Given the previous requests of the Commission for TRAGSA to be available for comment in the annual meeting, the TWG considered it essential that TRAGSA be present for at least part of the 2015 annual meeting. The ICCAT Secretariat was asked to follow this up with TRAGSA and also analyse how to finance their trip to Malta (given it was not included in the project expansion contract).

The TWG will meet on the margins of the 2015 ICCAT annual meeting, as needed. Notwithstanding any such meeting(s), it is expected that the TWG will need to meet after the annual meeting to transform decisions of the Commission into technical specifications, in particular those concerned with the proposal of the TWG Chair (**Appendix 6 to ANNEX 4.2**). In addition, the TWG will consider other previously discussed or new developments that will enhance eBCD system functioning without delaying system implementation.

*Attachment 1 to Appendix 2 to ANNEX 11***Outstanding/new technical issues****1. Modification required by stereoscopic camera results (E-BFT)**

There was discussion on how to deal with the required changes to eBCDs following analysis of the results of stereoscopic cameras in order to be compliant with paragraph 83 of Rec. 14-04.

It was agreed that the current system block generated by the ROP signature would be removed to allow CPC administrators to change the figures (number and weight) and a new check-box added to indicate when such changes had been made titled "*Figures changed in light of SC camera results*". The concerned section would not be recirculated to the ROP observer concerned in light of such changes.

TRAGSA were requested to provide a cost/time analyses for this function to which a specific cost/time request will be made.

It was noted that when farm flag CPCs made such changes to caging sections, Catching flag CPCs were also required to update related catch section figures. An automatic system update of the catch figures could be developed requiring only a simple acknowledgment/agreement by the CPC catching flags, nonetheless the TWG agreed that further discussion was needed by the Commission in light of existing ICCAT conservation and management measures.

**2. Date issue caused by joint treatment of Sections 2 and 3 (catch and live trade)**

The joint treatment of the catch and live trade sections previously agreed by the TWG and now reflected in the system was discussed, in particular the rationale to avoid excessive delays by purse seine vessels at sea prior to the first transfer.

However, in light of this, situations were reported to the TWG where the date of validation of the catch section was after the date of the live trade and which could be interpreted to be inconsistent with paragraph 12 of Rec. 11-20.

Although Japan requested time to reflect on this and notwithstanding any discussion on this issue by the Commission, TWG members felt no changes were needed to the system at this time.

**3. Fishing season/year versus Calendar year**

An issue was raised relating to the annual fishing campaigns in the system and actual open fishing seasons laid down in ICCAT conservation and management measures.

Annual fishing campaigns are defined in the eBCD system on a calendar year basis (1 January to 31 December) due to the requirements of other system parameters. In the case of Japan, however, the longline fishing season and, hence, their associated quota management regime, runs from August to July (i.e. one year's quota period spanning two calendar years); thus, the system currently considers the generation of eBCDs by Japan and the calculation of their annual quota utilisation incorrectly because Japan's fishing year spans two calendar years.

The TWG agreed that the current campaign structure in the system needs amendment to cater for Japan's quota management, although they noted that the views of other CPCs, in particular those not present in the TWG meeting, would need to be taken into account before system changes are made.

The TWG decided that this issue would be reported to the Commission and, if needed, further discussed by the TWG should a meeting take place on the margins of the annual session. Although this was not considered a core item, it was agreed for a cost/time request to be sent to TRAGSA for its development.

TWG also discussed other issues related to the system's ability to track catches by calendar year and related quota consumption. In particular, there would be a problem with accurate accounting by the system in the case of fishing trips that span two calendar years. There could also be difficulties if catches are made at the very end of the year but not logged into the system until the start of the next calendar year. Currently the system does not allow fisherman to select a different fishing year/campaign other than the current one. The TWG discussed the possibility of allowing fisherman to select a previous fishing campaign if a catch is created during the first 2 months of a subsequent fishing campaign, e.g. in this case a catch on 30 December 2015 recorded on 2 January 2016 will be deducted from 2015 quota and have a 2015 eBCD code.

Aside from such system changes if implemented, it was agreed that training material needed to be clear to users that they must be careful to select the appropriate fishing campaign calendar year when entering data into the system.

#### **4. eBCD generation by E-BFT 'Other' vessels**

EBCD system functionality related to E-BFT bycatch was discussed despite having been discussed on a number of occasions including in the PWG/IMM intersessional meetings.

It was confirmed that users associated with vessels authorised as E-BFT 'Other Vessels' would be able to generate eBCDs, and there shall be no block in the system.

#### **5. System alerts**

TRAGSA indicated that currently the system only generates system alerts when 110% of a CPCs allocation and 90% of E-BFT individual vessels quota has been reached.

It was agreed that this system should be amended so that alerts are generated at 95% consumption (live weight) for both individual vessel quotas and overall CPC allocation consumption. It was recalled that the alerts shall only be displayed to the CPC authorities of the section concerned.

Following some further discussions on the general type, number and visibility of current system alerts, the TWG requested TRAGSA to prepare a document compiling all current alerts and system blocks so these are clearly understood and changes can be made if needed.

#### **6. E-BFT transfers**

TRAGSA indicated that currently no retroactive modification of fields in the transfer section was possible and any changes would require a deletion of the whole transfer section and re-completion by the responsible user concerned.

The TWG discussed the procedures for eBCD treatment and validation of a number of joint activities related to live trade operations, included the joint treatment of Sections 2 and 3 already agreed.

TRAGSA performed an initial feasibility on some items discussed throughout the meeting; nonetheless, the TWG agreed that, given the implications of the suggested changes relative to the requirements of Rec. 11-20, further discussions were needed before cost/time requests would be requested for:

- Joint validation of catch/live-trade/farming (sections 2, 3 and 6).
- Joint validation of harvesting and trade (sections 7 and 8).

With respect to the first item, the EU explained that simultaneous validation is needed for the catch and live trade sections of the eBCD. The issue of the chronology of the catch, trade and validations is a redundant source of difficulties for importing and exporting CPCs and requires to be addressed in order to realistically reflect the constraints associated with these processes and the resulting practices. One of these constraints is linked to the need to rapidly transfer the fish from the seine to the transport cage to keep them alive, and therefore to proceed with the live trade. In addition, it is on the basis of the video of this transfer that a validation of the catch can be completed by the control authorities once they have established the number of fish being transferred. Live trade

is therefore taking place before the validation of the catch section of the eBCD can occur. It was noted that validating the catch and live trade sections simultaneously would address this situation and that the provisions found under paragraph 3 of the Annex 1 of Recommendation 11-20 would have to be amended accordingly in the eBCD Recommendation. The WG discussed how a CPC could, after the live trade had already occurred and the product had changed hands, address a situation where it found a problem with the catch and could not validate the catch section of the eBCD. It was explained that there were other enforcement mechanisms that would be employed to address such situations.

Regarding the second item, the EU explained that the simultaneous validation of a harvest from a farm and the trade sections of the eBCD were needed as these activities also occur very closely in time and waiting for two validation processes could unnecessarily slow trade. In this case, the EU confirmed that physical movement of the fish would not take place until validations were complete.

## **7. W-BFT transshipment**

Current ICCAT provisions only require a list of authorised ports in the E-BFT fishery; however, TRAGSA requested guidance from the TWG on transshipment procedures, in particular if E-BFT transshipments are likely to occur in western Atlantic ports.

In light of a range of potential possibilities and the need to avoid system blocks while taking into account current practices (some CPCs submit a list of western ports under the E-BFT while others do not) and the separate West/East management provisions, it was agreed that the port name field shall be changed from a drop down list to a free text field (W-BFT).

## **8. Non-ICCAT CPC access**

TRAGSA requested an update of the state of play by the Commission/TWG on the issues related to access by non-ICCAT CPCs (items 9 and 16 in the global matrix of technical issues).

In light of previous discussions of the TWG and the Commission, TRAGSA were informed that trade between ICCAT CPCs and non-ICCAT countries would continue to be paper-based until such time as the Commission determines otherwise.

In the context of eBCD, a suggested approach could be the development of a new user profile 'Non-ICCAT member' allowing only import/re-exports in an open access part of the system.

TRAGSA noted that any such access by non-ICCAT members would require development and associated time/costs.

## **9. Data extraction tool**

Given potential limitations to the current data extraction reports already requested under the flexible allotment, the TWG requested the possibility for CPC users to generate pivot tables providing them with significantly more options for data analysis.

It was agreed that the TWG would request TRAGSA to update the cost/time request for this item.

## **10. Importer/Buyer field in Trade Section**

The TWG agreed to send a cost/time request for this item as previously discussed in January 2015; however, this was not considered a core item.

**Calendar for implementation of the remaining core development items**

Calendar for Implementation of the Remaining Core Development Items				Appendix 2																					
Id	Task	Start	End	01/08/15	01/09/15	01/10/15	01/11/15	01/12/15	01/01/16	01/02/16															
				03/08	17/08	31/08	14/09	28/09	12/10	26/10	09/11	23/11	07/12	21/12	04/01	18/01	01/02								
1	NO. 3 – TRADE OF <3/1 TON FISH AND PAPER BCD/Ebcd CONVERSION USER PROFILE (10)	17/08/2015	18/11/2015																						
8																									
9	WG MEETING	17/09/2015	18/09/2015																						
10																									
11	NO. 1 – DOMESTIC TRADE (3/3.10)	23/11/2015	28/01/2016																						
18																									
19	NO. 5 - EDITING FUNCTIONALITY (21)	23/09/2015	29/10/2015																						
26																									
27	NO. 4 – DATA EXTRACTION QUERIES/REPORTS (16)	25/09/2015	17/11/2015																						
34																									
35	NO. 8 - CPC ADMINISTRATORS EDITING NEW USERS/ROLE APPLICATIONS (3.6)	06/10/2015	02/12/2015																						
42																									
43	NO. 6 - RE-EXPORT CERTIFICATE (BATCH RESTRICTION (31)	09/10/2015	03/02/2016																						
50																									
51	NO. 02 – TAG NUMBER SEARCH FUNCTIONALITY (4)	22/10/2015	09/02/2016																						

**Appendix 3 to ANNEX 11**

**Recommendation 11-18: Final IUU list 2015**

**List of vessels presumed to have carried out IUU fishing activities in the ICCAT Convention area**

<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</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-122/2004	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-122/2004	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-122/2004	Unknown	Unknown	MADURA 3	NO INFO	NO INFO	(P.T. PROVISIT)	(INDONESIA)		

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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</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Name</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Address</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>
20050001	Not available	BRAZIL -fishing in Brazilian waters with no licence	03/08/2005	1615	Unknown	Saint Vincent & Grenadines	SOUTHERN STAR 136	HSIANG CHANG	NO INFO	KUO JENG MARINE SERVICES LIMITED	PORT OF SPAIN TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	AT	
20060001	Not available	SOUTH AFRICA - vessel had no VMS, suspected of having no tuna licence and of possible at-sea transhipments	23/10/2006	2431	Unknown	Unknown	BIGEYE	NO INFO	FN 003883	NO INFO	NO INFO	UNKN	
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	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	NO. 101 GLORIA	GOLDEN LAKE	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI	
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	

<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</i>	<i>Owner/Operator Name</i>	<i>Owner/Operator Address</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>
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	

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20060010	Not available	EU – Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Honduras	ACROS NO. 2	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI	
20060011	Not available	EU – Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Honduras	No. 3 CHOYU	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI	
20060012	Not available	EU – Vessel greater than 24m not included in ICCAT Record of Vessels. Seen fishing in the MED during closed season	16/10/2006	2259	Unknown	Honduras	ORIENTE No.7	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	NO INFO	MEDI	
20080001	Not available (previously on ICCAT recorded as AT000GUI 000002)	Japan - Bluefin tuna caught and exported without quota	14/11/2008	COC-311/2008 and Circular 767/10	Unknown	Rep. of Guinea	DANIAA	CARLOS	3X07QM C	ALPHA CAMARA (Guinean company)	NO INFO	E-ATL or MEDI	Longliner

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20080004	Not available (former ICCAT Register number AT000LIB 00039)	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 AT000LIB 00041)	ICCAT Chairman information	27/06/2008	1226	Unknown	Libya (Previously Isle of Man)	GALA I	MANARA II (previously ROAGAN)	NO INFO	MANARAT AL SAHIL Fishing Company	AL DAHRS. Ben Walid Street	MEDI	Purse seiner
20090001	7826233	IOTC. Contravention of IOTC Resolutions 02/04, 02/05 and 03/05	13/04/2009	E09-1304	Unknown	Equatorial Guinea	OCEAN LION	No info	No info	No info	No info	IN	
20090002	Not available	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 07/02	13/04/2009	E09-1304	Unknown	Georgia	YU MAAN WON	No info	No info	No info	No info	IN	
20090003	Not available	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 07/02	13/04/2009	E09-1304	Unknown	Unknown	GUNUAR MELYAN 21	No info	No info	No info	No info	IN	
20100004	Not available	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 09/03	07/07/2010	E10-2860	Unknown	Malaysia	HOOM XIANG II			Hoom Xiang Industries Sdn. Bhd.			

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20110003	C-00545	IATTC WCPFC	30/08/2011 14/03/2013	E11-5762 E13-1532	Georgia		Neptune		4LOG	Space Energy Enterprise Company, LTD		Pacific Ocean	LL
20110011		IATTC	30/08/2011	E11-5762	Unknown	Indonesia	Bhaskara No. 10	Bhaskara No. 10				Pacific Ocean	LL
20110012		IATTC	30/08/2011	E11-5762	Unknown	Indonesia	Bhaskara No.9	Bhaskara No. 9				Pacific Ocean	LL
20110013		IATTC	30/08/2011	E11-5762	Unknown		Camelot					Pacific Ocean	LL
20110014		IATTC	30/08/2011	E11-5762	Unknown	Belize	Chia Hao No. 66	Chia Hao No. 66	V3IN2	Song Maw Fishery S.A.	Calle 78E Casa No. 30 Loma alegre, San Francisco, Panamá	Pacific Ocean	LL
20130001	IMO 7355662	WCPFC	14/03/2013	E13-1532	Georgia		Fu Lien n° 1		4LIN2	Fu Lien Fishery Co., Georgia			
20130002		WCPFC	14/03/2013	E13-1532	Chinese Taipei		Yu Fong 168		BJ4786	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		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		Full Rich		HMEK3	Noel International LTD			
20130005		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown		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		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

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20130010		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown		Ta Fu 1					Pacific Ocean	Longline
20130011		IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown	Belize, (Costa Rica)	Tching Ye No. 6	Tching Ye No. 6, (El Diria I)	V3GN		Costado Este de UCR El Cocal Puntarenas Costa Rica	Pacific Ocean	Longline
20130012	8994295	IATTC	20/08/2013	E13-6833	Unknown	Belize	Wen Teng No. 688	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	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 Indonesia, PT	JL. Ikan Tuna Raya Barat IV, Pel. Benoa-Denpasar		Drifting longline
20140001		IATTC	12/08/2014	E14-06604	Fiji		Xin Shi Ji 16		3DTN	Xin Shi Ji Fisheries Limited	346 Waimanu Road, Suva, Fiji		Longline
20150001	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	ANEKA 228		No info	Unknown	Unknown		

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20150002	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	ANEKA 228; KM.		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150003	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	CHI TONG		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150004	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA 18		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150005	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO 01		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150006	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 02		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
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		

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20150008	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 08		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150009	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 09		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150010	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 11		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150011	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 13		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150012	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 17		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
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		

<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</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Name</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Address</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>
20150014	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 21*		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150015	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 23		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150016	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 26		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150017	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 30		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150018	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Malaysia	HOOM XIANG 101		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150019	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Malaysia	HOOM XIANG 103		No info	Unknown	Unknown		

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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	Bolivia		KIM SENG DENG 3		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150022	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	KUANG HSING 127		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150023	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	KUANG HSING 196		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150024	7322897	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Equatorial Guinea		KUNLUN (TAISHAN)		3CAG	Stanley Management Inc	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		

<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</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Name</i>	<i>Owner/ Operator Address</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Gear</i>
20150026	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	SAMUDERA PERKASA 11		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150027	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	SAMUDERA PERKASA 12		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150028	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	SHUEN SIANG		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150029	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	SIN SHUN FA 6		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150030	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	SIN SHUN FA 67		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
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		

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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	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Equatorial Guinea	SONGHUA (YUNNAN)		3CAF	Eastern Holdings	Unknown		
20150034	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	SRI FU FA 168		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150035	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	SRI FU FA 18		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150036	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	SRI FU FA 188		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150037	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	SRI FU FA 189		No info	Unknown	Unknown		

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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	Bolivia		YI HONG 106		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150043	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Bolivia		YI HONG 116		No info	Unknown	Unknown		

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20150044	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	YI HONG 16		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150045	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	YI HONG 3		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150046	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Bolivia		YI HONG 6		No info	Unknown	Unknown		
20150047	9042001	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Equatorial Guinea		YONGDING (JIANFENG)		3CAE	Stanley Management Inc.	Unknown		
20150048	n.a.	IOTC Contravention of IOTC Resolution 11/03	06/08/2015	E15-07643	Unknown	Unknown	YU FONG 168		No info	Unknown	Unknown		

(\* ) No information from IOTC on whether the two vessels FU HSIANG FA NO. 21 are the same vessels.

Photography available: Serial number 20050001; Photography for Hoom Xuang 11; Fu Hsiang Fa No. 21 and Full Rich are available in, respectively, IOTC Reports IOTC-S14-CoC13-add1 [E]; IOTC-2013-CoC10-07 Rev 1[E] and IOTC-2013-CoC10-08a[E]; Photography for the vessel Wen Teng No. 688 is available at <http://www.iattc.org/VesselRegister/VesselDetails.aspx?VesNo=129&Lang=en>



**Background notes for final IUU list 2015:**

**WCPFC IUU vessel list for 2015**

(Effective from 6 February 2015: WCPFC11 agreed to maintain the WCPFC IUU list for 2014 as the WCPFC IUU list for 2015)

**Note:** Information provided in this list is in accordance with CMM 2010-06 para 19.

<b>Current name of vessel (previous names)</b>	<b>Current flag (previous flags)</b>	<b>Date first included on WCPFC IUU Vessel List</b>	<b>Flag State Registration Number/ IMO Number</b>	<b>Call Sign (previous call signs)</b>	<b>Owner/beneficial owners (previous owners)</b>	<b>Notifying CCM</b>	<b>IUU activities</b>
Neptune	Georgia	10 Dec. 2010	C-00545	4LOG	Space Energy Enterprises Co. Ltd.	France	Fishing on the high seas of the WCPFC Convention Area without being on the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels (CMM 2007-03-para 3a)
Fu Lien No 1	Georgia	10 Dec. 2010	IMO No 7355662	4LIN2	Fu Lien Fishery Co., Georgia	United States	Is without nationality and harvested species covered by the WCPFC Convention in the Convention Area (CMM 2007-03, para 3h)
Yu Fong 168	Chinese Taipei	11 Dec. 2009		BJ4786	Chang Lin Pao-Chun, 161 Sanmin Rd., Liouciuo Township, Pingtung County 929, Chinese Taipei	Marshall Islands	Fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of the Marshall Islands without permission and in contravention of Republic of the Marshall Islands's laws and regulations. (CMM 2007-03, para 3b)

### **IATTC IUU list for 2015**

The IATTC Secretariat has informed the ICCAT Secretariat on 7 August 2015 that the IATTC IUU Vessel List that was adopted at the 89th meeting of the Commission was identical to that adopted last year.

### **IOTC IUU vessels list 2015**

The IOTC IUU list was approved at the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the IOTC Commission in May 2015 (IOTC Circular 2015-047). The complementary elements to that IOTC IUU list have been made available through doc IOTC-2015-CoC12-08a REV4 [E] attached to the draft ICCAT IUU list, as submitted to the ICCAT Secretariat on 6 August 2015.

Annex to the provisional ICCAT IUU list: The IOTC complementary elements are available [in English and French] at:

- [www.iotc.org/sites/default/files/documents/2014/05/IOTC-2014-CoC11-07\\_Rev1E\\_-\\_PROVISIONAL\\_IOTC\\_IUU\\_VESSELS\\_LIST.pdf](http://www.iotc.org/sites/default/files/documents/2014/05/IOTC-2014-CoC11-07_Rev1E_-_PROVISIONAL_IOTC_IUU_VESSELS_LIST.pdf)
- <http://www.iotc.org/documents/complementary-elements-discussion-under-item-7-agenda-compliance-committee> (*doc IOTC-2015-CoC12-08a REV4 [E]*)

**Appendix 4 to ANNEX 11****Statement by The Pew Charitable Trusts to PWG**

Pew encourages the Permanent Working Group to agree upon concrete actions at this year's Commission meeting to increase transparency in the activities of all ICCAT Parties, establish controls to reduce transshipment at sea, and to continue the development of new technologies to increase the availability of data on all fishing activities in the Convention area.

This year, the Permanent Working Group finally has the opportunity to deliver an electronic catch documentation system for Atlantic bluefin. Difficult policy decisions and technical challenges have complicated development and delayed implementation for years, while evidence of ongoing illegal fishing of Atlantic bluefin has persisted. Now, five years after work to transition from a paper-based system to electronic bluefin catch documentation system (eBCD) began, the eBCD system is operational, a number of Parties are already using the system, and the groundwork has been laid for a final eBCD measure.

In the original eBCD Recommendation (10-11), the Commission recommended that an electronic catch documentation system covering all bluefin tuna caught, farmed, harvested, and traded be developed and maintained. This, and subsequent measures, recognized the benefits of rapid communication, the ability of an electronic system to detect fraud and deter IUU shipments, and the necessity to strengthen bluefin catch documentation by implementing an electronic system. As drafted, the eBCD system is very much in line with this intent and has the potential to be a powerful tool to reduce loopholes for illegal catch and to ultimately support bluefin's long-term recovery.

Recognizing the threat of illegal fishing to conservation and management of bluefin tuna, and the need for the eBCD system to be robust enough to be effective, the PWG should immediately adopt an eBCD measure that:

1. Mandates implementation of the eBCD system by all ICCAT Parties by March 2016,
2. Is, at a minimum, as comprehensive as the existing requirements under the paper BCD system, including as it relates to validation of eBCDs for intra-EU trade, to ensure that new loopholes for illegal activity are not introduced.

We would also like to highlight the importance of establishing adequate controls over transshipment at sea and to recommend significantly improving ICCAT's VMS. In this regard, we call on ICCAT Parties to convene the Working Group on Integrated Monitoring Measures in 2016, and agree to consider initial proposals that can end illegal transshipments at sea and ensure that the activities of all ICCAT vessels, and not just those targeting eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean bluefin tuna, are duly tracked via VMS.